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leisure



SELENA GOMEZ CONFESSES TO HAVING A 'CRUSH' ON HADID

Actress-singer Selena Gomez has confessed that she has a 'crush' on Bella Hadid years after the pair sparked feud rumours. The 30-year-old *Come and Get It* singer and the 26-year-old famously unfollowed each other after Selena started dating Bella's ex-boyfriend The Weeknd.

SILVERSTONE 'WASN'T HAPPY' WORKING IN HOLLYWOOD

Alicia Silverstone had given up on acting because she 'wasn't happy' in Hollywood. The 46-year-old star launched her career appearing in 1993 movie *The Crush* as well as part of videos for rock band *Aerosmith* and later became a household name after starring as Cher in hit teen movie *Clueless* in 1995.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Go with the flow. At least that's what Ganesh suggests where relationships are concerned. You can be your assertive self some other time. Today, you can be large-hearted and fulfill your beloved's wishes, maybe even propose. What say?

TAURUS
You are likely to get into arguments today, predicts Ganesh. You should avoid any open confrontation. Legal disputes may bother you as well. Try your hand at meditation or resort to music of your preference to relax and unwind. It is best if you delay the start of any important activity today, suggests Ganesh.

GEMINI
Today, your house gets a facelift – a new rug, matching cushion covers, or a brand new kitchen. This will take up most of your time. First, you will be busy furnishing and setting up your home, and then you will spend your time flaunting it to your friends, relatives, neighbours, bosses, colleagues, acquaintances.

CANCER
You will take on new responsibilities, says Ganesh. So you will be busy in your task. You may feel exhausted due to hectic work. So it entails mental tension.

LEO
Guides help other people choose the right path in life and to select the correct alternatives. It is a good day for those who are in the teaching or coaching professions. It is also a progressive day for those working in MNC's. Ganesh's blessings are with you.

VIRGO
All the work done in the past will reap rich rewards today, says Ganesh. You'll direct things your own way, and in no way would you take orders from anyone. But don't go overboard with all the authority and keep a cool, calm head.

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

SCORPIO
Yet another mundane day in your life, as nothing exciting is on the cards. However, be cheerful and keep trying hard to bring in some spice in life. You never know when the planets change their mood and make an exciting future. Keep the hope alive, says Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
Remember that actions always speak louder than words. You will, in all probability, finish your work that has been seeking your attention for long now. You shall also successfully bring continuing disputes to the table and resolve them logically.

CAPRICORN
Some people do backbreaking work throughout their life, and still don't taste the sweet taste of success. While in your case, success will be as easy as pie. You are already loaded with work and some new projects – assignments will be added to that, today. But, you are not complaining as some recreational activities will refresh your mood and energy.

AQUARIUS
It's an uphill struggle today! But the heavens are on your side, and you will be saved from being swindled. Otherwise, it's an eventful day at work. You may initiate big business deals and new projects as well. It will take all your energy, and Ganesh suggests you hit the deck early.

PISCES
For those in the creative fields of marketing or advertising, today is an extraordinary opportunity to tweak your marketing mix into bringing in maximum profits with bare minimum efforts. Your health interests will also take priority now, and you will find yourself spending more time in the gym, says Ganesh.

Aditi talks about her hidden wish

Mumbai: Actress Aditi Rao Hydari has time and again managed to impress the audience with her solid performances.

She made quite an impact as Mehrunisa in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's *Padmaavat* despite her shorter screen time. But Aditi is not often seen doing projects in Hindi film industry. What is the reason behind doing selective projects? Aditi said that she doesn't do that by choice. She also expressed her hidden desire to do a massy film like *Pushpa* but revealed that no one has approached her with a script like that.

Aditi said, "I don't pick so many different kinds of films is not always by choice. The thing is a certain kind of cinema comes to me which I said like the layered, vulnerable, quite often period or like a lot of people say

'heroine oriented' especially in the South what I have done. I would love to do a *Pushpa*. It's a hidden desire but people have not come to me with a *Pushpa*."

She continued, "But in a way, I am happy I get more content-driven movies because there's so much content to bite into, explore and learn in many ways. I managed to work with a lot of people who have been on my wishlist."

Aditi will be next seen in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's *Heeramandi* with Sonakshi Sinha, Manisha Koirala, Richa Chadha, and others.



Akademi Awards conferred on 5 Odias

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Feb 23: President Droupadi Murmu Thursday presented the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards to five Odias for the years 2020 and 2021 in New Delhi.

For the year 2021, Susmita Das received the award in the field of music (Sugam Sangeet), Bijay Kumar Jena for Dance (Music for Dance) and Manoj Pattnaik in theatre category. For the year 2020, Rabindra Atibudhi (Odissi) and Trilochan Mohanta (Chhau) were honoured for their work in the field of dance.

These honours not only symbolise the highest standard of ex-



cellence and achievement, but also recognise sustained individual work and contribution. The honour carries a purse money of ₹1,00,000/- besides a Tamrapatra and Angavastram. The General Council of Sangeet Natak Akademi selected 128 artistes from the field of Music, Dance, Theatre, Traditional/Folk/Tribal

Music/Dance/Theatre, Puppetry and Overall contribution/scholarship in the Performing Arts for the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards for the years 2019, 2020 and 2021.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that the civilisation showcases the material achievements of a nation but intangible

heritage reveals through its culture. "Culture is the real identity of a country. India's unique performing arts have kept our incredible culture alive for centuries. Our arts and artists are the carriers of our rich cultural heritage. 'Unity in diversity' is the biggest feature of our cultural traditions," she added.

Rakul addresses wedding rumours

Mumbai: Actress Rakul Preet Singh and producer Jackky Bhagnani made their relationship Instagram official in 2021. The producer wished his ladylove on her 31st birthday and shared a picture of them walking hand-in-hand. Since then, the couple often posts the most adorable pictures together.

Last year, rumours of Rakul Preet and Jackky Bhagnani's wedding had been doing the rounds, and the actress shut down the rumours by penning a hilarious tweet. Now, once again, she has addressed speculations about her wedding, and joked that they were supposed to get married in November last year!

In an interview with a portal, Rakul was asked if she Googles her own name. She revealed that articles about her are written every week and that they come up on Google Alerts. While speaking about this, she also jokingly added that she was supposed to tie the knot last year and that she wonders how the wedding was. "That comes on Google Alert (I do not have to search for it separately). There are articles about me every week. By the way, I was supposed to get married in November last year. I just want to ask 'how was it?'," said the *De De Pyaar De* actress.



25TH KALINGA NATYA MAHOTSAV

National theatre festival concludes with Shakespearean play's Bengali adaptation

Bhubaneswar: Multilingual national theatre festival Kalinga Natya Mahotsav, organised by one of City's oldest theatre troupes Satadira Kalakar, came to an end here at Rabindra Mandap, Thursday.

Ebam Amra, a drama group of West Bengal presented Bengali play *Neel Piriter Phool*, an adaptation of Shakespeare's famous humorous play *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, on the last evening of the event.

Adapted and directed by Kallol Bhattacharya, the play left the audience in splits.

Artists who spellbound the audiences with their performance included Tanushree Bhattacharya, Titir Mukherjee, Papia Sarkar, Rahul Chatterjee, Sohini Karmakar, Tapas



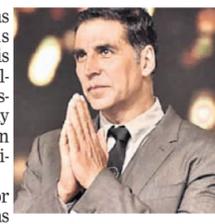
A scene from Bengali play *Neel Piriter Phool*

Bhattacharya and Basudev Goswami. Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation Mayor Sulochana Das, Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi President Aruna Mohanty and Secretary Prabodh Rath were among the dignitaries who were present on the occasion. Theatre director Nalini Nihar Nayak was presented with Satadira Kalakar Samman while Trilochan Sahoo was conferred with Lifetime Achievement Award. Troupe's annual souvenir was released on the occasion.

India is everything to me: Akshay Kumar

Mumbai: Akshay Kumar, who has often faced criticism over his Canadian citizenship, says India is everything to him and he has already applied for a change of passport. He feels bad when people say things without knowing the reason for him taking up Canadian citizenship, said Akshay.

This was in the 1990s. The poor box office performance of his films pushed him to apply for Canadian citizenship, recalled the *Khiladi* actor.

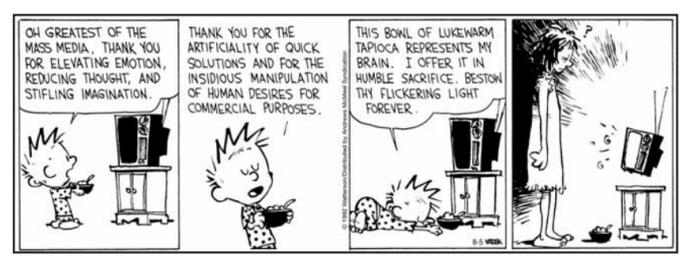


"I thought that 'bhai, my films are not working and one has to work'. I went there for work. My friend was in Canada and he said, 'come here'. I applied and I got in. "I had just two films left for release and it is just luck that they both became superhit. My friend said, 'go back, start working again'. I got some more films and I kept getting more work. I forgot that I had the passport. I never thought that I should get this passport changed but now yes, I have applied to get my passport changed," Akshay explained.

PEANUTS



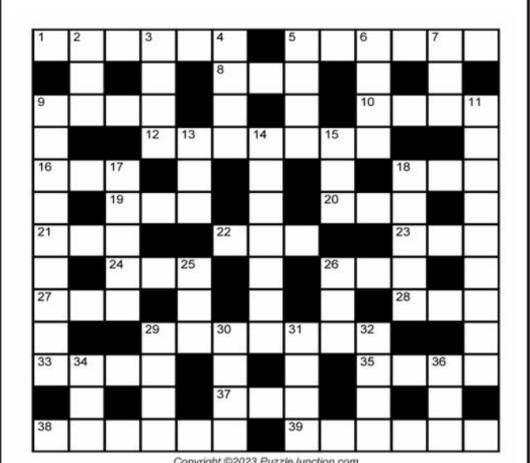
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



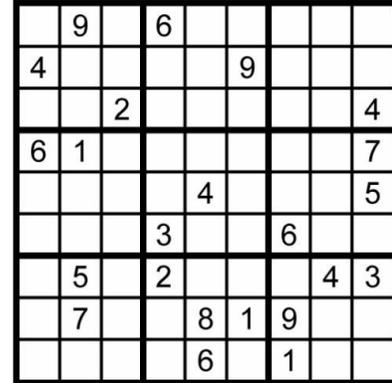
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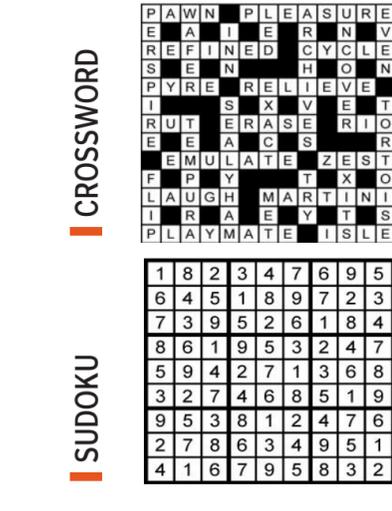
- Across**
- 1 Short-sighted
 - 5 Framework for climbing plants
 - 8 Embrace
 - 9 Norway's main port
 - 10 Hamburger ingredient
 - 12 Labour shift (4,3)
 - 16 Droop
 - 18 Paid athlete, briefly
 - 19 Conducted
 - 20 Deface
 - 21 Commotion
 - 22 Wildebeest
 - 23 Hockey foundation
 - 24 Pub order
 - 26 Fishing pole
 - 27 Acquire
 - 28 Recede
 - 29 Bungalow
 - 33 Youngster
 - 35 Waterless
 - 37 Caustic solution
 - 38 Good luck charm
 - 39 Roundabout way
 - Down**
 - 2 Affirmative response
 - 3 Farm implement
 - 4 Scorch
 - 5 Matured
 - 6 Infant
 - 7 Employ
 - 9 Bombardment
 - 11 Garden feature
 - 13 Strange
 - 14 Sharpest
 - 15 Objective
 - 17 Assume a pose of self-satisfaction
 - 18 Lion's family
 - 25 Psyche
 - 26 Boisterous practical joke
 - 29 Prisoner's cubicle
 - 30 Joust
 - 31 Chopped
 - 32 Direction
 - 34 Edible tuber
 - 36 Promissory note

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



KILLER CHEMICALS

Use of banned antibiotics and poisonous chemicals in fish and prawn cultivation raises alarm

STATE P3



DEADLY WEST BANK RAID

Palestinian militants in Gaza launch rockets at southern Israel while Israeli aircraft strikes targets in the coastal enclave

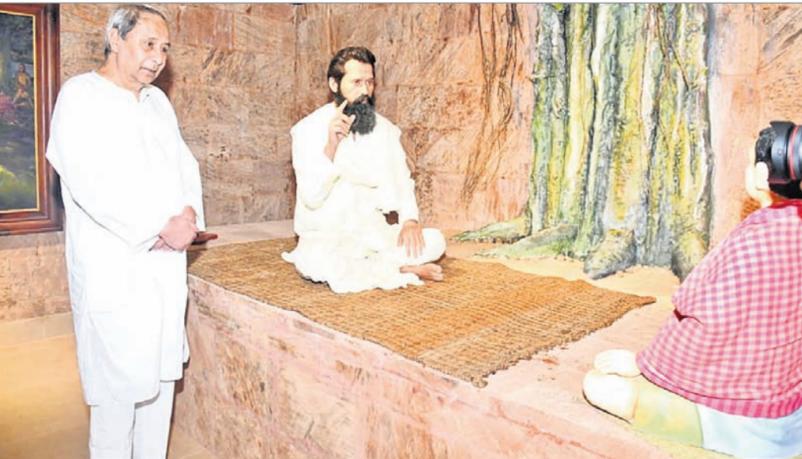
INTERNATIONAL P7



INDIA KNOCKED OUT

India lose to Australia by a narrow five-run margin in the semifinal to bow out of the ICC Women's T20 WC

SPORTS BACK PAGE



FITTING TRIBUTE: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik after inaugurating Gopabandhu Museum at Suando in Sakshigopal block of Puri, Thursday (Report P2)

Survey pegs state's growth rate at 7.8%

Per capita income stands at ₹1,50,676 as against nat'l average of ₹1,70,620

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 23: Odisha's economy is estimated to grow at 7.8 per cent in real terms by the end of current financial year (FY) 2022-23 against the national rate of 7 per cent.

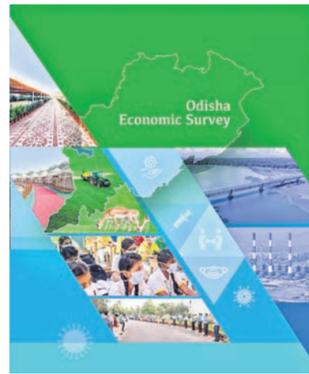
This was revealed in Odisha Economic Survey Report for FY 2022-23 that was laid before Assembly Thursday.

In 2022-23, the state's economy is expected to grow at 7.8 per cent which is higher than pre-Covid average growth of 7.1 per cent (2012-13 to 2019-20) in real terms.

The survey report also said, "The state economy is poised to grow at 8 per cent to 8.5 per cent in real terms in 2023-24 by harnessing human, natural, and financial resources and strengthening the productive base of the economy."

The state's growth resilience is reflected in its average medium-term growth rate of 7.9 per cent from 2013-14 to 2021-22, leaving aside the Covid year.

In nominal terms (growth in current price), Odisha grew by a rate of 23.5 per cent against the



MAJOR TAKEAWAYS

- Agriculture sector is expected to grow at **5.9%**, industry sector at **6.1%** and service sector at **8.8%**
- Average inflation till Dec 2022 was **6.56%**
- Outstanding debt stands at **15.6%** of GDP
- State's total public expenditure stands at **21.3%** of GDP

BUDGET TODAY

Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari will present state's annual Budget for 2023-24 in the Assembly Friday. The Budget outlay was approved by the Council of Ministers February 13 this year. According to sources, the total size of the Budget will be around ₹2.30 lakh crore -15 per cent more than last full-fledged Budget of ₹2 lakh crore. As this will be the last full-fledged Budget of the current government, some new schemes and programmes are expected to be announced during its presentation in the House.

national average of 19.5 per cent in 2021-22, it said.

Agriculture and allied sectors employ more than 40 per cent of the workforce, thus being the biggest employment generating sector in Odisha. This sector is expected to grow at 5.9 per cent in FY 2022-23 as against 3.5 per cent at all-India level.

Due to proactive measures of the government, agriculture and allied sector grew at nearly double the rate than of all-India rate of 6.3

per cent in real terms in 2020-21.

Similarly, industry sector has recorded the highest growth on average in pre-Covid times (7 per cent). However, in 2022-23, the industry sector is expected to grow at 6.1 per cent, as per the report.

The third major sector, the services sector, is expected to grow at 8.8 per cent in 2022-23, higher than pre-Covid average growth.

Contd...P2

Khera arrested for 'remarks against PM'

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Feb 23: Congress leader Pawan Khera was Thursday arrested by Assam Police and later released on an interim bail by the Supreme Court in connection with an FIR lodged over his alleged remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the action coming soon after he was deplaned from a flight to Raipur where he was going to attend the party's plenary session.

Khera, who was in the headlines this week for apparently fumbling on the Prime Minister's father's name during a press conference, moved the Supreme Court to seek



relief in multiple FIRs against him in Assam as well as in the Uttar Pradesh towns of Varanasi and Lucknow. A three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud said that upon being

produced before the competent magistrate in Delhi, Khera would be released on interim bail.

"The above order will remain operational till Tuesday (February 28)," the bench, also comprising Justices M R Shah and P S Narasimha, said and listed the matter for February 27.

Earlier in the day, Khera was arrested at Delhi airport after being deplaned from a flight to Raipur in connection with his alleged remarks against Modi, made at a press conference February 17 at Mumbai. The Delhi Police said he was detained at the request of the Assam Police. **MORE P5**

Sura says goodbye to electoral politics

Bhubaneswar: Veteran Congress leader and six-time MLA Suresh Routray Thursday announced his retirement from electoral politics and said his son, Manmath Routray, would contest the next polls from Jatni Assembly constituency. Addressing a presser here, the 80-year-old senior Congress leader said, "I will not contest elections any more. However, my youngest son Manmath Routray will contest from Jatni constituency on a Congress ticket." Routray said that he was a loyal Congress worker for the past 55 years and had no intention to change the party. As his presser came barely a couple of days after he met BJD president and CM Naveen Patnaik, speculations were rife that his son Manmath may join the regional party.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Have you ever said anything bad about the PM?

Pramila pooh-poohs Andhra intrusion



Revenue Minister Pramila Mallik says Koraput district administration has no info about distribution of ration and allowances by Andhra Pradesh officials in Kotia in 2021

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 23: The state government has no information about intrusion by Andhra Pradesh officials into disputed Kotia Gram Panchayat of Koraput district in the year 2021, Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Pramila Mallik said in the Assembly, Thursday.

In a reply to an unstarred question by Sundargarh legislator Kusum Tete, the minister said the district administration has no information about distribution of ration and allowances by Andhra Pradesh officials in Kotia in 2021. Mallik informed

the House that the government is yet to get information about construction of roads by the neighbouring state in the disputed area.

The state government will take immediate action if such activities by the Andhra Pradesh government come to the fore, Mallik added.

The minister's answer has surprised many as there have been several media reports including video footage about intrusion by Andhra Pradesh officials and their deputy chief minister in the disputed Kotia area.

The statement of the Revenue Minister over Kotia and Andhra intrusion has sparked a debate in Odisha.

Andhra and Odisha have been at loggerheads over territorial control of 21 of the 28 revenue villages in Kotia gram panchayat for more than five decades.

As per reports, Andhra Deputy Chief Minister Rajanna Dora Peedika had visited Kotia panchayat in October last year and held meetings and discussions about his government's schemes with locals there.

Strongly opposing the visit, local BJD MLA Pritam Padhi had cautioned the neighbouring state against creating tension in Kotia area.

According to an official, Peedika had visited Neradivalsa village under Kotia panchayat and reviewed the status of several welfare schemes launched by the Andhra government.

WAR ANNIVERSARY PUTIN UPS NUCLEAR ANTE

Russian President Vladimir Putin announces plans to deploy new Sarmat multi-warhead intercontinental ballistic missiles this year as the war against Ukraine completes one year

REUTERS

Kyiv, Feb 23: Ukraine said Thursday that its forces had repelled Russian assaults along the length of the front-line on the eve of the war's anniversary, as President Vladimir Putin, empty-handed after a bloody winter offensive, talked up Russia's nuclear arsenal.

After a series of strident speeches in the run-up to the anniversary of his invasion, Putin announced plans Thursday to deploy new Sarmat multi-warhead in-



■ Russia says it will continue mass production of air-based hypersonic Kinzhal systems and start supplies of sea-based Zircon hypersonic missiles

■ Ukrainian forces repel 90 Russian attacks in the northeast and east over the past 24 hours

tercontinental ballistic missiles this year. Earlier this week he suspended Russia's participation in the START nuclear arms control treaty

"As before, we will pay increased attention to strengthening the nuclear triad," said Putin, referring to nuclear missiles based on land, sea

and in the air. "We will continue mass production of air-based hypersonic Kinzhal systems and will start mass supplies of sea-based Zircon hypersonic missiles," Putin said in the remarks issued by the Kremlin early Thursday.

Ukraine and its Western allies have brushed off the nuclear posturing as a diversion from a failing Russian military campaign on the ground, a year after Putin launched the biggest land war in Europe since World War Two. **Contd...P2**

SPECIAL PAGE P8



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RAZING DOWN: An excavator deployed by BDA pulling down unauthorized structures at Laxmisagar in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

CM: Govt working for devt of all sectors

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 23: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday said his government is working sincerely and dedicatedly towards the development of the state in all sectors.

Replying to the motion of thanks on Governor's speech to Odisha Assembly, Patnaik said, "Odisha is being recognised as a role model in many fields. We are on a journey of significant growth and development to make Odisha emerge as a leading state in the country."

The recently organised FIH Men's Hockey World Cup is an example of the state's capacity to successfully organise mega events involving multiple national and international agencies, he said.

It is a matter of pride for all that this was possible in spite of the challenges posed by Covid, adverse weather conditions and supply as well as logistics issues, he pointed out.



The CM also said that the Birsra Munda Hockey Stadium in Rourkela was completed within just 15 months. This has been recognised by the Guinness Book of World Records as world's largest fully-seated hockey stadium. To attract investors, Naveen said,

the state government has brought a new Industrial Policy Resolution-2022 for the next five years, which will transform Odisha into an industrial hub in eastern India.

Stating that two new airports at Rourkela and Jeypore have been operationalised, the CM

said his government is going to launch direct international flight services to Dubai, Bangkok and Singapore soon.

Patnaik further said his government is investing hugely in agriculture and allied sectors and water resources. A host of irrigation projects are nearing completion and will be inaugurated this year. The state has set a target to ensure piped water supply to all houses in the state by 2024, while 100 per cent household tap connections will be covered in all urban areas by December this year, he informed.

"Odisha has been rated among the top in the country in terms of action against corruption. We are committed to providing transparent and effective delivery of public services to the citizens," added the CM.

Opposition BJP and Congress staged walkouts during the speech of the Chief Minister in the House.

INDIAN UNIVERSITIES FORUM MEET

Edu key for societal emancipation: Guv

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 23: The KIIT DU Thursday played host to the prestigious Indian Universities Forum conclave. Inaugurating the event Governor Ganeshi Lal emphasised the value of education for the emancipation of the masses. The theme of the event was 'optimising learning landscape'.

"The purpose of education is social upliftment, renouncing negativity and leading a fulfilling life that transforms the earth into a heaven," Lal said. Talking about the virtues of peace and harmony in society, he said that when the world was busy in waging wars, Prime Minister Narendra Modi remained engaged in giving vaccines (to fight the pandemic) and committed himself to spreading the message of amity in society.



KIIT and KISS Founder Achyuta Samanta spoke about the transformation of KIIT from a two-room institute to becoming one of the largest universities in the country and its contribution to tribal empowerment. He said that KIIT's education model is aligned towards inclusive education where every student is given equal opportunity to excel in academics. "We are not confined to education only, we are serving the society as well," he said. The theme of the conference, he added, is relevant, especially at a time when the Covid pandemic has brought major disruptions in the academic landscape.

EOW busts organised land scam in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 23: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Crime Branch has arrested three persons including a retired employee of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) on the charges of involvement in an organised land fraud case in the Capital city. The accused persons Haladhar Dash and Subadha Kumar Parida were arrested by the EOW Wednesday.

Thursday, the cops also apprehended one lady identified as Mamata Parida who illegally sold the landed plot at Malipada impersonating the original owner. The EOW registered the case (7/2023) on the basis of the complaint lodged by Lipika Das of Nasadipur village in Kendrapada district.

"Lipika is the bonafide owner of the land plot in Phase-II of Vasanta Vihar at Malipada Mouza, and the ROR stands in her name. Meanwhile, the accused Mamata identifying herself as Lipika illegally registered the plot in the



name of accused Haladhar at the Sub Registrar's office in Khandagiri," told a senior EOW official.

Accused Mamata allegedly prepared a false sale deed document using a fake Aadhaar card and other required documents. The forged ID card had the image of Mamata in place of Lipika while the other details were same.

The information we have managed to collect so far clearly indicates that the above accused

were involved in several such fraud activities. We suspect this is a tip of the iceberg. They used to target gullible owners who own plots in Capital city but residing outside. Haladhara who was a junior assistant in BMC has been involved in such fraudulent activities after his retirement. We have received information regarding illegal registration of another landed plot in the name of Haladhar's wife too," the EOW official added.

Naveen unveils statue of Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Puri, Feb 23: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday unveiled a 15-foot-high statue of social reformer and educationist Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das at his birthplace in Suando village of Puri district, besides inaugurating a museum there in his memory.

Describing him as a 'Yug Purush' (great man of his era), Patnaik said Das' contributions for the welfare of Odisha will be remembered for time immemorial.

The CM, on the occasion, visited all rooms of Suando Peeth, the ancestral home of Dash which has been transformed into a museum by the state government at an investment of ₹25 crore.

He also inaugurated a Shiva tem-

ple and a pond at the village, where work to build a circular road and an information centre is underway. Addressing a function, Patnaik said, "People of Odisha will remain indebted to Gopabandhu. Sacrifices made by him and other heroes, including Utkal Gourav Madhusudan Das, Vyasa Kabi Fakir Mohan Senapati, Swabhab Kabi Gangadhar Meher, Shaheed Laxman Naik, will always be remembered. They have brought glory to the state."

Das has been rightly given the title 'utkalmani' as he happens to be the gem of Odisha, Patnaik noted.

"Pleasure is nothing, sacrifice is great, service is best - this was the motto of Gopabandhu. He will continue to inspire us," Patnaik added.



CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

By the virtue of an affidavit Dt.14.02.2023 before Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Kendrapara, I, Punam Sharma, At-Kajala, P.O./Dist.-Kendrapara have changed my name from Punam Sharma to Punam Sahoo according to my husband's surname, i.e. Saswat Kumar Sahoo for all future purposes.

LOST

I, Karna Biswal (47), S/o. Muralidhar Biswal presently R/o-Dulkibandh, P.O.- Bijmara, P.S.- Kalampur, Dist.-Kalahandi presented a written report at Jaipatna Police Station vide GD, No.042, dated 21.02.2023 along with an affidavit on 21.02.2023. While I was returning from Jaipatna to my show room at Kutru Chhack on dated 12.02.2023 by motor cycle, on the way near village Khaliabhata, I have lost my bag wherein I kept all original document of my landed property of my show room bearing Regd. Sale deed vide R.S.D. No.10901200067/2012, dt.17.01.2012 and R.S.D. No.10901200068/2012, dt.17.01.2012 of Mouza-Dulkibandh. I searched the said document but could not find it out.

Continued from P1

Putin ups nuclear ante

The last weeks have seen Russia mount infantry assaults across frozen ground in battles described by both sides as the bloodiest of the war.

Western officials said they believed Russia had planned an offensive to capture new territory ahead of the anniversary, using hundreds of thousands of reservists conscripted in recent months to give Putin a victory to announce.

Moscow's forces have made progress trying to encircle the small city of Bakhmut, but have failed to break through Ukrainian lines to the north near Kremmina and to the south at Vuhledar where they have taken heavy losses assaulting across open ground into the teeth of Ukrainian artillery.

Ukrainian forces repelled 90 Russian attacks in the northeast and east over the past 24 hours, the military said early Thursday.

Ukraine has shut some schools for the war's anniversary in anticipation that Moscow might launch long-range missile attacks to mark the date. But Kyiv officials said they believe Moscow no longer has the capability for a dramatic show of force. "Nothing unusual will happen. Usual (Russian) effort... A small missile strike is

planned," Kyrylo Budanov, the head of Ukraine's military intelligence, told the Ukrainska Pravda news website in an interview. "23-24 (February), they have two dates. Believe me, we have experienced this more than 20 times," he said.

Britain's military said in a daily intelligence update that Moscow could be planning another large-scale assault on Vuhledar, despite costly failed attacks there earlier this month. It said last week that two full brigades of thousands of elite Russian marines had been rendered combat ineffective because of massive losses there.

With no major battlefield victories to report in time for the anniversary, Putin has instead turned to nuclear rhetoric, announcing in a major speech on Tuesday that Russia would suspend participation in the New START arms control treaty.

The practical implications appear limited: inspections under the treaty had already been halted over the war. A senior defence official said Moscow would stick to the treaty's limits on missiles and continue to notify Washington when it moves them. US President Joe Biden, who upstaged Putin this week by journeying unannounced to Kyiv and then giving a landmark speech

of his own to a crowd in Warsaw, called the suspension of START a "big mistake" but said on Wednesday: "I don't read into that that he's thinking of using nuclear weapons or anything like that." The RS-28 Sarmat missiles, dubbed "Satan 2", whose deployment Putin announced Thursday were first unveiled in 2018 and already supposed to have been deployed last year. Putin also promised to produce more hypersonic missiles, which fly too fast to be shot down. Russia is due to begin military exercises with China in South Africa Friday and has sent a frigate equipped with them. Russia still controls nearly a fifth of Ukraine, despite losing swathes of territory in major battlefield setbacks last year after failing to capture Kyiv at the outset of its "special military operation".

Tens of thousands of Ukrainian civilians and troops on both sides are believed to have died in the past year. Russian artillery has destroyed Ukrainian cities and set millions of refugees to flight. Ukrainian troops have stuck mainly to defence since their last offensive in November, hoping that Russian forces replenished with reservists will be exhausted in attacks. Kyiv has meanwhile received pledges of Western weapons for a planned counter-offensive later in 2023.

₹1,062cr nod for health infra

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 23: Odisha government approved an annual action plan of ₹1062.10 crore for strengthening hospital infrastructure in the state, Thursday. The approved amount would be invested in the construction of 863 projects under Mukhya Mantri Swasthya Seva Mission, informed Health and Family welfare department.

While giving nod to the proposed action plan, Health and Family Welfare minister Niraj Pujari asked the department and Chief District Medical Officers to "prioritize patient-centric basic infrastructure in the hospitals". Secretary of the department Shalini Pandit said, "Director of National Health Mission along with directors of different state agencies have been asked to expedite the process for obtaining administrative approval against the projects from authorities."

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	59735.44	↓ -9.54
NIFTY	17555	↑ 0.70
DOLLAR	82.80	↑ ₹0.09
EURO	87.5610	↓ ₹-0.24
GOLD	₹56675	↓ ₹-408
SILVER	₹64857	↓ ₹-581

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	37.0°C	36.8°C
TEMP MIN	21.4°C	22.0°C
Humidity	81%	83%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

Forecast: Dry weather most likely

SC sets aside Orissa HC order, affirms Vig inquiry

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Feb 23: In a major setback to MLA Pradeep Panigrahi, the Supreme Court Thursday set aside an order of Orissa High Court that restrained the Vigilance department to probe corruption charges against the legislator.

A two-judge bench headed by Justice Ajay Rastogi held that the division bench of Orissa High Court had committed "manifest error" by setting aside the order of Odisha Lokayukta to conduct preliminary inquiry against Gopalpur MLA.

"The action of the division bench of the High Court indeed was in violation of the principles of natural justice," the bench ruled after noting that the High Court passed the order without hearing the Lokayukta.

The Lokayukta is empowered to utilize services of any officer and agency of government for the purpose of preliminary inquiry, the bench said, adding that the Lokayukta hadn't committed any legal infirmity in the process of conducting preliminary inquiry.

"The finding returned by the Division Bench of the High Court under the judgment impugned, in our view, is not legally sustainable," the apex court held. The Supreme Court held that the plea of bias filed by Pradeep Panigrahi was "ill-founded" and the "principles of bias, even remotely, are not attracted in the present case".

The apex court noted that the



PRADEEP PANIGRAHI CASE

Deputy Superintendent of Police of the Directorate of Vigilance has submitted a complaint and the Lokayukta directed the Directorate of Vigilance to conduct a preliminary inquiry which, in fact, was conducted by a senior officer of the department who submitted a report to the appellant.

"We are not persuaded with the submission of there being any bias on the part of the Directorate of Vigilance cell in conducting preliminary inquiry for the reason that the Officer who submitted a complaint was simply an informant and not the person interested, at the same time, preliminary inquiry was conducted by a different Officer not connected with author of the complaint, thus the plea of bias was ill founded," the bench said.

The bench also overruled the objection of Panigrahi in reference to the locus standi of the Lokayukta in filing appeal in the apex court. The bench held that being aggrieved by the judgment of the High Court, the Lokayukta can certainly question the legality of the High Court order in the Supreme Court.

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POLITICKLE by MANJUL

THERE AREN'T MANY BOMB BLASTS THESE DAYS BUT TERROR IS STILL THERE



Rampant use of antibiotics in fish farming raises alarm

USE OF 20 TYPES OF ANTIBIOTICS IN FISH AND PRAWN CULTIVATION HAS BEEN BANNED BY F&ARD DEPARTMENT AND MPEDA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paradip, Feb 23: Rampant use of antibiotics and poisonous chemicals in fish and prawn cultivation has threatened to affect the lives of thousands of fishermen in Odisha coast while also bringing ecological disaster in its wake.

This has happened as some farmers are applying various antibiotics and chemicals in the ponds or gheries to raise the fish and prawn in a short period of time. Those are exported to many European countries for their high demand.

However, some European countries have banned the import of fish and prawn from state due to presence of hazardous chemicals. When consumed by people, the chemicals in the food items result in anaemia, cancer, allergy, bone related diseases, and intestinal diseases.

Concerned over the development, the state Fisheries and Animal Resources Development department as well as the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) has banned the use of 20 types of antibiotics in fish and prawn cultivation and have insisted on safe cultivation.

Some of the banned drugs are chloramphenicol, nitrofluorene and the additives under them like furazolidone, furaltadone, furilfauramide, nitrofurantoin, nifuratel, nifurozime and several other antibiotics and chemicals.

It is alleged that many fish farmers in Odisha are using these banned antibiotics to boost the growth of the



fish and prawns. Coordinator Gayadhar Jena of MPEDA confirmed that a ship carrying prawns had to return from a foreign country without unloading the stocks only for this reason in 2022.

However, the use of these antibiotics allegedly goes on unabated notwithstanding the ban order. Moreover, these prawns are consumed more in wedding feasts and in other get-togethers.

A scientist Dr Ambika Prasad Ray of Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA) at Kaushalyaganga on Bhubaneswar outskirts said that the remnants of these antibiotics and chemicals remain in the body of fish and prawns after they are harvested.

Use of these antibiotics has been banned considering their harmful effects on human body. These antibiotics get mixed in the blood vessels of humans and result in various diseases. The presence of antibiotic like nitrofurantoin may even give rise to dreaded diseases

like cancer, he added. Moreover, the aquaculture farms that have sprouted along the coastline over the past few years have also polluted the rivers and creeks, poisoning the coastal waterways with the excrement and waste water from the farms.

The aquaculture farms demand artificial feed, pesticides, chemical additives and antibiotics all the time. Many other toxic substances and pesticides such as malathion, parathion, azodin and paraquat are used in large-scale shrimp farming.

Other ill effects of prawn farming are the conversion of coastal ecosystem into monoculture production. Once the prawn farms are abandoned, it is expensive to make the land suitable for farming.

A local fish trader Paresh Mandal said that the prawns produced here are sold at ₹250 to ₹500 per kg in the local market. Locals have demanded a ban on the cultivation of such fish and prawns.

Vigilance raids asst engineer

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasure, Feb 23: After multiple raids, the state Vigilance department has taken Balasure East Division-II assistant engineer Ajay Kumar Senapati into custody for amassment of disproportionate assets (DA) at various places.

The Vigilance sleuths recovered cash in lakhs from the Balasure East Division-II office after raiding twice in the last 14 months. Reportedly, a peon Padmanabha Swain from the same office was caught December 3, 2021, while taking a bribe of one lakh to clear the paper of a contractor.

Suspecting amassment of disproportionate assets, Vigilance raided seven places including Balasure, Puri, Khurda and the ancestral properties of Senapati. Senapati works as an estimator and was transferred to Balasure four months back, the report said.

Following the search warrant ordered by a special judge of the Bhubaneswar Vigilance team, a four-member team including four DSPs, 10 inspectors, and others conducted the raid.

Raids took place in different places including the Balasure office, government quarters, a property located near Madanmohan Road of Harachandi Sahi in Puri, a flat on the second floor of Anan Palm Beach, a two-storey building in Balugaon, a relative's place in Tangi and the ancestral home in Bhagabati Sahi of Banapur.

During the raid, cash worth ₹1,22,500, one four-wheeler, three two-wheelers and jewellery have been recovered. Further investigation is going on, sources said.

Woman Kho Kho player kills self

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jhumpura, Feb 23: A national level junior Kho Kho player committed suicide by hanging at her residence in Nayadhanurjayapur village under Baria police limits in Keonjhar district, Thursday.

The deceased was identified as Manika Nayak, 17, a Plus II student of Ukhunda College. She had represented the state in the national junior level women's Kho Kho team and had bagged several awards in individual and team categories. She had recently displayed her exemplary skill in the sport making Odisha win in the Kho Kho tournament held at Jharkhand.

However, allegedly due to some domestic dispute she hanged herself from the ceiling fan at her residence, Thursday. Family members rushed her to the Jhumpura hospital where the doctors pronounced her brought dead. Baria IIC Vandana Patra launched an investigation after the family members lodged a complaint.

Infra boost needed to turn India into EV hub: Padmini

At a time when vehicle prices are rising with rise in associated prices, the market for electric vehicles (EVs) is slowly expanding but there is an urgent need for infrastructure overhaul to support manufacturing of such vehicles. Director of Koshala Automobiles Padmini Panigrahi, in an interview with Orissa POST, explains about the journey of Koshala Automobiles and the challenges the industry is facing now. Excerpts...



What are the major problems the automobile industry is facing now?

All automobile manufacturers are currently facing shortage of semiconductors. There has been a sudden hike in vehicle prices due to hike in associated prices and fees at various stages like registration, tax, insurance among other things. Four companies have stopped operations in our country since 2017. These include GM, Ford, Harley Davidson and UM Motorcycles. Customers are more and more worried about sustainability as fuel price has been surging throughout the year. Manufacturers are consequently struggling to generate more eco-friendly vehicles and to be more competent in manufacturing. There have been new regulations regarding customer protection, mandatory safety features, old car scrapping policies, which have kept the industry people occupied.

We should also take initiatives to share major portion of the expenditure incurred by the dealer principle and organise events, mega camps, and invest in things like innovative advertisement strategies. And we can improve supply chains to prevent customers cancelling their bookings. Similarly, to improve service, we can up-sell repairs, parts and accessories, offer extended warranty, hire people who are genuinely happy to be dealers.

try is slowly gathering momentum, supported by government initiatives and the push from rise in crude oil prices. However, a mass shift from fossil fuel run vehicles to EVs requires expansion of infrastructure facilities, including charging stations and vehicles that could provide a higher mileage. Several initiatives taken by the government to support the manufacturing and adoption of EVs in the country should help in achieving the target of 100 per cent EV adoption by 2030.

Your take on India's objective to become a global EV hub by 2026?

Indian automobile industry is the fifth largest in the world and is expected to become the third largest by 2030. Over the last three years, 0.52 million EVs have been registered in India, according to Ministry of Heavy Industries. Indian EV industry is slowly gathering momentum, supported by government initiatives and the push from rise in crude oil prices. However, a mass shift from fossil fuel run vehicles to EVs requires expansion of infrastructure facilities, including charging stations and vehicles that could provide a higher mileage. Several initiatives taken by the government to support the manufacturing and adoption of EVs in the country should help in achieving the target of 100 per cent EV adoption by 2030.

As a proud director of Koshala Automobiles, Rourkela, I have gained my strength and purpose from my employees and our valued customers, thanks to their trust in us. As a reciprocation of love and care for them, I have always tried to encourage them as much and as best as possible. As a special support to our employees and their families, we bear the education expenses of their children for the new academic session. At Koshala Automobiles, we understand the fact that youth are our nation builders. And they must invest in quality education for a brighter future and our responsibility is to support them. As far as our commitment to gender equality is concerned, we encourage equal opportunity for men and women. We believe in women empowerment and promoting women's sense of self-worth, their ability to determine their own choices and their right to influence social change for themselves and others. Our initiative of encouraging women in vehicle cleaning service has been greatly appreciated. As a purpose-driven employer, we believe when employees are taken care of at their personal level, they are likely to have stronger job performance, job satisfaction, and commitment to the organisation.



How has been the journey of Koshala Automobiles so far?

It has been a wonderful journey with HMIL with both ups and downs. Mutual co-operation, coordination and support between the company and the dealership still remain strong, with both trying to provide best services to the customers and employees.

How can the sales/service in automobiles industry be improved?

We can improve sales by building trust with customers, by creating social media profiles and participating in groups through Facebook Business Pages, and by providing unique offers to attract customers.

Bamra rly stn turns battlefield; RPF resorts to mild lathicharge

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kuchinda, Feb 23: Bamra railway station in Sambalpur district turned into a battle field as agitators clashed with police over cancellation of the stoppage of some trains at the railway station, Thursday. As a result, nine policemen and six agitators were injured in the incident.

The agitators had staged a rail roko for 11 hours Wednesday demanding stoppage of express trains

at the railway station. The train services resumed after a discussion between the Chakradharpur railway authorities and Bamra Rail Action Committee.

However, cancellation of stoppage of all the trains that were earlier making a halt at the Bamra railway station, Thursday sparked tension among the railway users. Hundreds of people waiting to board the Rourkela-Bhubaneswar Intercity were disappointed after the train did not stop at the station, Thursday.

They ransacked and locked the ticket counter and the panel room, and drove the employees out. A scuffle broke out after police tried to clear the agitators from the station premises. The scuffle led to a clash between the agitators and police. The Railway Protection Force (RPF) resorted to mild-lathicharge to disperse the mob which went berserk and pelted stones. Some police vehicles have allegedly been damaged in the stone pelting by the mob.

Spring water sole option for Malabandha locals

POST NEWS NETWORK

Tentulikhunti, Feb 23: With summer approaching fast, residents of Malabandha under Dangasil revenue village of Tentulikhunti block in Nabarangpur are in dire straits as there is no option left except a small spring to quench their thirst. The village folks depend solely on a small mountain spring flowing 500 metre away from the village.

While the government is busy celebrating 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', it has failed to provide a tube well for the people of Malabandha. However the matter



has never been able to grab the attention of higher ups. Elections come and go, but the problem never goes, alleged villagers. Moreover, the water is so dirty

and unsafe that apart from visible dust particles it often emanates a foul smell. People are forced to drink it as there is no other option available to them. Every now

and then, many get admitted to hospitals every year contracting diarrhoea and other diseases. The spring water gets polluted raising the risks of such water-borne diseases due to manmade and natural reasons. The scarcity of water will worsen in the upcoming days. After waiting for hours, the locals get to avail a bucket of water from the spring, a villager said. Residents of the village including Kishore Nayak, Sadan Jani, Jadu Jani, Phulamati Jani, Jamuli Jani, Mati Jani and others demanded digging of a tube well in their area.

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TECH THREAT TO DEMOCRACY



The group, which calls itself 'Team Jorge', claims to have worked on dozens of presidential elections around the world and charges multimillion-dollar fees

members of the clandestine group. Some of it lines up with claims Team Jorge made about team members in calls with journalists. One team member described his other colleagues as former senior information officers, former senior financial information and warfare experts, and psychological warfare specialists, all with intelligence services background. Hanan indicated that he had orchestrated lobbying operations in the US despite not registering as a "foreign agent," as required by law. He said he worked via consultants and companies that are already registered, and told reporters he had recently set up a public relations firm called Axiomatics to promote Team Jorge with "existing lobby groups."

During calls with undercover reporters, Team Jorge went into specifics about the technology they say the group uses to swing elections. They added that they have six offices and employ at least 100 people, emphasising that they draw on the backgrounds of colleagues with experience in the intelligence services. This pushes Team Jorge's activities far beyond the realm of public relations strategies that are commonly deployed in elections. As far as the financial pickings are concerned, Team Jorge told the reporters they would accept payments in a variety of currencies, including cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin, or cash. He said he would charge between 6 million euros and 15 million euros for interference in elections.

The information gleaned by the investigative reporters points to one rather disconcerting fact, that there are people out there and they would be there in future too, who would always be ready to interfere in other country's internal affairs and ready to subterfuge the democratic institutions.

But the bigger question is shall we just ignore them calling it scaling another frontier in the technology advancement or shall we start a campaign to ban such illegal and undesirable activities which may one day be able to destabilise the whole global democratic system?

The writer is a political commentator based in New Delhi. ©IANS

A recent disconcerting report based on an investigation carried by 30 global media outlets, including The Guardian and DeSpiegel, claims to have exposed a team of freelance units based in Israel, which disrupt elections and manipulate public opinion using disinformation campaigns. Undercover reporters recorded a group of covert cyber influence specialists as they pitched their services for seeking fresh business, which involve using disinformation campaigns, false intelligence, hacks and blackmail to promote their clients' interests. The group, which calls itself 'Team Jorge', claims to have worked on dozens of presidential elections around the world and charges multimillion-dollar fees.

Undercover journalists who carried out the investigation included Gur Megiddo (TheMarker), Frederic Metzger (Radio France), and Omer Benjakob (Haaretz). The journalists were part of a collaborative investigation called 'Story Killers', which was coordinated by 'Forbidden Stories' - an international consortium of investigative journalists that pursue the work of journalists who have been killed or work under threat. As reported, the covert units or contractors, used the pseudonym 'Team Jorge' headed by Tal Hanan, who previously worked as an Israeli special forces operative, and was apparently caught in an undercover sting operation by the journalists posing as potential clients. However, Tal Hanan denies any wrongdoing. But he allegedly told the reporters that his unit's services were available to intelligence agencies, political campaigns, and private companies, and that many European, African, Americans well as Central and South American clients had already used them around the globe.

Their modus operandi is said to involve creating thousands of fake social media profiles on Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, Telegram, Gmail, Instagram, and YouTube. These fake accounts, which allegedly used profile pictures from real social media accounts, were also linked to credit cards and could be used to create thousands

of bots that sent mass messages. In one secretly filmed meeting quoted by The Guardian, Hanan is seen boasting that at present his team is involved in one election in Africa, besides two other teams in Greece and the UAE. Boasting further, he said that his team has so far delivered 33 presidential-level campaigns globally, 27 of which were successful. Hanan also reportedly boasted to the undercover reporters that he could hack the email and messenger services of election campaigners, and send messages to their contacts designed to damage their campaign.

The investigators found that Team Jorge's tech toolbox included "a platform of influence" called Advanced Impact Media Solutions or AIMS, which Hanan claims to have sold to the intelligence services of more than 10 countries. The AIMS software is designed to create convincing avatars for social media campaigns. The avatars, or bots, use stolen photos of real people, operate on any social media platform, and can be connected to functioning Amazon and Bitcoin accounts. Hanan told reporters that they relied successfully on imitating human behaviour. Nowadays, most online accounts require phone number and email address verification to keep out bots like those deployed by AIMS. But to overcome that there are websites available, which have been set up specifically to allow one-off SMS-

verification services, for 50 cents or less. Many accounts such as Gmail and WhatsApp can be registered with "verified" phone numbers. Apparently Team Jorge used a service called SMSpva.com for phone number verifications.

Keeping abreast of social media platforms checks, AIMS relied on residential proxies to reroute internet traffic from bots through peoples' homes so it appeared authentic, in order to avoid detection and shut-downs by social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook. This made it difficult for social media platforms to identify a coordinated disinformation campaign. Verification and analysis of the recorded conversations by reporting partners Le Monde and The Guardian identified clusters of avatars, including those seen in Hanan's pitch presentations, that appeared to have been used for coordinated Twitter campaigns. Reporters found over 1,700 Twitter accounts connected to 21 AIMS-related campaigns, whose networks had produced tens of thousands of tweets.

In December last, during an in-person meeting with undercover reporters, Team Jorge showed off a new capability of AIMS: Artificial intelligence tools to generate fake news using specified key words, tone and topic. The identities of Team Jorge members were shrouded in secrecy but reporters managed to piece together some background information on some



Asad Mirza

THE AIMS SOFTWARE IS DESIGNED TO CREATE CONVINCING AVATARS FOR SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS



Jayati Ghosh

Lavishing endless financial benefits and regulatory dispensations on a single oligarch, it turns out, is not a reliable development strategy

Crisis of Oligarchy

Over the past two decades, Indian multi-billionaire Gautam Adani's close ties to Prime Minister Narendra Modi have helped the Gujarati businessman become Asia's wealthiest person. Adani's meteoric rise, which in some ways eclipsed that of his political mentor, also made him the poster boy for India's growth story - until allegations of fraud and stock manipulation brought his eponymous business empire to its knees. With his conglomerate losing \$110 billion in market value within days, Adani has become a cautionary tale about the perils of cronyism in Modi's India.

The partnership between Adani and Modi goes back to 2002, when Modi - then Chief Minister of Gujarat - faced heavy criticism for failing to contain anti-Muslim mobs that killed more than a thousand people in the state. Following the massacre, Modi was barred from entering the United States and largely abandoned by India's business leaders. Adani, who continued to support Modi and his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), was handsomely rewarded for his loyalty. Over the next decade, the Adani group grew at breakneck speed, winning multiple state government contracts and expanding into food imports and exports, coal trading and mining, power, oil and gas exploration, and infrastructure.

Over the years, the relationship became increasingly symbiotic. When Modi was elected prime minister in 2014, he flew to Delhi on Adani's private jet. Adani's proximity to Modi helped his companies win lucrative government contracts and public- and private-sector loans for domestic and foreign ventures, some of them highly controversial. Again and again, the government relaxed regulations or amended rules in ways that benefited Adani's businesses. In 2017, for example, the government designated Adani's power plant in Godda a special economic zone, allegedly tweaking the rules to give the group a \$60 million bonanza. In 2019, Modi's government handed Adani the rights to operate six newly privatised airports, despite the company's utter lack of experience in the sector.

The Adani Group's rapid growth, along with a truly ambitious debt-driven investment programme enabled by spectacular stock-price appreciation, made the company the standard-bearer of the government's capital-investment push, data-industry expansion, and net-zero transition plans. In less than a decade, Adani's fortune grew from \$7 billion to \$120 billion, making him the world's third-richest person (until the group's stock began to tumble in late January, shrinking his net worth by half).

As his economic power grew, Adani became more aggressive in his efforts to suppress criticism of his businesses and of Modi, filing multiple lawsuits against journalists and media outlets that reported on the authorities' preferential treatment of the Adani Group. Late last year, Adani launched a hostile takeover of the Indian broadcaster NDTV, one of the very few remaining platforms for critics of Modi.

For a while, it seemed that Adani could do no wrong. Despite concerns about his empire's debt-fueled growth and unrealistic stock valuation, his economic, political, and media power - and the widespread perception that the Adani Group's success underlay India's economic growth - made him seem unstoppable.

The illusion was shattered on January 24, when the short-selling firm Hindenburg Research published a devastating report accusing the group of "pulling the largest con in corporate history." Following a two-year investigation, Hindenburg accused the conglomerate of engaging in a "brazen stock manipulation and accounting fraud scheme over the course of decades," pointing to 38 Mauritius-based shell companies that were allegedly used to manipulate share prices and siphon money from publicly listed Adani Group companies. While the Adani Group appealed to Indian nationalism, framing the Hindenburg report as a "calculated attack" on India's independence, institutions, and growth story, the market response has been swift and lethal. In early February, Moody's downgraded the ratings outlook for several Adani Group companies and MSCI cut the weightings of four, compounding the conglomerate's troubles. And the rout continued even after the group announced several confidence-building measures, paying back loans worth \$1.1 billion ahead of schedule, halving its revenue growth targets, and holding off on planned capital expenditures.

Modi himself has remained silent, even as the country's opposition parties accuse him of cronyism. The government has claimed that India's "strong" regulatory agencies would deal with this scandal, though their performance so far has been dismal. The Securities and Exchange Board of India, accused of acting as a "silent operator" by several legislators, has issued a tepid press release promising to investigate the allegations and giving the Adani Group six months to respond. The agency did, however, look into the fall in Adani Group stocks and corporate bonds, finding evidence that some short-selling activity originated from outside the country.

Whether or not the Adani Group rebounds, its current troubles must be regarded as an indictment of India's overreliance on a few national champions to drive economic development. This strategy has failed to deliver broad-based and inclusive development, leaving India with disappointing job growth, declining consumption, falling investment rates, and environmental devastation. Instead of relying on industrial conglomerates, the government should use this moment as an opportunity to change course. Encouraging small and medium-size companies and expanding social services would boost job creation and improve economic sustainability.

While Modi's popularity appears to be unaffected by the scandal, it is too soon to assess the political fallout. Modi and the BJP have faced numerous corruption scandals over the years and managed to overcome them all, thanks to their remarkable control of the media. But Adani's downfall could be different, because it discredits a key tenet of Modi's economic philosophy. Lavishing endless financial benefits and regulatory dispensations on a single oligarch, it turns out, is not a reliable development strategy.

The writer, Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, is a member of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

- Either you run the day or the day runs you. JIM ROHN
- Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react to it. CHARLES R. SWINDOLL
- You cannot have a positive life and a negative mind. JOYCE MEYER

WORDSWORTH

Garbler

We now use this word only in reference to the current sense of the verb to garble: to reproduce some message or information in a confused or distorted way. But that's a long way from its first sense in English. The word ultimately derives, through Arabic and Italian, from Latin cribrum, a sieve. Garble was a technical term in medieval commerce throughout the Mediterranean, mainly within the spice trade. A garbler was a person whose job was to sieve spices to remove the rubbish from them, the garble then being the rubbish itself. It appears for the first time in English in Richard Hakluyt's work The Principal Navigations, Voyages and Discoveries of the English Nation in 1599.

SPECTRUM NATION

Status of higher education

Higher education has witnessed considerable change over the past decades with increasing enrolment, student mobility, research dynamics and technology. Some 235 million students are enrolled in universities around the world - a number that has more than doubled in 20 years. The last five years marked considerable growth in the number of universities in India. The number of universities and colleges listed on AISHE portal has increased from 864 in 2016-17 to 1113 in 2020-21, i.e. almost 28.8% whereas the number of colleges has increased from 40,026 in 2016-17 to 43,796 in 2020-21, i.e. 9.4%.

The Education Ministry's budget allocation this year increased by a marginal 8% from ₹1.12 lakh crore from ₹1.04 lakh crore in 2022-23. Of this, the Department of School Education is expected to get ₹68,804 crore and Department of Higher Education ₹44,094 crore. Allocation for higher education increased by 7.9% from ₹40,828 crore (BE) in 2022-23 to ₹44,094 crore in 2023-24. The figures look good but the problems faced by the higher education sector are numerous and much more allocation is necessary to overcome the problems identified by NEP 2020 and to materialise the recommendations.

Everyone talks about the importance of higher education, all over the world but the overall enrolment ratio is 40% with considerable differences between countries and regions. More than 6 million students are pursuing their further education abroad as their own countries are not able to attract them for pursuing higher education. The dark side is that among the world's more than 82 million refugees, only 5% of eligible youth are enrolled in higher education.

The various problems of higher education in India as listed by NEP 2020 are limited accessibility in socio-economically disadvantaged areas, limited teacher capacity, limited institutional autonomy, lesser emphasis on research activities, adequate career management and progression of faculty members, sub-optimal governance and leadership of HEIs, ineffective regulatory system and low standards of undergraduate education.

To overcome the problems, NEP 2020 envisioned some key changes like introduction of multidisciplinary universities and colleges, moving towards a more multidisciplinary undergraduate education, provision for faculty and institutional autonomy, revamping of curriculum, pedagogy, assessment,

and student support, reaffirming institutional leadership positions, establishment of a National Research Foundation, governance of HEIs by independent boards having academic and administrative autonomy and increased access, equity, and inclusion.

During 2020-21, 1113 Universities were listed on the AISHE portal. Of these, 235 belonged to Central government, 422 belonged to state governments, 10 were government aided deemed universities, and 446 were privately managed (unaided). There are 43,796 colleges registered under AISHE belonging to 314 universities. College density, i.e., the number of colleges per lakh eligible population in the age-group 18-23 years varies from 8 in Bihar to 62 in Karnataka as compared to all India average of 31. Most of the colleges run only under graduate level programmes. Only 2.9% of colleges run Ph.D. level programmes and 55.2% of colleges run post graduate level programmes. There are 35.8% colleges, which run only single programme, out of which 82.2% are privately managed. Among these, 30.9% colleges run B.Ed. courses only.

If state wise number of colleges is to be analysed, Uttar Pradesh tops the list with 8114 colleges and

for every one lakh population there are 32 colleges. Similarly, Maharashtra comes second with 4532 colleges and 34 colleges per lakh population. Karnataka comes third with 4233 colleges and 62 colleges per lakh population.

Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education, estimated using population projections based on 2011 Census for the 18-23 age group at 27.3 is far lower in comparison to global standards. For Scheduled Castes it is 23.1 and for Scheduled Tribes it is 18.9. GER for male population at all India level is 26.7 whereas for SC males it is 22.4 and 18.8 for ST males. Similarly, GER for female population at all India level is 27.9 whereas for SC females it is 23.9 and for ST females it is 19.1.

Adequate funding is necessary to improve the status of higher education and implement all recommendations of NEP 2020. Apart from funding methodology of implementation assumes priority as different states visualise higher education from their local priorities and formulate policies accordingly. A coordinated mechanism is necessary to get desired results.

The writer is Principal, Nourangpur College, Nabarangpur.



Bhaskar Nath Biswal

THE LAST FIVE YEARS MARKED CONSIDERABLE GROWTH IN THE NUMBER OF UNIVERSITIES IN INDIA

Butterfly capital

Sir, Assam is known all over the world for its one-horned rhinoceros and its flavourful tea but only a few would be aware of the fact that Assam hosts about 50 per cent of the butterfly species found in India. There are about 1500 species found in India and Assam hosts more than 700 of them making Assam, the butterfly capital of the nation. Butterflies are excellent indicators of biodiversity and can serve as early warning signs of nature. The colour of their wings is not just for aesthetic purposes, these wings tell a lot about what is happening in nature. Butterflies prefer mild climates for laying eggs but as our country is lately experiencing warmer autumn months, it is having a bad impact on their reproductive cycle. In Assam, most of these species are found in the Bodoland territorial region and Raimona National Park is the preferred home of these beautiful creatures as it hosts more than 150 species. Though Assam is the preferred home of butterflies in India it has not yet accorded even the most common species like Peacock Pansy a local name. So there is little or no sensitisation among people about these beautiful creatures. There are also very scant researched materials on these beautiful insects for reasons unknown. I urge the Central government to bring out special grants for research on these beautiful creatures and also officially recognise Assam as the Butterfly Capital of the nation.

Noopur Baruah, TEZPUR

Water security

Sir, Water scarcity, water conservation and water security are important issues that have troubled the globe in general and India in particular. Untreated sewage, solid wastes and industrial emissions have polluted all types of water bodies to a considerable extent. As a result, it is hard to come by pure and adequate amount of water. There is also the concern about depleting groundwater due to cultivation of agricultural crops. All this and more are basically due to willful ignorance and lack of awareness among the common man on ways to keep water clean and potable. The 'Jal Jan Abhiyan' should, hopefully, create an environment where every citizen of the country is aware and active when it comes to saving and consuming water. At the end of the day, judicious utilisation of water is the cornerstone for water security.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

national

of the day quote

The Jammu and Kashmir government should postpone the imposition of property tax for a few years till the economic situation in the union territory improves

Trust PM Modi and Yediyurappa once, and we (BJP) will give such a government that it will rid Karnataka of corruption and make it a number one state in South India within five years

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER



HUGE RELIEF
In a huge relief for former Jet Airways Chairman Naresh Goyal and his wife Anita Goyal, the Bombay High Court Thursday quashed the Enforcement Directorate (ED)'s case of money laundering against the couple



High drama as Khera nabbed on way to Raipur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 23: Congress leader Pawan Khera was arrested Thursday by Assam Police in connection with an FIR over alleged remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a day of high drama that began with him being deplaned from a flight to Raipur and his party leaders protesting on the tarmac.

Khera, who was in the headlines this week for apparently fumbling on the prime minister's father's name during a press conference, was released on interim bail till February 28 by a Delhi court later in the evening on the directions

of the Supreme Court.

He had moved the apex court to seek relief in multiple FIRs against him in Assam as well as in the Uttar Pradesh towns of Varanasi and Lucknow. After dictating the order granting interim bail, Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, apparently displeased with the Congress leader's remarks, told senior advocate A M Singhvi, who was representing Khera, "We have protected you (Khera) but there has to be some level of discourse."

"He (Khera) has made statements in a press conference. He has made certain statements which I cannot say in the court but I personally would not have made," Singhvi,



Congress leader Pawan Khera with other party leaders at a protest dharna at the IGI Airport after he was allegedly deboarded from the plane owing to an FIR against him in New Delhi

also Khera's party colleague, said in the apex court. Khera, who was deplaned while

he was on his way to the Chhattisgarh capital to attend the party's plenary session, told re-

porters outside the Dwarka court in the evening that the law had come to his rescue and he was grateful the apex court had upheld his liberties.

"I was asked to deplane as if I was a terrorist. This is not the only example of people's rights being curtailed... "They arrested me illegally without serving me any notice," the Congress leader said. Assam Police said in court that Khera had used "derogatory remarks" against a democratically elected prime minister.

His counsel argued that he had apologised for his remarks on the prime minister and the charges against him do not require arrest.

The case against Khera was registered at the Haflong police station in Assam under various sections of the IPC, including 153 B (imputations, assertions prejudicial to national interest), 500 (punishment for defamation) and 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace).

"His (Khera) comments against the PM is one part of the FIR. There are other complaints also. The case is registered under several sections of the IPC," Dima Hasao Superintendent of Police Mayank Kumar told PTL. The complaint, he said, had been filed on Wednesday at the Haflong station by a Samuel Changsan.

Amritpal's supporters clash with police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amritsar (Punjab), Feb 23: Radical preacher Amritpal Singh's supporters, some of them brandishing swords and guns, broke through barricades and stormed into a police station complex here Thursday, camping there till they were "assured" that an arrested man would be released.

Three policemen were hurt during the clash, officials said. A large police force kept watch but refrained from taking any action as the preacher, often described as a Khalistan sympathiser, and other protesters stayed put at the Ajnala police station for hours.

Amritsar Police did not immediately make it clear whether any case had been



registered against Amritpal Singh or his supporters over Thursday's violence. Earlier, they staged a protest in the middle of the road at Dhillwan toll plaza in Kapurthala district when they were stopped by police from marching towards Amritsar.

Dubai-returned Amritpal Singh, who heads an organisation called 'Waris

Punjab De', talked to reporters at the police station, issuing an "ultimatum" for the release of his supporter Toofan Singh.

The preacher reportedly issued a threat to Union Home Minister Amit Shah recently, saying he will meet the same fate as that of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

A case was registered against Amritpal Singh and his 30 supporters for allegedly kidnapping and thrashing Barinder Singh, a resident of Chamkaur Sahib in Rupnagar district.

Barinder Singh, in his complaint, had told police that Amritpal Singh's associates had abducted him from Ajnala and took him to an unknown place where he was brutally thrashed.

Gucci slippers recovered from Sukesh's jail cell



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 23: The Delhi Prisons Department raided alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekar's cell in Mandoli Jail here and recovered a pair of Gucci slippers worth Rs 1.5 lakh and two jeans worth Rs 80,000, officials said Thursday.

CCTV footage of the operation being circulated on social media platforms shows Chandrashekar weeping in front of jailor Deepak Sharma. A senior official said the routine raid, which included the Prisons Department and other security personnel, was conducted on December 15 last.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has recently arrested Chandrashekar in a fresh money laundering case linked to duping for-

mer Religare promoter Malvinder Singh's wife by posing as the Union home and law secretaries.

Chandrashekar, 33, was taken into custody under criminal sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) from a local jail last week. A Delhi

Chandrashekar was taken into custody under criminal sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act from a local jail last week

court later sent him to nine-day ED custody. This is the third money laundering case in which the ED has arrested Chandrashekar. The other two cases relate to the conman allegedly duping Aditi Singh, the wife of Malvinder Singh's brother Shivinder Singh, of Rs 200 crore, and the purported bribing of Election Commission officials to get the AIADMK's two leaves symbol for the VK Sasikala faction.

Drunk man pees on woman's seat

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Feb 23: The Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) is mulling lodging a complaint against a man, who urinated on a woman co-passenger's seat in an inebriated state while travelling in a government bus, sources said Thursday.

The incident involving a 32-year-old man, a mechanical engineer, took place February 21 in a non-sleeper bus en-route to Mangaluru from Vijayapura. In a statement on Thursday, the KSRTC said that the driver and conductor tried to get the information about the passenger who had urinated in the bus. But the accused apologised and did not disclose his personal details. As the woman passenger refused to register a complaint, the bus continued with the scheduled journey

NTPC Limited
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

Registered Office Address : NTPC Bhawan, Core-7, SCOPE Complex, 7-Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110 003
Corporate Identification Number: L40101DL1975G0007966

- The applicant above named has made an application before the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, New Delhi for determination of tariff of North Karanpura Super Thermal Power Project (3x660 MW) from anticipated date of COD of Unit-1 (01.03.2023) to 31.03.2024.
- The beneficiaries of the generating station are:
 - North Bihar Power Distribution Company Ltd (NBPDC) Vidyut Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna-800021
 - South Bihar Power Distribution Company Ltd (SBPDC) Vidyut Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna-800021
 - Jharkhand Urja Vikas Nigam Limited Engineering Building, HEC Township, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004
 - GRIDCO Ltd. 24, Janpath, Bhubaneswar - 751007
 - West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Co. Ltd. Vidvut Bhawan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Salt Lake City, Kolkata - 700 091
- Capacity of the generating station: 1980 MW (3x660 MW)
- Capital cost of the project: Rs 16019.17 Crores (as per 1st Quarter of 2014 price level)
- Authority which has approved the Capital Cost: NTPC Board of Directors
- Scheduled date of commercial operation (Unit 1) : May 2019
- Anticipated Date of commercial operation (Unit 1) : 01.03.2023
- Capital cost on date of Anticipated Commercial operation of Station (Unit 1) : 7341.5638 Cr*
- Details of tariff:

Particulars	Year-wise tariff sought to be determined		
	2022-23	2023-24 (01.04.2023-29.02.2024)	01.03.2024 (Anticipated COD of Unit#2) to 31.03.2024
1. Capacity Charges (Rs.Lakh/year)	1,26,735.56	126791.40	211454.85
2. Energy Charges (Paise/kwh)#	196	196	196

*As per petition filed before CERC from anticipated COD of Unit#1 (01.03.2023) to 31.03.2024.
The Energy Charge rate for the month shall be based on fuel cost(s) and GCV(s) for the month as per applicable CERC Regulation.
10. A copy of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of NTPC, namely www.ntpc.co.in under the Tab "Notices".
11. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the application to be filed by any person, including the beneficiary before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 3rd & 4th Floor, Chandernagore Building, 36, Janpath, New Delhi - 110001, with a copy to the applicant within 30 days of publication of this notice.
(Prashant Chaturvedi)
Addl. General Manager (Comml.)
Place : Noida
Leading the Power Sector
CBC 34126/12/0024/2223

राष्ट्रीय नवप्रवर्तन प्रतिष्ठान - भारत
विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग,
भारत सरकार का स्वायत्तशासी संस्थान
National Innovation Foundation - India
Autonomous Body of the Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India

The 13th National Biennial Competition for Green Grassroots Unaided Technological Innovations and Traditional Knowledge

National Innovation Foundation - India, an autonomous body of the Department of Science and Technology of the Government of India, invites grassroots innovators, school students, school dropouts, people in employment or self-employed to submit their original technological innovations, creative ideas, or traditional knowledge for the 13th National Biennial Competition until March 31, 2023.

The innovations can be in the field of agriculture, engineering, health, energy, household or utility, transportation, livestock etc. leading to the reduction in drudgery, livelihood generation, development of plant varieties or herbal remedies for human/ animal/farming problems or any other low cost sustainable green technologies. Applicants may win prizes ranging from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 7,50,000 as well as incubation support for unaided, scientific, novel and useful innovations and outstanding traditional knowledge.

The entries along with educational and occupational details may be sent to the following address through email or post:
National Innovation Foundation - India
Amrapur, Gandhinagar-Mahudi Road, Gandhinagar, Gujarat 382650
Tel: 02764 -261134/ 35/ 36/ 37/ 38 Email: campaign@nifindia.org
Note: People with professional background/experience and students enrolled in professional courses are not eligible for any support/recognition. For detailed eligibility criteria and competition guidelines, please visit website: www.nif.org.in CBC 36118/12/0007/2223

Bank of India
Zonal Office, Star House, 1/1-D, Nayapalli, Jayadev Vihar, Bhubaneswar - 15

POSSESSION NOTICE
[Rule-8(1)] of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules - 2002

Whereas, the undersigned being the **Authorised Officer** of the **Bank of India** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the Borrower in the loan Account given below to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken **POSSESSION** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The Borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Bank of India, VSS Nagar Branch** for an amount mentioned below plus interest & expenses thereon. **The Borrowers attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the Secured Assets.**

BRANCH / Name and Address of the Borrower	Liabilities due as per notice	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession	Description of the Immovable Property
V S S NAGAR BRANCH / Borrower: Shri Rajib Kumar Rout, S/o.: Satrugna Rout, At/P.O.: Bahanaga, Dist: Balasore, Pin-756042	₹ 20,59,378.06 as on 06.02.2022 + Interest & expenses thereon	13.12.2022 / 20.02.2023	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Khata No.: 813/2226, Plot No.: 650/6163 (0.014 dec.) & 649/6162 (0.013 dec.), Total Area: 0.027 dec., KISSAM: Gharabari at Mouza: Baramunda, P.S.: Khandagiri, SRO: Bhubaneswar, Tahasil: Bhubaneswar, Dist: Khurda, standing in the name of Mr. Rajib Kumar Rout , bounded by North: Road, South: Plot No.: 649(P) & Plot No.: 650(P), East: Plot No.: 649(P) & Road, West: Plot No.: 650(P)

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 23.02.2023
Sd/- Authorised Officer, Bank of India

Bank of India
Bhubaneswar Zonal Office, Star House, 1/1D, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015

POSSESSION NOTICE
[Rule-8 (1)] of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules-2002

Whereas, the undersigned being the **Authorised Officer** of the **Bank of India** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice calling upon the borrowers and guarantors in the loan account given below to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest & expenses thereon within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to borrowers, guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **possession** of the property described here-in below in exercise of the powers conferred on him / her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule-8 of the said Rules. The borrowers, guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property & any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Bank of India, Ranihat Branch** for the amount stated below with interest thereon. **The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the secured assets.**

RANIHAT BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Liabilities due as per notice	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession	Description of the Immovable Property/ies
Borrower: M/s. Bholeshankar Agencies, Prop.: Sri Priyabrata Das, S/o- Harekrushna Das, Srikunja Apartment, Malisahi, Bajrakbati Road, Cuttack-753001 / Guarantor: Sri Debabrata Das, Srikunja Apartment, Malisahi, Bajrakbati Road, Cuttack	₹ 15,49,737.02 + interest & expenses thereon	09.09.2022 / 20.02.2023	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of situated at Khata No.: 1205/957, Plot No.: 1779/3836, Corresponds to Hal Khata No.: 355, Plot No.: 1779, Corresponding to Sabak Khata No.: 1079, Plot No.: 2680, KISSAM: Gharabari-2, Ground Floor, Srikunja Apartment, Mali Sahi, Bajrakbati Road, Samanta Sahi, Tahasil: Cuttack No.: 223, P.S.: Purigat, Thana No. 2, Hal Mouza: Cuttack Sahar Unit 23, Samanta Sahi, SRO: Cuttack, Dist.: Cuttack, Builtup Area of the Flat is 1120sqft., undivided proportionate share of land Area: Ac.0.014dec., (3BHk flat at ground floor), in the name of Mr. Debabrata Das and Mr. Priyabrata Das , Bounded by North: Road, South: Jyoshna Mitra and others (Plot No.: 1779 Part), East: Trilochan Mallik, West: Sukulata Sahoo and Bhikari Charan Nayak

Date: 23.02.2023, Place: Bhubaneswar
Authorized Officer, Bank of India

Indian Bank
ZONAL OFFICE: SAMBALPUR, 2ND FLOOR, SHYAM ARCADE, KHETRAJAPUR, SAMBALPUR-768003, e-mail: zosambalpur@indianbank.co.in

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
(See proviso to rule 6(2) & 8(6) Sale Notice for sale of property/ies under SARFAESI Act 2002)

Sale of property/ies mortgaged to Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6(2) & 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of Indian Bank had taken possession of the following property/ies pursuant to the notice issued under Sec13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 in the following loan account with right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS", "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATSOEVER THERE IS BASIS" for realization of Bank's dues plus interest as detailed hereunder and whereas consequent upon failure to repay the dues, the undersigned in exercise of power conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act proposes to realize the Bank's dues by sale of the said property/ies. **The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website <https://www.mstcecommerce.com>**

Sl. No.	BRANCH, Contact No. / Name & Address of Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagors	Description of the Immovable Properties	Date of Demand Notice / Outstanding dues (As per 13(2) notice)	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment Amount
1.	NUAPADA BRANCH, Mob.: 9348010622 / Borrower & Mortgagor: Mr. Pitambar Behera, S/o- Laxman Behera, At: Runihasapada, PO: Domjhar, Dist.: Nuapada, PIN-766111	(1) All the part and parcel of Land & Building constructed on Khata No.: 521/91, Plot No.: 2765/3928, Area: Ac.0.06dec., KISSAM: Gharabari, Mouza: Domjhar, PS: Boden, Tahasil: Khariar, Dist.: Nuapada, Bounded by- East: Hari Bandhu Behera, West: Hari Bandhu Behera, North: Road, South: Hari Bandhu Behera. (2) All the part and parcel of Land & Building constructed on Khata No.: 521/538, Plot No.: 492/4293, Area: Ac.0.14dec., KISSAM: Borna, Mouza: Domjhar, PS: Boden, Tahasil: Khariar, Dist.: Nuapada, Bounded by- East: Plot No. 492(P), West: Road, North: Road, South: Plot No. 492(P).	27.04.2018 / 19.09.2018 / ₹ 28,73,237.21 as on 08.02.2023 + further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon	₹ 14.41 Lakhs / ₹ 1.45 Lakhs / ₹ 0.10 Lakhs
2.	JHARSUGUDA BRANCH, Mob.: 8349616900 / Borrower & Mortgagor: Smt. Shiv Kumari, W/o- Kanhaiyalal Choudhury / Borrower: Sri Kunj Bihari Singh, S/o- Sri Ram Deo Singh, C/o- Byas Sharma / Guarantor: Sri Kanhaiyalal Choudhury, S/o- Late Manglu Choudhury, All are At: Chowki Para, PO: Jharsuguda, Dist.: Jharsuguda, PIN-768201	All the part and parcel of Land & Building on Khata No.: 114, M.S. Plot No.: 3839 (P), Area: Ac.0.04dec., Mouza: Jharsuguda Town Unit-1, Ekatali, PO: Ekatali, PS/Tahasil/Dist.: Jharsuguda, Manglu Choudhury, All are At: Chowki Para, PO: Jharsuguda, Dist.: Jharsuguda, PIN-768201 (Layout Plot No. 76), East: Part of Plot No. 3839 (Layout Plot No. 83), West: Part of Plot No. 3839 (Layout Plot No. 81)	07.03.2019 / 14.06.2019 / ₹ 6,57,107.86 as on 06.02.2023 + further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon	₹ 23.57 Lakhs / ₹ 2.36 Lakhs / ₹ 0.10 Lakhs
3.	ROURKELA BRANCH, Mob.: 9564069389 / Borrower: M/s. Decor, Prop.: Mr. Fahim Uddin, S/o- Taj Mohammad, At: Shop No.: 7, Hotel Chandrakol, Near Big Bazar, Main Road, P.O./P.S.: Rourkela, Dist.: Sundargarh-769001 / Borrower & Mortgagor: Sri Fahim Uddin, S/o- Taj Mohammad, Dist.: Sundargarh, PIN-769001 / Guarantor & Mortgagor: Sri Mohammad Rasid, S/o- Taj Mohammad, At: House No.: 123, Main Road, P.O./P.S.: Rourkela, Dist.: Sundargarh, PIN-769001	All undivided, indivisible, proportionate share of the Land measuring an Area: Ac.0.002res out of balance land Measuring Area: Ac.0.150res out of Ac.0.610res, Khata No.: 492/644, Plot No.: 480/2684, Mouza: Rourkela Town Unit-35, Razak Talkies Complex, PS: Thana No. 4 Plant Side, Dist.: Sundargarh, KISSAM: Gharabari, in the name of Sri Fahim Uddin and Sri Mohammad Rasid with structure and the right of usage along with Shop No. 7 in the Ground Floor of Constructed area of 370 sqft. and the adjacent room of covering Area: 45 sqft. floor area totaling to 415 sqft. Bounded by- East: Main Road, West: Stair Case, North: 5 ft. Gali, South: Main Road, Rourkela.	25.11.2022 / 01.02.2023 / ₹ 20,44,247.63 as on 21.02.2023 + further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon	₹ 36.80 Lakhs / ₹ 3.68 Lakhs / ₹ 0.10 Lakhs

DATE AND TIME OF E-AUCTION: 27.03.2023 from 11.00 AM to 05.00 PM with unlimited extension of 10 Minutes duration
LAST DATE AND TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF EMD AND DOCUMENTS ON OR BEFORE 24.03.2023 upto 05.30 PM by online

Date & Time of Inspection of Properties: 23.03.2023 between 11.00 AM to 05.00 PM (with prior appointment from bank) at their own expenses. Details of Encumbrances if any: Nil

For Registration and Login and Bidding Rules visit: (1) <https://www.indianbank.co.in> (2) <https://www.ibapi.in> (3) <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>

Statutory 30 days sale notice under Rule 8(6) / Rule 9(1) Rule of Statutory Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

This may also be treated as notice u/r 8(6) / Rule 9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to the borrower's, guarantor's and mortgagor's of the said loan about the holding of E-Auction Sale on the above mentioned date.

Place: Sambalpur, Date: 23.02.2023
Sd/- Authorised Officer, Indian Bank

international

of the day quote

The Russian military is struggling to replace over 9,000 pieces of heavy military equipment that it has lost since February 2022. It has suffered production shut-downs at key defence-industrial facilities. Further, Russia's economy has become increasingly isolated. Estimates indicate that nearly a million Russians may have left the country last year. This is putting downward pressure on its productive capacity going forward

JANET YELLEN | US TREASURY SECRETARY

Some 10.03 million people, or 62.6 per cent of the country's population, have benefited from the clean-up of landmine and explosive remnant of war (ERW) contaminated land in the last 30 years

HUN SEN | CAMBODIAN PM

Foreign interference in elections is a very serious issue and Canada must be on guard against it

JUSTIN TRUDEAU | CANADIAN PM

SHORT TAKES

California may get slammed by storm

Pierre (US): A brutal winter storm that trapped drivers on icy roads, blacked out hundreds of thousands of homes, grounded airplanes and closed schools across much of the country was poised to slam California Thursday. "We are in for a VERY busy week!" the National Weather Service bureau in San Diego tweeted. "We have issued warnings for damaging winds, heavy mountain snow, highly hazardous boating conditions and the list goes on."

5 killed, 48 missing in mine collapse

Beijing: The death toll from the collapse of an open-pit coal mine in Alxa League in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region has risen to five, with 48 people still missing, state-run China Media Group reported Thursday. The search and rescue operation resumed after they were interrupted by a massive landslide at the rescue site Wednesday. So far, five people have been confirmed dead, and 48 others remained missing, the report said. Six people who were injured in the incident have been taken to the hospital.

Reporter killed while covering a shooting

Los Angeles: A Florida television station identified Thursday a 24-year-old reporter who was fatally shot while covering a shooting death in an Orlando area neighbourhood, as well as its photojournalist who was critically injured in the rampage. Spectrum News 13 reporter Dylan Lyons and photojournalist Jesse Walden were in their unmarked news vehicle on Wednesday afternoon when a man approached and shot them, Orange County Sheriff John Mina said in a news conference. The man then went to a nearby home where he fatally shot a 9-year-old girl and critically injured her mother.

Netanyahu gets funding boost

Tel Aviv: An Israeli parliamentary committee Thursday approved new funding for Benjamin Netanyahu and his family, giving the prime minister a boost in personal spending at a time when he is facing mass protests over his policies and as the economy is on shaky ground.



As I said from day one, Russia's attack on Ukraine challenges the cornerstone principles and values of our multilateral system
ANTONIO GUTERRES | UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

NO LAYOFFS IN QUAKE ZONE

Turkey has launched a temporary salary support scheme and banned job cuts in southern provinces hit by the devastating February 6 earthquakes that killed over 42,000 people in the country as well as in neighbouring Syria, an official gazette said



A Ukrainian serviceman of the 68 OleksaĎ Dovbush hunting brigade, launches a drone at the frontline near Vuhledar, Ukraine

PTI PHOTO

Ukraine shuns OSCE gathering in Vienna over Russian presence

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vienna, Feb 23: A meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's parliamentary assembly got underway Thursday without the Ukrainian delegation, which described the presence of Russian lawmakers as "an affront."

Austria's government said that as host nation it was obliged to grant visas to representatives from all OSCE member nations. Ukraine said its delegates wouldn't attend if the Russians were present, as did Lithuania.

The Vienna-based OSCE, whose 57 members include both Ukraine and Russia, was created during the Cold War as a platform for dialogue between East and West.

The group has a wide-ranging mission, including peace, human rights, arms control and other security issues.

Austria had a "duty not to slam the door on diplomacy," Wolfgang Sobotka, the speaker of the Austrian parliament said. "The OSCE, with its inclusive approach and comprehensive security concept, can and above all should be part of a solution to this conflict."

"I do sympathize with the fact that some members find it unbearable to sit in the same room as the aggressors," the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's president, Margareta Cederfelt, told the opening session. "But for those present today, this is your opportunity to stand up for Ukraine and to confront the lies from the aggressors." A Slovak delegate read

The two-day meeting of the normally low-profile assembly is coinciding with the anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine

The attendance of the Russian lawmakers has overshadowed the event

Austria granted them visas even though they are under European Union sanctions and despite protests from 20 countries including Britain, France and Canada

out a statement from the Ukrainian delegation that said "the presence of these warmongers in Vienna is an affront to everything that the OSCE stands for."

"They are not here for genuine dialogue nor for cooperation," it added. "They are here to spread their propaganda... They are here to try and justify the war crimes they have committed and desecrate the principles of international law and human decency."

During the session, some delegates walked out as Russian lawmakers spoke. Later Thursday, the head of the U.S. Delegation, Sen. Ben Cardin, told reporters in Vienna that the delegation supported excluding the Russians from the meeting.

"We strongly believe that the Russian parliamentarians, all of whom have been sanctioned by the United States, the six that are here, should not have been permitted visas to come to this meeting," Cardin said.

Javed Akhtar comes under fire in Pakistan



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lahore, Feb 23: A statement made by acclaimed Indian poet and writer Javed Akhtar at the Faiz Festival held in Lahore has Twitter in a frenzy and countless Pakistani celebrities have spoken up, condemning his statement.

During the festival, which went on from February 17 to 19, and days following it, various celebrities shared pictures and videos across various social media platforms sharing their excitement at being honoured by Akhtar's presence at the event, Geo News reported.

However, jubiliations soon soured as a video clip of the Indian poet's speech went viral on social media. In the video, Akhtar can be seen accusing Pakistan of allowing the attackers of the 26/11 Mumbai attacks "roam free" in the country.

The prolific Indian writer, while addressing a session at the festival said: "I am from Bombay (Mumbai) and I saw the attack on my city. The attackers were neither from Norway nor Egypt. Those attackers are still roaming around your country. Therefore, if an Indian has any grievance in their heart, you should not be offended," Geo News reported. As the video went viral, numerous Pakistani celebrities spoke up about the accusation and condemned the implications.

Gaza rockets, Israeli strikes follow deadly West Bank raid

The bloodshed extends one of the deadliest periods in years in the West Bank, where dozens of Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire since the start of the year

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tel Aviv, Feb 23: Palestinian militants in Gaza launched rockets at southern Israel and Israeli aircraft struck targets in the coastal enclave early Thursday after a gun-battle triggered by an Israeli raid in the occupied West Bank killed 10 Palestinians.

Israeli aircraft then struck several targets in northern and central Gaza, including a weapons manufacturing site and a military compound belonging to the Hamas militant group that rules the enclave. There were no reports of injuries in Israel or Gaza from the rocket attacks or strikes.

The violence comes in the first weeks of Israel's new far-right government, which has promised to take a tough line against Palestinians, and as security forces step up arrest raids of wanted militants in the West Bank. Israel says the raids — begun in the wake of a series of deadly Palestinian attacks last spring — are meant to dis-



Palestinian attacks on Israelis in 2023 have killed 11 people

The Israeli military said Palestinian militants fired six rockets and two anti-aircraft missiles from the Gaza Strip toward the country's south early Thursday

Air defences intercepted five of the rockets and one landed in an open field, according to the military

The missiles did not hit their targets. The attacks were not immediately claimed by Palestinian militant groups

mantle militant networks and thwart future assaults. But the operations have shown few signs of slowing the violence and Wednesday's resulted in one of the bloodiest battles in nearly a year in the West Bank and east Jerusalem, raising the likelihood of further bloodshed.

"We have a clear policy: to strike terror powerfully and to deepen our roots in our land," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told a meeting of his Cabinet. "We will

settle accounts with whoever harms Israeli citizens." Israeli police stepped up security in sensitive areas on Thursday, while Hamas said its patience was "running out." Islamic Jihad, another militant group, vowed to retaliate.

A day after a raid in January on the Jenin refugee camp in the West Bank that killed 10 Palestinians, a Palestinian shot and killed seven people outside a synagogue in east Jerusalem.



Demonstrators protest in front of Hofburg Palace during an OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, in Vienna, Austria

AP PHOTO

MASSIVE QUAKE HITS TAJIKISTAN

AGENCIES

Dushanbe, Feb 23: A 7.2-magnitude earthquake jolted Tajikistan on Thursday and was also strongly felt in China's Xinjiang region.

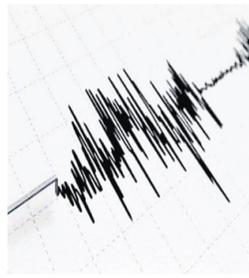
An official in the region told Xinhua news agency that the earthquake across the border was felt strongly but no immediate reports of casualties and losses have been received yet.

Currently, power supply and communication in Kashgar are normal. Many counties and cities in Kashgar and nearby areas are within the 300-km radius of the epicentre. An earthquake occurred at 8:37 a.m., according to the China Earthquake Networks Centre (CENC). The epicentre was monitored at 37.98 degrees north latitude and 73.29 degrees east longitude, at a depth of 10 km, according to the CENC.

The territory is surrounded by the towering Pamir Mountains and is home to Lake Sarez. The aquamarine-coloured body of water, formed as a result of an earthquake in 1911, is among Tajikistan's largest lakes.

Tajikistan is highly prone to natural disasters and has a long history of floods, earthquakes, landslides, avalanches and heavy snowfalls.

Earlier this month, nine people died in a February 15 avalanche in



Death toll from Turkey tops 47K

Ankara: Turkish Interior Minister Suleyman Soyulu has raised the number of fatalities in Turkey from the magnitude 7.8 earthquake to 43,556. The combined death toll in Turkey and Syria now stands at 47,244. Meanwhile, at least 164,000 buildings have either collapsed or are so damaged that they need to be demolished, said Murat Kurum, Turkey's minister for the environment and urbanisation.

Gorno-Badakhshan, while another person was killed the same day in an avalanche on a highway near the capital Dushanbe.

Why public health officials are not panicked about bird flu

REUTERS

Chicago, Feb 23: A new strain of bird flu that transmits easily among wild birds has triggered an explosive spread into new corners of the globe, infecting and killing a variety of mammals species and raising fears of a pandemic more lethal than COVID-19.

But the very changes that have allowed the virus to infect wild birds so efficiently likely made it harder to infect human cells, leading disease experts told Reuters. Their views underpin global health officials' assessments that the current outbreak of H5N1 poses low risk to people.

Unlike earlier outbreaks, this subtype of H5N1 is not causing significant disease in people. So far, only about a half dozen cases have been reported to the World Health Organization (WHO) in people who had close contact with infected birds, and most of those have been mild.

"We think the risk to the public is low," Dr. Timothy Uyeki, chief medical officer of the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Influenza Division, said in an interview. The WHO expressed a similar view in an assessment earlier this month.

The way this virus enters and infects cells is one reason for the



The new strain, called H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b, emerged in 2020 and has spread to many parts of Africa, Asia and Europe as well as North and South America, causing unprecedented numbers of deaths among wild birds and domestic poultry

The virus has also infected mammals ranging from foxes and grizzly bears to seals and sea lions, likely from feeding on diseased birds

muted concern, flu experts told Reuters. They say the attributes that have made this virus thrive in wild birds likely make it less infectious to people.

"It's clear that this is a very, very successful virus in mammals," said Richard Webby, director of the WHO Collaborating Center for Studies on the Ecology of Influenza in Animals and Birds at St. Jude Children's Hospital. Experts see the spillover into mammals as an early warning sign to

step up virus surveillance rather than a signal of a new pandemic. "Everybody take a breath," Dr. Michael Osterholm, an infectious disease expert at the University of Minnesota who has tracked H5N1 since it first emerged in 1997, said of those sounding alarm bells.

WHAT ABOUT THE MINKS? What raised concern among virologists was a study published in January in the medical journal Eurosurveillance showing potential mammal-to-mammal transmission of the virus on a mink farm in Spain.

Biden nominates Indian-American Banga to head World Bank

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Feb 23: President Joe Biden Thursday announced that the US is nominating Ajay Banga to lead the World Bank, saying the Indian-American business leader is uniquely equipped to lead the global institution at "this critical moment in history."

If confirmed by the World Bank Board of Directors, Banga would be the first-ever Indian-American and Sikh-American to head either of the two top international financial institutions: International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Banga, 63, currently serves as Vice Chairman at General Atlantic. Previously, he was President and CEO of Mastercard, leading the company through a strategic, technological and cultural transformation. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2016.

"Ajay is uniquely equipped to lead the World Bank at this critical moment in history," President Biden said in a statement.



A YEAR INTO WAR



WE ARE ALL HERE. OUR SOLDIERS ARE HERE, THE CITIZENS OF OUR COUNTRY ARE ALL HERE PROTECTING OUR INDEPENDENCE. WE UKRAINIANS ARE A PEACEFUL NATION. BUT IF WE REMAIN SILENT TODAY, WE WILL BE GONE TOMORROW!

VOLODYMYR ZELENKYY

Exactly a year ago, Russia launched Europe's biggest war since WW II. Beyond Ukraine's borders, the invasion shattered European security, redefined nations' relations with one another and frayed a tightly-woven global economy. Despite world-wide efforts, peace still remains a distant dream. Orissa POST takes a deep look at the ongoing humanitarian crisis

WESTERN COUNTRIES CAN'T ACCEPT THE FACT THAT RUSSIA CANNOT BE DEFEATED ON THE BATTLEFIELD. RUSSIA CANNOT BE DEFEATED ON THE BATTLEFIELD SO THE WEST IS PLAYING INFORMATION WAR. THE WEST WANTS TO TRANSFER THE LOCAL CONFLICT IN UKRAINE INTO A PHASE OF GLOBAL CONTROL

VLADIMIR PUTIN

NO RESULTS & HOPE



More than 9 million Ukrainians - mostly women, children and the elderly - made a similar journey to Poland in the weeks and months after the invasion. Many have returned home, but around 1.5 million remain, according to Polish Border Guard estimates. Since the beginning of the war, 76,000 Ukrainians over the age of 60 have registered with the Polish authorities - necessary for refugees to access healthcare and benefits. According to a report nearly two-thirds of respondents over the age of 55 said they would benefit from support in dealing with a mental condition that affected their daily functioning.

SANCTIONS BY WEST



While there has largely been unity among Western governments on the necessity to punish Russia, there have been differences in the lengths to which countries are willing to go. European and Asian countries are more dependent on Russian oil and natural gas than was the US that made a ban on Russian exports hard for the alliance and forced compromises that took months to forge. Ultimately, the countries in December settled on a \$60 price cap, which some critics said came too late and was too high to significantly hurt Russia. Russia is also seeking deeper ties with countries that have refused to join the sanctions effort. Its exports to Brazil, China, India and Turkey have increased by at least 50% since the war started compared with the previous year.

PEACEMAKER CHINA!



China's effort to cast itself as a peacemaker on Ukraine reflects an aim to burnish its image rather than a change of stance, Western diplomats and analysts said, as it seeks to establish itself as a leader of a new multipolar world order. Analysts say China's affirmation of its "rock solid" relationship with Russia and the backing of Russia's line on the war undermines its posture of neutrality, as does a US assertion that China was considering providing weapons to Russia, which China denies.

From tents to tanks

The day after Russia invaded Ukraine, the leaders of NATO's 30 member countries held an emergency summit to address what they described as the gravest threat to Euro-Atlantic security in decades — the launch of what would become the biggest land war in Europe since 1945. With massive displacement of people, disrupted supply chains, spiralling prices, major economies driven to the brink of a collapse, altered power dynamics between leading nations, this war has had a significant global impact that continues to show its effect.

Absent the complete collapse of either the Ukrainian or Russian armed forces, the grim reality is that the war will likely drag on throughout 2023 - and potentially beyond it. Conversely, for Russia to turn the tide it will have to dramatically reverse the abysmal performance of its armed forces. The recent spectacular failure of the Russian assault on Vuhledar in Ukraine's south east, seen by many as the prelude to a Spring offensive, doesn't bode well.

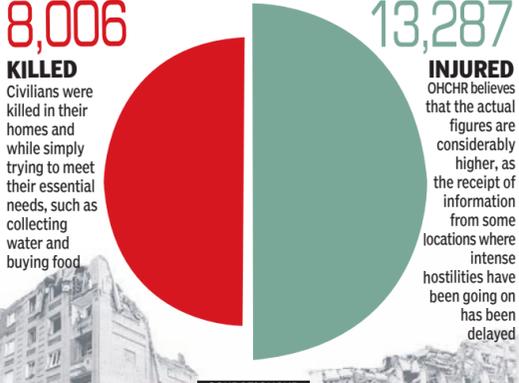
With an estimated 80 per cent of Russia's entire ground forces now engaged in the conflict, plus tens of thousands of newly mobilised conscripts arriving at the front, there's mounting pressure on those at the very top of Russia's military leadership to achieve rapid results.

There's no alternative value proposition for Russia's political elites to remove Putin, and the personal risks for trying it remain very high. For its part, Russian society remains effectively apathetic - if no longer very enthusiastic - about the war.

Now, Russia and China showcased their deepening ties in a series of meetings in Moscow closely watched for signs that Beijing might offer stronger support to the Kremlin. Relations between Russia and the West are at their lowest point since the Cold War, and ties between China and the

CIVILIAN CASUALTIES IN UKRAINE DURING RUSSIA'S INVASION

Most of the civilian casualties recorded were caused by the use of explosive weapons with wide area effects, including shelling from heavy artillery, multiple launch rocket systems, missiles and air strikes



Putin recently delivered a warning to the West over Ukraine by suspending a landmark nuclear arms control treaty, announcing that new strategic systems had been put on combat duty, and threatening to resume nuclear tests. Now, on the anniversary of Russia's invasion that has killed tens of thousands and reduced cities to ruins, both sides are preparing for a potentially even more disastrous phase that lies ahead. Experts warn that the conflict could drag on for years, and some fear it could lead to a direct confrontation between Russia & NATO. While Putin is determined to achieve his goals, Ukraine & its allies are standing firm on preventing Russia from ending up with any of its land

US are also under serious strain.

Yet that might change. Putin can't endure unscathed by forever blaming the West, or purging his security services for his own bad choices.

His longevity has relied on the bargain he made with Russians: to protect them, and offer them stable lives with gradually improving living standards. In the last 12 months he has broken both parts of that bargain, drafting large numbers of Russians to fight in Ukraine, and causing tough sanctions in response to his actions. Meanwhile, Putin declared that



Moscow was suspending its participation in the New START

More disastrous path could lie ahead

Ukraine's ability to repel Russian onslaughts and recapture territory the extent to which Vladimir Putin can command domestic obedience and even of China's intentions, as it mulls supplying Moscow with weapons. How the war plays out in 2023 will also reveal how credible the West's determination to stand up to bullies really is. Will it move further towards supporting Kyiv by all means necessary, revert to drip-feeding its assistance, or give in to apathy and war fatigue? At present, Ukraine continues to have the upper hand, even if Russia's armed forces have lately wrested back some momentum. But in the coming months, Kyiv will face two key challenges. First it will need to absorb Russian attacks while conducting its own offensive operations, which will require Western heavy armour, longer-range strike capabilities, and possibly air power. Second, Ukraine will require continued international aid and assistance to ensure its social order doesn't break down as a result of economic collapse, and to be able to mitigate further damage to its critical infrastructure.

treaty — the last remaining nuclear arms control pact with the United States — sharply upping the ante amid tensions with Washington over the fighting in Ukraine. Biden said that Putin made a "big mistake" by suspending his country's participation in the last remaining US-Russia nuclear arms control treaty. The US President was in Poland to reassure eastern flank NATO allies that the US will remain by their sides amid the grinding Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Both Poland and Estonia have emerged as strong champions of Ukrainian sovereignty, and have been particularly instrumental in pushing more reticent European nations, including Germany and France, towards a firmer stance.

War gamble seen as threat to Putin's rule

Vladimir Putin says he learned from his boyhood brawls in his native St. Petersburg: "If you want to win a fight, you have to carry it through to the end, as if it were the most decisive battle of your life."

That lesson, cited in the most recent biography of the Russian President, seems to be guiding him as his invasion of Ukraine suffers setbacks and stalemates. But so far, Putin's gamble in invading his smaller and weaker neighbour seems to have backfired spectacularly and created the biggest threat to his more than two-decade-long rule. Putin laid the foundation for the invasion with a 5,000-word essay in 2021, in which he questioned Ukraine's legitimacy as a nation. That was only the latest chapter in a long obsession with the country and a determination to correct what he believes was a historical mistake of letting it slip from Moscow's orbit.

In Putin's view, an aggressive West wants to crush Russia. His narrative, along with increasingly repressive measures to stifle domestic dissent, has galvanized patriotic support among many of his countrymen. But it runs up against an inefficient, top-down power structure inherited from the Soviet Union, against the in-

'PEOPLE'S COURT'

- A "people's court" put Putin on trial for the crime of aggression over his invasion of Ukraine, in a symbolic move to close an "accountability gap" in the absence of an international tribunal with jurisdiction
- The court has no legal powers but prosecutors said they will present evidence that Putin committed the crime of aggression by ordering the invasion, unleashing a devastating war that has killed thousands and left towns and cities in ruins

terconnected world's porous borders, and against the sacrifices Russians are suffering firsthand.

Analysts see several scenarios for Putin, depending on battlefield developments. The scenarios, not mutually exclusive, range from what could be his biggest nightmare - a coup or uprisings like those he saw as a KGB agent in East Germany in 1989, in the USSR in 1991 or Ukraine in 2004 and 2014 -- to winning reelection next year. That would extend what is already the longest rule of any Kremlin leader since Josef Stalin. Meanwhile, Putin has repeatedly said Russia could use "all available means" to protect its territory, a clear reference to its nuclear arsenal.



The global impact of Russia's war in Ukraine

War has been a catastrophe for Ukraine and a crisis for the globe. The world is a more unstable and fearful place since Russia invaded its neighbour. Beyond Ukraine's borders, the invasion shattered European security, redrew nations' relations with one another and frayed a tightly woven global economy.

ALLIANCES TESTED AND TOUGHENED

Russian President Vladimir Putin hoped the invasion would split the West and weaken NATO. Instead, the military alliance has been reinvigorated. A group set up to counter the Soviet Union has a renewed sense of purpose and two new aspiring members in Finland and Sweden, which ditched decades of nonalignment and asked to join NATO as protection against Russia.

The 27-nation European Union has hit Russia with tough sanctions and sent Ukraine billions in support. The war put Brexit squabbles into perspective, thawing diplomatic relations between the bloc and awkward former member Britain. "The EU is taking sanctions, quite serious sanctions, in the way that it should. The US is back in Europe with a vengeance in a way we never thought it would be again," said defence analyst Michael Clarke, former head of the Royal United Services Institute think tank. NATO member states have poured weapons and equipment worth billions of dollars into Ukraine. The alliance has buttressed its eastern flank, and the countries nearest to Ukraine and Russia, including Poland and the Baltic states, have persuaded more hesitant NATO and European



Union allies, potentially shifting Europe's centre of power eastwards. There are some cracks in the unity. Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, Putin's closest ally in the EU, has lobbied against sanctions on Moscow, refused to send weapons

to Ukraine and held up an aid package from the bloc for Kyiv. Western unity will come under more and more pressure the longer the conflict grinds on.

A NEW IRON CURTAIN

China is closely watching a con-

flict that may serve as either encouragement or warning to Beijing about any attempt to reclaim self-governing Taiwan by force. Putin has reinforced military links with international outcasts North Korea and Iran, which supplies armed drones that Russia unleashes on Ukrainian infrastructure. Moscow continues to build influence in Africa and the Middle East with its economic and military clout. Russia's Wagner mercenary group has grown more powerful in conflicts from the Donbas to the Sahel.

A BATTERED AND RESHAPED ECONOMY

The war disrupted global trade that was still recovering from the pandemic. Food prices have soared, since Russia and Ukraine are major suppliers of wheat and sunflower oil, and Russia is the world's top fer-

- Moscow is not entirely friendless. Russia has strengthened economic, military ties with China, North Korea and Iran
- Ukraine is waiting for battle tanks and other new weapons pledged by the West for it to reclaim occupied areas
- The US president met leaders from the nine countries in the most eastern parts of the NATO alliance, as the Russian president held talks with China's top diplomat

tiliser producer. Grain-carrying ships have continued to sail from Ukraine under a fragile UN-brokered deal, and prices have come down from record levels. But food remains a geopolitical football. Russia has sought to blame the West for high prices, while Ukraine and its allies accuse Russia of cynically using hunger as a weapon.

of the day quote

The response to OMSS has been very good. About 11 lakh tonne wheat has been lifted so far. Its impact is already visible in the wholesale prices which have started coming down. Retail transmission will take time. Hopefully this week, you will be able to see the dip in the retail prices

As we look forward to the 46th year of this council, I can say with confidence that, in the coming years, we will be able to support the government's efforts to make India a \$2 trillion (\$1 trillion goods and \$1 trillion services) export target by 2030

Cotton is an internationally traded commodity and India is the largest producer of cotton in the world. So obviously, you need to improve the quality of cotton which is exported out of the country. It must meet international standards

Solar capacity installations in India increased by 27 per cent to 13 gigawatts (GW) during the calendar year 2022, according to a Mercom India report. "Solar capacity made up 82 per cent of the total 16 GW new power generation capacities added in 2022," the report titled 'Mercom India Solar Market Update' said. India added 13 gigawatts (GW) of solar capacity in the calendar year (CY) 2022, a 27 per cent increase year-on-year (y-o-y) compared to 10.2 GW installed in CY 2021, it added. The country's cumulative installed solar capacity now stands at 63 GW, the report said.

Flipkart has tightened its purse and will not be doling out any increment for top 30 per cent employees for January-December 2022 performance development cycle this fiscal, according to internal communication sent out to the employees. The move impacts around 4,500 employees in the grade 10 and above. Flipkart Chief People Officer Krishna Raghavan in an email informed employees about the decision. "Given the current macroeconomic situation, we want to be prudent in managing our resources while keeping our employees' best interest in mind," Raghavan said. A company employee, on condition of anonymity, said that given the current situation people will continue to have job security at Flipkart.

SHORT TAKES

Solar capacity addition grows

New Delhi: Solar capacity installations in India increased by 27 per cent to 13 gigawatts (GW) during the calendar year 2022, according to a Mercom India report. "Solar capacity made up 82 per cent of the total 16 GW new power generation capacities added in 2022," the report titled 'Mercom India Solar Market Update' said. India added 13 gigawatts (GW) of solar capacity in the calendar year (CY) 2022, a 27 per cent increase year-on-year (y-o-y) compared to 10.2 GW installed in CY 2021, it added. The country's cumulative installed solar capacity now stands at 63 GW, the report said. Rajasthan, Karnataka and Gujarat were the top three states for cumulative large-scale solar capacity, accounting for 54 per cent of installations in the country as of December 2022.

Flipkart tightens purse for staffers

New Delhi: E-commerce major Flipkart has tightened its purse and will not be doling out any increment for top 30 per cent employees for January-December 2022 performance development cycle this fiscal, according to internal communication sent out to the employees. The move impacts around 4,500 employees in the grade 10 and above. Flipkart Chief People Officer Krishna Raghavan in an email informed employees about the decision. "Given the current macroeconomic situation, we want to be prudent in managing our resources while keeping our employees' best interest in mind," Raghavan said. A company employee, on condition of anonymity, said that given the current situation people will continue to have job security at Flipkart.

Markets fall for 5th day: Investors lose ₹7.48L-cr

New Delhi, Feb 23: Equity investors became poorer by ₹7.48 lakh crore in five consecutive days of market fall, where the BSE Sensex has declined by nearly 3 per cent. In the past five days, the BSE Sensex has tumbled

BYJU's to shut coding platform WhiteHat Jr

WhiteHat Jr, which at its peak had over 8,000 employees across the country, now has some hundreds of roles left as it never picked up pace and brought revenues for the company

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Feb 23: Edtech major BYJU's is set to soon wind up coding platform WhiteHat Jr, which it acquired for \$300 million, as part of restructuring and cut costs, reliable sources said Thursday. The company, however, said they are "merely optimising it".

Reliable sources told IANS that the top BYJU's management is in a huddle and meetings are on to ap-

praise the WhiteHat Jr employees about the situation in the next few days.

The sudden development has left the remaining WhiteHat Jr workforce at unrest, people close to the development said.

According to sources, the discussions at the top level at BYJU's have already happened to shut down the WhiteHat Jr brand which has faced severe criticism in the past.



"We are merely optimising it for organic and efficient growth. We remain fully committed to delivering world-class educational ex-

BYJU'S ACQUIRED WHITEHAT JR IN JULY 2020 FOR NEARLY \$300MM
IT REPORTED MASSIVE ₹1,690CR LOSS IN THE FY2021, WHILE ITS EXPENSES REACHED ₹2,175CR IN FY21 -- COMPARED TO ₹69.7CR IN FY20
BYJU'S REPORTED A LOSS OF ₹4,588 CRORE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR THAT ENDED MARCH 31, 2021

periences and solutions that empower students to achieve their full potential," the company spokesperson said.

The company said that it is constantly evaluating and optimising its business operations towards global growth.

"As an ongoing activity, we are actively evaluating all our business units to ensure that they are aligned with our path to profitability," BYJU's told IANS.

In the April-May period last year, over 1,000 of its employees, including teachers which are on contractual basis, and hence not full-time employees, resigned. Later, more WhiteHat Jr employees either moved on their own or were asked to go. WhiteHat Jr shut its schools di-

vision that targeted to take its flagship coding curriculum to 10 lakh school students by the next academic year. Its foray into teaching music online, offering guitar and piano playing, yielded no fruitful results. According to sources, BYJU's which was last valued at \$22 billion, will not be able to meet its March 2023 deadline to achieve group-level profitability, as it envisioned in its earnings in October last year.

ONGC to invest \$2bn to up oil, gas output

ONGC PRODUCES TWO-THIRD OF ALL OIL AND GAS PRODUCED IN THE COUNTRY AND ANY INCREMENTAL PRODUCTION WOULD HELP THE COUNTRY CUT ITS DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTS FOR MEETING ENERGY NEEDS



We estimate that this development drilling will enhance production by over 100 million tonne of oil and oil equivalent gas over the life of the field. The investment involved in drilling and facilities will be over \$2 billion

PANKAJ KUMAR | DIRECTOR (OFFSHORE), ONGC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 23: India's top oil and gas producer ONGC will invest over \$2 billion in drilling a record 103 wells on its main gas-bearing asset in the Arabia Sea as it pivots a turnaround plan that will add 100 million tonne to production, a company official said.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has three main assets off the west coast - Mumbai High, Heera and Neelam, and Bassein and Satellite, which contributed the bulk of 21.7 million tonne of oil and 21.68 billion cubic metres of gas it produced in 2021-22.

"We have released a record 103 locations for drilling of wells on the Bassein and Satellite (B&S) assets over the next 2-3 years," ONGC Director (Offshore) Pankaj Kumar said.

The wells will tap smaller and hereto untapped reservoirs and help raise output.

India imports over 85 per cent of the crude oil, which is converted into fuel such as petrol and diesel in refineries, and roughly half of the natural gas that is used to produce electricity, make fertiliser, converted into CNG for running automobiles and piped to household kitchens for cooking.

ONGC, which reported a gradual decline in output for over a decade primarily because its fields are old and ageing, has now got its act together by working on a comprehensive asset base plan rather than piecemeal field centric approach.

Kumar said B&S asset has several fields including the prime Bassein gas field, D1 and Tapti-

Daman. These currently produce 55,000-56,000 barrels per day (2.8 million tonne) of oil and 28 million standard cubic metres per day of gas.

"We have done a reservoir profiling for the entire asset to plan the drilling campaign," he said, adding new wells will bring additional production that will offset the natural decline in older wells and add to the overall output.

The Daman field alone is projected to contribute 6-7 mmscmd of more gas while the Tapti field may see oil output almost doubling to 30,000 bpd.

ONGC will adopt a similar approach for the rejuvenation of the other two assets in the western offshore.

The government has been pressing state-owned firms to step up efforts to raise domestic output to help cut the \$115 billion import bill

Bhubaneswar to witness two fairs

18th Home & Décor Exhibition and India International Mega Trade Fair 2023 soon in the Capital city

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 23: CREDAI Bhubaneswar Foundation, in association with GS Marketing Associates is organising its real-estate exhibition HOME & DÉCOR 2023 and IIMT 2023 (India International Mega Trade Fair) organised by Bengal Chamber of Commerce with GS Marketing during February 25 to March 6 at Janta Maidan, Bhubaneswar.

The exhibition will be inaugurated by the Usha Devi, Housing & Urban Development minister



February 25 at 5:00 pm. Guests of Honour are Ananta Narayan Jena, MLA (Central), Bhubaneswar; Sushant Kumar Rout, MLA (North), Bhubaneswar; Sulochana Das, Mayor, BMC and Chandrasekhar Sharma, CGM, SBI, Bhubaneswar Circle.

The valedictory function will be held March 6 to be closed by the Chief Guest of the day Pratap Kesari Deb, Minister of Department of Industries, Govt of Odisha in the presence of the Hemant Kumar Sharma, IAS, Principal Secretary, department of Industries.

The association CREDAI Bhubaneswar has also arranged to felicitate four B.Tech toppers in Civil Engineering & Architecture of 2022 from IIT-Bhubaneswar: NIT-Rourekel, CET-Bhubaneswar, and Ajaya Binay Institute of Technology, Cuttack.

Exhibitors from other countries like Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Dubai, Iran, Malaysia, Thailand and Egypt are the partners to the International Mega Trade Fair. Indian State partners are from Punjab, Delhi, Rajasthan and Jharkhand with Odisha as the host partner.

G20 MEET

FM for global framework to regulate cryptocurrency

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Feb 23: Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman Thursday underlined the need for a global framework to regulate cryptocurrencies besides firming up ways to tackle global debt vulnerabilities and strengthening multilateral development banks.

She discussed these topics during the bilateral meetings with her counterparts, including from US, Japan and Spain, ahead of the G20 ministerial meeting. The finance ministers of the G20 countries, which is a grouping of developed and developing nations, are here to participate in the two-day meeting of G20 finance ministers and central bank governors (FMCBG) beginning February 24.

Under the G20 Presidency, India will be pressing for a global framework to regulate the cryptocurrencies and ways to tackle the aggravated debt vulnerabilities facing the developing nations, mainly on account of the continuing geopolitical tensions and the pandemic.

It is feared that if left unaddressed, the mounting debt vulnerabilities of developing nations could trigger global recession and push millions to extreme poverty.

The minister has held separate bilateral meetings with several G20 ministers, including US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, Finance Minister of Japan Shunichi Suzuki, and Italian Minister of Economy and Finance Giancarlo Giorgetti ahead of the G-20 FMCBG meeting.

She is scheduled to have more than 10 such meetings, including with the Finance Ministers of Indonesia, Canada, Spain,



Argentina and Canada, besides General Manager of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS).

In her meeting with Yellen, the finance minister discussed issues relating to crypto assets, strengthening multilateral development banks and global debt vulnerabilities.

"The two leaders exchanged views on #G20 #FinanceTrack priorities under #G20India Presidency in 2023. The two leaders discussed their perspectives on strengthening #MDB, #GlobalDebt vulnerabilities, #CryptoAssets, and #health, besides the Just Energy Transition Partnership #JETP and possible takeaways for the two sides," the finance ministry tweeted after the meeting.

In a statement, the US Treasury Department said Yellen discussed cooperation on the evolution of multilateral development banks, encouraged strengthened health-finance coordination.

She also thanked India for taking a leadership role on promoting sovereign debt restructuring, while encouraging faster G20 efforts on existing debt restructuring cases.

India has been raising the issue of reforms of the multilateral lending agencies, especially the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank, to enable them to address the global challenges facing the world economy in the 21st century.

INSOLVENCY ORDER

Zee Enterprises' MD moves NCLAT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Feb 23: Zee Enterprises' managing director and chief executive Puneet Goenka Thursday moved appellate tribunal NCLAT challenging the order of the National Company Law Tribunal which admitted an IndusInd Bank plea for insolvency proceedings against the firm.

The appeal seeking relief against the National Company Law Tribunal's Mumbai bench order was filed by Goenka in the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) Thursday, as per an official statement from the company.



"Goenka is taking all the necessary steps as per law to protect the interests of all stakeholders of Zee Entertainment Enterprises (ZEEL) and to achieve a timely completion of the proposed merger with Culver Max Entertainment," the statement said.

The matter pertains to a default of ₹89 crore by Zee Group's multisystem operator arm Siti Networks claimed by IndusInd Bank, for which ZEEL was a guarantor. The ZEEL stock fell 3.35 per cent to close at ₹199 a piece on the BSE Thursday.

WORKS DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
BHADRAK (R&B) DIVISION
No. B-1284 e-mail - bhadrakrnbdivision@gmail.com
Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. EE (R&B) BDK - 27/2022-23
No.-936/dt. 21.02.2023

- Nature of work:- Building Works (Civil)
- Number of works:- 7 No's Building Works
- Amount put to Tender:- Rs.12,87,965/-, 12,69,520/-, 12,52,444/-, 12,29,919/-, 12,25,564/-, 12,16,311/-, 12,28,528/- "C" & "D"
- Class of Contractor:-
- Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal:- Dt. 01.03.2023 AT 11.00 AM
- Last Date/Time of receipt of bid in the portal:- Dt.09.03.2023 up to 05.00 P.M.
- Date of opening of bid:- Dt.10.03.2023 at 11.30 AM
- Name & address of the Officer inviting bid:- Executive Engineer, Bhadrak (R&B) Division
- The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "http://tendersodisha.gov.in". All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE mode only.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Bhadrak (R&B) Division
OIPR-34079/11/0018/2223

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. B-1282
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
GANJAM (R&B) DIVISION NO.1, BERHAMPUR
Phone/Fax: (0680) 2233683, e-mail: sernb1.ganjam@yahoo.com
"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid Identification No. EE R&B Divn. No.1 Bam. 86/2022-23
Lr. No. 2268 dt. 21.02.2023

Name of work : Electrical Works
No. of works : 5 (Five) Nos
Estimated Cost : Approximately Rs.5.22 lakh to Rs.27.79 lakh
Period of completion of agreement : Two to Twelve Calendar months
Date and time of Availability : From 10.00 hours of 04.03.2023 to 16.00 hours of 13.03.2023
Last date/time for receipt of : Upto 16.00 hours of 13.03.2023
bids in portal
Name & address of the : Superintending Engineer, Ganjam (R&B)
Officer inviting Bid : Division No.1, Berhampur
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal
https://tendersodisha.gov.in
Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Ganjam (R&B) Division No.1, Berhampur
OIPR-34109/11/0026/2223

AUSSIES BREAK INDIAN HEARTS

Bhanwala ends 12-year medal drought at WC



Harmanpreet Kaur wears a dejected look as she walks off the field after getting out

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cape Town, Feb 23: So near yet so far. It was the case with the Indian team at the Women's T20 World Cup here Thursday as they lost to Australia in the semifinal by just five runs.

Chasing a challenging 173-run target, India eves had a worse possible start as they were reduced to 28/3 inside four overs with the top three batters – Smriti Mandhana (2), Shafali Verma (9) and Yastika Bhatia (4) – back in the hut.

However, skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (52, 34b, 6x4, 1x6) and Jemimah Rodrigues (43, 24b, 6x4) opted for counter-attack approach and took the team close to 100 before the latter got out in the 11th over. Darcie Brown (2/18) broke the 69-run stand.

Richa Ghosh (14) joined her skipper at the middle and the duo stitched together 36 runs before a double blow reduced India to 135/6 at the end of 16th over. Kaur was the first to depart through run out when her bat struck on the ground while going for a run. Richa followed her skipper back to the hut 10 balls later.

With 38 required off the final four overs, India tried their best and the equation came down to 16 off the final over. However, India fell short by five runs.

Earlier, India's shoddy fielding allowed Australia to post a challenging 172/4. The bowling effort also left a lot to be desired as Beth Mooney extended her envious



record against India with a classy 54 (37b, 7x4, 1x6). One of the best power hitters in the game, Ashleigh Gardner, hurt India with 18-ball 31 (5x4) while skipper Meg Lanning (49 n o, 34b, 4x4, 2x6) remained unbeaten to guide her side past 170.

Aussies opted to bat at a sunny Newlands and Kaur, who chose to play the knock-out game a day after suffering from high fever, did not seem to mind Lanning's call.

There was no swing on offer, making life a lot difficult for star pacer Renuka Thakur. It was Mooney who got the boundaries more regularly in her 52-run stand with Alyssa Healy (25) as she manoeuvred the field beautifully with her nimble footwork against the spinners. Shafali Verma dropped a regulation catch off Mooney at long on when she was on 32.

Deepti Sharma bowled too short in her opening spell. Besides the in-

consistent line and length by the bowlers, poor fielding and catching cost India a lot of runs. Lanning, who was dropped early in her innings, made India pay.

Sneh Rana, playing in place of Pooja Vastrakar, was unfortunate not pick any wicket as she troubled the batters with her flight. She could have had Lanning caught behind in her first over but wicketkeeper Ghosh dropped the chance. Richa also fluffed a stumping chance of Lanning. The last five overs yielded 59 runs for Australia.

BRIEF SCORES

Australia Women 172/4 (Beth Mooney 54, Meg Lanning 49 n o, Ashleigh Gardner 31; Shikha Pandey 2/32) beat India Women 167/8 (Harmanpreet Kaur 52, Jemimah Rodrigues 43; Darcie Brown 2/18, Ashleigh Gardner 2/37) by 5 runs.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 23: Young Anish Bhanwala broke the 12-year jinx of an Indian not winning a 25m rapid-fire pistol medal when he bagged bronze in the event on the last day of the ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol in Cairo Thursday.

This is the 20-year-old's first senior individual World Cup medal and it came after three hard-fought shoot-offs. Before Bhanwala, the only Indian to have won medals in the event at the international stage was Vijay Kumar, who clinched silver at the 2012 London Olympics and had two podium finishes at World Cups.

Italian Massimo Spinella won gold with 32 hits in the medal



match, while World Championships silver medallist Clement Bessaguet of France fell short by two hits after 40-shots to settle for silver.

Anish's effort meant that India finished the World Cup with seven medals, including four gold, to top the standings. Bhanwala dedicated the medal to his personal coach Harpreet Singh.



MOMENT TO CHERISH: Nayanmoni Saikia, Rupa Rani Tirkey, Lovely Choubey and Pinki (not in particular order) pose with gold medals, which they won in women's fours event at Asian Lawn Bowls Championship in Kuala Lumpur

Oversight Committee gets two more weeks to complete probe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 23: The Sports Ministry has extended by two weeks the deadline given to the Oversight Committee to submit its report on sexual harassment allegations against WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

The Committee, led by legendary boxer MC Mary Kom, was formed January 23 to investigate into the claims made by country's top wrestlers that Brij Bhushan has sexually harassed several women wrestlers and intimidates the athletes.

The wrestlers had not provided the names of the 'victims'. The committee, which is running the day-to-day functioning of the sports body, was asked to submit its report in four weeks.

The ministry extended the deadline following requests from the committee members and now it will submit its report by March 9. "The Sports Ministry has given a two-week extension to the

Oversight Committee for the submission of its report, following a request," a ministry source told PTI.

The ministry was forced to form the panel after top Indian wrestlers, including Bajrang Punia, Vinesh Phogat, Ravi Dahiya and Sakshi Malik, staged a sit-in protest at New Delhi's Jantar Mantar, demanding that Brij Bhushan be removed from the top post and WFI be disbanded.

The BJP MP was asked to step aside till the completion of the probe into his alleged misconduct. The Mary Kom-led committee has former wrestler Yogeshwar Dutt, former shuttler Trupti Murgunde, SAI member Radhika Sreeman and Rajesh Rajagopalan, ex-CEO, Target Olympic Podium Scheme and CWG gold medallist Babita Phogat as its members.

Since the formation of the committee, the top Indian wrestlers have not competed at the international meets, missing the UWW Ranking Series events in Zagreb and Alexandria.

Man City held 1-1 by Leipzig in CL last 16

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Leipzig, Feb 23: Josko Gvardiol stifled the threat of Manchester City star Erling Haaland before scoring himself to earn Leipzig a 1-1 draw in the first leg of their round-of-16 matchup in the Champions League.

The Croatia centre back, nicknamed 'Little Pep' because of the similarities of his last name with that of City manager Pep Guardiola, headed home the equaliser in the 70th minute Wednesday after Leipzig finally got to grips with the English champions.

City dominated the first half without Haaland, their top scorer, getting a sight on goal and Riyad Mahrez netted the 27th-minute opener after Ilkay Gundogan flicked through a pass from Jack Grealish. As Haaland grew frustrated in the second half, City lost control of the game and Leipzig posed more of a threat, creating the better of the chances.

It leaves the match in the balance heading into the second leg in



Josko Gvardiol (with beard; in white) heads in RB Leipzig's goal against City

Manchester March 14 as City continue their bid for a first Champions League title.

Guardiola conducted a mini-debrief with his players on the field after the final whistle, telling them to stay positive after seeing them throw away their advantage after a first-half performance that could have led to more than just Mahrez's 20th Champions League goal.

Haaland had only seven touches before halftime — none of them coming in Leipzig's penalty area — and he had only one opportunity in the whole match, when he got free down the right midway through the second half and snatched at a shot that dribbled wide.

Leipzig's extra intensity and aggression paid off as the German team, a Champions League semi-

finalist in 2020, finally showed why they had lost just one of their 20 previous matches in all competitions.

Ederson was left stranded when Marcel Halstenberg swung over a left-wing cross and 21-year-old Gvardiol got above Ruben Dias to nod the ball into an unguarded net.

INTER PIP PORTO

After ending his goalscoring drought last weekend, Romelu Lukaku scored late to fire Inter Milan to a 1-0 win over 10-man Porto Wednesday in the first leg of their Champions League round-of-16 matchup.

They were Lukaku's first goals since October and took his tally to just four since returning from Chelsea in the offseason as the Belgian forward has struggled with injury and poor form.

Porto midfielder Otavio was sent off following a second yellow card 12 minutes from time. He had received his first booking for a tussle with Federico Dimarco at the end of the first half.

Bengaluru FC ensure Odisha of their maiden playoffs qualification

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Feb 23: Bengaluru FC added an eighth consecutive win to their comeback story and confirmed a top-four finish with a 3-1 win over FC Goa in the Indian Super League (ISL) Thursday.

The Gaur's loss confirmed Odisha FC's entry as the sixth and final team in the playoffs. This will be the maiden appearance in the playoffs for the Bhubaneswar-based club.

BFC broke the deadlock when the ball was curled into the box by Roshan Naorem and an unmarked S Narayanan headed it in from close range. Parity was restored in the 33rd minute when Sadaoui whipped in an accurate cross that was tucked into the bottom right corner by Iker Gurrutxena.

In the 78th minute, Narayanan pounced on a rebound before slotting the ball into an empty net. Nine minutes from time, Pablo Perez put the game beyond all doubt.

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Bhubaneswar, Rabi TakiesChhak: Opposite to Kedar Gouri Resort, Mob: 7750925223; **Bapuji Nagar:** 105 Bapuji Nagar, Behind Yes Bank (Old Post Office Lane), Lane No. 08, 0674-2597141/9937138998; **Bapuji Nagar:** 237, Pani Tanki Lane, Bapuji Nagar, Ph: 0674 2597685, Mob: 9777744071, **Satyangar:** 10, Janpath, Satyangar, Mob: 8280056821, **ID Market:** Shop No FG 3, I.D. Market, Near Reliance Fresh, IRC Village Mob: 9861404879, **Damana:** 248, Sailashree Vihar Road, Damana Mob: 7327902258, **Baramunda:** A/37, Ruchika Market, Baramunda, Mob: 993703674, **Raghunathpur:** Shop no- S5, Manson Green, Raghunathpur, Nandankanan road Mob: 8895390144; **CUTTACK, Dolmundia:** Hotel Akbari complex, Dolomundai, Haripur Road, Ph: 0671 2910337, Mob: 9348222581, **Baxi Bazar:** ManisahooChhak, Mob: 6371736954, **CD:** Plot No.CM/3 (In front of Police Station), Market Nagar, Sector-7, Mob: 8917442506, 8280079702, **Rourkela:** Daily Market, Near Reliance trend, Rourkela, Mob:9777457774, **BALUGAON:** Chhika Road, Balugaon, Mob: 8984858783; **KENDRAPARA:** Kakat Chhak, Ph: 06727 221241; Mob: 9040562233; **DHENKANAL:** I.G. Super Market, near SBI ATM, Mob: 9776323188; **SAMBALPUR, Golbazaar:** Near Durga Temple, Mob: 9338194750, **JEYPURE:** Paninalasahi Junction, Main Road, Opp. Mayurjewellers, Mob: 943715029, **JAGATSINGHAPUR:** C/o: Orchid mart, central market Ph: 06724221090 / 06724221080, **ANGUL:** Near Havells Galaxy Store, Shankar Cinema Road, Mob: 7608885430, **JHARSUGUDA:** Near Khimji Jewellers, Sarbahal Road, Jharsuguda, Mob: 7004518123.

AUTHORISED DISTRIBUTORS:- BHUBANESWAR: Manorama Trading Co., Ph.No.9437279239, Saraswati Enterprises-8249250386, **JATINI:** Kanha Agencies, Ph. No.9437090516, **CUTTACK:** Mahavir Enterprise,Chauliganga, Ph. No.9937092599Kendrapada: Nalinii & Sons Ph.No.9938175761, **TALCHER:** Sidharth Enterprises, Hatatota, Ph. No.9437003384 **ROURKELA:** Shah Distributor, Ph-0661-250904, 9438712456 **MAYURBHANJ:** Shree Sai Mobiles-7008514533, Keonjhar-Utkal Digital -700806597, **GANJAM:** Yogesh Agency-Ph: 8144553709, **BALANGIR:** Ably Info Solutions, Ph: 9437025475, **Jajpur:** Banadurga Traders-9437199772, **Jeypore:** Likhit Enterprises-8348430456,Shiv Sai Enterprises-Jeypore-833888703, **Nayagarh:** Ganapati Traders-9583281930, **MIS Adventure:** Bhadrak-7978403886, **Durga Metal:** 9937009865-Malkangiri, **Padmini Enterprises:** 993748262-Puri, **Pratik Enterprises:** 993748262-Puri, **M/S Krishna:** 9437012843-Cuttack, **Electric Avenue:** 7205855392-Jharsuguda, **Maa Tariini Enterprises:** 832888007-Balasore, **Kesinga- Jay Lakshmi Marketing:** 808380411, **AUTHORISED DEALERS:-** BHUBANESWAR:- REETA-0674259711, **Spezdra Vision,** Ph.-9937722727, **PratapSweing Machine:** 9937138544, **Bharath Electronics & Home Appliances:** 9437506163, **Ulkal Light House:** 9937019272, **Ulkal Sales:** 9853150619, **Palace:** 9348852955-Bhubaneswar, **Sai Traders:** 7008239892-Bhubaneswar, **Sarakar Electro Digital:** 9776457173-Bhubaneswar, **PD Marketing,** Ph-7377735345, **AnuAgency-Anu Agency,** Tarini Aluminium Stores, **SB Enterprises,** Ph.9861155551, **Crockeri Plaza:** 9938399889, **Kitchen King:** 9838475819, **Prasad Kitchen:** 9437041063, **Sivam Enterprises:** 7008565807, **Shree Traders:** 9937131901, **CUTTACK:** Union Sales Emporium-9338461472, **Janata General Store,** Ph-2419948, **AurobindaPlastic,** Ph. 8763923528, **Arbinda Home Appliances-9438480346,** **Puspak Agency-7205016581,** **Balaji Distributor:** 8763153928, **Patra electronics (CDA):** 9348863657, **Sanjaya electronics:** 97777529-Salepur, **Maadpamavati Bastralaya:** 8908194534-Rahama-Patra electronics (Chauliganga)-9938941317, **KENDRAPARA:** Purnamasi Electrical, Ph. 9937070448, **PARADEEP:-** Krishna Enterprise, Ph. 9937451474, **ROURKELA:** Prestige, Ph-2642265, **City Super Bazar,** Ph-9437044713, **Khemia General Store,** Ph-2502396, **Garg Enterprises,** Ph.9437046546, **Kitchen Accessories:** 9437837833, **RAJANGAPUR:** Pradeep Store, Ph-9437244015, **SUNDARGARH:** Laxmi Steel, Ph-9776164771, **BALASORE:** United Sales Agency-9853519516, **Rohit Sales-7978204587, RAHAMAMA- Maa Padmabati Enterprise:** 9861202577, **Sambalpur Bhatia Home Appliances:** 9556053558, **Samuka Steel Center:** 9437331074, **Bolanigir- Bapi Steel-Akash Steel:** 9437331491, **Suraj Steel:** 9437151437, **Bhadrak- Sai Enterprises:** 9776701165, **Baripada- Aerovision:** 9861828643, **Gajapati- Panda General Store:** 8249162067, **Baripada Bazar:** 9439298333, **Dream Home:** 9437435010 **Jaypore,** **Uma Electronics:** 9937076299-Chandenswar, **Beauty Place:** 9774566555-Talcher, **Bulu Electronics:** 9556209149-Dasapala