BITTER EXPERIENCE

Actor Nargis Fakhri says many claimed she was pregnant when she returned to films in 2019 after a three-year break

LEISURE



IST TIME NOMINATION

Author Geetanjali Shree's novel 'Tomb of Sand' has become the first Hindi fiction shortlisted for the Booker Prize

INTERNATIONAL P10



BENZEMA SINKS CHELSEA

Karim Benzema's second successive hat-trick in the Champions League helps Real Madrid thrash Chelsea

SPORTS P12

12 PAGES | ₹5.00

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 8 | www.orissapost.com

Cuttack: Even as BJD leader Subash Singh was sworn in Thursday as the Mayor of the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC), it was 21-year-old student, Damayanti Majhi who hogged the limelight. She became the youngest Deputy Mayor of the CMC and created history of sorts. A tribal girl of Balisahi Slum in this city and an M Com student of Ravenshaw University, Damayanti successfully contested

the CMC polls held last month and was elected as the corporator of Ward No. 49 of the civic body. She is also the youngest corporator of the CMC.

NO RELIEF FOR PATEL DESPITE COURT ORDER



BHUBANESWAR | FRIDAY, APRIL 8 | 2022

New Delhi: The CBI was ordered by a court here to 'immediately' drop the lookout circular (LoC) against former Amnesty International India Chief Aakar Patel, who was stopped Wednesday from flying to the US. The investigating agency was also asked to hand over a written apology to Patel, given the 'mental harassment' he had suffered.

However, Patel tweeted Thursday night that he has again been stopped at immigration from boarding the flight at Bangalore airport. "Have been stopped at immigration again. CBI has not taken me off their look out circular. Immigration says no one in CBI picking its calls," Patel tweeted.



1800 266 266 1 (toll free)

Two BJB students detained in fake certificate case

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 7: Two students have been detained by Badagada police for allegedly getting admission into BJB Autonomous College in the Odisha capital by submitting forged disability certificates. Sources said Thursday that the Badagada police are currently questioning both the students. They are trying to ascertain whether any of the college staff is involved in the forged certificate case.

Earlier Tuesday, principal of the college, Niranjan Rath had lodged FIRs against eight students for furnishing fake certificates to get admission. Efforts are now on trace the others.

The illegal act came to fore after Rath discovered some discrepancies in the documents furnished by the students. He investigated the matter and found that eight had submitted forged disability certificates to get admission to the college.

Badagada police started an investigation into the matter after the college authorities lodged complaints against the offenders.

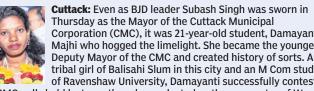
The Odisha Higher Education Department had earlier January 22 instructed the principals of all colleges across Odisha to lodge FIRs at the local police station against students who have submitted fake disability certificates to get admission

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



..All our reporters are busy covering Ukraine, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. You'll get news of the country as soon as...

DAMAYANTI IS CUTTACK'S YOUNGEST DY MAYOR



K'taka Muslims feel Hindu heat

■*Hindu* activists in Karnataka have now turned their attention to Muslim mango traders and sculptors

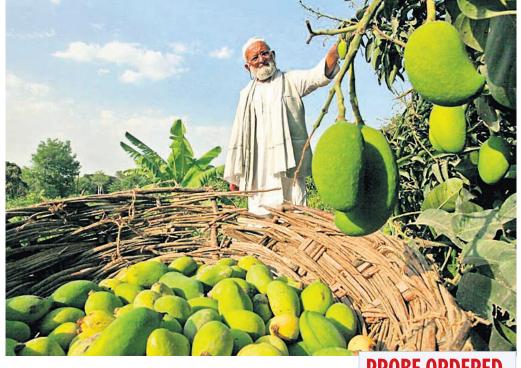
AGENCIES

Bangalore, April 7: It seems that campaigning against the minority community is the order of the day in Karnataka. In the recent past, there have been campaigns by Hindu activists against the Hijab, halal and banning of Muslim traders in temple fairs. Now the Hindu organisations have turned their attention to Muslim mango traders and sculptors who make idols of Hindu gods. It should be stated here that the majority of mango traders in Karnataka are Muslims.

The Hindu organisations are also preparing to challenge the issue of 'halal certification' in the court. They are prepared to wage a legal battle questioning the system of 'halal certification' as against the Food Safety and Standards Association of India (FSSAI), the governing and monitoring body of food business in India.

Sources said that the list of halal products is being prepared. They added that in court, these organisations will say that halal certification is illegal and the only authority to certify food is FSSI.

Though the ruling BJP is tryg to distance itself from banning mango traders, it is maintaining silence on other issues. The Opposition Congress and JD(S) have slammed the Karnataka



government for these recent developments. AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi has stated that the Karnataka government is enforcing 'untouchability on Muslims'

Melukote Cheluvanaraya Swamy temple Sthanik Srinivasan said Thursday he will take up a campaign across Karnataka to ban Hindu idols being sculpted by Muslim sculptors. "The idols of Hindu gods sculpted by Muslim artistes can't be installed in Hindu temples, it is against traditions. I will tour the state and create awareness in this regard," Srinivasan said

'Sri Ram Sena' has also extended the support to ban installing of idols in temples that are sculpted by Muslims. It has given a call for temple authorities not to get any idols made by the Muslim sculptors

Meanwhile, the campaign to ban Muslim traders in mango trade has gained momentum in Karnataka. Hindu activists are running an online campaign to take back the mango wholesale trade dominated by Muslim businessmen. Chandru Moger, 'Hindu Janajagruthi Samiti' coordinator has appealed to the Hindus to buy fruits from only Hindu vendors and boycott Muslim traders

Centre's Lingaraj verdict irks many

The Ministry of Home Affairs has said several sections of the proposed ordinance were in conflict with the AMASR Act and so it had no option but to vet it

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 7: The Union government challenging the promulgation of an ordinance by the Odisha government to bring in a special legislation for redevelopment of Lingaraj Temple has sent ripples through the political spectrum as well as the general public.

The Odisha government had promulgated the ordinance in 2020 to formulate a law like that of Puri Srimandir for redevelopment of Lingaraj Temple and its peripheral area here in the city.

However, the Centre has imposed curbs on it and returned the ordinance to the Odisha Governor.

The move by the Union government has triggered sharp reactions from various quarters. Many have dismissed the move and alleged that the Centre wants to foist its laws on the state government to take control of ancient monuments in Odisha.

Ekamra MLA and Minister Ashok Chandra Panda justified the state government's move to bring an ordinance and sought to know if developmental work,

could be undertaken in Kashi Vishwanath, Somnath and Kedarnath shrines, then why not at the Lingaraj Temple. "Why the Centre is adopting one

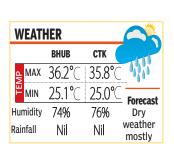
yardstick for development of Kashi Vishwanath, Somnath and Kedarnath temples and a different norm in case of Lingaraj Temple?" Panda asked. "The state government has al-

ready clarified about the ordinance to the Centre, and if needed, it would clarify on the issue once again," Panda added.

The Centre has pointed out that the state's ordinance on Lingaraj Temple and eight other temples around it are not under the 'legislative competence' of the Assembly and it violates the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958. The ordinance is fully contradicting AMASR Act, which pro-

hibits any kind of new construction in the area within 100-metre periphery of the protected monuments. Besides, the area lying 200 metres from the prohibited area is called control area. Contd...P4





₹66,420

SILVER

Journo assaulted, chained

Balasore, April 7: Nilagiri police in Balasore district are in the dock for allegedly assaulting a journalist and then chaining him to the bed while he was undergoing treatment at the district headquarters hospital (DHH) here. Journalist Lokanath Dalei, who works for a vernacular daily and a TV news channel, alleged Thursday that he was assaulted mercilessly by Nilagiri police station IIC Draupadi Das, following which he lost his senses.

Dalei has also alleged that Das held a grudge against him because he exposed their involvement in corruption. "I had reported the appointment of 11



homeguards on the basis of forged age certificates. Also I had written about the IIC's involvement with drug dealers in Nilagiri. So I had to bear her wrath," Dalei has been quoted as saying by the website of the daily.

Dalei's vehicle was involved in a collision April 4 with that of homeguard Niranjan Rana of Nilagiri PS. A heated argument followed, but peace prevailed after intervention by the locals.

end there. Dalei said he was informed Wednesday that the homeguard had lodged a complaint against him and he was asked to visit the Nilagiri police station. When he arrived, his mobile phone was taken away and the IIC assaulted him.

After he lost consciousness. Dalei was first taken to the Nilagiri Hospital from where he was then taken to Balasore DHH. However, his predicament did not end there as policemen attached a handcuff to his leg and then chained him to the bed. However, as pictures of his condition went viral on the social media and his family protested, Dalei was released **MORE P3** from the hospital.

www.asbm.ac.in

Bangalore: Karnataka CM Basavaraj

Bommai ordered a Thursday a probe

into a video released by terror outfit

Al-Qaeda lauding student Muskan

Khan of Mandya district who shout-

the recent protests against the Hijab

ban in the state. "I have directed the

police chief to probe the matter and

verify the truth regarding the video,

which is said to be released by an

Al-Qaeda terrorist. Once the report

decided," Bommai said. Hindu

against the girl.

activists have demanded action

ed 'Allahu Akbar' at a mob during





GLOBAL



ACCREDITED USA HR | Marketing | Finance Operations | LSCM | Business Analytics **MBA - Agri-Business**

Master of Human Resource Management in collaboration with National HRD Network **MBA Semester Abroad**

with Metropolitan State University, USA

Ph.D. & MBA-WP 20% of the Academic Fee *for First Class career all through

MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

for MBA & MBA-Agri Business

Rs. 1.00.000/-

for other Programmes except

EXCELLENT PLACEMENT

WORLD CLASS FINISHING SCHOOL

Founded & Led by

IIM-Indore & Lucknow

Founder & President

Prof. (Dr.) Biswajeet Pattanayak

Former Distinguished Professor,

Pak SC runs out Imran

■ *CJP* pointed out that the deputy-speaker's ruling quashing the no-confidence motion against Pak PM is violation of Article 95

AGENCIES

Islamabad, April 7: Pakistan's SC struck down National Assembly Deputy Speaker Qasim Suri's controversial move to dismiss a noconfidence motion against PM Imran Khan, in a major blow to the cricketer-turned-politician who is now likely to face a no-trust vote in Parliament after the ruling.

The bench restored the parlia-



ment and declared the advice by Prime Minister Khan to President Alvi to dissolve the assembly as unconstitutional. The court ordered the speaker to call the session of the national assembly April 9 at 10.00am to organise the no-confidence vote. During the hearing, Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial noted deputy speaker's ruling is, prima facie, a vi-

olation of Article 95. Suri, who is associated with Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, had April 3 dismissed the noconfidence motion against the premier claiming that it was linked with a 'foreign conspiracy' to topple the government and hence was not maintainable. Minutes later, President Ari Alvi dissolved the

National Assembly. Chief Justice Bandial, heading the five-member bench comprising Justices Ijazul Ahsan, Mohammad Ali Mazhar Miankhel, Munib Akhtar and Jamal Khan Mandokhel, declared as unconstitutional the ruling April 3 by the deputy speaker.

Telangana criminal arrested in Cuttack

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, April 7: One of the 'most wanted' criminals in Telangana police's list for the last couple of years, murder-accused Omar Faroog was arrested at the Cuttack Railway Station late Wednesday evening. Farooq was travelling in the Shalimar-Chennai Coromondel

M.Com. | MBA for Working Professionals M.A. - Communication & Digital Media

Ranked

INFRASTRUCTURE

M.A. - Economics | M.A. - English

B.A. LLB (Hons.) | BBA LLB (Hons.)

DOCTORAL PROGRAMMES

5-YEAR INTEGRATED LAW PROGRAMMES

Express when he was nabbed. Following a joint raid, a Special Task Force (STF) team of Telangana police with the help of Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel managed to identify Farooq and he was promptly arrested him, a police official said.

Other Programmes BBA (Hons.) |

BBA - E-Commerce M.Sc. - Computer Science | M.Sc. - IT Management

B.Com. (Hons.)

B.A. - Economics (Hons.)

B.A. - English (Hons.) B.A. - Communication & Digital Media

B.Sc. - Computer Science

B.Sc. - IT Management **BCA** - Bachelor of Computer Application



Shiksha Vihar, Bhola (Chandaka), Post: ASBM University, , Bhubaneswar - 754012 Admission Office: 8, Sai Anandam Complex, Patia Square, Bhubaneswar

Tel.: 0674 - 2744881 / 82 | 2374824 / 9040884628 / 7749939643 | admission@asbm.ac.in



leisure



ALICIA FELT 'UNPROTECTED' WHILE FILMING NUDE SCENES

Swedish actress Alicia Vikander doesn't like how filmmakers fail to properly take care of actors while filming nude scenes. In a recent interview, Alicia recalled how she felt unprotected while enacting one such nude scene.

BRITNEY OBJECTS TO PAYING HER MOM'S ATTORNEYS' FEES

Pop star Britney Spears has asked a court to deny her mother Lynne Spears' request that Britney pay the attorney fees she accumulated as she tried to help end her conservatorship. Mathew Rosengart, Britney's lawyer, insists that she shouldn't have to pay Lynne's \$663,202 legal bill.



FORTUNE **FORECAST**

GaneshaSpeaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust 🙇

You are an imaginative and enterprising person, and today you may taste success. Ganesha says that you are ambitious but warns you not to take on more work than you can handle. You are positive about your capabilities, so work sincerely and have faith in God.

TAURUS

There is every possibility that you will enjoy a good rapport with people around you, predicts Ganesha. You will think with your stomach today, craving for delicacies. Such a feeling might be because of repressed hunger. Something refreshingly different might be on the cards today says Ganesha.

GEMINI

Your mind will be uneasy and anxious due to some reason today. You will be unable to express your anxieties. You will be able to secure the love of your partner by sharing your feelings. You need to let go of the past and strive to keep on moving forward with confi

CANCER

A restless or irritating mood is indicated. Keep you cool and be calm even in adverse circumstances, suggests Ganesha. If you do so, you will always succeed in life. It is difficult to wriggle out of adversity, if you

You will seek the opinion of others in a lot of matters today. You need to patiently listen to others and keep your lips sealed during the course of conversations today Your self-confidence may take a beating today, hence do not take any important decisions. It is time for a major change in your work or field of work, says Ganesha.

Professionalism will be overshadowed by personal preoccupations. Drill your way out of problems today by meeting them head-on. Don't get stuck up on the emotional front, especially in the evening, cautions Ganesha

Ganesha says the inner surface today and you will showcase your imagination powers too. You will be able to focus on topics of interest today. Those of you in the field of interest will find themselves moving ahead. There may be signing of beneficia legal deals today for you.

SCORPIO

You can be fondly called as 'the perfectionist' today. Right from being punctual to following a systematic method for your work, you do it all. All in all, you set an ideal example for the people around you, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

Get ready to rule hearts today. Your thoughtful insights into other people's psyche might just help you write a book on it! In the battleground of love, you will win over your sweetheart all over again, probably with a nice, slow dance coupled with a fantastic candlelit dinner

CAPRICORN

It has become difficult for vou to bear the heavy weight of responsibilities on your shoulders. But, be prepared for some more; the weight is about to get heavier as more responsibilities are going to be added. You will no longer enjoy the work, and it will bring down your efficiency level to an extent, feels Ganesha.

AOUARIUS

Academically, you have performed exceptionally well, and Ganesha congratulates you for that. You will inspire and motivate number of people, and may create a fan following, too, This, however, doesn't mean that you throw your weight around Keep a humane and humble approach towards others.

PISCES

Those who work hard to move towards their goals wil do well today. It is a good day for business. You will be able to do a lot of new things in your job-business today. With Ganesha's blessings you will definit ly succeed, but you need to work hard without getting disappointed.

REMINISCING GURUJI





Odissi exponents (L-R) Padma Shri Ileana Citaristi (Odisha), Rina Jana and Nandini Ghosal (both from Kolkata) held the audience spellbound at Utkal Rangamancha, Bhubaneswar, Thursday. The event titled Remembering Guruji, organised by cultural organisation Art Vision in collaboration with GKCM Odissi Research Centre, was held to mark the 18th death anniversary of legend Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra.



A scene from the historical play Ahe Nilashaila staged at Rabindra Mandap, Thursday, Written by Shankar Tripathy and Pratima Hota, the play was directed by former secretary of Odisha Natva Sangh Lala Biren Ray. The cast of the star-studded show, which will be staged for the next three days, included Lawrence Behera, Sofia Alam, Shraddha Panigrahi, Hadu and several other TV and

Nargis opens up on Abhishek on why being body shamed he wants to get

cially on social media platforms. Having said that, actress Nargis Fakhri recently opened up on the issue. In an interview with a news portal, Nargis shared that she was a victim of fat shaming when she took a three-year break after the 2016 film Azhar and returnedto the big screen with 2019 film Amavas.

Mumbai: More often than not, celebrities are

often criticised for their body image espe-

With a drastic change in her body, rumours were rife that the actress had taken a maternity break. In fact, several sources also claimed that she was pregnant. Later on she had penned a strongly worded note on Instagram with before and after pictures. When asked about it, the actress shared that there is a certain look or appearance people expect from you, and hence it often becomes a pressure to maintain that She recalled how people constantly

asked her to put on weight, when she first came to India, because she was 'too skinny'. And the fact, she did put on weight, people started assuming that she was pregnant. She revealed that she was hurt but later realised it's her job to take care of herself and started working out.

tutored by SRK Mumbai: Abhishek Bachchan, busy promoting their film and Yami Gautam, and Nimrat giving interviews. In one such Kaur's *Dasvi* just released on conversation with an entertain-

OTT platforms. Ahead of the

premiere, the actors were

When Abhishek was asked if his character in *Dasvi*, Ganga Ram Chaudhary had to go take tuition from a Bollywood actor, who would that be. To this, he replies Shah Rukh Khan. On being asked why, Junior B said, "Because he's immensely well-read." He continued, "Shah Rukh's knowledge of everything is wonderful. And I love people like that, and I love to sit and talk to people that you

ment media portal, Abhishek re-

vealed that he would like to get tu-

tored by Shah Rukh Khan.

get to learn from. And he's like a sponge for knowledge." Abhishek revealed that he had traveled with SRK once when they were shooting for a film together. He shared that Shah Rukh had five books on the centre armrest, and he would randomly pick up something and start

SUDOKU

2

3

8 3

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

4

6

5

8

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.

9



Mumbai: Tennis legend Leander Paes is quite excited about his upcoming project as he has signed up for an animated show titled *Little Leander* based on his life journey.

He has signed up for the show with the studio Green Gold Animation who earlier delivered popular animation series Chhota Bheem.

Talking about the project, Leander said, "I'm thrilled for this show to be made because this in a way also becomes my legacy to stay. This is a very heartwarming opportunity because through this series I will be communicating with young minds and looking to inspire them toward positive development. The thought in itself is very fulfilling.'

Rajiv Chilaka, Founder & CEO, Green Gold Animation said, "We are privileged when we get to witness genius in any field and Leander has given us many of those moments." IANS

6

4

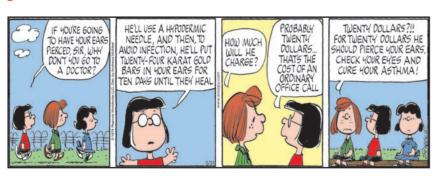
2 5 5

8

5

3 4

PEANUTS



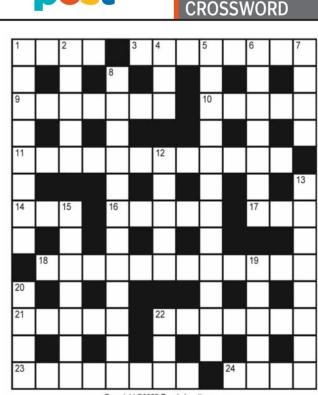
CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY



FUN POST



Copyright ©2022 PuzzleJunction.co 18 Boxer's class

21 Tedious (2-3)

23 Lady Godiva

22 Indicates

city

- Across
- 1 Carryall 3 Clear soup
- 9 Relaxation
- 10 Cattle farm
- 11 Staffordshire dog breeds (4,8)
- 14 Pouch
- 16 Leguminous
- plant
- 17 Reverence
- 24 Reeled
- Down
- 1 Bottle gourd
- 2 Calm
- 4 Be in debt
- 5 Razor type

- dramatist

20 Stylish

15 Russian

22 Elton John, e.g.

12 Helicopter part 13 Throw away

6 Roman goddess

of wisdom

7 Canyon sound

8 Type of health

supplement

- 19 Clutch

SUDOKU

S A U C Y N O N S T O P P A B N P A F F L U E N T H A T E 8 4 6 7 3 9

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



downtown

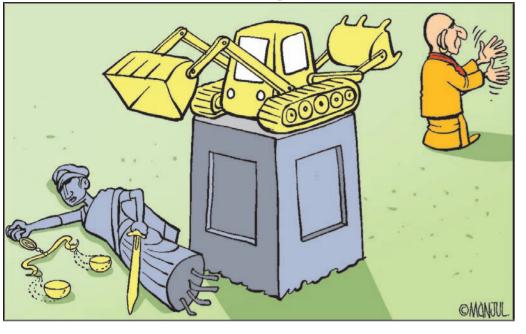


MOTHER WORSHIP

Goddess Basanti Durga being worshipped at a pandal in Chandini Chowk area of Cuttack, Thursday

| | COV | /ID-19 ' | TRACK | ER |
|--|--------|--------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| | | INFECTED | RECOVERED | DEAD |
| | World | 49,58,18,709 | 43,16,24,614 | 61,93,374 |
| | India | 4,30,31,958 | 4,30,31,958 | 5,21,530 |
| | Odisha | 12,87,801 | 12,78,441 | 9,121 |
| | | : | : :::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::: | : : • : • : • : • : • : • : • : • |

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Security at Srimandir to be stepped up: SJTA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, April 7: The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) has planned to introduce a slew of measures to enhance security in and around Srimandir in the wake of vandalism at the shrine's kitchen.

The SJTA Thursday held a meeting with the servitor members of Srimandir Managing Committee and the district administration to step up security at the 12th century shrine.

Henceforth, the SJTA will hold weekly meeting to review security related issues at the shrine. Earlier, the review meeting used to be held once in a month, sources said.

The temple authorities have also decided to install wireless CCTVs on the shrine premises to tighten round-the-clock surveillance.

To control of the con

will hold weekly meeting to review security related issues at the shrine. Earlier, the review meeting used to be held once in a month

Henceforth, the SJTA

"Earlier, the temple administration had installed around a hundred CCTVs on the shrine precincts. But, many of these CCTVs were lying defunct," said a source.

Though the shrine has a designated security force called Jagannath Temple Police Service (JTPS), the authorities have urged the state government to deploy additional police personnel at the temple.

olice personnel at the temple. "We don't have adequate JTPS personnel. That is why we've urged the state government to deploy additional police personnel at the shrine. We've also pleaded with the government to take necessary steps for appointing adequate number of JTPS personnel and other security staff for Srimandir," said an SJTA official.

The shrine authorities have also decided to install CCTVs near the temple kitchen and deploy secu-

rity personnel at four strategic places to check any untoward incidents.

"Srimandir tradition forbids us to install CCTVs at the shrine's kitchen. But, we've identified four strategic places to install CCTVs and deploy security personnel to enhance surveillance," said the official. Puri Collector Samarth Verma said the police have been asked to check the devotees thoroughly with metal detectors at the four gates of Srimandir. "The CCTV cameras installed at the four gates will be connected to a control room for better supervision," he said.

Notably, at least 80 clay stoves at Srimandir kitchen were found vandalised Sunday morning. The police have arrested a person in connection with the incident Wednesday.

Impleadment plea: Sarda mines' response sought

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, April 7: The Supreme Court (SC) Thursday asked the Sarda Mines Private Ltd (SMPL) to file its response to an application filed by the Union Ministry of Mines for the impleadment in a petition filed by the SMPL seeking direction to Odisha government to execute mining lease deed in its favour for the remaining 10 years out of the 30 years it was entitled to.

A three-judge bench of the SC headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana posted the matter for hearing after a week and asked the SMPL to file its reply.

"Ministry of Mines filed impleadment application in this matter. The state government expressed no objection. We direct the petitioner to file an affidavit after one week," the court said.

The bench comprising Justices Krishna Murari and Hima Kohli showed reluctance on the Centre's impleadment application.

"If we permit everyone to come and seek for impleadment like these things, how can we hear cases." the bench said.

"With great respect, the Union government is not everyone," said Solicitor General Tushar Mehta. Simificantly the impleadment

Significantly, the impleadment application was mentioned by the solicitor general before the bench of the Chief Justice.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the SMPL, opposed the impleadment application of the Ministry of Mines and submitted that the dispute was between the company and the state.



It is to be mentioned here that the SMPL has filed a special leave petition in the SC against an order of the Orissa High Court (HC) wherein the HC had held that the company had waived its right for the grant of lease of 30 years which it had obtained earlier by executing a lease

for 20 years and that the provisions of Mines and Minerals Development Act, 2015 operated as a bar to seek any renewal beyond 20 years. The mining lease is sought in respect of over 947.046 hectare in Thakurani B-Block Iron Ore Mines in Keonjhar district.

The state government had January 13 asked the SMPL to hand over possession of the mines, including stock of minerals, plant and machineries, building structures, etc, to the mining officer.

According to the mining company, the state government towards the end of 20 years had started to circumvent its rights for the remaining period of 10 years on one or the other pretext. "The state government took a somersault and took a stand that the lease was only for 20 years and that the HC by an erroneous interpretation has come to a conclusion that the lease was for 20 years and not 30 years," it stated, adding that the state government should be restrained from taking any coercive action against it during the pendency of the appeal in the SC.

Take action against police brutality: Rights activist

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 7: A human rights activist here Thursday filed a complaint with National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) against Balasore district police for allegedly harassing and falsely implicating a senior journalist in Nilagiri.

In his complaint, Himansu Sekhar Nayak wrote that as per reports published by different newspapers, senior journalist Lokanath Dalei was found with his leg chained to the hospital bed where he was admitted for treatment following his arrest and subsequent torture by the Nilagiri police custody on April 6.

"While undergoing treatment

at the hospital, his legs were chained to the bed. The cops did not take the approval of the concerned magistrate for handcuffing the detainee. This is in severe violation of Human Rights under Article 14, 15(1), 19(1), 20(3), 21, 22(1), 22 (2) and 32 of the constitution of India and Article 02, 03, 05 of universal declaration," the complaint said.

The complainant requested the NHRC to direct the Chief Secretary of Odisha to pay the compensation of ₹5 Lakh to the victim. The compensation amount meant for the victim should be recovered from the erring officials of Nilagiri police station in Balasore, the complaint read.





NGT starts probe into sand mining in Budhabalanga



The four-member National Green Tribunal team, along with police officials, on way to Arapata and Dingira sand mines in Budhabalanga River of Mayurbhanj district, Thursday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, April 7: A team of National Green Tribunal (NGT) conducted a probe into the alleged illegal mining and transportation of sand from Arapata and Dingira sand mines in Budhabalanga River of Mayurbhanj district.

OrissaPOST

The four-member team of the green body visited two sand mines and conducted a probe, Wednesday. The visit of the team has fuelled hopes among the residents that it will put an end to illegal sand mining and environmental degradation.

The team members also collected details about the sand illegally stored inside the quarries. The matter on illegal mining is scheduled for hear-

The NGT team collected details about the sand illegally stored inside the two sand mines

The matter on illegal mining is scheduled for hearing April 22 fter the team completes its probe and submit a report to the NGT

The visit of the team has fuelled hopes of an end to illegal sand mining and environmental degradation

ing April 22 after the team completes its probe and submit a report to the NGT.

A senior scientist of the state **Environment Impact Assessment** Authority (EIAA), a senior scientist of the state pollution control board, a representative of the district Collector and the district mines officer are the members of

The team members first conducted probe at Garudabasa behind Betanoti College and later visited the Bada Sahi tehsil office. Later, the team visited both the quarries and collected details about sand extraction and transportation.

Apprehending retaliation by the sand smugglers, a platoon of police force also accompanied the team members during their visit.

Betanoti SDPO Sudarshan Das and Bada Sahi IIC also accompanied the team members and supervised their protection and

Reports said petitioner Radha Mohan Singh has moved the eastern bench of NGT at Kolkata over illegal sand lifting and transportation from Arapata and Dingira sand quarries in the river under the revenue jurisdiction of Bada Sahi tehsil office.

The petitioner alleged that the state government has incurred losses to the tune of Rs 100 crore due to the illegal sand lifting and transportation from the river.

Judicial member Justice B Amit Sthalekar and expert member Saibal Dasgupta have admitted the petition for hearing and directed the district administration to constitute a team and conduct a probe.

The NGT has also made 16 of ficials as parties to the case and asked for show-cause from the district administration.





Mercury breaches BJP pitches for Ayushman

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 8: Heat wave continued to grip the state, especially western region, with mercury soaring to 40 degrees Celsius at least five places. Thursday.

40°C at 5 places

According to the Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre, Bolangir logged 41.5 degrees Celsius, the highest in the state.

The temperature in Titlagarh and Boudh was 41 degrees each, while it was 40.3 degrees at Jharsuguda. Similarly, Bhawanipata town of western Odisha recorded a maximum temperature of 40 degrees Thursday.

Twin cities of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack recorded a day temperature of 36.2 and 35.8 degrees respectively, the Met Centre said.

The weather office has predicted light to moderate rainfall in some parts of the state till the morning of April 11.

Bharat scheme in Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 8: On the World Health Day Thursday, the state BJP urged the BJD government to immediately implement the Centre's 'Avushman Bharat' scheme in the state to provide better healthcare benefits to the poor.

State BJP president Samir Mohanty said that the healthcare system had collapsed in the state and that the state government had failed to ensure basic healthcare services to the poor. "Though some hospitals have been constructed, it is not sufficient to cater the need," he said.

"There is no ICU in 18 district headquarters hospitals, no power sup ply to 112 primary healthcare centres, and 40 per cent of the total hospitals don't have doctors," he claimed.

Mohanty asked: "With this situation, why does the state government not want to provide quality healthcare facilities to the people? Why has

PM meets BJP MPs

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday met BJP MPs from Odisha and other states. According to sources, the PM asked all MPs to go to people and inform them about the works of the BJP-led Union government.

the government deprived 60 lakh poor families from reaping the benefits of Ayushman Bharat scheme?" He added, "If the central scheme is implemented in the state, the poor can avail free health services anywhere in the country.'

The BJD government has not been implementing the scheme as it has already launched its own scheme Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana, under which each covered family can avail the treatment cost up to Rs 5 lakh per annum. Women members can avail this benefit up to Rs 10 lakh every year.

PILs on police atrocity in Dhinkia disposed of

Cuttack, April 7: Putting an end to the matter pertaining to land acquisition and alleged police atrocities at Dhinkia under Ersama block in Jagatsinghpur district, the Orissa High Court Thursday disposed of the public interest litigations (PILs) filed in this regard.

According to sources, the HC has directed the petitioners to submit over 400 affidavits to the Jagatsinghpur Collector, who will forward the affidavits to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), the HC directed.

Notably, tension ran high at the proposed steel plant site at Dhinkia during the eviction of betel vineyards by the police January 14. It was when the villagers confronted with the police force in their bid to save the crops that the latter resorted to lathi charge. Several villagers, including some women, were injured in the scuffle.

28 fresh Cov cases

Bhubaneswar, April 7: Odisha recorded 28 new coronavirus cases Thursday, taking the tally to 12,87,801, the Health department said in a bulletin.

The death toll remained unchanged at 9,121 as there was no report of any fatality due to the viral infection for the seventh consecutive day, the bulletin said.

The state had reported 16 new cases Wednesday.

Odisha now has 208 active Covid-19 cases, while 12,78,419 patients have recovered from the disease, including 52 Wednesday

Besides, 53 other Covid-19 patients have died due to comorbidities so far, it said.

New PCSC for ECoR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 7: Yugal Kishore Joshi has taken over the charge of principal chief security commissioner (PCSC) for East Coast Railway (ECoR) recently. He had joined the Indian Railways from the 1997 batch of IRPF services.

Prior to his new assignment, Joshi was in deputation to the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation under Ministry of Jal Shakti and worked as the Director, Swachh Bharat Mission from 2016-21 and Director, Jal Jeevan Mission from 2021-22

He also worked as Director, Railway

Protection Force Railway Board from 2014-2016, Senior Divisional Security Commissioner Delhi Division of Northern Railway and

Howrah

Division in Eastern Railway and Security Chief Commissioner in ECoR from

He was a key member of the Swachh Bharat Mission team that planned, implemented and monitored World's largest behavior change programme and facilitated in making India free from open defecation.



Secretary Shubha Sarma visit a stall at Toshali National Crafts Mela at Janata Maidan in Bhubaneswar. Thursday op PHOTO

Different norms for Kashi, Lingaraj raise eyebrows

...Continued from P1

If any work or restoration is to be carried out in the control area, there is need for permission from the National Monuments Authority.

The Union Home Ministry, in a letter, has pointed out objections of the Union Culture Ministry about the ordinance. It has stated that the Archaeological Survey of India is the competent authority to protect and conserve the Lingarai Temple 11 other monuments and three ponds in Bhubaneswar.

It also said that certain provisions in the Odisha government's ordinance pertain to conservation and restoration of some temples and ponds. Such dual administrative control over temples will lead to conflicts. In the letter, it was stated that basic structures of these monuments will not be changed under any circumstances

The Centre had twice or thrice sought clarifications on the ordinance from the Odisha government and got its reply. After the Centre's



rejection, the Odisha government has started exploring legal steps to counter the move.

"Further steps will be taken, after receiving the letter from the Centre on its objection to the ordinance," Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapatra said.

The blocking of the Lingarai temple ordinance by the Centre has evoked sharp reactions from various quarters. The Ekamra MLA further said, "The Centre instead of seeking clarifications has tried to block the ordinance which has hurt Odia sentiments. The law is same for all. The Centre should not to adopt a discriminatory approach in case of Odia deities.

Kamalakanta Badu, secretary of

the Badu Niyog in Lingaraj Temple, condemned the Centre's move to block the ordinance. He said all were hopeful of a special law for Lingaraj Temple after long years. He suspected a political conspiracy behind the move. The temple can have a smooth run if both the Union and state governments stop doing politics and introduce the ordinance in proper coordination among them. Badu said. Biranchi Narayan Pati, secretary of Brahman Niyog, said the 'traditions' of Sri Lingaraj were being regularly violated for which they have been demanding enactment of a Special Act before the Odisha government.

"The state government had agreed to bring in a special law but it's ironical that the Centre has blocked the ordinance." he pointed out.

State BJP president Samir Mohanty said that the Union gov ernment is not objecting to any developmental works in the state but it wants execution of the projects

Toxic air kills 12.4 lakh people world over

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 7: A global study states that with 23 lakh premature pollution-related deaths every year, air pollution alone kills around 12.4 lakh world over. India remains worst-affected by pollution.

The world is currently progressing in an unsustainable way of development in such a way that it injects diverse detrimental and toxic materials into our environment from various sources.

As a consequence, the air we breathe, the water we drink, the soil on which we grow our food and the noise we hear, everything gets polluted causing diverse health disorders and diseases. The pollutants in the form of gases, particulate matters, heavy metals, effluents and high decibel noise often

cause enormous health problems. Further, our lifestyles have undergone radical transformations that create the risk of developing major chronic illnesses like dia-



betes, cardiovascular diseases and cancer. All these reduce the life expectancy and culminate in pre-

mature death of many To highlight these findings, the Orissa Environmental Society (OES) and the Regional Science Centre (RSC), Bhubaneswar jointly organised a programme to observe the World Health Day. The theme for this year chosen by the World Health Organization was 'Our Planet, Our Health', which aims to add quality to the health of earth

so that we can live a disease-free life. The chief guest at the event was a renowned neurosurgeon. Dr Ashok Kumar Mahapatra, former director of AIIMS Bhubaneswar and Vice-Chancellor of SOA University. Highlighting the present health scenario and the Covid pandemic across the globe, Dr Mahapatra narrated how increased pollution of air, water and soil was culminating in enhanced occurrence of various infectious and non-infectious diseases.

Blood donation camp held in City

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha state branch of Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) organised a blood donation camp to mark the World Health Day here Thursday, an official said. The camp was inaugurated by IRCS Odisha state branch's honorary secretary CTM Suguna. A monthly newsletter of IRCS Odisha state branch was also inaugurated during the event that was held on theme "Our Planet, Our Health". Among others, honorary treasurer Bhabani Prasad Nanda, joint secretary Debendra Prasad Das, blood bank director Chandrika Prasad Dash and YRCO Ramesh Chandra Behera were present on the occasion. On the eve of the World Health Day, a meeting on 'Our Planet, Our Health' was organised. Junior Red Cross officer Laxman Swain coordinated the programme.

He said: "Our cities are progressively changing into the most polluted human habitations, infusing illness among people. We have to exhibit our commitment to upholding the quality of our environment and combating the causes of ailments.

Chairing the programme, OES president Sundara Narayan Patro stressed on spreading awareness and initiating action programmes for protecting the environment.

RSC coordinator Soumen Ghosh opined that humanity would survive on earth as long as we took care of nature and behaved as responsible components

of our planet. OES secretary Jayakrushna Panigrahi spoke on the deteriorating environmental quality and its rising impact on human health.

On the occasion, Bharat Panda of Brahmapur was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to the environment betterment.

PATRO TO ATTEND **SPEAKERS' MEET IN GUWAHATI**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 7: Odisha Assembly Speaker Suriva Naravan Patro will attend the All India Speakers' Conference to be held in Guwahati, the capital city of

Assam, from April 11 to 13. Patro will be accompanied by Deputy Speaker Rajanikant Singh, Odisha Assembly secretary Dasarathi Satpathy and others.

The conference is scheduled to be attended by speakers from all states of India. The participants will deliberate on parliamentary work, improvement of parliamentary procedures and the coordination among

departmental heads, sources said. Patro will return to Odisha April 13, sources said.

The conference will be chaired by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. Patro will deliver a speech on 'National development and the use of youth energy for the common good', sources added.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR **BOOKING STATIONS**

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488 Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816 Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookieman-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823. Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714. Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Privadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion-Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

skin was seized from their pos-

back. The accused were arrested

while they were trying to strike

a deal for the animal skin.

REGIONAL OFFICE:

Quantum Building, Farm Road,

Modipara, Sambalpur-768002

Ganjam tops country in MGNREGA jobs



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, April 7: Ganjam district has topped the country in providing 100 days work to rural households under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGN-REGA) during 2021-22, a senior official said.

As many as 1,29,290 households in the district were provided 100 days employment in 2021-22 fiscal, followed by Barmer (1,19,938) and Nagaur (1,12,903) in Rajasthan.

Over 4,00,000 migrant workers had returned to Ganjam when a national lockdown was imposed in 2020 to check the spread of coronavirus. Several workers staved back when the workers

SHORT TAKES

Boudh: At least eight

■ 8 Anganwadi kids

Anganwadi kids sustained

critical injuries after being

an Anganwadi centre at

Balasinga under Dapala

Two others, a helper and

another worker at the

stung by a swarm of bees at

Panchayat of Kantamal block

Anganwadi centre, were also

hive close to the Anganwadi

some persons, the swarm of

attacked the worker as well as

district headquarters hospital

centre. Being disturbed by

honeybees entered the

Anganwadi centre and

the helper along with the

eight children. All of them

were admitted to Sonepur

AIIMS OPD to open

at Balasore soon

Balasore: The OPD services of

All India Institute of Medical

made operational through a

soon. A delegation of AIIMS-

director Dr Mukesh Tripathy

stock of the infrastructure.

has visited Balasore and took

The delegation revealed that

the OPD Bhawan will be taken

over in two/three days while

various medical instruments

and accessories will be

installed soon.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, April 7: A crafts village,

which was constructed in August 2019

at a cost of around ₹5 crore at

Nabajibanpur under Saptasajya pan-

chayat in the district, will be made func-

tional soon, an official said Thursday.

The administration is planning to

organise 'Dhenkanal Mahotsav' on the

crafts village premises to promote the

district's dokra artisans at national

level. The process for the upcoming

The crafts village was built under

rural tourism scheme to promote the

dokra art form as well as to support

the livelihood of the artisans, said a

Management of the crafts village

will be handed over to a self-help group

(SHG). Skilled dokra artisans will be

brought and engaged in the crafts vil-

lage for the training of local artisans,

the source further said.

Mahotsav has already started.

Sciences (AIIMS) will be

Bhubaneswar led by its

in critical condition.

hurt. The bees had made their

in Boudh district Thursday.

hurt in bee attack

REGS jobs, the official said The district in south Odisha has also generated 2,99,00,497 person-days of work under the rural employment scheme during the period, ranking fourth in the country.

returned to their workplaces, leading

to an increase in demand for MGN-

Ganjam collector Vijay Amruta Kulange thanked the team of the district rural development agency (DRDA) and block officials for achieving the first position in the country in providing 100 days of work under MGNREGA.

He also asked them to maintain the same spirit in 2022-23.

The jobs created under the MGN-REGA have helped rural people to sus-

Ganjam district were provided 100 days employment in 2021-22

The total expenditure incurred under the flagship rural jobs programme in the district stood at . ₹635 crore during the 2021-22 fiscal

tain their livelihood at the time of the pandemic, said Shinde Dattatraya Bhausaheb, project director, DRDA.

Various infrastructure projects like cow sheds, rural parks, rural tourist circuits, model ponds, model hatcheries, Biju Panchayat library, model anganwadi centres, gymnasiums, were taken up under the scheme, apart from construction of roads, and drains, he said

The project director said Ganjam district has also achieved the top position among the 30 districts of the state in MGNREGA expenditure.

The total expenditure incurred under the flagship rural jobs programme in the district was ₹635 crore during the 2021-22 fiscal, officials said.

MGNREGA is aimed at enhancing livelihood security of households in rural areas of the country by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled

Siblings held for swindling ₹6.81crore agri subsidies

Jagatsinghpur/Bhubaneswar, April 7: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Odisha Police Wednesday nabbed two brothers for siphoning off government subsidies to the tune of ₹6.81 crore meant for supply of agricultural equipment to farmers. The accused were identified as Manas

Ranjan Dash and Tapas Kumar Dash, the director and proprietor of two firms located in Jagatsinghpur district, a senior EOW official said.

Investigation into the case revealed that the firms are registered with the state's Agriculture department under the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme "as a manufacturing firm/company of agro implements like transplanter machines"

"They (the duo) managed to avail sub-



sidy amount of ₹6,81,53,048 under the DBT scheme, which was disbursed in the bank accounts of concerned beneficiaries/farmers by the agriculture department and misappropriated the same," he said.

Several documents like details of beneficiaries, fake invoices, money receipts and a hard disc containing data uploaded on the DBT portal have been seized, the

Rail coach factory in Keonjhar likely

DHENKANAL MAHOTSAV AHEAD

Keonjhar, April 7: Keonjhar moved a step closer to get a better deal in railway connectivity after the Khurda Road divisional railway manager (DRM) assured that the district could have its own rail coach factory if the district administration provides land free of cost, a report said.

The matter came to the fore after a delegation of the citizens' forum met the DRM at his office at Khurda Road on his invitation recently. The invitation follows a past meeting of the delegation with DRM and general manager (GM) during their visit to Keonjhar railway station,

Saptasajya is also otherwise popu-

lar across the state as a destination of

nature-tourism. During the tenure of erst-

Sahoo, ₹5 crore was sanctioned by the

government in financial year 2016-17

in two phases – ₹3 crore and ₹2 crore, the

Present Dhenkanal Collector Saroj

Kumar Sethi recently reviewed the

available infrastructure and accord-

The district-level event will be or-

ganised towards the last week of April

or first week of May this year. As many

as 27 temporary stalls will be erected for

ously being organised to promote art and

culture of the district, which was dis-

'Dhenkanal Mahotsav' was previ-

The Collector said, "We are giving

sale and display of dokra items.

ingly took the decision.

continued since 2016.

while Dhenkanal Collector Roopa Roshan

The delegation comprising Ajay Kumar Sahu, an engineer, and Biraja Mishra, a lawyer, had a threadbare discussion with the DRM regarding the development of railways in the district for over two hours. The delegation members presented a charter of demands to the DRM for his approval and implementation.

Speaking to the delegation, the DRM said it is not possible fulfill all of the demands of an early commissioning of Puri-Barbil intercity trains and take care for plying of Howrah-Keonjhar Janasatabdi after discussing it with his higher-ups and

but will take care to fulfill them in a timebound manner. He, however, assured them

technical experts.

year. Keeping this in mind, the crafts vil-

lage was built at Nabajibanpur of Sadeibereni under Saptasajya pan-

Facilities for temporary accommo-

dation and food for the tourists will be

made at the crafts village during

Dhenkanal Mahotsay, However, efforts

are on to provide hotel accommodation

It is pertinent to mention here that al-

though the construction work was com-

pleted more than two and half years

ago, it was not commissioned due to

administrative apathy, many artisans had

Dhenkanal Tourism department and

Odisha Rural Development and

Marketing Society (ORMAS) were en-

gaged in a blame game for which the am-

Nabajibanpur has earned fame, even

globally, for its exquisite designs of

bitious project was hanging fire.

dokra work. Nearly 120 craftsmen

are involved in the craft, which is

The crafts village consists of a

large hall meant for sale, display

and production of dokra works, a

conference hall and a rest room for

tourists. After completion, the vil-

lage was handed over to Saptasajya

When the panchayat body dis-

agreed for annual maintenance, the

charge was subsequently handed

over to ORMAS. Due to lack of

panchayat authorities.

said to be facing extinction.

as well, Sethi added.

Dokra crafts village to start with a bang

Tender Notice No. ST-OT-EI-CAP-GNGD-KED-272, Dt. 01.04.2022 NAME OF WORK: (i) EXTENSION OF PLATFORM NO. 3 & 4 TO ACCOMMODATE Kapilash, Saptasajya and Joranda every

24/26 COACHES LENGTH TRAINS AT CHATRAPUR (CAP) STATION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION. (ii) GANGADHARPUR (GNGD) STATION YARD REMODELLING FOR PSR REMOVAL OF KHURDA ROAL DIVISION. (iii) KENDUAPADA (KED STATION YARD REMODELLING FOR PSE REMOVAL OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION. Tender Value in (₹): 1,39,78,862.50

Start Date : 11.04.2022, Date and Time of Closing of Tender

At 1100 Hrs. of 25.04.2022.

EMD (₹): 2,19,900/-

No manual offers sent by Post / Courier uch e-tenders even if these are submitte on firm's letter head and received in time Il such manual offers shall be conside nvalid and shall be rejected summari Complete information including

-tender documents of the abov -Tender is available in website https://www.ireps.gov.in Note: The prospective tenderers are

dvised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen days before the date of closing of tende to note any changes / Corrigendur ssued for this tender. Divisional Railway Manager (S&T)

NAVRATRI FERVOUR



Artistes of cultural outfit 'Lu' in Padmapur performed a dance drama 'Maa Kaha Gute Kathani' on the occasion of Basanti Navratri festival at Sohela in Bargarh district

Youth stabbed to death near VIMSAR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, April 7: A youth was stabbed to death while attending nature's call near Garadapali Canal in Burla Thursday. The deceased has been identified as Lambodar Nayak. As per sources, Kapil Nayak, a resident of Mahulpalli area, along with his son Lambodar and brother-in-law Abhin Sundar had come to the ENT department of VIMSAR

Lambodar and Abhin went to attend nature's call near the canal Thursday morning. Meanwhile, a few miscreants came from nowhere and stabbed Lambodar while Abhin was standing on the road. Lambodar died on the spot while the miscreants fled. Burla police reached the spot and seized the body. A manhunt is on to nab the miscreants.

FORM NO. 13 BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, CUTTACK, ORISSA C-71, SECTOR-7 CDA, CUTTACK, ODISHA O.A. No. 1082/2019 KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD Applicant

versus MAHAMMAD SARAPHUDDIN ANOTHER.

MAHAMMAD SARAPHUDDIN S/O MAHAMMADSAMIDALI RAMMANDROID, PENSINPADA SADAR, SAMBALPUR, ODISHA-768001 (DEF NO-1)

S/O, ABDUL GAFUR SUNAPALI, DHANUPALI, SAMBALPUR,

SUMMONS BY PAPER PUBLICATION FOR SHOWING CAUSE AS TO WHY THE RELIEF PRAYED SHOULD NOT BE GRANTED

Take notice that the applicant has instituted an O.A. No. 1082/2019 the court of the Debts of Recovery Tribunal, Cuttack for recovery of Rs.28,19,261.18 P only together with current and future interest, costs and other reliefs. The directed to appear before this tribunal in person or through an Advocate or duly authorised agent, in support of their defence on to show cause within 30 days from the publication or on 02/05/ 2022 at 10.30 a.m. as to why reliefs prayed for should not be granted.

application will te heard and determined in their Given under my hand seal of this Tribunal on

this 05 day of March 2022.

(M.K.Patnaik)

Sd/

1) e-Tender No. 01-eT-DENC-SBP-22

NAME OF WORK: MISCELLANEOUS REPAIR WORKS IN BALANGIR

REPAIR WORKS IN BALANGIR -BICHHUPALI SECTION UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / BALANGIR IN SAMBALPUR DIVISION.

Dated: 04.04.2022

Approx. Cost of the Work (₹): 2,23,29,655.13, EMD (₹): 2,61,700/-

2) e-Tender No. 01-eT-SDENW-SBP-22 NAME OF WORK: MISCELLANEOUS P.WAY WORKS IN LAKHOLI (EX) -BHIMKHOJ (EX) SECTION UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (P.WAY) / MAHASAMUND OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION.

Approx. Cost of the Work (₹) : 99,60,724.73, EMD (₹): 1,99,300/-3) e-Tender No. 02-eT-SDENW-SBP-22

NAME OF WORK: MISCELLANEOUS
PWAY WORKS IN BHIMKHOJ (IN) NAWAPARA (EX) SECTION UNDER THE
JURISDICTION OF SENIOR SECTION
ENGINEER (P.WAY) / KHARIAR ROAD OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION. Approx. Cost of the Work (₹)

99,60,724.73, EMD (₹): 1,99,300/-. ompletion Period for the work: 08 Twelve) Months (for SI. No. 02 & 03). ender Closing Date and Time : At 1500 Hrs. on 29.04.2022 (for all the tenders). No manual offers sent by Post / Courie

Fax or in person shall be accepted again such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time All such manual offers shall be rejected ummarily without any consideration complete information including -tender documents of the above fender is available in website https://www.ireps.gov.in

Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender o note any changes / Corrigenda issue for this tender. Divisional Railway Manager (Engg)

According to Prusty, prelim-Baripada, April 7: A leopard (WCCB), Keonjhar and Karanjia skin was seized near the old bus inary investigation suggests forest range. Forest ranger Pradip Prusty stand area at Karanjia in that the leopard was shot dead said, "As per the instructions at Baunspal area some 15 days

LEOPARD SKIN SEIZED; 7 HELD

conducted by the officials of

Wildlife Crime Control Bureau

of the DFO, we conducted a raid

and nabbed the accused from

the spot. A 4.5-ft long leopard

POST NEWS NETWORK

Mayurbhanj district late Wednesday night. Seven persons were arrested in this connection. An organised wildlife smug-

gling racket is believed to be active in the state as it is suspected that the leopard was killed some 15 days back. All the seven accused were

arrested in a joint operation

FORM NO. 13 BEFORE THEDEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, CUTTACK, ORISSA C-71, SECTOR-7 CDA, CUTTACK, ODISHA O.A. No. 381/2021

KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD... versus MAHAMMAD MUMTAZ & ANOTHERS.

I) MAHAMMAD MUMTAZ S/O MD MUKTAZA AT- BANSAPANI,

ANI, JODA KEONJHAR (DEFENDENT NO-1) MD HARUN S/O, MD. MURTAZA

AT- KAMARJODI BASTI JODA KEONJHAR -758034 (DEFENDENT NO-SUMMONS BY PAPER PUBLICATION FOR SHOWING CAUSE AS TO WHY THE RELIEF PRAYED SHOULD NOT BE

GRANTED

Take notice that the applicant has instituted an D.A. No. 381/2021 the court of the Debts of Recovery Tribunal, Cuttack for recovery of Rs.33,34,334.41 P only together with cu and future interest, costs and other reliefs. The above mentioned defendants are therefore directed to appear before this tribunal in person or through an Advocate or duly authorise agent, in support of their defence on to show cause within 30 days from the publication or or 12/05/ 2022 at 10.30 a.m. as to why reliefs prayed for should not be granted.

application will te heard and determined in their

Given under my hand seal of this Tribunal or

(M.K.Patnaik

PUBLIC NOTICE It is hereby informed to the general public that the

Central Bank of India Samajik Utthan Avam Prashikshan

Sansthan (CBI-SUAPS), a Society/Trust, registered under Society legistration Act 1860 with Head Office at Mumbai, through its 46

RSETI & 48 FLCC centres located in 51 Lead Districts allotted to

the Bank in the Country, engaged in imparting training to rural youth for their self-employment and bringing awareness among

Central Bank of India Samajik Utthan Avam Prashikshan

Sansthan (CBI-SUAPS), Deogarh, Odisha a Society/Trust

sponsored by Central Bank of India is looking for engaging the

services of Director on Annual Contract basis. For full details

regarding application format, emoluments, age, qualification

experience etc., please refer to detailed advertisement displayer

on the Bank's website:http://www.centralbankofindia.co.in.

Application form can be downloaded from Bank's website given above

he last date for Receipt of application will be dtd.22.04.2022.

Place: Sambalpur, Date: 08.04.2022 Sd/- Regional Manager

State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Odisha of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India has granted Environment Clearance (EC) to Ostapal Chromite Mine of M/s Ferro Alloys Corporation Ltd. (FACOR) on dtd. 04/04/2022 for enhancement of production up to 0.240 MTPA of Chromite Ore (ROM). This EC is also available in the official portal of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, i.e http:// environmentclearance.nic.in.

HANDICRAFTS EXHIBI



Attractive Handicrafts SALE and Handloom items from different Places Direct sale by Artisans

VENUE: N.A.C Kalyan Mandap Premises At/PO - Konark, Dist - PURI

From 31st March to 9th April-2022 Daily from 10 A.M to 9 P.M

Sponsored by:



Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts Commissioner (Handicrafts) Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India, New Delhi

Organised by - SUNLINE, Cuttack

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER **CUTTACK (R&B) DIVISION NO.I: CUTTACK** E-Mail I.D.-eepwdcuttack@gmail.com,Tel./ Fax No.(0671)-2304128 **GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**

('e' PROCUREMENT NOTICE) Bid Identification No. S.E. CTC(R&B)-01 of 2022-23

No.B-25:1.The Superintending Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Division No.I.Cuttack on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites on Percentage rate basis bid in Single cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractor for Building work as mentioned below.

No. of Work :- 01 No.

Nature of work :- Building works

Class of Contractor :- "C" and "B" Class

Tender Paper Cost :- Rs.6000/- (Online) Available of bid documents in the website :- From

12.04.2022 to 5PM of 26.04.2022 Date of Opening of Bid :- 11AM of 27.04.2022

The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website https:// tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum/ corrigendum/ cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

> Sd./- (Er. P.K. Maihi) Superintending Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Division No.I OIPR-34091/11/0001/2223

Kaliapani of M/s Jindal Stainless Limited has obtained Environment Clearance for enhancement of production capacity of Chrome ore from 0.1 MTPA to 0.215 MTPA from SEIAA, Odisha, Bhubaneswar of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change; vide SEIAA EC identification No.: EC 22B001OR115726 & File No: 37642/01-MIN-V/06-2019, dated 04th April, 2022, At/Po Kaliapani Dist.- Jajpur- 755047. The copies of the clearance letter are available with SPCB, Odisha and may also be seen at website of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change at www.parivesh.nic.in.

M/s. Jindal Stainless Limited

It is being brought to the notice of all that Jindal Chromite Mines

Sd./- Director, Jindal Chromite Mines

priority to promotion of tourism in adequate fund, ORMAS was unable Dhenkanal district. Hundreds of tourists to ensure proper upkeep of the throng the popular destinations like crafts village.











In sincerity is the certitude of victory. Sincerity! Sincerity! How sweet is the purity of thy presence?





Dorottya Szikra &

Orbán's economic

important a role in

his political success

policies play as

as the widely

documented

of Hungary's

electoral system

distortions

Mitchell A. Orenstein

Why Orbán Won

Tungary's autocratic prime minister, Viktor Orbán, was expected to win re-election to a fourth consecutive four-year term this weekend, owing to a rigged electoral system and a largely state-controlled media that made it impossible for the united opposition to reach many voters. But the scale of Orbán's victory shocked most observers. United for Hungary candidate Péter Márki-Zay lost the popular vote by 53% to 35%, giving Orbán's Fidesz Party vet another constitutional supermajority in parliament. It was a crushing defeat for the European Union as well.

Perhaps the outcome will force Hungary's opposition to consider the largely economic reasons why so many Hungarians vote for Orbán. Following Fidesz's sweeping victory in the 2010 election and years of economic hardship, most Hungarians experienced an increase in living standards. While an economic recovery after 2014 that created thousands of new jobs helped Orbán, his policies played a huge role, creating a cross-class coalition for Fidesz. Hungary's liberal opposition has largely scoffed at these policies and failed to offer a strong alternative. But beneficiaries feared losing out if Orbán were voted out of power.

Some press reports have focused on Orbán's freeze on gas prices and other large handouts before the election. Responding to galloping inflation

at the end of 2021, Orbán capped the prices of basic goods like flour, sugar, oil, and chicken. These measures, highly reminiscent of the communist era, proved popular. The government also required gas stations to sell their fuel at belowmarket prices. After the Ukraine war erupted, the government forced retailers to eat the costs as prices rose, or else forfeit their businesses. Hungary became the only European country where fuel prices did not surge, reinforcing Orbán's image as a strong leader and champion of ordinary people.

But Orbán's longer-term policies to enhance voters' well-being have seemingly escaped most analysts' attention, despite their fundamental role in establishing and sustaining his loyal base. These policies focused on increasing employment and take-home pay, channeling generous social benefits to working families with children rather than the non-working poor, and were couched in a discourse of national renewal.

After 1989, neoliberal transition policies cost Hungary, a country of ten million people, a million jobs, a devastating decline. Orbán's government sought to correct this by building a "work-based society" using various instru-

ments to boost employment, including tax incentives for large employers and a popular public-works programme for poor people in rural areas that created 200,000 sub-minimum-wage jobs. By all reports, the jobs programme won the loyalty of many who felt left behind by the economic transition.

Just as importantly, Orbán's government used tax and other policies to boost purchasing power, so that most Hungarians, including low-income earners, could rightly feel that they were doing better since the mid-2010s. Orbán steadily increased the statutory minimum wage each year until it surpassed the minimum subsistence level in 2018, the first time since 1989. In preparation for the recent election, Orbán's government boosted the minimum wage yet again, by 20%, benefiting one million employees (a third of private-sector employees) directly while also generating pressure to increase wages for more qualified workers.

In addition to this emphasis on jobs and wages, Orbán built his popularity on family policies that, while far from being just, provided unprecedented levels of public resources to families with children. By excluding unemployed parents, public-sector workers, and those active in the shadow economy, Orbán could concentrate his government's resources on serving working families in the formal private sector.

For example, families with three or more children have been practically exempt from personal income tax (PIT) since 2012; since 2019, families have received large grants and loans to buy cars and build or purchase houses, and a complete refund of PIT in early 2022. As employment increased after 2014, more families began to benefit. Reflecting the importance of these pro-family policies, in March, during the height of the election campaign, the Fidesz-controlled parliament chose the minister in charge of implementing them, Katalin Novák, to be Hungary's first female president.

Orbán has framed his government's economic policies as part of a struggle against various enemies, including Muslim immigrants and, since 2020, "LGBTQ+ propaganda." He is a master at terrifying the population and casting himself as Hungary's savior, vanquishing imagined foes, strengthening the traditional family and increasing the hirth rate. Using an image of a Russian mother and daughter on billboards all over the country. Fidesz ran a campaign to protect "Hungarian children," imploring voters to reject "homosexual propaganda" in a referendum held simultaneously with the election.

Make no mistake: Orbán's economic policies play as important a role in his political success as the widely documented distortions of Hungary's electoral system. Yet the opposition has been unable to respond effectively. Many voters identified Márki-Zay and the parties behind him with the neoliberal economic policies that cost Hungary and other post-communist countries so dearly in the 1990s, and Fidesz exploited their suspicion.

Hungarians are willing to vote for a strong leader who violates European norms if it serves their economic interests. The challenge for Hungary's opposition is to devise a combination of economic and social policies that attracts a strong majority of the voting public, including the growing middle class and those left behind by economic transition and Orbán's policies alike.

Dorottya Szikra is a visiting professor at Central European University in Vienna. Mitchell A. Orenstein is a professor at University of Pennsylvania. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER



The whole problem with the world is that fools and fanatics are always so certain of themselves, and wiser people so full of doubts.

BERTRAND RUSSELL



Formal education will make you a living; self-education will make



The man who does more than he is paid for will soon be paid for

WORDS**WORTH**

■ Smouch

When tea first arrived in Britain from China in the 1660s it was extremely expensive, made much more so in the following century by customs duties which greatly encouraged smuggling. Its high price was a stimulus also to counterfeiters, who made imitation teas out of the dried leaves of hawthorn, ash, sloe and other native British plants. These were coloured with various noxious substances, such as verdigris and copperas, and sold to dealers under the slang name of smouch (more formally and euphemistically, British tea). So pervasive was this practice (one estimate is that three million pounds weight were being made each year at one point) that Parliament passed an Act in 1725 condemning it, not only because it cheated the Revenue but because it resulted in the "destruction of great

quantities of timber, woods and underwoods".

FOCUS HEALTHCARE

UNETHICAL PROFITEERING



Jagdish Rattanani

OUR BEST MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS NEED VOICE AND POLICY SUPPORT TO RESIST THIS UGLY TREND FROM WITHIN THE WARDS AND OPERATION THEATRES WHERE THEY WORK TO FIGHT DISEASE AND SAVE LIVES

even years ago, and long before the COVID-19 pandemic was to bring devastation to India and the world, a consumer filed a complaint with the Competition Commission of India (CCI) against a private hospital in New Delhi. He noted that a syringe issued from the hospital's in-house pharmacy had a markedup MRP and was sold to in-patients at almost double the price at which it was available outside, and alleged collusion between the syringe manufacturers and the hospital chain. A six-member bench of the CCI in November 2015 found merit in the case and ordered the Director General to investigate.

That marked the beginning of a long journey that has hit the headlines yet again now in the post-pandemic world, with reports that the CCI has issued show cause notices to three large hospital groups seeking to know how they fix prices of drugs and medical devices used for their patients.

At one level, this looks like extraordinarily slow progress in a case that could have prevented a lot of misery to ordinary citizens from hospitals overcharging in all kinds of novel ways in the midst of the pandemic. Think of just how much was being added to patient bills on account of PPE kits alone, not to speak of a host of other consumables that doctors and surgeons use and are charged to patients, often at exorbitant rates. It was the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) that in an unrelated 2018 investigation reported "unethical profiteering in a failed market system." with some material and drugs being charged by hospitals to patients at margins of over 1,000 per cent. This wasn't a random figure; the NPPA report put out a table that listed, item by item, the extortionary mark-up prices that patients were forced to pay. As an example, "Iv infusion set nonvented (RMS infusion set), SS3062 by Romsons drew an unbelievable margin for hospitals of 2.112%; syringe disposable, 2ml, Luer lock' by Lifelong Meditech Ltd, delivered



The current set of practices heralds the death of the medical system in India, with the little focus on professional excellence and more on the number of patients signed off, surgeries completed and money collected

a margin of 1,596%, laying bare what can only be called dacoity by daylight that the hospitals have been able to get away with for long. This was the data collected. investigated and reported by a government body as we, then unknowingly, headed into the pandemic that on official count alone

killed over 500,000 people in India. Slow as its actions have been, the CCI also deserves to be complimented for widening its investigations from one hospital group named in the original complaint to more players after its investigations uncovered the deep rot in the super speciality system of hospitals. For example, CCI investigations reported that the Delhi hospital "had earned huge profit margins ranging from 269.84% to 527% in the financial year 2014-15 and ranging from 276.96% to 527% in the financial year 2015-16 by sale of different syringes." The numbers are astonishing and even more shocking when considered in the light of the fact that the hospital "has been compelling its in-patients to purchase products only from its in-house pharmacy once they are admitted...," to quote a CCI three-bench follow-up order of August 2018. The bare facts tell us of the minds at work at the

highest levels in these hospitalsa systematic hunt for places and niches where bills can be inflated, a distortion of processes to defeat the very idea of price control and to gain unfair competitive advantage from those who are vulnerable and have nowhere else to go at a time of medical distress. When large hospital chains are found in this exploitative behaviour, it brings the added disadvantage of tarring all private hospitals. The few good ones find themselves bracketed in public perception with the large number of bad ones, making this an unwanted and unwinnable game of private versus the public sector healthcare system. This builds a mob mentality, with issues that are entirely different being de-

get away. Though this looks like a case against a few hospital chains, and the show-cause notices may not mean that guilt has been established, the reality is that hospi tals big and small have now become part of a culture in which doctors have become money spinning machines in institutions that no longer hesitate to set targets and drive revenues. This trend has been normalised and it now needs

bated while the rogue players

to be put down with a heavy hand not only in action by the CCI but by a plethora of agencies that must act together against extortionary behaviour. The current set of practices heralds the death of the medical system in India.

with the little focus on professional excellence and more on the number of patients signed off, surgeries completed and money collected. Active malpractice is just a step away at this stage. At one end, this will inevitably lead to runaway costs that India cannot live with. At another, it will lead to a precipitous decline in service quality. Doctors who are known to be good can't get better in such a system because the moneybag doctors and managers/administrators will tend to get ahead. This also means our best medical professionals need voice and policy support to resist this ugly trend from within the wards and operation theatres where they work to fight disease and save lives. There are still any number of honest and well-meaning doctors who live by the Hippocratic Oath they take to serve but they find themselves increasingly crowded out.

As the CCI pushes its case against the biggies, and hopefully drives it to its logical conclusion, every single hospital in the country will be seeing how this pans out. Also watching will be manufacturers and international suppliers who would know that even syringes have space to make a margin of 1,500% and above in India. It was only recently that the international medical device manufacturers put up a stiff fight on stent pricing before the government acted and forced them down. All kinds of pressure was mounted on the government to not act then; having acted, the government delivered a signal achievement and sent out a strong message that India will not let its citizens be exploited. It must now do the same, if not more, against some of our hospitals and perform a thorough clean-up.

The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR. Views are personal.

SPECTRUM SOCIETY

The nonhuman victims of Putin's war



Peter Singer & Oleksandr Todorchuk

SUFFERING OF ANIMALS WHO ARE STARVING TO DEATH, BURNED ALIVE, OR WOUNDED BY SHRAPNEL MUST **COUNT AMONG** THE COSTS **OF WAR**

consequences for many people. But Ukraine's people are not the war's only victims – and many Ukrainians refuse to ignore that fact

The thousands of human casualties include more than 1,200 Ukrainian civilians killed, and many more injured. These numbers are growing each day, and the Russian retreat from around Kviv has brought to light new evidence of war crimes. Nearly 5,000 people have been killed in the besieged city of Mariupol, as per Ukrainian authorities, while another 20,000 have been illegally deported to

Russia, where their fate is unknown. Whatever the true figures are for Ukraine as a whole, they would no doubt have been much higher if more than 10 million Ukrainians had not left their homes, with more than four million crossing national borders and becoming refugees in Poland and other neighbouring countries. The number of soldiers who have died is contested, but it is certainly several thousand on both sides. In addition to deaths and injuries, Ukrainian officials say that Russia has forcibly abducted 400,000 Ukrainians, (Russia says they went voluntarily.) Whatever the truth about that, it seems clear that Russian forces are

The Russian invasion of kidnapping, jailing, and torturing caped. The rest burned to death. Ukraine has had, and is conindividual Ukrainians, including iournalists, cultural leaders, and the mayors of cities they have taken.

> Then there are the indirect casualties of the war. Bread prices in the Middle East and some African countries are already rising because much of their grain supply is imported from Ukraine, and experts are warning of widespread food insecurity. The situation is especially dire in Yemen, where the civil war had already caused a humanitarian crisis, and in East Africa, where rising wheat prices will exacerbate the effects of three seasons of below-average rainfall.

> The war also has had an unknown number of nonhuman victims. Images of refugees fleeing with their pets have appeared in the media, but many companion animals have also been left behind to cope as well as they can. A zoo near Kyiv, cut off by the fighting, was without sufficient food and lacked even the means to end the starving animals' lives humanely.

Animal shelters have also been attacked, and animals killed. In other cases, volunteers have struggled to continue to operate shelters and provide the animals with food and water. Russian soldiers who occupied Hostomel, just north of Kyiv, have been accused of burning down stables, where only two of 32 horses es-

animals dying because of the war have been in factory farms. The Russian forces bombed the Agromol dairy farm, near Kharkiv, which had 3,000 cows. Images have appeared online of dead or injured cows lying inside a devastated barn. Employees could not get to the farm to treat or euthanize injured cows. because Russians were occupying the area. Ukraine is a major European egg producer, too, and workers have been cut off from production facilities containing tens of thousands of hens. In the Kherson Oblast alone. three million chickens have died after Russian occupiers cut off supplies of animal feed, possibly as part of a deliberate effort to starve Ukrainians into surrendering. Across Ukraine as a whole, the numbers will be many times that.

Volunteers are risking their lives to help animals in need. Three volunteers, including 26-year-old Anastasiia Yalanskava, were bringing food to a shelter where dogs had not been fed for three days when Russian soldiers attacked their car. All three were killed.

Until the invasion, UAnimals, a Ukrainian organisation that has been advocating for animals since 2016, counted among its achievements bans on circuses in several

Ukrainian cities. Since the invasion Horrific as these episodes are, it began, however, it has focused on is likely that the largest number of preventing the kind of suffering that we have described by assisting animal shelters to obtain food and trying to evacuate animals in danger because of the war.

With so much human suffering, some may think it inappropriate to be concerned about what the war has done to nonhuman animals. But the suffering of animals who are starving to death, burned alive, or wounded by shrapnel must count among the costs of war. The European Union and others must recognise animals not merely as property, but as sentient beings whose capacities to suffer and to enjoy life give them moral status.

Attacking civilian areas with artillery or rockets is a war crime, and the same should be true of attacking targets such as zoos, stables, and barns, or of preventing animals from being fed. If the horses in Hostomel were indeed deliberately burned alive, as has been claimed, the crime should be thoroughly investigated, and the perpetrators, if found, should be brought to justice.

Peter Singer is Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University. Oleksandr Todorchuk, Founder & CEO of UAnimals, is currently serving in the Ukrainian army. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

Rhino conservation

Sir, It is common knowledge that poaching is the biggest threat to all animals -- endangered or otherwise. The horns of rhinoceros are thought to be of medicinal use, and the one-horned rhinos are considered exclusive to India. The country is home to approximately 80 per cent of world's rhinoceros population. Some believe the rhino horns could 'cure cancer. Myths surrounding rhino horns about their 'power' to alleviate pain associated with bone disorders are in prevalence. No wonder, the horns cost a fortune in markets. However, there is some good news: the number of one-horned rhinos has increased by 200 in two years in the Kaziranga National Park, according to the 2022 census. Heartening increase in rhino numbers has been documented in other national parks, too, that are home to the one-horned rhinos. The Rhino Vision Programme of India has apparently clicked. That being said, threats to the rhinos will persist because the whole of northeast and northern parts of West Bengal have international borders. Uttar Pradesh, another state where rhinos are found, is not distant from the borders, so the rhinos have a problem there too. Rhinoceros poaching is quite common in India with a rare tribe of northeast known to indulge in the poaching activity. Translocation of rhinos has met with mixed success. Evidently, appropriate translocation protocols were not put in place by the authorities. Preserving the rhino habitat, and taking protective measures conducive for the

rhino population to flourish, should be the issues high on the agenda of authorities. Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA (MAHARASHTRA)

Communal agenda

 $\boldsymbol{Sir},$ It is ironic that burning issues that affect the common man are always sidelined but controversial issues, especially divisive ones, hold sway in the country. It seems political leaders are not bothered about big issues such as inflation and unemployment. It is surprising that the media focuses on controversial issues rather than issues that affect the public. In fact, people-related issues are ignored in the frenzy created by communal elements. While there are ample opportunities for Opposition parties to mobilise public support on issues that affect the common man, they seem to be incapable of doing so. It is a fact that the Opposition does not get mass support to protest against wrong policies of the government. Although political parties like the AAP, TMC, DMK can mobilise public support, they seem to be more interested in some other issues.

Venu GS, KOLLAM (KERALA)



Readers of Orissa POST

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

rissapost

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

national



adjourning Parliament two days early, the government should have had the courage to listen to a serious debate on fuel price rise and consumer inflation SHASHI THAROOR | CONGRESS LEADER

HONEY SINGH 'MANHANDLED'

Singer Hirdesh Singh, popularly known as Yo Yo Honey Singh, has alleged that he was manhandled and threatened during a concert in South Delhi's Hauz Khas area March 27, police said Thursday





I had a broad discussion on cabinet expansion. The party top brass has obtained all the

has said further discussion would be held during his visit to Karnataka for

BASAVARAJ BOMMAI KARNATAKA CM

Agencies involved in disaster management should ensure that alerts generated for calamities should

timely reach the remotest panchayat location in the country and organisations like NCC, women groups and home guards should be brought on board for this task

AMIT SHAH UNION HOME MINISTER



normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan and is committed to addressing issues, if any, bilaterally and peacefully in an atmosphere free of terror, hostility and violence

V MURALEEDHARAN MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

SHORT **TAKES**

Punjab man hurt

Srinagar: A driver from Punjab was shot and injured by militants in J&K's Pulwama district Thursday, police said. "A non-local driver, identified as Sonu Sharma of Pathankot, was shot and injured by militants in Yader village of Pulwama. "He was shifted to hospital for treatment and the area has been cordoned off for searches," a source said.

NIA conducts raids in Kashmir

Srinagar: National Investigation Agency (NIA) carried out raids at multiple locations in Kashmir Valley Thursday in connection with the terror funding case being probed by the agency. NIA investigating agency with the assistance of the local police and the CRPF carried out raids in the Tangmarg area of Baramulla district. The raids were also conducted in parts of Srinagar district, including Mustafabad Zainakote. Nowgam and Chanapora.

2,105 returned to **Kashmir Valley**

New Delhi: The Ministry of Home Affairs has said a total of 2.105 Kashmiri migrants have returned to Kashmiri Valley for taking up jobs provided under Prime . Minister's Development Package after the abrogation of Article 370. The Ministry said a total of 841 Kashmiri migrants had returned to Kashmir Valley in 2020-21 while 1,264 people went back in 2021-22. Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai on Wednesday told the Rajya Sabha that four Kashmiri Pandits among 14 Hindus were killed by terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir since 2019.

India foils attempt of Chinese hackers

THE MINISTER SAID **THAT ACTION WAS TAKEN BACK IN 2018** AGAINST SUSPECTED **CYBER ATTACKS ON** THE COUNTRY'S **POWER SUPPLY**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Beijing, Apr il7: Power Minister R K Singh Thursday said the country has a strong defence against any kind of cyber attacks, amid reports of Chinese state-sponsored hackers targeting power grid in Ladakh.

"Our defence against cyber attack is strong. These were probing attacks in December, January and February. They did not succeed. But we are aware," Singh said on the sideline of a clean energy ministerial senior officials meet in the

The minister also said that action was taken back in 2018 against suspected cyber attacks on the country's power supply system."We had put protocols in place. Those protocols are working and we are strengthening those protocols every day. So, our cyber defence against cyber attack is strong. We are con-



Our defence against cyber attack is strong. These were probing attacks in December, January and February. They did not R K SINGH | POWER MINISTER

fident about that," Singh said.

There are reports that power sector in the country was targeted by hackers in a long-term operation which was carried out by a statesponsored (Chinese) group. According to the reports, the hackers targeted seven Indian state centres responsible for carrying out electrical dispatch and grid control near a border area disputed by the two nuclear neighbours.

The group reportedly used the

trojan ShadowPad, which is believed to have been developed by contractors for China's Ministry of State Security, leading to the conclusion that this was a state-sponsored hacking effort.

Meanwhile, in Beijing, Chinese government denied reports that its hackers targeted the Indian power grid in Ladakh."We have noted the relevant reports," China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said during a media briefing Tȟursdav.

He was responding to a query about a report by private intelligence firm Recorded Future on Wednesday that claimed that suspected Chinese hackers targeted the Indian power grid in an apparent cyber espionage campaign.

"As I repeated many times, we firmly oppose and crackdown on will never encourage, support or condone such activities," he said. China routinely denies allegations of hacking by its state-sponsored hackers, demanding evidence. It also claims that it is a victim of hacking from US networks.

About fears of looming power crisis in the country in the backdrop of low coal stocks at thermal plants, Singh said availability of power is sufficient.

"The concerned states need money to buy power. That is the only thing... Today there is no question of any state being power deficit. They can buy power. If they don't have money to buy power, then I cannot help it.'

He also stated that he was confident of meeting the increasing power demand."The great thing is that our demand has increased. It shows that the economy is growing and it is growing at 9 per cent. Power consumption is indicative of economic growth. We are capable of handling whatever demand is," he stated.

According to the latest coal stock report, the overall dry fuel stock was 37 per cent of the required level as on April 5. At non-pit head plants, the coal stock was at 29 per cent of the required stocks. In September last year, there were coal shortages at various power plants. Thereafter, power ministry took a series of steps to perk up supplies.

Somaiya, son booked for misuse of Vikrant funds

The Trombay Police filed the case following a complaint by a retired Indian Army soldier

Baban B. Bhosale, invoking Indian Penal Code Section 406, 420 and 34 against the father-son and others

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, April 7: The Mumbai police have registered a case against Bharatiya Janata Party activist Kirit Somaiya and his son Neil K. Somaiya in connection with the alleged siphoning of around Rs 57 crore collected through 'crowdfunding' to save the decommissioned aircraft carrier Vikrant, here Thursday.

The Trombay Police filed the case following a complaint by a retired Indian Army soldier Baban B. Bhosale, invoking Indian Penal Code Section 406, 420 and 34 against the father-son duo and others.

The development comes a day after Shiv Sena MP and Chief Spokesperson Sanjay Raut made the sensational allegations that an amount of Rs 57-crore collected from the masses under the guise of saving Vikrant, which bowed out



of service in 1997 and later scrapped, was swindled off by Somaiya.

However, Somaiya has stoutly denied the allegations and said he was prepared to face any probe in the matter, even as a large number of Shiv Sainiks staged protests against him in Chembur. Raut said that the revelations came in an RTI application filed by an activist Dhirendra Upadhyaya to the Maharashtra Raj Bhavan, which sent its reply last month.

"The RTI replies have revealed that not a single paisa was submitted to the Raj Bhavan as promised by Somaiya. This is a big issue. It's 'The Vikrant Files', and bigger than 'The Kashmir Files'. The Vikrant involves national security and the sentiments of the masses,' Raut pointed out. Earlier, late on Wednesday, Bhosale accompanied by Shiv Sena MLA Sunil Raut and other party workers went to Trombay Police Station to submit the complaint on which the follow-

up action was initiated Thursday.

Delhi-Moscow flight

New Delhi, April 7: Air India

Thursday cancelled its Delhi-

Moscow service over the fear that

its flight insurance may not be

valid in Russian skies amid the

ongoing Russian invasion of

Flight insurance is generally

provided by companies based out

of western countries. Western

countries banned all Russian airlines from their airspace after

Russia started a war against

However, Air India has been op-

erating Delhi-Moscow flights twice

a week. India has not banned_

Russian airlines from its airspace.

The Air India's Delhi-Moscow flight

that was scheduled to operate on

Thursday stands cancelled, the

sources said. They stated that the

flight was cancelled as it was feared

that the insurance may not be valid

in Russian skies

Air India cancels

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ukraine, sources said.

Ukraine on February 24.

Two injured in Army firing' outside mosque

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, April 7: At least two people were injured in an "accidental discharge of weapons" by Army personnel during an altercation with worshippers outside a mosque in Jammu and Kashmir's Handwara area Thursday, officials said here.

The altercation broke out between the worshippers, who were coming out of a mosque in Handwara town of Kupwara district, and the Army personnel, who were recording videos, they said. A defence spokesperson said two

civilians were injured in an "accidental discharge of weapons" during a scuffle between the soldiers and protesters. The injured were identified as Abdul Ahad Mir and Mujeeb Ahmad Sofi, the officials said, adding that they were rushed to the SKIMS hospital at Soura here.

"Troops of 21 Rashtriya Rifles were on a routine patrol in Handwara town. In view of an Iftar party planned by the Army near the Town Chowk, the troops took a few photos of the Jamia Masjid in Handwara at about 1.30 pm to showcase happiness and offering of prayers during the holy month of Ramzan," the spokesperson said, adding that they also requested a local resident to get a few photos clicked from inside the mosque.

"When he was going to take the



photos, some rogue elements protested and instigated others to get into an altercation with the troops. While attempting to pacify them, two-three individuals got into a scuffle with the troops, wherein there was an accidental discharge of weapons, injuring two civilians," he said.

incident, with People's Conference chairman Sajad Lone, who hails from Handwara, claiming that it was a result of the "sorry state of affairs" prevailing in the Union Territory.

Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti expressed dismay and shock over the incident.

tions in Jammu and Kashmir.

Political parties condemned the

"What a sorry state of affairs. One of the most peaceful towns Handwara at the receiving end. Hoping against hope the guilty are punished." he said in a tweet. People's

Hitting out at the security forces for "barging" into a religious place, "profiling" worshippers and "shooting civilians at will without any fear of justice", she said such incidents highlight the level of unaccountability pervasive across institu-

"Government of India's interference in religious matters by its unwarranted surveillance of a simple act of offering prayers shows that Kashmiris pay dearly for the illusion of Naya Kashmir," the former J&K chief minister said in a tweet.



the Secretariat here. The ministers remained in their posts for exactly 34 months. "We have all submitted our resignations. The Chief Minister said some experienced ministers would be re-inducted to run the government. Some others will be given party responsibilities," Information and Public Relations Minister Perni Venkataramaiah (Nani) told reporters after the Cabinet

The AP Council of Ministers will be reconstituted here on April 11 with new faces. At least four ministers, who resigned today may be re-inducted into



the Cabinet on the 11th, the ruling YSR Congress sources said The Chief Minister had a meeting with Governor Biswa Bhusan Harichandan on Wednesday night, wherein the Cabinet reorganisation was discussed, the sources said.

Caste criteria is likely to play a key role in the formation of the new cabinet, they noted. When he took over as Chief Minister on May 30, 2019, Jagan had announced that he would undertake a complete overhaul of his Cabinet after two and a half years and take-in

'Asked to strip by cops': Journo

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sidhi (MP), April 7: A journalist and a few activists who were protesting against the arrest of an artist were detained and forced to strip down to their undergarments while in police custody in Madhya Pradesh's Sidhi district.

After the photos of the detained persons in underwear went viral on social media, two local police officials were transferred, a senior police official said Thursday.

A local journalist and some activists were protesting "in unauthorised manner" in front of the Kotwali police station here against the arrest of Neeraj Kunder, director of Indravati Drama School, on April 2. Kunder had been arrested for allegedly posting defamatory posts on Facebook using a false identity against local BJP MLA Kedar Nath Shukla and his son Gurudutt Sharan Shukla, said Kotwali police station in-charge Manoj Soni.

A group of activists along with local "YouTube journalist" Kanishk Tiwari staged a protest in front of the Kotwali police station, shouting slogans against MLA Shukla and Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

ଗୃହ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଓ ନଗର ଉନ୍ନୟନ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର Housing & Urban Development Department, Govt. of Odisha

ଜଟଣୀ ପୌର ପରିଷଦ, ଜଟଣୀ OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL: JATANI

ସ୍ଥାନ-କଟଣୀ, କିଲା-ଖୋର୍ଦ୍ଧା, ୭୫୨୦୫୦ At/PS- Jatani, Dist-Khordha (Odisha), Pin-752050 E-mail:municipalityjatni@gmail.com,Phone.No.0674-2490826

No.1007/Jatani, Date:07.04.2022 INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

No.C-50:The Jatani Municipality invites EOI from reputed NGOs/ Registered Body/ Individual Body engaged in the care and welfare of cattle for operation and maintenance of "GOSALA" in Village Sandhapur, Ward No.09 under Jatni Municipality, Dist- Khordha. Sandhapur "GOSALA" has been constructed over an area of about 05 acres of land having capacity of about 1000 cattle. The application form/ eligibility criteria along with terms and conditions can be obtained from the office of undersigned before submission date or can also be downloaded from municipality website i.e www. iatnimunicipality.in and submit their proposals to the office of Executive Officer, Jatni Municipality from date 08.04.2022 to date 25.04.2022 in working hours from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The pre-bid meeting will be held on 12.04.2022 at 12.00 P.M. in the office of undersigned and the bid will be opened on date 26.04.2022 at 12.00 P.M.

> Sd./-Executive Officer, Jatani Municipality OIPR-13041/11/0001/2223

'XE variant slightly tuned up version of Omicron'

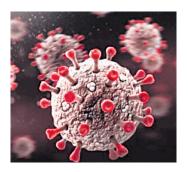
JAYADEVAN SAID THE XE VARIANT IS THE COMBINATION OF BA.1 AND BA.2 WHERE X STANDS FOR RECOMBINANT **TYPE AND E IS THE SEQUENCE OF** ITS DISCOVERY

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SEVICE

New Delhi, April 7: Going by the trends so far, there is nothing surprising about the discovery of the new XE variant. XE variant is a slightly tuned up version of Omicron, not an all-new variant, Rajeev Jayadevan, Co-Chairman National IMA COVID task force, said Thursday.

Jayadevan said the XE variant is the combination of BA.1 and BA.2 where X stands for Recombinant Type and E is the sequence of its discovery. Mutation and recombination are techniques used by viruses to become fitter.

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Wednesday announced that a 50-year-old woman with a travel history to South Africa may have been infected with the newly-discovered 'XE' variant of the



coronavirus. However, the Union Health Ministry denied the report which claimed that the first case of COVID-19 variant XE has been detected in India. What has been noticed is that XE could be about 10 per cent more transmissible than the dominant BA.2 variant. But that is a very small advantage that XE has, and even this has not been confirmed as of now.

'Over the past 2 and a half years, the COVID-19 virus has been continuously evolving to spread faster between its hosts. By nature, this particular virus wants to spread to more people", said Jayadevan adding that to achieve this, the virus attempts to improve its fitness. In biological terms, the fitness of the virus is defined in two categories faster transmissibility from one person's cells to another person's cells,

"All recombination events need not result in a fitter virus. Some re-

and, secondly, immune evasion.

combinant products could be failures. But when infection in the community goes unchecked and it gets to do this millions of times, like rolling of dice, at one point, a correct sequence happens - where the daughter virus emerges fitter than its parents", Javadevan said.

He said that it forms clusters as it successfully spreads to people, and this gets noticed during genome sequencing. Only these successful sublineages make news which are given names like XD, XE etc, Jayadevan concluded.



TWO STATES





FRIDAY | APRIL 8 | 2022 | BHUBANESWAR

AL QAEDA TERRORIST VIDEO

Hindu activists seek probe against K'taka student



AGENCIES

Bangalore, April 7: Following the release of a video by Al Qaeda global terrorist Ayman Al Zawahiri showering praises on BV Muskan Khan, a student from Karnataka, the Hindu activists have demanded a probe into the matter. They have also urged the investigating agencies to take Muskan into custody.

Divya Hagaragi, a Hindu activist from Kalaburagi district Thursday demanded the arrest of B.V. Muskan Khan, a student from Mandya district, who was praised by Al Qaeda global terrorist Zawahiri for raising slogans of 'Allahu Akbar'against a crowd shouting 'Jai Shri Ram' at the height of hijab controversy.

"The student needs to be taken into custody and investigated and ascertain whether she has terror links. Until the investigation is done, she should not be let out," she said. "If any links are found with terror outfit Al-Qaeda, Muskan should be sent to Pakistan," she said. Meanwhile, Minister for Health

'Al-Qaeda indulging in polarisation in India'

BANGALORE: The Congress Thursday lashed out at Al-Qaeda for wading into the hijab controversy in Karnataka and said the banned terrorist organisation has no business to comment about the the internal affairs of the country. The grand old party also charged the BJP and right wing organisations with trying to 'polarise' and 'vitiate' the atmosphere of Karnataka with an eye on the 2023 Assembly polls. Condemning the behaviour of Karnataka Home Minister Araga Jnanendra, it demanded that he be sacked and a case be booked against him, alleging that he tried to

K Sudhakar Thursday commenting on the video by Al Qaeda terrorist Zawahiri said Muskan is an innocent. "What can you expect

from terrorists," he stated. "I don't know why Muskan reacted that way. Everyone should follow the law of the land. Education must be

a priority over religion," he stated.
Al Qaeda global terrorist
Zawahari in his 9 minute video
praised Muskan Khan, a Karnataka
College student from Mandya district for raising Islamic slogans in
the college premises at the height
of the hijab crisis in the state.

In the video titled 'The Noble Woman of India', Zawahari has composed and recited a poem in praise of the Karnataka student. He maintained in the video that he came to know about Muskan Khan through social media videos and was 'moved by the act of a sister'. Zawahiri has slammed the countries for banning hijab.

Reacting to the video and praising Muskan, the father of the girl, Mohammad Hussain maintained that his daughter was more interested in studies.

Hussain stated that he and his family, especially daughter, do not want any unwanted attention. "It has become a big headache for us. We do not know him. I saw Zawahiri for the first time. We are happy here and living like brothers in Mandya district of Karnataka, we do not want anything," he explains.

He further said that they are putting them into trouble and they should not do this. It only creates confusion here. "It is wrong to drag Muskan. I request them, do not drag the matter any further," he said.

Hussain maintained that since the college authorities have not given a chance for Muskan to wear a veil and write exams, she would be admitted to a different college in Mysuru where she will continue her studies, he added.

K'taka Cabinet reshuffle on cards amid unrest

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, April 7: Amid unrest following a series of developments leading to communal polarisation in Karnataka, the ruling BJP is mulling Cabinet overhaul to put the party in an advantageous position in the 2023 Assembly elections.

The high command has taken all the information and assured to take a decision after discussing the matter with local leaders, party workers and organisational secretaries.

"I have met party President JP Nadda and discussed the matter. But, was not able to meet Home Minister Amit Shah. The cabinet expansion will also have to be discussed with him and National Organisational Secretary Santhosh Ji," he said. As per sources in the



party, the ministers, including the senior leaders, have come under the pressure and are more worried about saving their portfolios rather than the situation in the state. Rumours have it that the party is likely to give opportunities to more Chief Minister Bommai, after concluding his recent New Delhi trip, Thursday said that the matter of cabinet expansion had been discussed with the party leaders in details

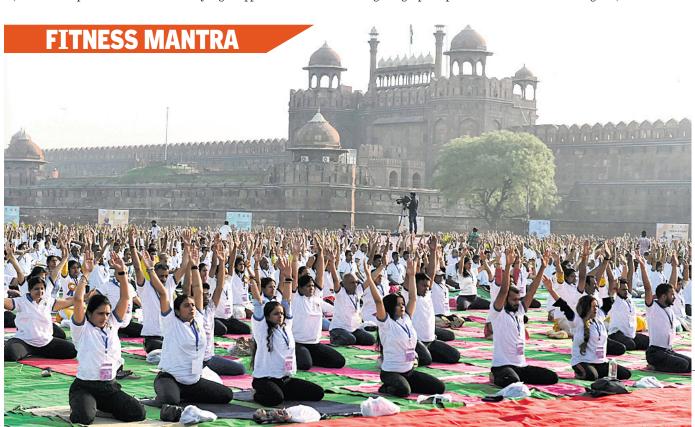
The senior leaders have said that they will talk about it during the state executive committee meeting April 16 and 17 at Hospet in newly formed Vijayanagar district

than 10 new faces in the cabinet by dropping many seniors.

National General Secretary CT Ravi's statement that leaders of other parties would be joining BJP in Karnataka has enraged many power blocks in the state within the BJP party. Former Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa is putting all efforts for getting a plum post to his son B.Y. Vijayendra. The party is also contemplating over the issue as it will have consequences on Yediyurappa's involvement in the election campaign in the upcoming Assembly elections.

The decision of BJP high command to postpone the cabinet expansion has surprised state BJP leaders who were hopeful of cabinet rejig after Ugadi festival.

Meanwhile, MB Patil, Chairman, Campaign Committee of Congress Thursday slammed the BJP saying when the state is on fire, CM Bommai is busy with the issue of cabinet expansion. "This is too much from the BJP party. One after the other controversies are being created. Everything has been done for vote bank politics and polarisation. Everything will boomerang on the ruling BJP," he stated.



Youngsters participated in the 'Yoga Mahotsav' in front of the Red Fort in New Delhi, Thursday on the occasion of the World Health Day

DTI DUOTO

MEAT BAN ISSUE IN DELHI

Minorities panel issues show-cause notice to mayors of 3 corporations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 7: The Delhi Minorities Commission has issued a show-cause notice to mayors and commissioners of three municipal corporations in the city seeking an explanation on what basis have they decided to ban or shut meat shops during Navratri.

The Delhi Minorities Commission has sought a detailed report within 24 hours and asked the mayors to appear before it Friday A copy of the notice has been marked to commissioners of three civic bodies.

The south and east Delhi mayors had on Tuesday asked meat shops in their jurisdictions to remain shut during Navratri, saying "most people do not consume non-vegetarian food" for these nine days, even though there was no official order issued by the civic bodies.

However, there has been no such word from the North Delhi Municipal Corporation, which like the other two is also ruled by the BJP. Mayors don't have the power to issue such orders, which can only be taken by a municipal commissioner.

"News reports about the subject have observed that the mayor is acting as a law unto himself. What he is calling for violates the basic free guaranteed in the Constitution. "Such proclamation can also insight and encourage hoggish behaviour on the ground. Senior authorities and the courts should step in and put a stop to such behaviour," the Minority Commission Chairman Zakir Khan said in the show cause notice issued Thursday.

He sought an explanation from the mayors forthwith "on which laid down rule and regulation, it has been decided by you to ban or shut down meat shops during Navratri".

Fear spread wide across meat markets in the city after South Delhi Municipal Corporation Mayor Mukesh Suryan threatened serious action if the meat shops were not shut down during the nine-day festival.

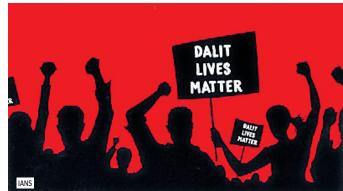
Dalit family forced to leave village after police action to check untouchability

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Koppal, April 7: Following the boycott of a Dalit family by villagers, the subsequent police action against the practice of untouchability has put at risk the future of the victim family in the village in Koppal district of Karnataka. The police and Dalit organizations supported the Dalit man at the time of the FIR and arrests, but have failed to provide succour to the family.

The family of Chandrashekar Shivappa Dasar, a 29-year-old Dalit man, has been allegedly forced to move out of Miyapur village in Koppal district following the police action against untouchability including the arrest of five persons belonging to the upper caste. Dasar, who has to take care of his parents and two children including a new born baby told IANS that after the police action, his life turned to hell in the village.

"When my wife was 9 months pregnant and faced health issues, a villager who gives a car on rent denied me transport. The whole village stopped talking to me after the police action. More than that they saw me as if I was a rapist. We could not send our 4-year-old son to the Anganwadi centre.



Talking about his livelihood and future, Dasar said that he is planning to move to the nearby town of Kushtagi and starting a small business there. "People used to tell me that I don't speak at all, now they have boycotted me completely. I don't feel safe anymore in the village," he said.

Dasar has got a Rs 1 lakh loan from the government but feels that he should at least have been given a loan of Rs 5 lakh to restructure his life. Recalling what happened, Dasar said that his family had gone to the Marutheshwara temple in Miyapura village to get the 'abhisheka' (ritual) done on the occasion of the birthday of his son

Vinay. They had to stop at the main entrance of the temple as Dalits are not allowed inside and the priests would perform the rituals and bless them. There is a tradition of pieces of coconut being placed on either side of the doors of the main entrance of the temple. The boy took one of the pieces of the coconut from there and it was observed by the upper caste people, he said.

Later a Rs 25,000 fine was imposed on the family for letting the boy pick up the coconut piece saying that the sanctity of the temple has been violated. The news came out and it made headlines after which the police were forced to take action.

UP COUNCIL POLLS

DELHI GOVT DECLARES 'DRY DAYS' IN BORDER AREAS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 7: The Delhi government has asked liquor vends, situated within 100 metres in the national capital from Ghaziabad, to observe 'dry days' for three days from Thursday on account of the biennial election to the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council.

In an order issued Thursday, the Delhi government excise department has also asked the vends to observe a dry day April 12 on account of the counting day.

"On account of the Biennial Election to the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council, 2022, dry day has been declared from 4:00 PM of 7 April, 2022, to 9 April, 2022 till the end of poll, and 12.04.2022 (full day) on account of counting day," the Delhi government excise department exide

cise department said.

"All the licensees of the department whose retail vends/ premises are situated within 100 metres in Delhi from Ghaziabad observe Dry Days on dates as mentioned above."

On account of the biennial election to the UP Legislative

Council, 2022, dry day has been declared from 4pm of seven April, 2022, to 9 April, 2022 until the tip of ballot, & 12.04.2022 (full day) on account of counting working day

DELHI FEDERAL AUTHORITIES EXCISE PART

the order stated. The biennial election for 36 seats of the UP Legislative Council will be held April 9. The 36 seats are spread across 35 local authorities' constituencies, where polls were earlier planned on two different dates, but they will be conducted together April 9 now. The counting of votes will be taken up April 12. The voters in these elections are the village heads, members and chairmen of block devel-

opment councils and Zila panchayats

and corporators of urban civic bod-

ies besides MLAs and MPs

Delhi Cong holds protest against central govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 7: The Congress' Delhi unit Thursday staged a protest at Jantar Mantar against the BJP-led government at the Centre over the continuous rise in petrol, diesel and CNG prices.

Several Congress leaders and workers participated in the party's 'Mehngai Mukt Bharat' campaign and raised slogans against the Centre. Delhi Congress president Anil Chaudhary alleged, "The prime minister is least bothered about the common man."

The protest over the issue was "started by Rahul Gandhi from Parliament and now it has spread across the nation", he said, adding the stir would intensify in the days to come. "Instead of poverty, they (BJP) talk about eradicating the Congress from the country. This was just the first phase of our movement and we will continue to raise our



Vegetable prices soar in Delhi due to high transportation cost

AGENCIES

New Delhi, April 7: Vegetable prices in Delhi and adjoining areas have shot up due to an increase in the transportation cost following the fuel price hike, leaving the customers as well as the sellers struggling.

Vegetable sellers say they are facing shrinking profits and reduced sales as due to the increased transportation cost and the ultimate hike in the buying price, they are bound to sell vegetables at a higher price, which means either a low margin for them or limited sales. Dharmendra Singh, a vegetable vendor in Lajpat Nagar, said the prices of vegetables have gone up.

"Tomatoes are now being sold for Rs 40 per kg whereas earlier, the price was between Rs 25 and Rs 30. Bottle gourd is now being sold for Rs 40 per kg. Even the price of



potatoes has gone up. It is now available for Rs 25 per kg. Earlier, it used to be sold for Rs 10 per kg. "The prices of most of the vegetables have gone up. We hardly make any profit. We buy the veg-

etables paying a fixed price from the market. Another problem is that we do not get to choose the vegetables at the mandis. We are given a fixed slot and some times, inferior quality vegetables get mixed up. With

Cab, auto drivers threaten strike

NEW DELHI: With a sharp hike in CNG prices, auto, cab, and taxi drivers in the city have threatened to go on an "indefinite strike" from April 18 if the government doesn't provide subsidy on the fuel or increase the fare. Associations of auto, cab and taxi drivers will hold protests against the Centre as well as the city government at Jantar Mantar on Friday and at the Delhi Secretariat April 11 against rise in CNG prices. Sarvodaya Drivers Welfare Association Ravi Rathor, who claims to have around 4 lakh drivers as members in Delhi-NCR, said that his association will go on an "indefinite strike" if their demands to reduce CNG prices or increase in fare are not fulfilled. Delhi's public transport, including cabs, autos, taxis and buses, is majorly CNG driven. CNG prices in the national capital on Thursday were hiked for the second day in a row by Rs 2.50 per kilogram, taking the total increase since March to Rs 12.5 per kg.

the prices going up, people have also reduced the quantity of vegetables they buy," he said.

Akhilesh, another vendor in Lajpat Nagar, said the prices of fruits too have also gone up. "It is the summer season and watermelons are always in demand. Earlier, we used to sell it for Rs 20 or Rs 25 but now, it is being sold for Rs 30. We get watermelons for Rs 27 from the mandis, so we hardly make any profit," he said. Some vendors said they have stopped giving coriander leaves and green

chilies to customers for free.
"We no longer give green chilies
to customers for free. Lemon is

available in the market for Rs 350 per kg, which means you would not even get one for Rs 10. Capsicum is Rs 100 per kg. Then the customers bargain. They know that the prices have gone up, but still they ask for his is a few five.

chilies for free," Akhilesh said. Deepak Ranjan, a vegetable seller at Sector 76 in Noida, also echoed similar views and pointed out that the rates have gone up at the vegetable markets due to the fuel price hike, coupled with damage of crops in Gujarat due to a cyclone. "Due to the hike in the prices of petrol, diesel and cooking gas. the transportation cost has increased, causing a ripple effect on vegetable prices. The rates of lemons are soaring because of a natural calamity in Gujarat, while other vegetables that come from different states have become costlier due to the high transportation cost," he told PTI.

national



Country's economic situation getting bad to worse; I doubt if states will be able to pay salaries in coming days MAMATA BANERJEE | BENGAL CM

IN THE OFFING

The Goa police is mulling the purchase of a helicopter to assist road accident victims in the state, even as newlyappointed Director General of Police Jaspal Singh Thursday said that a chopper would also aid the state police in keeping watch over large swaths of area





troubled by the fuel and other essential goods MAYAWATI | BSP CHIEF



Let me make it amply clear in most unequivocal terms that we condemn the statement of Al-

Qaeda. Al-Qaeda is a terrorist organisation, it is a banned organization, and it has no business to comment anything about the internal affairs our country. Congress party strongly condemns it

AJAY MAKEN | CONGRESS LEADER



convenience, Modi govt ran away from discussion on price rise, broken promises to farmers, and Labour Minister didn't even reply to debate on labour & (un)employment!

JAIRAM RAMESH | CONGRESS LEADER

SHORT TAKES

Birbhum violence: CBI arrests four

Rampurhat (WB)/New Delhi: In the latest development in the Birbhum violence case, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Thursday arrested four persons from Mumbai. Sources close to the development confirmed to IANS the arrest of the four persons. Earlier, the CBI had prepared a list of 21 accused, one of them being the Trinamool Congress's block president Anarul Hossain. The federal probe agency had set up a temporary camp in a government guest house in West Bengal's Rampurhat. Earlier, the local police had also prepared a list of accused and the CBI's list is almost exactly the same.

Three ATM robbers arrested

New Delhi: The Special Cell of the Delhi Police on Thursday said that thev have busted a Mewati gang and arrested three of its members who were wanted in a number of ATM robbery cases. In the last such case, the gang had dumped the ATM in a well in Harvana's Mewat after clearing out the contents, said the police. The accused were identified as Imran alias Imma, Salman and Shakeel. Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) of the Special Cell, Jasmit Singh said that the kingpin of the gang Imran was also wanted in murder, extortion, robbery and other cases. Hossain was questioned by the CBI. His statement was recorded and he was called to the camp to join the probe.

Gold seized in Manipur, 1 held

Imphal: The Manipur Police Thursday seized around 3 kg gold valued at around ₹1.50 crore -- suspected to have been smuggled from Myanmar, and apprehended one person in this connection, officials said. Acting on an information, the police intercepted a car in Kakching district. During checking, 18 bars of gold were found.

Russian national arrested in Goa

Panaji: One Russian national has been arrested from the beach village of Arambol in North Goa, resulting in the seizure of 2.40 kg marijuana, the police said Thursday. The accused, identified as Konstantin Isael (30), is a resident of St. Petersburg in Russia. "The drugs were seized during a raid at his rented home in Arambol village in North Goa," a Goa Police spokesperson said.



The Session, which had 27 sittings spread over two months, witnessed spirited debates on a range of issues, while Opposition members said the

Narendra Modi government had concluded the proceedings ahead of schedule as it wanted to "run away" from the debate on high fuel prices

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 7: The Budget Session of Parliament concluded Thursday, a day ahead of schedule with the Rajya Sabha witnessing stormy scenes as opposition disallowed Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu to complete his customary valedictory address

The Session, which had 27 sittings spread over two months, witnessed spirited debates on a range of issues, while opposition members said the Narendra Modi government had concluded the proceedings ahead of schedule as it wanted to "run away" from the debate on high fuel prices.

While $\rm \bar{p}roceedings$ in the Lok

Man sets son on fire in fight over accounts

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, April 7: In a shocking incident, a man set his son afire after the latter threatened to finish him off over monetary dispute in Bangalore. The disturbing CCTV footage

of the incident has become viral on social media. The deceased was identified as Arpith (25). The accused identified as

Surendra, a resident of Azadnagar, has been taken into custody by police. According to police, Surendra

had torched Arpith on April 1. Police said Arpith could

not manage the unit properly and was unable to give account's detail for ₹1.5 crore earlier too

Arpith, who who had been admitted to the Victoria hospital in Bengaluru, succumbed to burn injuries Thursday.

Surendra, who was running a fabrication unit, has made his son Arpith its in-charge Police said Arpith could not

manage the unit properly and was unable to give account's detail for ₹1.5 crore earlier too. This time, Arpith spent ₹12,000

for personal reasons due to which his father got infuriated On the fateful day, the father

and son duo quarrelled over the issue and Arpith told his father that he wouldn't give details of the accounts as he is determined to finish him (Surendra) off.

They quarrelled before workers and father threw flammable substance on his son and torched him. Arpith and eve witnesses have recorded their statements to the police. The police are investigating the case.



Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi greets Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, during a meeting after the Lok Sabha was adjourned indefinitely, in New Delhi

Sabha were by and large smooth, the Rajya Sabha witnessed an angry exchange between Naidu and opposition members, including Mallikarjun Kharge, Derek O'Brien who wanted a discussion on repeated hike in fuel prices.

In the Rajya Sabha, Shiv Sena members Sanjay Raut and Priyanka Chaturvedi tried to raise the issue of FIR registered against the BJP's Kirit Somaiya for allegedly siphoning off donations collected for saving INS Vikrant.

Congress members supported the Shiv Sena with some remarking that the issue of spiraling prices of essential commodities including those of petrol, diesel and cooking gas wasn't allowed to be raised

in the entire session, but at least "this scam" should be discussed. However, Naidu rejected the

opposition plea and called for Zero Hour. As opposition members trooped into the Well. Naidu adjourned the proceedings sine die without the customary valedictory address. "Rajya Sabha adjourned two days early... To suit its political convenience, Modi government ran away from discussion on price rise, broken promises to farmers, and the Labour Minister didn't even reply to debate on labour & (un)employment," Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said

Ramesh contended that since Parliament was adjourned at 11:00 days being washed out.

The Budget Session had begun January 31 with the address of President Ram Nath Kovind to the joint sitting of both the Houses. It was followed by the presentation of the Union Budget by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman February 1.

The first half of the Budget Session concluded on February 11 when Parliament went into recess to examine the budget papers.

national importance

a.M. On Thursday, no business could be transacted and it amounted to proceedings of two

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi hit back at Ramesh claiming that he was "lying". Joshi claimed that the Congress leaders had made the suggestion to the Rajya Sabha Chairman to end the session early.

The session resumed on March 14 and concluded on Thursday, a day ahead of schedule after completion of the budgetary process and passage of key bills such as the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill and the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill."The total productivity of the eighth session of the 17th Lok Sabha was 129 per cent," Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said, noting that the House had 27 sittings.

Birla said members also sat late for 40 hours to discuss issues of

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA They called me for questioning in New Delhi, April 7: The ED quesconnection with an tioned NC leader Omar Abdullah ongoing investigation in a Thursday in connection with the nearly 12-year-old case. I purchase of a building by J&K Bank answered them as much as I some 12 years ago when he was could. I will further help

Jammu and Kashmir chief minis-

ter, a move the party termed a "po-

litical exercise" ahead of the

Assembly elections in the union

After spending more than five

ing by the J&K Bank, in which

erty, in which another leading bank

was also interested. The purchase

was approved by the bank board, and

the chief minister had no say in

While Abdullah refused to di-

vulge details about his questioning

by the Enforcement Directorate

(ED), the National Conference (NC)

slammed the move as a "vicious vil-

ification" and "fishing expedition"

ahead of the Assembly elections ex-

pected to be held later this year in

"There was a time when elec-

ons were announced by the

Election Commission, but now, it

seems that elections are announced

by the ED," the party alleged in a

Jammu and Kashmir.

the matter, the sources added.

territory.

of ₹172 crores

J&K BANK CASE

OMAR ABDULLAH I FORMER J&K CM

did not accuse me of

anvthing

them if they need me. They

hours at the ED office here in response to summons sent last week, statement, which also said that Abdullah told reporters that he had the ED's action was another case not been accused of anything and of misuse of investigative agencies that he had "answered them as by the central government. much as I could". He would further According to the sources, Abdullah help them "if they need me", he maintained during the questioning that as chief minister, he had According to officials, the case no role in the purchase of the pertains to the purchase of a buildbuilding. The bank was subject to

the government has 68 per cent To media reports that Abdullah equity, at Bandra Kurla in 2010. A was staying in New Delhi at a propproperty measuring around 65,000 erty associated with former disquare feet was acquired at a cost rector of the bank Nikhil Garware. NC sources said that the party had Sources said the board of direcrented out a flat in the national tors of the bank had set up a twocapital for use as its vice-presimember committee headed by its dent's residence as well as an office chairman Haseeb Drabu which recwhere he holds meetings with ommended the purchase of the propparty MPs and others.

the supervision of the RBI.

"There is a rent agreement be tween the NC and a Mumbai company for it. Rent is regularly paid by cheque from the party accounts," they said. Slamming the questioning of Abdullah by the ED, the NC further said, "Over recent years, we have seen that wherever state elections are due, agencies like the ED move in and target those parties who pose a challenge to the BJP."

A party spokesperson said the summons to its vice-president is in the same vein. "We have no doubt that this fishing expedition will vield no concrete results to the BJP and the people will give a ringing endorsement to the National Conference as and when required.'

Ukraine universities allow students to intern at local hosps

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 7: Ukrainian medical universities have allowed their foreign students to gain practical training at hospitals and clinics in their own countries, giving relief to thousands of Indian students who have fled the war-hit nation.

The universities have also urged foreign governments to provide practical training opportunities to their students so that they can gain requisite skills. After being shut due to the de-

teriorating security situation in Ukraine in the face of intense the Russian offensive, universities of the eastern European country have begun online classes since last But the major cause of concer

for foreign students was gaining clinical expertise in absence of practical classes. Coming to the

The court noted

the CBI submission that

the investigation was

continuing since 2021,

and said if Patel was a

flight risk, he would have

been arrested

New Delhi, April 7: A Delhi court

Thursday directed the CBI to with-

draw a Look Out Circular (LOC) is-

sued against the chair of Amnesty

International India Board Aakar

Patel in a case of an alleged vio-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



rescue of such students, several hospitals and private clinics here have started offering practical classes and internships.

"In the current situation in Ukraine, students are taught with the help of technologies. But students do not have the opportunity to learn practical skills directly at the clinical departments of the University and treatment and pre-

lation of the Foreign Contributions

Additional Chief Metropolitan

Magistrate Pawan Kumar passed

the order and directed the probe

agency to file a compliance report.

Earlier during the arguments, the

CBI opposed the application of

Patel saying there was a likelihood

of him fleeing from justice if he was

highly influential. "We are not de-

manding for arrest. We are saying

he should not cross the country," the

agency said. The court noted the CBI

submission that the investigation

was continuing since 2021, and

said if Patel was a flight risk, he

would have been arrested. The

The CBI said that Patel was

allowed to leave the country.

Regulation Act.

vention facilities of the Dnipro city," a Dinipro State Medical University (DMSU) said in a notice.

The DSMU has appealed to public institutions of the countries of foreign students "to provide medical practice opportunities for students of the university in the spring semester 2021/2022 academic year in public and private clinics in

court said he could have run away

during the investigation also then.

CBI's contention, claiming that cit-

Patel's counsel had opposed the

Drop airport alert against Patel: Court to CBI Tight security at Yogi's residence izens' rights are being railroaded

by the agency. 'It is time that we send a suitable reply to law enforcement agencies and society," he told the court. Patel's application has further

sought the court's permission to visit the US to take up his foreign assignment and lecture series organised by various universities till May 30.

It submitted that Patel was stopped by immigration authorities at the Bangalore International Airport on Wednesday while he was boarding a flight to the US. The application claimed that the action was taken despite an order by a Gujarat court granting him permission to travel abroad

Lucknow/Gorakhpur: Even as investigations continue into the attack on the Gorakhnath temple in Gorakhpur, security has been beefed up at the official residence of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Lucknow and also at the Gorakhnath temple, of which he is the head priest. According to official sources, two platoons of CRPF have been deployed at the chief minister's Lucknow residence and women personnel will also be deployed round the clock, "All visitors will be properly screened and any suspicious movement in the area will be checked immediately. People coming for Janata Darbar and other functions will have to go

After 41 yrs, man convicted for impersonating landlord's missing son

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, April 7: A person, who fraudulently claimed to be the missing son of a big landlord in Bihar's Nalanda district and even became heir to his property, has been unmasked after 41 years.

The court of Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Manwendra Mishra has convicted accused Dayanand Gosai under various sections of the IPC sections including cheating and criminal conspiracy and sent him to jail.

The case was similar to many Bollywood blockbusters where someone replaced the son of a rich man due to similar looks and per-

In this case, the story began way back in 1977 when Kanhaiya Singh, son of big landlord Kameshwar

Singh went to Chandi block for a examination but never returned home. A missing complaint was registered in the Silaw police station.

In 1981, a beggar, who was later identified as Gosai, came to Morgawan village and went door to door seeking alms. When some villagers ask him about his identity, he said that he is Kanhaiya Singh, son of Kameshwar Singh.

As Kameshwar Singh was called to the spot, the beggar greeted him and called "Papa". As it was five years, no one could identify him properly, but as Gosai gave information related to Kanhaiya Singh and his family, Kameshwar Singh accepted him as his missing son and took him to the house.

However, Kanhaiya Singh's mother Ramsakhi Devi, was not convinced and refused to accept



him as a son, citing some physical features of her son that were absent in him. While the elderly Kameshwar Singh, 75, had under the beggar's and villagers' persuasion, accepted Gosai as his Gosai as his heir. missing son, Ramsakhi Devi filed a case against him, alleging that he

However, after a few years, Ramsakhi Devi died due to illness and elderly age, and as Kameshwar Singh had already accepted him as son, a local Nalanda court declared

Kameshwar Singh was having two shopping cum residential complexes in Patna with each spread in 15 kathas and worth more than

₹200 crore at current market price. Besides 150 bighas agricultural land in Morgawan village, he owned two buildings and some more residential plots in the village.

Gosai now started living a luxurious life, especially after Kameshwar Singh also passed away. However, Vidya Singh, the daughter of Kameshwar and Ramsakhi Devi, continued her mother's fight. She challenged the decision of Nalanda court in the Patna High Court but it ruled in favour of Gosai.

Vidya Singh then went to the Supreme Court, which ruled that the case has several points which need investigation. It had also observed that a case cannot be rejected on the basis of death of a complainant. Following that decision, the hearing of the fraud case started again in a Nalanda court, but saw may delays. Three months ago, ACJM Mishra

through strict security checks," said

a senior official.

directed the judicial officers to start speedy trials of every case lodged before 2000. This case came to his notice and he directed it be heard on a daily basis.

"During the hearing of the case, we have submitted proof that the person who posed as Kanhaiya Singh is actually Dayanand Gosai, son of Prabhu Gosai, a native of Jamui district," said Dr Rajesh Pathak, the prosecution lawyer.

"We managed to find three persons named Nandan, Vishnu Gosai and a Chokidar of the village who identify him as Dayananand Gosai, younger son of Prabhu Gosai. During the hearing, we demandedfor the DNA test of the alleged person which he denied," he added.









was a fraud and seeking he not be

allowed to inherit the property.

international



As we adjust to the new normal, do continue exercising social and personal responsibility. such as by testing ourselves if we feel unwell, and abiding by prevailing safe management measures. Let's continue marching forward to get through this pandemic together

LEE HSIEN LOONG | SINGAPORE, PM

SHANGHAI BECOMES NEW COVID EPICENTRE

Shanghai has become the epicentre of Covid cases in the country as it set a record of six-straight days of logging around 20,000 cases, as the city ramped up mass testing to tackle the rapid spread of the Omicron variant





greedy to attract more Indian companies.

encourage more Indians to visit our country and in turn, we also want Gabonese to visit India and further enhance the bond between the two

HUGUES MBADINGA MADIYA FOREIGN INVESTMENT MINISTER







Strong deterrence through the Korea-US military combined defence posture cannot be emphasised enough in a grave international security situation surrounding the Korean Peninsula, including North Korea's ICBM launch

YOON SEOK-YOUL FORMER PROSECUTOR GENERAL OF SK

SHORT **TAKES**

Pak's passport again 4th worst in world

Lahore: Pakistan's passport has been again ranked the fourth worst in the world by the Henley Passport Index. which grades travel documents from different countries on the basis of international mobility enjoyed by their holders, Express Tribune reported. According to the index. Pakistan is placed on the 109th position on the list, with visa-free access to only 31 destinations across the world. Only three other countries' passports rank lower than Pakistan's in the world which include Syria. Iraq and Afghanistan.

Yemen's Prez steps aside

transferred his powers to a presidential council Thursday, as international and regional efforts to end the country's long-running civil war gained momentum with a two-month truce. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, major players in the conflict appear to have played a role in President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi's decision, quickly welcoming it with a pledge of \$3 billion in aid. The head of the new council has close ties to Riyadh.

Austria to expel 4 Russian diplomats

Vienna: Austria Thursday announced its decision to expel four Russian diplomats for activities incompatible with their diplomatic status. The diplomats to be expelled include three staff members of the Russian Embassy in Vienna and one staff member of the Russian Consulate General in Salzburg, said the Austrian foreign ministry on Twitter, Xinhua news agency reported. The Russian diplomats have been declared persona non grata and have been requested to leave Austria before April 12, said the ministry.

Flu set to return to Australia

Sydney: Australia's two-year drop in influenza cases have ended as flu numbers are on the rise ahead of winter here. Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, when large sections of the population were in lockdown and international borders were closed, flu numbers plummeted to record lows, Xinhua news agency reported.

Rishi Sunak faces questions over wife's UK tax status

Sunak has come under pressure in recent weeks after his mini-Budget last month was seen as not doing enough to tackle the rising cost of living crisis amid soaring energy and fuel prices amid the *knock-on impacts of the* pandemic and the

London, April 7: UK exchequer Chancellor Rishi Sunak, the sonin-law of Narayana Murthy, has once again come under fire as it has been revealed that his wife Akshata Murthy has a non-domicile status for UK tax purposes which means that Akshata Murthy does not have to pay tax to the UK on income outside Britain.

Russia-Ukraine conflict

The UK Opposition has ques-

tioned the non-domicile tax status of India-born Akshata Murty, daughter of Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy, and demanded an urgent explanation from her husband -UK Chancellor Rishi Sunak.

A non-domicile status means Murty, who owns shares in Infosys, is not legally bound to pay tax in the UK on income earned overseas. A spokesperson for Murty, 42, who is a director at venture capital firm Catamaran UK, said the non-domicile status is because India does not recognise dual nationality and that the professional pays all the legally required tax

"Akshata Murty is a citizen of India, the country of her birth and parent's home," the spokesperson said. "India does not allow its citizens to hold the citizenship of another country simultaneously. So, according to British law, Ms Murty is treated as non-domiciled for UK tax purposes. She has always and will continue to pay UK taxes on all her UK income," the spokesperson said. British Prime Minister Boris

Johnson refused to be drawn over the issue when asked to comment during a visit to a nuclear power plant

British law,

Akshata Murty - who

has lived in the UK for

nine years - would be

automatically deemed

domiciled in the UK

after 15 years

UK businesses to end their Russian dealings over energy strategy Thursday. "I think it is very important in politics if you

The latest focus on Sunak's wife comes in the

presence in Moscow, while the UK Chancellor

imposed economic sanctions and called upon all

wake of attacks last month over Infosys

possibly can to try and keep people's families out of it," said Johnson.

But Opposition Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer called the so-called "non-dom" arrangement "breathtaking hypocrisy" and insisted Johnson's finance minister had "very serious questions to answer" about his family's finances.

"It shows yet again that we have got a Chancellor who is completely out of touch with the struggles that so many people in this country are going through at the moment with this cost-of-living crisis," said Starmer. The Liberal Democrat party also demanded that Sunak "needs to come clean" about which country his family pays tax in abroad and if it is a tax haven.

The details of Murty's tax status first emerged in 'The Independent' newspaper on Wednesday, just as new taxes announced by Sunak come into force for the new financial year. The Opposition Labour Party demanded an explanation if his family, currently based at 11 Downing Street, was benefitting from tax reduction schemes such as being

Sri Lanka calls for restructure of \$1bln debt

Colombo, April 7: Sri Lanka must look at restructuring a \$1 billion sovereign debt due for payment in July, the outgoing finance minister told parliament Thursday, urging an end to demands for a change in government amid the country's worst economic crisis in decades.

Ukraine seeks arms from NATO

Kyiv, April 7: Ukraine told residents of its industrial heartland to leave while they still can and urged Western nations to send "weapons, weapons, weapons" Thursday after Russian forces withdrew from the shattered outskirts of Kyiv to regroup for an offensive in the country's east.

Russia's six-week-old invasion failed to take Ukraine's capital quickly and achieve what Western countries say was President Vladimir Putin's initial aim to oust the Ukrainian government.

Russia's focus is now on the Donbas, a mostly Russian-speaking region in eastern Ukraine. In Brussels, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba urged NATO to provide more weapons for his war-torn country to help prevent further atrocities like those

reported in Kyiv's northern suburbs. Ukrainian authorities are working to identify hundreds of bodies they say were found in Bucha and other towns after Russian troops withdrew and to document what they say were war crimes.

"My agenda is very simple... it's weapons, weapons and weapons, Kuleba said as he arrived at NATO headquarters for talks with the military organization's foreign ministers about Ukraine's fight to defend itself.

Some NATO nations worry they may be Russia's next target, but the alliance is striving to avoid actions that might pull any of its 30 members directly into the war. Still, he NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg urged member nations to send Ukraine more weapons, and not just de-

The opposition and some partners of the ruling coalition rejected calls this week for a unity government from President Gotabaya Rajapaksa after he disbanded his cabinet, hoping to quell weekslong street protests over shortages of fuel, power, food and medicine. With its foreign exchange reserves shrinking quickly, massive debt payments due and the rupee currency slumping, analysts say the government - controlled by Rajapaksa and his elder brother Mahinda, the prime minister - was running out of options.

Reserves dropped 16% to \$1.93 billion in March from a month earlier. central bank data showed Thursday

'We must look at how to structure the \$1 billion international sovereign bond payment maturing in July. We must go to the IMF, there is no other solution that I can see," said Ali Sabry, who sent his resignation to Rajapaksa Tuesday, a day after he was moved to finance from the justice ministry. The \$1 billion bond maturing July 25 was trading at 54 cents in the dollar, its lowest level since spring 2020 when the Covid-19 rout hit global financial markets, data from MarketAxess showed. Other dollar-denominated sovereign bonds traded at even more stressed levels, with most changing hands around 40 cents in the dollar



Russia suspended from **UN Human Rights Council**

AGENCIES

United Nations, April 7: Russia was suspended from the UN Human Rights Council after the 193-member General Assembly on Thursday voted to adopt a resolution moved by the US that received 93 votes in favour and 58 abstentions, including by India. The resolution titled 'Suspension

of the rights of membership of the Russian Federation in the Human Rights Council' was adopted with 93 votes in favour, 24 against and 58 abstentions. Those abstaining included Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka and UAE. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Dmytro Kuleba tweeted that "Russia's rights of membership in the UN Human Rights Council has just been suspended. War criminals have no place in UN bodies aimed at protecting human rights. Grateful to all member states which supported the relevant UNGA resolution and chose the right side of history.'

The General Assembly resumed its Emergency Special Session after a request from Antigua and Barbuda, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Georgia, Japan, Liberia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States and the Head of the Delegation of the European Union, on behalf of 27 members of the European Union.



The Human Rights Council consists of 47 Member States, elected directly and individually by secret ballot by the majority of the members of the General Assembly.

The General Assembly, by a twothirds majority of the members present and voting, "may suspend the rights of membership in the Council of a member of the Council that commits gross and systematic violations of human rights.

The Assembly voted on the draft resolution that "decides to suspend the rights of membership in the Human Rights Council of the Russian Federation '

Russia's current membership on the Council ends in December 2023. The only time a Member State was suspended from the Genevabased body was Libya in 2011 when in an unprecedented move a resolution was adopted in the General Assembly that had expressed "deep concern about the human rights situation" in Libya in the wake of Muammar Al-Gaddafi's violent

India abstains on resolution

India abstained on a General Assembly resolution that was passed Thursday suspending Russia from the UN Human Rights Council. Permanent Representative TS Tirumurti said after the vote: "If India has chosen any side, it is the side of peace and it is for an immediate end to violence." He said of the abstention, "We do so for reasons of both substance and process." He said that India abstained because it had reservations about how "due process" was applied to the resolution, while it "unequivocally condemned" the killings in Bucha in Ukraine, which was the impetus for the resolution. "We firmly believe that all decisions should be taken fully respecting due process, as all our democratic polity and structures enioin us to do. This applies to international organisations as well, particularly the United Nations," he said after the vote.

crackdown on anti-Government protestors. The draft resolution notes the Human Rights Council resolution of March 4, 2022, in particular its grave concern regarding reports of "gross and systematic violations and abuses of human rights" and "violations of international humanitarian law" committed by Russia during its aggression against Ukraine.

FOR A CAUSE



People bathe in a pond, colored red to signify blood, during a protest performance against the Russian invasion of Ukraine in front of the Russian embassy in Vilnius, Lithuania

US ends "normal trade ties" with Russia Washington: Congress voted overwhelmingly Thursday to suspend normal trade relations with Russia

and ban the importation of its oil, ratcheting up the US Response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine amid reports of atrocities. House action came after the Senate approved the two bills with 100-0 votes. The measures now go to President Joe Biden to be signed into law. Lawmakers overwhelmingly support the substance of the two Bills, but they had languished for weeks in the Senate as lawmakers worked to hammer out the final details. Biden has already taken executive action to ban Russian oil, liquefied natural gas and coal to the United States. The legislation puts the effort into law. The bill to end normal trade relations with Russia paves the way for Biden to enact higher tariffs on various imports, such as certain steel and aluminum products, further weakening the Russian economy under President Vladimir Putin. It also ensures Belarus receives less favorable tariff treatment.

'Tomb of Sand' makes it to International Booker shortlist

Geetanjali Shree's book, translated into English by Daisy Rockwell and described by the judges as "loud and irresistible novel", will compete with five other titles from around the world for the prestigious 50,000 pounds literary prize, which is split evenly between the

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London/New Delhi, April 7: Author Geetanjali Shree's novel 'Tomb of Sand' Thursday became

author and translator

the first Hindi language work of fiction to be shortlisted for the International Booker Prize. "The (International) Booker is a

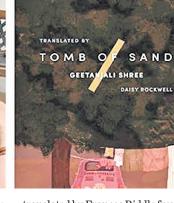
very special recognition and I wasn't waiting for it, wasn't expecting it, so its coming is a wonderful surprise for me and recognition for our work - what Daisy (Rockwell) my translator has done and my original work 'Ret Samadhi'," Shree told PTI.

"It is such a wonderful ratification that it comes from the Booker committee, and it has come repeatedly, first they put me on the longlist and now the shortlist ... Of course, it takes a bit of time to sink in," said the 64-year-old author, hoping to attend the award ceremony in London May 26 this year.

The other five titles in the shortlist announced at the London Book Fair include: 'Cursed Bunny' by Bora Chung, translated by Anton



Hur from Korean: 'A New Name: Septology VI-VII' by Jon Fosse, translated by Damion Searls from Norwegian; 'Heaven' by Mieko Kawakami, translated by Samuel Bett and David Boyd from Japanese; 'Elena Knows' by Claudia Piñeiro,



translated by Frances Riddle from Spanish; and 'The Books of Jacob' by Olga Tokarczuk, translated by Jennifer Croft from Polish.

"Translation is an intimate, intricate dance that crosses borders. cultures and languages. There is lit-

tle to compare to the awe and exhilaration of discovering a perfect pairing of writer and translator," said Frank Wynne, chair of the judges and the first translator to lead the Booker judging panel.

"As a jury we have had the pleasure of reading many extraordinary books, and choosing a shortlist from among them has been difficult and sometimes heartbreaking. These six titles from six languages explore the borders and boundaries of human experience, whether haunting and surreal, poignant and tender, or exuberant and capricious.

"In their differences, they offer glimpses of literature from around the world, but they all share a fierce and breath-taking originality that is a testament to the endless inventiveness of fiction," he said.

For the first time in 2022, the

good news to her. Shree, the Mainpuri, Uttar Pradesh-born author, whose work has been translated into several languages -- including English, French, German, Serbian, and Korean -- has received and been shortlisted for a number of awards and fellowships. "Tomb of Raid" is one of her first books to be published in the UK.

shortlisted authors and transla-

tors will each receive 2,500 pounds,

increased from 1,000 pounds in

previous years - bringing the total

value of the prize to 80,000 pounds.

her novel created history by mak-

ing it to the longlist of International

Booker Prize 2022, New Delhi-

based Shree, author of three nov-

els and several story collections,

said a flood of congratulatory

WhatsApp messages broke the

Keeping extremely busy after

business



India's current macroeconomic situation is quite positive in the sense that the rate of growth is high. India's foreign exchange reserve is also very high. Indian economy is in good shape BIMAL JALAN | FORMER GOVERNOR, RBI

BOUNCE INFINITY BEGINS ROLLOUT OF 1ST E-SCOOTER

Smart mobility firm Bounce Infinity Thursday said it has commenced rollout of its first consumer e-scooter E1 and deliveries of the vehicle will start from April 18. The firm also said it is looking to set up a new half-a-million per annum capacity manufacturing facility for e-scooters in South India later this year





Policy is likely to be rolled out by SUDHENDU JYOTI SINHA



With B2B last mile deliveries still evolving yet accelerating in a II and III markets, we

this initiative by Log9 and OSM will give further impetus to EV adoption AKSHAY SINGHAL

FOUNDER & CEO, LOG9 MATERIALS

We are keen to provide integrated holistic financial services, thereby becoming a part of their growth



programme with ADB will further boost our propositions and fortify our stronghold as a truly universal bank

AMITABH CHAUDHRY | MD & CEO, AXIS BANK

SHORT TAKES

Bandhan group to buy IDFC AMC

New Delhi: Shares of IDFC tanked more than 7 per cent in early trade Thursday, a day after the company announced the divestment of its asset management business to a consortium of Bandhan Financial Holdings, GIC and ChrysCapital for ₹4,500 crore. The stock tumbled 7.16 per cent to ₹63.50 on the BSE. At the NSE, it tanked 7.23 per cent to ₹63.50. A consortium of Bandhan Financial Holdings, GIC and ChrysCapital will acquire IDFC Asset Management Company for ₹4,500 crore in one of the largest deals in the country's asset management space.

Coca-Cola arm to set up 2nd plant

Hyderahad: Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages (HCCB), Coco-Cola India's bottling arm Thursday said it will be setting up a second factory in Telangana with an investment outlay of ₹600 crore in the first nhase. The FMCG company will be building a state-of-the-art. digitally enabled, automated. smart factory that will manufacture juices, enhanced water, packaged water, and sparkling beverages, a company release said. HCCB and Telangana Government signed a MoU for capacity building of organisations in the areas of water, solid waste management and skill-building.

Pfizer offers VRS for field staff

New Delhi: Drug firm Pfizer Ltd Thursday offered a voluntary retirement scheme (VRS) for its field staff as part of expanding its digital capabilities and revamping talent strategy. Over the past few years, the company has been on a journey to reshape itself into a more growth-oriented and innovative biopharma company, Pfizer said. The company, which has a portfolio of over 150 products across 15 therapeutic areas, noted that its products are more specialty-oriented and that requires it to adopt newer go-to-market models.

Invesco divests 7.74% stake in ZEEL

New Delhi: Investment firm Invesco Thursday offloaded 7.74 per cent stake in Zee **Entertainment Enterprises** Ltd (ZEEL) for ₹2.092 crore through an open market transaction. According to bulk deal data available with the BSE. Invesco Oppenheimer Developing Markets Fund sold a total of to 7.74 per cent stake, of dropped 2.1 per cent to settle at ₹284.85 apiece on the BSE.

Tata's all-in-one super app 'Tata Neu' goes live

The app will allow users to buy everything from apparel to airline tickets as the sprawling Indian conglomerate vies for a piece of the fiercely competitive sector currently dominated by Amazon,

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 7: Tata group Thursday launched its super app

Walmart and Reliance

Tata Neu bringing all its brands in one platform as it seeks to play a major role in the Indian e-commerce space currently dominated by the likes of Amazon and Flipkart.

In a social media post, Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran said Tata Neu combines the traditional consumer-first approach of the group with the modern ethos of technology.

"It is a Neu day today! Tata Digital, the youngest member of the Tata family, brings you Tata Neu today," he wrote on LinkedIn.

The group has been testing the app since last year as it geared up to play a big role in the fast grow-



ing e-commerce space. It had acquired online players in various segments, including grocery delivery platform BigBasket and 1Mg, an on-

It makes me proud to see so many of our trusted and loved brands Air Asia, BigBasket, Croma, IHCL, Qmin, Starbucks, Tata 1Mg, Tata CLiQ, Tata Play, Westside on the Tata Neu platform already, and Vistara, Air India, Titan, Tanishq, Tata **Motors soon to join**

N CHANDRASEKARAN CHAIRMAN, TATA SONS

line pharmacy.

'Tata Neu is an exciting platform that gathers all our brands into one powerful app. Combining our traditional consumer-first approach with the modern ethos of technology, it is an all-new way to discover the wonderful world of Tata," Chandrasekaran said.

He further said, "Our aim is to make the lives of Indian consumers simpler and easier. The power of choice, a seamless experience, and loyalty will be at the centre of Tata Neu, delivering a powerful One Tata experience.'

Welcoming customers "to the Neu World", he said, "We look forward to learning continuously, to keep evolving, and meet the needs of our consumers.

BSE Technologies gets Sebi nod to operate as KRA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 7: BSE Technologies, a subsidiary of BSE, has received authorisation from capital markets reg ulator Sebi to act as a KYC Registration Agency (KRA).

KRA is a Sebi-regulated intermediary that grants the market participants authorisation for investors' Know Your Client (KYC) that will be mandatory for investment in securities market.

"We thank Sebi for reposing its faith in BSE to operate as a KYC Registration Agency. KYC KRA has become a key segment for securities market investors and acts as a starting point for any investor's journey in the securities market. The long experience of BSE for over 147 years as a frontline regulator will help in ensuring that BTPL (BSE Technologies Pvt Ltd) will maintain highest standards of governance and practices," Ashish kumar Chauhan, MD and CEO, BSE said in a statement Thursday

EYES US LISTING FOR 2023

Flipkart ups IPO valuation target

The IPO planning comes amid growing protests from Indian brick-and-mortar retailers that Flipkart and Amazon bypass federal regulations and favour select sellers, allegations the companies deny

REUTERS

New Delhi, April 7: Walmart's Indian e-commerce company Flipkart has internally raised its initial public offer (IPO) valuation target by around a third to \$60-70 billion, and now plans a US listing in 2023 instead of this year, two sources with direct knowledge of the plan told Reuters.

Flipkart, which competes with Amazon.com Inc in India's booming e-commerce space, had earlier set an IPO valuation goal of \$50 billion. Reuters has reported.

The main reason for waiting for the IPO is due to Flipkart's internal plan to boost valuations further by focussing on two of its relatively new businesses -- online healthcare services and travel bookings, two of the sources with direct knowledge said.

Two separate sources familiar with Flipkart's plans said the ongoing global market turmoil sparked by the Russia-Ukraine crisis also forced the Indian company to reconsider its timeline.

Flipkart acquired Indian travel booking website Cleartrip in 2021 and this week launched a "Health" app to offer medicines as well as other healthcare products and services. "Flipkart thinks there is an even bigger upside of valuation than originally envisaged ... The



travel business has started showing great signs already for them,"

said the first source.

The first source said the IPO valuation target could be as high as \$70 billion, while the second said it could be between \$60-65 billion. Asked about the IPO's timeline, Walmart CFO Brett Biggs told an analysts conference in December that Flipkart's business was "performing almost exactly like we thought" and an "IPO is still very much in the cards". without specifying when the company will list.

The listing, according to sour is now being planned for early-tomid 2023. Flipkart is incorporated in Singapore and wants to list in the

United States, they added. Walmart acquired a roughly 77 per cent stake in Flipkart for about

The company has internally raised its IPO valuation target to \$60-\$70 billion from

The firm focusing on its two new units - online healthcare and travel bookings

n 2021, Flipkart raised \$3.6bn in a funding round, giving it a valuation of \$37.6bn

\$16 billion in 2018 - its biggest deal ever - and said later that year that it could take the company public in

That fund raising helped bolster the company's financial position, and it had enough cash right now for expansion, meaning an IPO wasn't a necessity at this stage, said one of the sources.

India's IPO market has slowed after having boomed as enthusiastic retail investors and a pandemic-induced flood of easy money pushed prices to record highs, encouraging a slew of Indian tech companies like Paytm and Zomato to go public.

More than 60 companies made their market debut in India in 2021 and raised a total of more than \$13.7 billion, which was more than the previous three years combined.

Record High

Agri exports touch \$50 billion in FY22



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, April 7: India achieved a record high of agriculture exports in 2021-22, which crossed the \$50 billion-mark, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said Wednesday.

As per the provisional figures released by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), agri exports grew by 19.92 per cent in 2021-22 to touch \$50.21 billion.

'The growth rate is remarkable as it is over and above the growth of 17.66 per cent at \$41.87 billion achieved in 2020-21, and it has been achieved in spite of unprecedented logistical challenges in the form of high freight rates, container shortages etc.," the Ministry said.

"Increase in exports of these products has benefitted the farmers in states like Punjab, Harvana. Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra etc. India has captured nearly 50 per cent of the world market for rice,' the Ministry said.

Besides, the data showed that export of marine products, at \$7.71

Highest ever exports have been achieved for staples like rice (\$9.65bn), wheat (\$2.19bn), sugar (\$4.6bn) and cereals (\$1.08bn). Wheat has seen an unprecedented growth of over 273%

billion, is also the highest ever, benefiting farmers in the coastal states of West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Maharashtra and Gujarat.

"Spices exports have touched \$4 billion for the second year in a row. Despite facing tremendous supply side issues, coffee exports have crossed \$1 billion for the first time, which has improved realisations for coffee growers in Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu," it said

The statement also said that exorts have taken place from clusters like Varanasi (fresh vegetables, mangoes). Ananthpur (banana). Nagpur (orange), Lucknow (mango), Theni (banana), Solapur (pomegranate), Krishna and Chittoor (mango), among others.

Ashneer hits out at BharatPe board

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, April 7: Former Cofounder and managing director of BharatPe, Ashneer Grover, Thursday once again hit at the board members of the fintech company, saying snatching the keys and running a corner shop are two different skill-sets.

Ashneer was stripped last month of all company titles over alleged "extensive misappropriation of company funds" and using "company expense accounts" to "enrich themselves and fund their lavish lifestyles"

"So I just heard @bharatpeindia closed its first quarter of 'degrowth' and 'maximum cash burn' under able (sic) leadership of Rajnish Kumar and Suhail Sameer. 'Chaabi chheenna and hatti chalana do alag alag skills hai!' Ab Nani yaad aayegi - markets are the ultimate

test & truth," he posted. Ashneer, also a popular judge on the reality show Shark Tank India, has accused BharatPe CEO Sameer of siding with the investors to remove him from the company.

After reports surfaced that government regulators may expand their probe into BharatPe's financial books after the Ashneer-Madhuri Grover saga, the fintech platform said last month it will fully comply with the law of the land.

DEAL TO SELL SSANGYONG MOTOR TERMINATED: M&M

REUTERS

Bangalore, April 7: Indian carmaker Mahindra & Mahindra said Thursday that a deal to sell its bankrupt unit, SsangYong Motor Co. to South Korean electric carmaker Edison Motors Co had been terminated.

The receiver of SsangYong cited Edison's inability to deposit the bid amount for the termination of the deal. Mahindra said in an exchange filing Thursday. Indian automaker Mahindra,

which owned about 75% of Ssang Yong

as of September end, has been looking for a buyer for all or most of its stake, which it bought when the South Korean automaker was on the brink of bankruptcy in 2010.

SsangYong has been under court receivership since last April in an attempt to rehabilitate the carmaker after Mahindra failed to secure a buyer.

In January this year, SsangYong Motor had said a consortium led by South Korean electric carmaker Edison Motors Co had agreed to buy it for 305 billion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Mumbai, April 7: The Reserve Bank of India Thursday said existing banks can open digi-

ucts and services in both selfserved and assisted mode round-the-clock. In the Union Budget, the government announced the setting up of at least 75 such units in 75 districts to commemorate

According to the guidelines on the establishment of Digital

Mahotsav'

75 years of the country's in-

dependence as 'Azadi ka Amrit

tal banking units to offer prod-

DBU is a specialised fixed point business unit/hub housing certain minimum infrastructure for delivering digital banking products and services to ensure convenient and cost-effective banking for customers

RBI paves the way for digital banking units

Banking Units (DBUs), the products and services to be provided at a DBU include, opening of accounts, cash withdrawal and deposit, KYC updation, loans and complaint registrations.

"Digital banking products and services would generally mean those financial products/services whose designs and fulfilments have nearly end-to-end digital life

cycle with the initial customer

acquisition/product delivery necessarily taking place digitally through self-service or assisted self-service," it said.

Scheduled commercial banks having experience in digital banking are allowed to open DBUs in Tier 1 to Tier 6 centres without having the need to take permission from the RBI, the guidelines said.

Each DBU shall be housed distinctly with separate entry and exit provisions. These units will be separate from existing banking outlets with formats and designs most appropriate for digital banking users, the guidelines said.

Elon Musk's arrival stirs fears among Twitter employees

MUSK HAS FACED WIDESPREAD CRITICISM FOR POSTING MEMES THAT MOCKED **TRANSGENDER PEOPLE AND EFFORTS TO STEM** THE SPREAD OF **COVID-19, AND FOR COMPARING SOME WORLD LEADERS**

TO HITLER

REUTERS

Washington, April 7: News of Tesla Chief Executive Elon Musk taking a board seat at Twitter has some Twitter employees panicking over the future of the social media firm's ability to moderate content, company insiders said.

Within hours of the surprise disclosure this week that Musk, a self-described "free speech absolutist." acquired enough shares to become the top Twitter shareholder. political conservatives began flooding social media with calls for the return of Donald Trump. The former US president was banned from Facebook and Twitter after the Jan 6 Capitol riot over concerns around incitement of violence.



A week before Musk disclosed a said they were concerned about 9.1% stake in Twitter, he polled his Musk's ability to influence the 80 million followers on whether the company's policies on abusive users site adhered to the principle of free and harmful content With Musk on the board, the em-

speech, and the majority voted 'no'. Despite Twitter's reiteration ployees said his views on moderathis week that the board does not tion could weaken years-long efforts to make Twitter a place of make policy decisions, four Twitter employees who spoke with Reuters healthy discourse, and might allow

TWITTER'S ABILITY TO MODERATE CONTENT FEAR MUSK'S VIEWS ON

CONCERNS CENTER AROUND

MODERATION MAY ALLOW TROLLING TO FLOURISH

TWITTER MANAGEMENT, **EMPLOYEES MAKE DAILY DECISIONS - SPOKESPERSON**

trolling and mob attacks to flourish. In the wake of Trump's ban from Facebook and Twitter, the billionaire tweeted that many people would be unhappy with US tech companies acting "as the de facto

arbiter of free speech.' The employees, who asked not to be named for fear of retribution,

point to Musk's history of using Twitter to attack critics.

But other employees Reuters spoke to said that Musk's involvement could help quicken the pace of new feature and product launches, and provide a fresh perspective as an active user of Twitter

Thursday, Musk tweeted an image from 2018 of him smoking weed on the Joe Rogan podcast on Spotify, with the text: "Twitter's next board meeting is going to be lit." Several employees were alarmed by the warm welcome Musk received from Twitter CEO Parag Agrawal and cofounder Jack Dorsey, which prompted them to hit the job market this week. "Some people are dusting off their resumes," one person said. "I don't want to work for somebody (like Musk)."

74,318,476 shares, amounting ZEEL. The scrip of ZEEL

DE KOCK LIFTS SUPER GIANTS Titans lock horns with Punjab Kings



TIGHT SPELL: Ravi Bishnoi (C) is congratulated by his teammates after dismissing a Delhi Capitals batter, Thursday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Navi Mumbai. April 7: Quinton de Kock showed imperious form in his knock (80, 52b, 9x4, 2x6) as Lucknow Super Giants outplayed Delhi Capitals by six wickets for their third successive win in their

debut IPL season here Thursday. Delhi Capitals lost their way after a sizzling knock from Prithvi Shaw (61, 34b, 9x4, 2x6) to end at 149/3 after Lucknow predictably

decided to field first. With the resources that Lucknow possess, 150 should have been a

Sanctions for Rana, Bumrah

MUMBAI: Kolkata Knight Riders batter Nitish Rana has been reprimanded and fined 10 per cent of his match fees for a level 1 offence during his team's IPL match against Mumbai Indians.

Senior MI pacer Jasprit Bumrah has been let off with a reprimand for breaching the code of conduct during the same game, which KKR won by five wickets here Wednesday.

The IPL press release, however, doesn't exactly specify the breach. "Nitish Rana from Kolkata Knight Riders has been reprimanded and fined 10 per cent of his match-fee for breaching the IPL's Code of Conduct during his team's match against Mumbai Indians at Pune,' the media release stated. "Rana admitted to the Level 1 offence of the IPL Code of Conduct and accepted

the sanction," it further stated.

In case of Bumrah, there was no financial penalty and only a warning. "Jasprit Bumrah from Mumbai Indians has been reprimanded for breaching the IPL' Code of Conduct during his team's match against Kolkata Knight Riders at Pune. Bumrah admitted to the Level 1 offence of the IPL Code of Conduct and accepted the

sanction," the BCCI stated. For Level 1 breaches of the Code of Conduct, the match referee's decision is final and binding.

comfortable chase and the KL Rahul-led side made sure it was, getting home with two balls to spare on a tricky surface.

De Kock was at his destructive best as he shared a 73-run stand with his opening partner Rahul (24). The South African wicketkeeperbatter was particularly harsh on compatriot Anrich Nortje who was playing his first game since November. The fit again pacer, playing his first IPL game in India, was smashed for three fours and a six by De Kock in an over leaking 19 runs.

In what turned out to be a forgettable night for Nortje, the South African pacer had to be taken off the attack later after bowling two waist-high no balls.

After Rahul's fall, his team needed 76 off the last 10 overs. De Kock, who collected nine fours and two sixes, put the team on the cusp of victory with his second 50-plus score of the tournament.

With the pitch not the easiest one to bat on, Lucknow struggled to finish the game with even the inform Deepak Hooda (11) and experienced Krunal Pandya (19) not finding the big hits.



Lucknow eventually managed to get the job done with the young Ayush Badoni (10 n o) hitting the decisive four and a six off Shardul Thakur (1/29) in the final over.

Earlier, Shaw's knock was all class before Lucknow bounced back in the game with an impressive bowling performance. Young leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi (2/22) was the standout performer for the new IPL entrants.

David Warner (4), returning to the franchise where he made his IPL debut back in 2009, struggled in his first innings of the season. Offspinner K Gowtham (1/23) was given the ball in the second over and Shaw did not let him settle, dispatching a full ball over cover for his first four of the innings.

Jason Holder (0/30) was at the receiving end in the following over when Shaw pulled him for a six over mid-wicket. Then came the turn of pacer Avesh Khan, who was hammered for three consecu-

tive fours in the fourth over. It seemed Shaw was batting on a different surface while the others struggled around him. He used his quick hands to cut the ball and was equally quick to drive any-

thing full over cover. It was a promising powerplay for Capitals who reached 52 for no loss in six overs. However, Lucknow fought back after the powerplay with wickets of Shaw, Warner and Rovman Powell (3) in a space of 18 halls.

Shaw was caught behind off Gowtham after he hit him for a straight six. Warner fell to a poor shot off Bishnoi and Powell saw his stumps disturbed as he went for the slog-sweep off a googly from the young leg-spinner, leaving Capitals at 74/3 in the 11th over.

The onus was on skipper Rishabh Pant (39 n o, 36b, 3x4, 2x6) to take the team to a respectable total and he did that in the company of Sarfaraz Khan (36 n o, 28b, 3x4) who was playing his debut game for the franchise.

Pant mainly targeted the straight boundaries and Sarfaraz, without taking much risks, showed skills that has fetched him a bagful of runs in domestic cricket.

BRIEF SCORES

Delhi Capitals 149/3 (Prithvi Shaw 61, Rishabh Pant 39 n o, Sarfaraz Khan 36 n o; Ravi Bishnoi 2/22, Krishnappa Gowtham 1/23) lost to Lucknow Super Giants 155/4 (Quinton de Kock 80, KL Rahul 24; Kuldeep Yadav 2/31) by 6 wickets.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 7: Gujarat Titans' lethal pace attack is all set to ask some probing questions to the dynamic Punjab Kings top-order when the two teams lock horns in an IPL match Friday.

In terms of composition and balance, both Gujarat and Punjab are very different and that makes for an enticing contest on a Brabourne Stadium track where runs are always on offer.

Punjab in their three games have shown that the approach this year would be to go hammer and tongs during the Powerplay overs and set the tempo for the rest of the in-

In IPL however, there are some intriguing sub-plots that make it an engaging Friday. It will be a battle between Punjab's costliest buy (apart from skipper Mayank Agarwal's retention) Liam Livingstone and New Zealand's speed merchant Lockie Ferguson.

Having literally terrorised Delhi Capitals' Mandeep Singh with his pace and steep bounce in the earlier game, expect Ferguson to unleash his thunderbolts on Livingstone, who had taken the CSK attack to cleaners in the previous game with his 32-ball-60.

Ferguson and Mohammed Shami make for the most potent new ball pair after the first two weeks. With head coach Anil Kumble they would like to devise a strategy to keep Punjab Kings under check during the Powerplay overs.

Hardik Pandya again bowling full tilt and touching 140 clicks also



adds to the potency of the Gujarat attack but their batting still looks a bit questionable save Shubman Gill and skipper Pandya.

While senior openers Shikhar Dhawan and skipper Agarwal are yet to make significant contributions, it would be an onerous job against the Titans attack.

It is the middle-order of Bhanuka Rajapaksa, Livingstone and newcomer Jitesh Sharma, that is expected to provide fireworks with M Shahrukh Khan and Odean Smith at the rear. They would like to target the weak Indian bowlers like Rahul Tewatia and Varun Aaron.

However where Gujarat might face problems is in the batting front. Shubman Gill is the only assured batter they have till now. Vijay Shankar as a top-order batter has looked far from convincing and Matthew Wade hasn't yet hit the rhythm although he is capable of big hits. Abhinav Manohar is very new at this stage while Tewatia and David Miller aren't exactly known for their consistency.

In case of Punjab, they have two match-winning bowlers in Kagiso Rabada and leg-spinner Rahul Chahar but Arshdeep Singh, debutant Vaibhay Arora and Livingstione himself did a commendable job against Chennai.

TODAY'S MATCH



Star Sports channels & Hotstar

Stern Dutch test awaits India eves

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, April 7: Olympic champions, the Netherlands have arrived with their second-string side but the Indian women's hockey team still faces a stern test when it clashes with the world number one rival in the double-leg FIH Pro League tie, starting here Friday.

None of the players, that competed for the Netherlands during their successful Olympic campaign, features in the visiting side but the Indians can't breathe easy, going by the standard of the sport in the Dutch land. The last time, the two teams

clashed during the Tokyo Olympics, the Netherlands had hammered India 5-1. However, the Indian women so far have done well in their debut season. They are placed fourth in the standings with 12 points from six games Netherlands, on the other hand,

are sitting atop the table with 17 points from six matches. India captain Savita is aware of Netherlands' strengths but since they are playing at home and have a Dutch coach to guide in Janneke Schopman, it might help them in some way. But the Indians can heave a

sigh of relief that the Dutch have





fielded a completely new-look and young side for these two encounters. The captain said it would be a mistake to underes-

timate Netherlands, just because The Netherlands is of course the World No.1 team but if we recollect our last match against them - first

match in Olympics, we held them 1-1 till first half. In the second half we committed mistakes. Now the team is quite excited that again we are getting a chance to play Netherlands and that too at home, so we will give our best

they don't have a single Olympian in their squad.

Rani Rampal, the skipper of India's squad in the Tokyo Olympics where they cherished a historic fourth-place finish, is available for selection and it augurs well for the side. But Savita said with important tournaments lined up this year, a decision on whether Rani plays in the upcoming two games will be decided by the coach.

The Indians would look to take forward the good work they did

In-form India start favourite vs Korea

Potchefstroom: Unbeaten so far in the tournament, a confident India team is expected to steamroll lower-ranked Korea and seal the semifinal spot in the Junior Women Hockey World Cup, here Friday. The Indians finished on top of Pool D with maximum nine points from three victories. After humbling Wales (5-1), Germany (2-1) and Malaysia (4-0), India go into the quarterfinals with a superior 11-2 record. On the contrary, with just three points in their kitty. Korea finished second in Pool C on account of a better goal difference. With three Olympians in the squad in skipper Salima Tete and strikers Sharmila Devi and Lairemsiami, the Indians looked a completely dominant side, rich with big match experience. But the star of India's performance so far in the tournament has been young striker Mumtaz Khan, who has scored five goals so far, including a hat-trick against Malaysia Wednesday, In other quarterfinals of the day, Netherlands will take on South Africa, England will face United States and Argentina will be up against Germany.

in their last tie against world no. 5 Germany, where they lost the first game in the shoot-out before winning the next, again in

BENZEMA DOES IT AGAIN

Frenchman's second successive hat-trick in the Champions League give Real Madrid edge over Chelsea

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, April 7: Back-to-back Champions League hat tricks just reinforce the enduring value of Karim Benzema's clinical finishing to Real Madrid.

Carlo Ancelotti sees so much more being provided by the 34year-old forward he compares to a fine wine. "He is more of a leader every day," the Madrid coach said after Benzema's goals produced a 3-1 victory over Chelsea in the quarterfinals Wednesday.

This latest goal burst could end Chelsea's title defense, barring the type of second-leg collapse by Madrid that Paris Saint-Germain endured last month at the the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium.

Benzema now has 37 goals in 36 games in all competitions this season, including the three that turned around the last-16 meeting with

The France international is almost single-handedly keeping the Spanish giants on the path to a record-extending 14th European Cup—and a fifth for himself—and powering them to regaining the La Liga title. Of Madrid's last 11 goals, 10 have been scored by the mainstay of the team for the last

The first two at Stamford Bridge were thumping headers inside three first-half minutes in the driv-



RUNNING RIOT: Karim Benzema wheels away in celebration after scoring against Chelsea at the Stamford Bridge, Wednesday

ing rain, while the third was gifted to him in a manner that raised doubts about whether Chelsea can muster a comeback in Madrid

Chelsea had given itself hope of recovering when Kai Havertz reduced the deficit with a header five minutes before halftime from

Jorginho's cross. But only a minute of the second half had elapsed when Chelsea's slack defending proved so costly.

Edouard Mendy was about 30 yards out from goal when the ball came to him and the goalkeeper brought it down with his chest. Rather than clearing down the field, he sent a short pass tamely to the dawdling Antonio Rudiger. It was a gift for Benzema to intercept before striking into the unprotected net with Mendy still

The precision of Benzema's first-half headers - after getting on the end of crosses from Vinicius Jr. in the 21st minute and Luka Modric in the 24th was in contrast to the shortcomings of Chelsea's No.9. Substitute Romelu Lukaku had a great chance with a header of his own when there was still more than 20 minutes to go, but glanced it wide of the post, resulting in groans around Stamford Bridge.

stranded outside the penalty area.

An all-English semifinal is looking less likely. The winner of this quarterfinal will face Manchester City or Atletico Madrid, with City ahead 1-0 after Tuesday's first leg

Sindhu, Srikanth storm into quarters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Suncheon, April 7: Ace Indian shuttlers PV Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth progressed to the quarterfinals but Lakshya Sen was ousted after losing his second round match at the Korea Open Super 500 badminton tournament here Thursday.

World No.7 Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medallist, got the better of World No.26 Japan's Aya Ohori 21-15, 21-10 in a lopsided contest to take her head-to-head count against the Japanese to an overwhelming 12-0. The third seeded Indian will

next face familiar foe in Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrungphan, whom she had defeated in the final of the Swiss Open last month.

The former World Champion, who has claimed two Super 300 titles this season at Syed Modi International and Swiss Open, enjoys a 16-1 lead in 17 meetings

against the World No.11 Thai. World Championship silver medallist Srikanth saw off Israel's Misha Zilberman 21-18, 21-6 to set

up a clash with local hope and former World No.1 Son Wan ho. Commonwealth Games silver

medallists and world no seven pairing of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty defeated Singapore's Hee Yong Kai Terry and Loh Kean Hean 21-15, 21-19 in 36 minutes to also advance to the quarterfinals.

World Championship bronze medallist Sen, ranked ninth in the world, went down 20-22, 9-21 to World No.24 Shesar Hiren Rhustavito in 33 minutes. The country's other fast-rising

shuttler Malvika Bansod also failed

to advance to the quarterfinals as

she was brushed aside by Thailand's

Pornpawee Chochuwong 8-21, 14-21

in a second round women's singles clash that lasted 39 minutes. It was curtains for the mixed

doubles pair of Sumeeth Reddy and Ashwini Ponnappa as well. The duo fought hard but eventually went down 20-22, 21-18, 14-21 to the fifth seed Chinese combine of Ou Xuan Yi and Huang Ya Qiong in a gruelling battle that lasted close to an hour.

Men's pairing of MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila, however, retired while lagging 5-8 in the first game against second seeded Indonesian pair of Mohammad Ahsan and Hendra Setiawan.

VILLARREAL STUN BAYERN Villarreal: Villarreal pulled off

another surprising Champions League result, this time against sixth-time champion Bayern Munich to boost its hopes of returning to the semifinals for the first time in 16 years. After making it past the group stage and eliminating Juventus in the round of 16, the modest Spanish club took a big step toward reaching the last four by holding on to a 1-0 victory against favorite Bayern in the first leg of the quarterfinals Wednesday. Arnaut Danjuma's goal early in

the first half was enough for Villarreal at the La Cerámica Stadium, with Bayern unable to get past the solid defense of Unai Emery's squad and losing only for the second time in 30 Champions League matches. Bayern were unbeaten in their last 22 away games in the Champions League, with 17 wins and five draws in a record run that had started after a loss in 2017 to a PSG team coached by Emery.

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