



Does it matter who I voted for? Everybody knows the BJP will form the govt

### Stray dog mauls infant to death in **Rajasthan hospital**

AGENCIES

Jaipur, Feb 28: A month-old child, who was sleeping next to his mother at a government hospital, was taken away by a stray dog and mauled to death in Sirohi district of Rajasthan, police said Tuesday.

The body was found outside the hospital ward, they said.

Police said the CCTV footage showed that two dogs went inside the TB ward of the hospital late Monday night and one of them returned with the infant. Sitaram, SHO, Kotwali said

Mahendra Meena, the father of the child, was admitted in the hospital for silicosis treatment. He said the child's mother; Rekha, who was attending to the patient along with her three children, dozed off.

The officer said the hospital staff was also not present at the ward at the time of the incident.

"Post-mortem has been conducted by a medical board. A case will be registered in the matter after further investigation," the SHO said.

Meanwhile, the child's father accused the hospital authorities and police of making his wife sign blank papers and perform the last rites of his child without inform-

# Naba heat spills onto streets

Lower PMG turns battlefield as agitating BJYM activists clash with police personnel on their way to gherao Assembly over minister Naba Das murder and 'deteriorating' law & order situation in Odisha



**DIED IN 3 YEARS** 

Bhubaneswar, Feb 28: As many as 245 elephants have died in the last three years (2019-20 to 2021-22) in the state, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Pradip Kumar Amat told the Assembly Tuesday.

Replying to a question of BJD's Soumya Ranjan Patnaik, Amat said six of the 245 elephants were killed by poachers. However, no tiger died in the state during the period.

He said during the period, 47 accused were arrested on the charge of poaching elephants, smuggling tusks and body parts of tigers from nine districts. As many as 39 tusks a tiger skin, and nine tiger nails were seized from their possession.

The poachers were arrested from Angul, Balasore, Boudh, Cuttack. Deogarh, Kalahandi, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and Subarnapur, he said.

The highest of 16 tusks were recovered from Keonjhar, while 12 were recovered from Mayurbhanj. The tiger skin and nail were seized from Kalahandi. the Forest Minister said

#### **DIN IN HOUSE** Bhubaneswar: Assembly was adjourned till 4pm Tuesday after it witnessed uproarious scenes with treasury and opposition benches shouting over the alleged neglect of the state by the Centre in the allotment of

The police claimed that the ag-The Lower PMG turned into a itators hurled water bottles, eggs battlefield when the police stopped and stones at the cops who then used the BJYM activists who broke barbatons to disperse the crowd. ricades erected by the force. Many Several of the security personnel were seen scaling the barricades. and political workers were injured

'We are not inclined to enter-

tain the petition under Article 32

at this stage," a bench comprising

Chief Justice DY Chandrachud

and Justice PS Narasimha said.

The bench observed that just

ecause the incident has happened

in Delhi, Sisodia cannot come to the

apex court directly as he has his

in the scuffle. Bhubaneswar DCP Prateek Singh said around 10 police personnel, including ACP Amitav Mohapatra, suffered injuries in the melee. At least five police vehicles were dam-

aged in the clash, the DCP said. against them as per law, he said.

The police detained over 100 protesters and action will be taken DGP Sunil Bansal visited the Capital Hospital to meet the in-

### GDP GROWTH SLOWS TO 4.4% Sisodia, Jain resign from Delhi Cabinet

#### AGENCIES

New Delhi, Feb 28: India's economic growth decelerated to 4.4 per cent in the October-December quarter of this fiscal mainly due to a contraction in the manufacture ing sector.

The GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth was 11.2 per cent in October-December 2021 and 6.3 per cent in July-September 2022, showed the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) Tuesday. The manufacturing sector's output, as per the gross value added in the third quarter of this fiscal, contracted by 1.1 per cent compared to a growth of 1.3 per cent in the year-ago period.

The NSO also released the second advance estimate for the current fiscal and maintained its growth projection of 7 per cent as was estimated in the first advance estimate which was released in January

"GDP at Constant (2011-12) Prices in Q3 2022-23 is estimated at ₹40.19 lakh crore, as against ₹38.51 lakh crore in Q3 2021-22, showing a

Manufacturing sector's output contracted by 1.1 per cent compared to a growth of 1.3 per cent in the year-ago period

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana

(PMAY-Grameen) and law and

jured police officials.

the DGP said.

order situation respectively. P3

"All have the right to voice their

concerns and stage protest in a democratic country. But they (BJYM

activists) tried going near the

Assembly, which is in session.

When we tried to stop them, they

went violent and pelted stones,

eggs and water bottles at police.

Despite that, police handled the

situation with utmost restraint,"

In the Assembly, BJP MLAs cre-

ated a ruckus over the incident as

Leader of Opposition Jayanarayan

Mishra demanded a ruling from the

chair on the alleged police excess

Contd....P4

on the party activists.

Farm sector GVA has grown by 3.7 per cent in the third guarter compared to a growth of 2.2 per cent a year ago

earlier. The national accounts data showed that the farm sector gross value added (GVA) has grown by 3.7 per cent in the third quarter compared to a growth of 2.2 per cent a year ago. The mining and quarrying sector grew at 3.7 per cent compared to 5.4 per cent a year ago.

22 of ₹149.26 lakh crore. The growth

in real GDP during 2022-23 is esti-

mated at 7.0 per cent as compared

to 9.1 per cent in 2021-22," the NSO

said. The NSO revised upward the

GDP growth for 2021-22 to 9.1 per

cent from 8.7 per cent estimated



ing him. The hospital administration has also initiated a probe into the matter.

MARKET WATCH								
SES	SENSEX	58,962.12	ŧ	326.23				
CURRENCY BOURSES	NIFTY	17303.95	₽	88.75				
ENCY	DOLLAR	82.66	₽	₹0.17				
CURR	EURO	87.78		₹0.12				
ION	GOLD	₹ 55,560		₹84				
BULLION	SILVER	₹ 63,339	1	₹375				

W	EATI	HER		
		BHUB	СТК	
٩Þ	MAX	36.7℃	35.0°	C
TEA	MIN	19.9℃	21.0°	C Forecast
Hur	nidity	71%	91%	Dry
Rair	nfall	Nil	Nil	weather most likely



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

from the Cabinet Tuesday.

money laundering case.

Sisodia too faced the heat after

his name cropped up in the excise

policy scam in August 2022. He

was arrested by the CBI Sunday

evening in connection with the alleged corruption in the formulation

and implementation of the now-

scrapped liquor policy for 2021-22.

fused to entertain a bail plea filed

by Sisodia.

The Supreme Court Tuesday re-

10 police personnel,

Mohapatra. injured

22 agitators, including

Acharya, arrested

to the Assembly Tuesday.

situation.

POST NEWS NETWORK

including ACP Amitav

remedies before the trial court concerned as well as the Delhi High New Delhi, Feb 28: Delhi Chief Court Minister Arvind Kejriwal's trusted Official sources said Sisodia's lieutenants Manish Sisodia and portfolios were allotted to Revenue Satvendar Jain, both behind bars Minister Kailash Gahlot and Social

SUPREME COURT REFUSES TO ENTERTAIN BAIL PLEA

Welfare Minister Raj Kumar Anand. on corruption charges, resigned Sisodia, who was the deputy Kejriwal has accepted the resigchief minister, was holding the nations of the two leaders, who charge of 18 out of 33 departments played a pivotal role in implementing of the Delhi government, includhis governance agenda of good eding health, finance, education and home. Even after his arrest, Jain ucation and health facilities in the national capital, according to officontinued to be a minister in the government but without any portcials. The opposition BJP had been demanding the resignation of Jain folio. His portfolios, including after his arrest in May last year by health, home and urban developthe Enforcement Directorate in a ment, had been handed over to Sisodia

Sisodia's workload had almost doubled after Jain's arrest, and he was handling most of the crucial departments of the city government. Both have led what the AAP describes as the "successful transformation" of Delhi's education and health services, contributing to the party's popularity and continued electoral success. Contd...P4

growth of 4.4 per cent. GDP at Current Prices in Q3 2022-23 is estimated at ₹69.38 lakh crore, as against ₹62.39 lakh crore in Q3 2021-22, showing a growth of 11.2

per cent," the NSO statement said. 'Real GDP or GDP at Constant (2011-12) Prices in the year 2022-23 is estimated at ₹159.71 lakh crore, as against the First Revised Estimates of GDP for the year 2021-

Contd...P4

### Cracker unit blast claims 3

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paradip, Feb 28: At least three persons were killed and two others critically injured in an explosion at a firecracker manufacturing unit in Jagatsinghpur district Tuesday, police said.

The explosion took place after a fire broke out at the unit at Madhuri Bazar in Gopalpur village under Balikuda police limits.

While two persons died on the spot, another succumbed to burn injuries at the hospital, they said.

The deceased were identified as Susant Kumar Prusty, the owner of the cracker unit, and his employees Dilu Mohanty and Bulu Das.

RIOT OF COLOURS: Girls play with colours ahead of Holi, in Nadia, West Bengal, Tuesday

# Hubble's jellyfish galaxy stuns netizens

This observation is a result of an

#### AGENCIES

Washington, Feb 28: The latest image from the NASA/ESA Hubble Space Telescope features a jellyfish galaxy with trailing tentacles of stars moving through space.

Named JO201, the spiral galaxy lies in the constellation Cetus, which is named after a sea monster from ancient Greek mythology. This sea-monster-themed constellation adds to the nautical theme of this image

Jellyfish galaxies are slowly stripped of gas as they travel through the vast expanse of intergalactic space, resulting in the formation of tendrils of gas that are illuminated by clusters of newly



formed stars, creating striking below the core of this particular galaxy, contribute to its distinct blue tentacle-like structures trailing behind the galaxy. These feajellyfish-like appearance tures, which are visible drifting

investigation into the sizes, masses and ages of the clumps of star formation in the tendrils of jellyfish galaxies. Astronomers are optimistic that this will provide a breakthrough in understanding the connection between ram-pressure stripping, the process responsible for creating tendrils of jellyfish galaxies, and star formation.

Also visible in this Hubble image are small galaxies and stars, and a larger elliptical galaxy in the left corner. The celestial seascape, which was captured using Hubble's Wide Field Camera 3 (WFC3), was tweeted by ESA. Since being shared, the tweet has garnered over 60,000 views

WFC3, a highly advanced in-

strument onboard the telescope designed to capture high-resolution images of the universe across a wide range of wavelengths, is the source of some of Hubble's most spectacular images, from a view of Jupiter and Europa to a revisit to the Pillars of Creation.

The versatile camera was installed during the telescope's final servicing mission in 2009 and is the source of some of the telescope's most spectacular images.

Hubble has undergone several servicing missions between 1993 and 2009 to upgrade its instruments and extend its operational lifespan. The space-based telescope continues to be a crucial tool for astronomical research.

## Warmest February this year since 1877

PTI PHOTO

#### AGENCIES

New Delhi, Feb 28: India reported the warmest February this year since 1877 with average maximum temperatures touching 29.54 degrees celsius, the weather office said Tuesday while linking it with global warming. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said most parts of the country are expected to experience above-normal temperatures while the southern peninsula and parts of Maharashtra are likely to escape the brunt of harsh weather conditions. Addressing a virtual press con-

ference, S C Bhan, the Head of the Hydromet and Agromet Advisory Services of IMD said there was little probability of heat waves in March, but most parts of the country could experience extreme weather conditions in April and May.

The monthly average maximum temperature for February was the highest since 1877, Bhan told reporters in response to a question, linking the rising trend to the phenomenon of global warming.

"The entire globe is living in an era of global warming. We are liv-ing in a warming world," Bhan said. Contd...P4





POST NEWS NETWORK





#### **COURTENEY COX REUNITES** WITH HER FRIENDS CO-STARS

Courteney Cox was honoured with a 'Star' on the Hollywood Walk of Fame which was unveiled by her Friends co-stars Jennifer Aniston and Lisa Kudrow. The two were among the few speakers at the ceremony to pay tribute to her.

#### **JORDAN SAYS SORRY TO MOM** FOR HIS UNDERWEAR AD

Michael B Jordan apologises to his mom after starring in underwear advertisement. He was part of Calvin Klein's Spring/Summer 2023 campaign, and it took no time for the actor to confess being slightly embarrassed by the eye-catching photos of him in his underwear.



FORTUNE FORECAST GaneshaSpeaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181\*

ARIES

Interactive sessions with neonle who think like you are on the cards. At last you may have an intimate talk with your beloved and you will get a chance to confide your commitment to the relationship says Ganesha. You may even express vour long-term dreams

#### TAURUS

Money matters are likely to take up most of your time, this day. Ganesha sees that you will have quite a time handling the difficulties and complexities they pose. You may not find an easy way out of your financial problems and will find it hard to take firm decisions.

#### GEMINI

Today will be a day filled with energy and enthusiasm. You will have an optimistic view of life and this will help you attain success. You will be able to exer cise your free will and take up tasks to your liking. While the day will be busy, it will also be rewarding, says Ganesha

#### CANCER Today is a day for taking

things slowly, especially on the business front. This applies the most to the stockbrokers and also others who invest in stocks or shares on the side. Stars are not so bright today

and haste will only worsen the matters.

LEO

You will be filled with extraordinary self-confidence today. You will be able to take firm decisions when it comes to work related issues. You will not face any difficulties in completing your tasks today, and will achieve success. You need to guard against getting into any confrontations with your father or other elders, says Ganesha

#### 

Ganesha savs don't let setbacks cow you down today as you will emerge stronger from each one of them. It will be your logic and reasoning abilities that will aid you in gaining the perfection in complet ing your work. You may look forward to spending the evening with your beloved or a special friend. You will be engrossed in an animated conversation.

### LIBRA

SCORPIO

Ganesha says that any pending legal issues will be sorted out today either in

You can be fondly called as 'the perfectionist' today. Right from being punctual

# Raima on exploring layers of relationships

Mumbai: Raima Sen, the wellknown Hindi and Bengali film actress, has stated that people's perceptions about love and relationships have transformed thanks to OTT platforms. She feels the same due to the messy, wonderful, and complex portrayal of

love in those mediums. The actress says the audience now has access to shows from all over the world and has developed strong attachments to their favourite characters. Raima points out that OTT contents now highlight the importance of listening and understanding another person's point of view. They have helped many un-

we can "When we watch certain shows for a long time, they have a greater find char impact on us than films and general TV shows with ads," explains the Chokher Bali actress. The young generation has been

exposed to the array of relationships that these series have shown, which has opened their eyes to the beauty of all forms of love, whether it be with oneself, family,

friends, or partners, she further Raima feels OTT made us explore the importance of self-love and expression. "In

these series

acters that are similar to us and learn from their experi ences," she adds. The versatile actor was recently

seen in the psychological thriller Roktokorobi and

her performance was lauded by all

## When Manoj gave up on his dancing dream

Mumbai: Manoj Bajpayee is undoubtedly one of the finest actors in the Hindi film industry. However, not many know that he is equally good at dancing. The actor recently revealed why he gave up on

his dancing dream. At recent chat

show, Manoj shared that since he is from theatre, there used to be a prerequisite that an artist should know how to sing. He revealed that he was really fond of dancing. The actor thought about exhibiting his skills as a dancer on the screen until he saw Bollywood actor Hrithik Roshan's dance. After watching Hrithik, he told himself

he cannot learn this now. The National Award-winning actor recently celebrated seven glorious years of Hansal Mehta's Aligarh. Talking about the film, he "I believe Aligarh has improved me as an actor and a person. I approached the role in a way other actors wouldn't have. I saw

my character as a literate Lata Mangeshkar fan rather than just a gay man. Manoi is

currently promoting his upcoming web series Gulmohar. The series also stars Sharmila Tagore and Suraj Sharma in key roles AGENCIES

# Yami bats for drawing clear line on privacy

Mumbai: In Himachal Pradesh, when a teenager a recent in

her instead. The video was then uploaded onof people.

Yami opened up about the incident and said, "It may seem I'm so happy, but that means it has encouraged that person to do it again with any other celebrity and also motivated others to do it. And eventually it did. They all came back to my home with cameras, and they were taking a

drawing a clear line on privacy and advised against overstepping it.

She was referring to the invasion of celebrity privacy that resulted from the unauthorised photography of Alia Bhatt in her living room, which caused quite a stir. A picture of the actress inside her home was taken via a zoom lens and subsequently released on a portal. Alia criticised the paparazzi for breaching her privacy.

# **'No worst** part of falling in love'

derstand others better.

Mumbai: Ex-Bigg Boss 16 contestant Jasmin Bhasin, who is currently seen in the web series Jab We Matched, expressed her opinions on relationships, love, and breakups

She said: "You always have a partner to celebrate happiness, you always have a partner to cry on his shoulder during the dull moments basically. You have a companion forever in your good and bad which is a beautiful thing. There is nothing called worst as long as you are in a meaningful relationship in both good and bad days. So there is no worst part of falling in love."

Jasmin, who is quite famous for her role in Tashan-e-Ishq and Dil Se Dil Tak, shared her perspective about life partners turning best friends and if this is possible.

She said: "Your husband will only be the person whom you have chosen as a partner, your children's father, your companion with whom you spend the rest of vour life. He has to be vour best friend and that's how you will make a successful and strong partnership."

Jab We Matched, streaming on Amazon

asked to take a photo with her but actually began recording

line as a vlog and viewed by millions

The acto

mality out of it. She insisted on

court or through an out of court settle ment. Your workload will get eased today and you will be able to find your way out from certain problematic situations. Ganesha showers you with his blessings

miniTV, is four episodic series, helmed

by director Srinivas Sunderrajan, written by Neil Chitnis, Amrit Paul, Bhavya Raj and Ritu Mago. IANS

view, actor Yami Gautam de scribed an incident that happened in her homeland of

FUN

tour of my home. Recalling the event, she said that she was clueless of the repercussions and advised the public not to make nor-

was last seen in *Lost*. which was released on ZEE5 February 16. Agencies

#### SUDOKU

SOL

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.

				3	5			
			2		9			
2	5	8	4					
4			6	35 <u></u>		5	3	
1		6			8			1
					2			
	8		9	6			1	2
6	7	1				4	5	

LUTIO	N	_											
		Ν	0	Μ	D	E	G	U	E	R	R	E	
	M	Ν	C	1	E	N	A		A	W	E	U	F
Q	K	IN	U	1	P	IN	Н		M	vv	F	0	
Ř	E	A	R	N		F	E	W	141	F	R	0	G
2	В				А		R		Т		E	-	н
$\leq$	Е	Х	С	υ	S	Е		R	Е	J	Е	С	Т
SS	L		н		н		Т		Е				D
ö	1	Т	E	М		F	1	Х		Е	P	E	E
CROSSWORD	E	E	E R	S	K		S	K	C	L	L	R	C
С С	E	E	R	0	R		U	n	S	L	I	ĸ	K
		С	ō	В	В	L	E	S	T	0	N	Е	
	_												
	6	5	2	9	ŀ	8	4	7	7	1	3		5
	1	1	7	3		2	5	6	5	4	8		9
	\$	3	5	4	Т	1	3	5	)	7	2		6
_	4	\$	6	5		7	1	1.1	3	8	9		2
С С	\$	9	8	7	1	4	6	2	2	5	1		3
ð	2	2	3	1	I	5	9	8	3	6	7	1	4
Õ		5	9	8	Т	3	7	4	ŧ.	2	6	T	1
SUDOKU	3	3	4	2		6	8	1		9	5		7
<u> </u>	7	7	1	6		9	2	5	5	3	4		8

### PEANUTS



tough times don't last; tough people do. The day has a lot of ups and downs in store for you. However, you are the sailor of stormy seas and would sail through all the troubles easily. Take the advice given by your near and dear ones, says Ganesh

### CAPRICORN

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

### 

You may receive some good news from the foreign shores today. The day will bring on a positive note and it will remain like that fo the whole twenty-four hours. You'll be in a mood to merry and it will be transformed to everyone around you, says Ganesha.

#### PISCES

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



#### CALVIN AND HOBBES







CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW















### **IN MEMORIAM**

Speaker BK Arukha along with others during the observance of 139th death anniversary of Veer Surendra Sai on the Assembly premises, Tuesday



### **COVID-19 TRACKER**

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
orld	67,99,12,028	65,27,59,676	67,99,783
dia	4,46,86,371	4,41,53,343	5,30,771
disha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204

### **POLITICKLE** by MANJUL



# Sustainable devpt at core of our schemes: Naveen



Over the years, Odisha has been strengthening its resilience and adaptive capacity in dealing with natural disasters, says the Chief Minister

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 28: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday said Odisha has been a frontrunner in spearheading programmes that breathe sustainable development at its core

Patnaik said this while launching the second version of the Odisha Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Indicator Framework (OSIF 2.0)

Joining the programme on virtual platform, he urged every department to make intelligent use of this framework. Pronouncing the commitment to the SDGs, he said.

"Together we can; Together we will." The Chief Minister said that the clarion call issued by the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a testament that the only way going forward is to develop sustainably - integrating the social, economic and environmen-

tal dimensions of development. "Our principles of 5T amplify our commitment to leave no one behind. Therefore, it becomes highly imperative that we monitor our progress in precise and challenging ways," he said.

The Odisha SDG Indicator Framework (OSIF 2.0) intends to do just this. The indicators developed, involving all the SDG implementing departments, will help in assessing and exploring effective strategies to bridge gaps to achieve the targets, said Patnaik. He further said that over the years, Odisha has been strengthening its resilience and adaptive capacity in dealing

Din in House over law & order, PMAY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Feb 28: Assembly was adjourned till 4pm Tuesday after it witnessed uproarious scenes with treasury and opposition benches shouting over the alleged neglect of the state by the Centre in the allotment of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY-Grameen) and law and order situation respectively.

The trouble started as soon as Speaker BK Arukha announced the beginning of the Zero Hour.

Lawmakers of the ruling BJD stood up and waved banners against the BJP-led government at the Centre accusing it of neglecting Odisha in the allotment of PMAY (Grameen).

They also raised slogans like 'Central government hai hai'.

Leader of Opposition Jayanarayan Mishra of BJP was seen saying something, but could not be heard due to the shouts from the treasury bench.

The speaker then called senior BJD member Debi Prasad Mishra to deliver the speech on the issue sought to be raised by the party.

Irked over the Speaker's action, the entire opposition comprising members of the Congress and BJP rushed to the well of the House and raised slogans in protest.

Some opposition members even attempted to climb the speaker's podium leading to a din in the House. Subsequently, Arukha announced adjournment of the House proceedings till 4 pm. Later, Mishra told reporters outside the House that he had raised the issue of law and order in the state.

"BJD raised the PMAY issue to divert attention from the law and order situation in the state,' he added.

#### Dhal new SRC

Bhubaneswar: The state government has appointed Nikunja Bihari Dhal as the Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) of Odisha. His appointment comes after the elevation of outgoing SRC Pradeep Kumar Jena elevated to the post of Chief Secretary recently. Dhal, a 1993-batch IAS officer, has been allowed to remain as the SRC and Managing Director of OSDMA in addition to his other responsibilities. Dhal is the Additional Chief Secretary, Energy department, with the additional charge of Excise department, GRIDCO chairman. Odisha Sta

# Customer service, awareness key to sales growth: Agarwal

Success can be a long and winding road, filled with many obstacles and challenges. This goes well with young entrepreneur Raj Kumar Agarwal, director of Siddhi Laxmi Mahindra. Starting from the struggling phase of life when he opened a vehicle servicing centre and till becoming the owner of a showroom, Agarwal's journey was riddled with several challenges.



Nevertheless, he tasted the fruits of success when he got the dealership for three-wheelers, and later for two-wheelers as well as four-wheelers. Agarwal finds time to sit with **Orissa POST** to share the

experience of his entrepreneurial journey:

#### How do you face post-Covid sluggishness?

During pandemic, it was really tough to keep ourselves safe and simultaneously take good care of our employees' families. The business is yet to get back to normalcy. We had adequate stock of vehicles but people were unable to buy them because banks were not providing loans then. Even now, the sales are far from becoming impressive. However, there is adequate assistance from the company in terms of equipment and other issues post-Covid.

- What are the major challenges the automobile industry is facing?
- Earlier, chips and semiconductors were being imported from other countries but now, thanks to Make-in India, they are being manufactured (though not fully) in our country. And, slowly India is trying to avoid dependence on other countries in this aspect. This is being seen as a good omen for automobile industry.
- What would be your suggestions to improve sales/services in automobile industry?
- First of all, priority should be given to providing best services to customers and primary responsibility is to create awareness among the people regarding the services. We need to ensure that the vehicle does not stop midway and if this

be our foremost duty to provide him/her instant service. Since we are living in a digital world, sensitising customers about services has become easier now. Customers can get readily available information even sitting at home. This helps

#### How has been Siddhi Laxmi Mahindra's journey so far?

grow sales

With the blessings of my parents and good wishes of customers, Siddhi Laxmi is ascending new heights. We were selling three-wheelers when we stepped into

automobile business. Later, we got the dealership for twowheelers But the business

300-700, Scorpio and Thar are in great demand. Your take on electric vehicle market? Government's EV policy is in right direction and it is welcome as vehicles running on fossil fuel are polluting the atmosphere. Pollution will be drastically reduced when EVs

not up to the mark at that time.

Our business expanded mani-

fold when we got Mahindra's

dealership in 2015. Several prod-

ucts started landing in the mar-

ket and now Bolero Neo, XUV

will replace these vehicles. Further, we will not have to depend on other countries for fuel anymore. Everyone should be sensitized about the advantages of EVs. The government is also providing incentives to replace the old vehicles with EVs.

> Your secret of striking balance between work and family life?

> > Devoting adequate time to family as well as business has become difficult in this busy life. However. everything runs fine with the support and well wishes of family members as well as employees. I feel delighted to spare some time. whenever available, vith family and near

to disaster management. Similarly,

through Odisha Millets Mission, the state started the initiative of diversifying the food palette to improve the nutritional requirements of the population, he said.

As a coastal state at the frontline, the CM said, facing the perils of climate change, Odisha has long adopted the concept of sustainable development in all the programmes and schemes being implemented by his government.

"As we continue to grow by leaps and bounds, our developmental model remains anchored in the values of equity, inclusiveness and sustainability," he added.

Patnaik also highlighted the citizen-centric schemes and programmes launched by his government.

Development Commissioner PK Jena said the UN SDG agenda has 17 goals to be achieved by 2030. The state has identified 293 indi-

with natural disasters and is known today for its 'zero casualty' approach

cators in this framework based on administrative data, he added.

Beverages Corporation Ltd (OSBCL) chairman.

happens to a customer it would

# **SC: COMMON HC CAN TRANSFER CIVIL CASES TO OTHER STATES**



#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 28: In a significant verdict, the Supreme Court Tuesday held that a High Court can transfer a civil lawsuit from one state to another if it is common and has jurisdiction over both the states.

The judgement came on a "pristinely legal and novel" issue whether the Supreme Court is the sole repository of power under Section 25 of the Code of Civil Procedure (CPC) to direct transfer of a "suit, appeal or other proceeding from a civil court in one State to a civil court in another"

A bench comprising Justices Hrishikesh Roy and Dipankar Datta referred to relevant provisions of the CPC and ruled that the apex court is the sole authority to transfer civil cases from one state to another if the jurisdictional high courts are different.

The top court, however, said that a High Court like Gauhati, which is common for Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh, cannot be deprived of powers to transfer civil cases from one state to another under its jurisdiction.

Abench comprising Justices Hrishikesh Roy and Dipankar Datta ruled that the apex court is the sole authority to transfer civil cases from one state to another if the jurisdictional high courts are different

he top court, however, said that a The top court, nowever, such as the High Court like Gauhati, which is common for Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh, cannot be deprived of powers to transfer civil cases from one state to another under its jurisdiction

"The power under Section 24 of the CPC can be exercised by the High Court even for inter-state transfer of a suit, appeal or other proceeding, if it is the common High Court for two or more states under Article 231 of the Constitution and both the Civil Courts (transferor and transferee) are subordinate to it," Justice Roy, writing the judgement for the bench, said.

"From the factual matrix vis-à-vis the Constitutional and statutory provisions, there can be no cavil that the courts and tribunals in the states of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh are not only under the superintendence of the Gauhati High Court in terms of Article 227, all district courts and courts subordinate thereto in such states are subject to the control of the Gauhati High Court under Article 235 ...," the bench said.

Dealing with submissions that only the Supreme Court has the power under Section 25 of the CPC to order inter-state transfer of civil cases, the 47-page judgement said an approach to construe the provision has to be "fair, pragmatic, reasonable and realistic.'

"Any construction of Section 25 which would impede 'access to justice', considered to be a Fundamental Right, has to be eschewed," it said.

A narrow interpretation imposing a bar for entertainment of an application for transfer of a suit, appeal or other proceeding by a common High Court like the Gauhati High Court in the four states could place a heavy burden and might pose an insurmountable obstacle for litigants of the far-flung areas of the North-East, if they were made to approach the top court, it said.

The legal issue had arisen in a case filed by one Shah Newaz Khan who had moved the Gauhati HC for transfer of his civil case from the court of the district judge at Dimapur in Nagaland to Assam.

Seeking transfer, Khan had alleged that he was facing hostile circumstances in Nagaland.

The Gauhati HC held that it lacked the power which can solely be exercised by the Supreme Court.

Setting aside the decision, the apex court set the law straight and asked the HC to decide the transfer plea of Khan afresh.

# **Odisha yet to frame PESA rules: Centre**

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Feb 28: Odisha is yet to frame rules under Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act which empowers Gram Sabhas to safeguard and protect traditions, customs and community resources of tribal areas notified as Fifth Schedule areas, the Union Panchayati Raj Ministry said.

According to the ministry's annual report, it has written to Odisha and Jharkhand as both the states are yet to frame PESA rules. The Fifth Schedule areas, to which these rules apply, exist in 10 states.

Significantly, on the basis of report of Bhuria Committee submitted in 1995, the Parliament had enacted "The Provision of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996, for its applicability to Fifth Schedule Areas and tribal areas."

The PESA Act empowers Gram Panchayats to approve plans, programmes and projects for social and economic development. It makes it mandatory to have consultations with Gram Panchayats for land acquisition, resettlement and rehabilitation of displaced persons.

In Odisha, there are 19,311 villages notified as Fifth Schedule areas. As many as six districts are fully covered while seven districts are partially covered under Fifth Schedule, the reports states.

Hindol, Attabira NAC polls April 3

ones.

Bhubaneswar: Elections to Hindol and Attabira Notified Area Councils (NACs) will be held April 3, while the results will be declared April 5, State Election Commissioner (SEC) Aditya Prasad Padhi said Tuesday. Briefing mediapersons here, Padhi said the tenure of Attabira NAC in Bargarh district and Hindol NAC in Dhenkanal district ends April 12. Following delimitation of wards and reservation of seats, the election will be conducted in 28 wards of the two NACs. As many as 23,397 voters will exercise their franchise at 32 booths, he said. Padhi said two EVMs will be used in each booth for councillor and chairperson elections. Formal notification for the election will be published March 3.





# Junior clerk gets 1yr and 6 months RI in bribe case

documents in RTO office and de-

posited the fine amount May 13,

2010. However, the convict asked him

for a bribe of ₹100 for supply of

sleuths caught Mohapatra red-

handed while receiving money from

Pradhan at his office the next day.

On being informed, Vigilance

the receipt of the fine amount.

#### OST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 28: The special Vigilance court Tuesday sentenced a former junior clerk to rigorous imprisonment of one year and six months holding him guilty in a bribery case. The convict, Ladukeswar Prasad Mohapatra has been asked to deposit a fine of ₹ 2.000 as well.

**OrissaPOST** 

WEDNESDAY | MARCH 1 | 2023 | BHUBANESWAR

March 13, 2010, the bolero vehicle of the complainant, Santosh Kumar Pradhan, was checked near Pipili by the Regional Transport Office staff of Puri. They issued manual Vehicle Checking Report (VCR) for non production of document by the driver of the vehicle.

Pradhan produced the required

#### Special public prosecutor (Vigilance) Hemant Kumar Swain conducted the trial on behalf of the vigilance.

Similarly, four other persons including a former Sarpanch have been convicted in three different cases of corruption in different parts of the state Tuesday. The convicts include Gokul Chnadra Navak, Ex-Asst, Agriculture Officer of Umarkote in Nabarangpur district, Kunu Bhuyan, retired head clerk, Salekram Dhurua, former Junior Clerk at the office of Hemgir Block Education Officer in Sundargarh district and Purna Chandra Bisoi, the former Sarpanch of Mandar Gram Panchayat of

Polasara block in Ganjam.



UP IN ARMS: BJD legislator Arun Sahoo addresses the women party workers during a demonstration against the Union government over its failure of not fulfiling promises made under PMAY in front of Raj Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

## **PLUS II EXAMS START TODAY**

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 28: As many as 3,57,942 students of arts, science, commerce and vocational streams will give Plus-II exams conducted by the Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE) which begins Wednesday. The exam, which is to be conducted at 1,145 exam centres, will continue till April 5, 2023, with a total of 202 examination management hubs set up to organise them.

Out of total 3,57,942 students, 1,73,534 are boys and 1,84,408 are girls. In arts 2,33,855 students will give exam, while in science there are 93,894 students and in commerce 24,331 with 5,862 in vocational.

Meanwhile, CHSE official informed that the question papers which are being circulated in social media are fake one

Earlier, School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash said that Odisha is putting more emphasis on better transparency in Plus-II board exams by ensuring CCTV camera installation at the examination centres. Notably, the Odisha CHSE Plus-II exams will kick start from March 1. All the practical examinations are over, and all the question hubs have received the question papers, said Dash.

It can be mentioned here that the exams for Plus II Science stream will start on March 1, and the exams for Commerce and Arts streams will commence from March 2. The exams for vocational studies will also start March 3.

### **NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY** City educational institutes engage students

of the country. On the occasion, several institutions of the City or-Bhubaneswar, Feb 28: Chief

ganised events to celebrate science and remember the great scientist and his work.

A 'Projects and Ideas Display Contest' was organised on the premises of Regional Science Centre, Bhubaneswar, which was inaugurated by IMA Bhubaneswar director Jasobanta Jena. Students from various schools presented their projects and ideas with their working model.

Governor Ganeshi Lal also pay-The students came up with soing tribute to the Indian physicist lutions to emerging global challenges. 'Infinity Well', 'Flood said that everyone should develop Resistance House', 'Waste a scientific temper for the progress

Management and recycling model'. 'Hydroponic cultivation' to name a few among the myriad projects that were presented by the participants. Similarly, Institute of Life Sciences, Bhubaneswar celebrated the day with more than 300 students from 20 colleges and universities. The programme had lectures by eminent scientists, live experiments, visit to ILS research infrastructure and discussions with scientists. The live demonstrations showcased ILS research activities in the field of virology, protein structure and function, microscopy, embryology, malaria bi-



**Continued from P1** 

## POWERGRID ORGANISES AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Twitter account.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Minister Naveen Patnaik paid trib-

utes to the legendary Indian sci-

entist and Nobel Laureate CV

Raman on the occasion of the

National Science Day, which com-

memorates discovery of the Raman

Effect. His extraordinary contri-

bution to the field of science will

be remembered for generations to

come, said the CM through his

Gurugram, Feb 28: Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POW-ERGRID), a Maharatna CPSE of Ministry of Power, organised a number of programmes to generate public awareness in run up to the upcoming meeting of Anti-Corruption

ि पावरविड POWFRGBID **Promoting Integrity Preventing & Combating Corruption** 



poster making competitions were also organized in Government Senior Secondary School, Sukhrali, Gurugram, Government High School, Ullawas, Gurugram and Government Model Sanskriti Sr. Sec School, Sushant Lok, Gurugram. Quiz and poster making competitions were conducted at Kendriya Vidvalava. Old JNU Campus. New Delhi, MCD Primary School (Boys) and MCD Primary School (Girls) Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi. To further strengthen the goal of creating mass awareness, POW-ERGRID also organized awareness programmes for general public through street plays at major public places in Gurugram.

ology, biomaterials and human ge

University, Germany.

In another event, CV Raman

netics.

## Outfit holds Cycle Yatra to inspire climate action

POST NEWS NETWORK

Foundation, in association with Bhubaneswar, Feb 28: To celebrate and inspire climate action Utkal University, gave awards to sciwith a purpose to build a smarter entists. Bigyan Ratna award was given to Swadhinanda Patnaik, and brighter future for present and future generation, Switch ON former director of Institute of Mathematics and Applications, Foundation, an award-winning en-Bhubaneswar: Similarly, CV Raman tity, working across four major verticals-Clean Energy, Water, Climate Senior Scientists award was given Smart Agriculture, Skill to Siba Prasad Adhikary, Former Development and Sustainable Cities, VC of Fakir Mohan University, CV Raman Young Scientists award started a six-day Cycle Yatra across was conferred on Sesha Kishan Odisha as part of the 'Move for research associate at August Earth' movement in the state.

BMC Mayor Sulochana Das flagged off the Cycle Yatra in Bhubaneswar Tuesday, Around 200 people participated in the rally which commenced from the Odisha State Bharat Scouts & Guides and ended at Ram Mandir. The Odisha leg of the Cycle Yatra commence February 27 from Puri and will pass through Konark, Nimapara, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Satmile, Angul, Boinda, Redhakhol, Sonepur, and culminate in Balangir March 4.

Under the movement, Vinay Jaju, Co-founder of SwitchON Foundation is cycling over 3,000 km across different states in East India including around 500 km in Odisha and connecting with over 10.000 farmers, women and youth. to address issues related to clean air and sustainable mobility, sus

tainable agriculture and renewable energy

Jaju said, "We will engage Farmers, Youth, Government, Financiers. Technologists and civil society organizations through its journey, and offer solutions to community-specific issues related to water, soil, energy and clean air, that are directly impacting the livelihood and health of citizens.

Jaju urged the citizens to join the movement, by simply visiting www.MoveForEarth.in and signing up as a volunteer or partner, or by joining the ride and helping to switch on a climate conscious movement that holds the potential and promise to build a better future.

A Youth Citizens' Jury to tackle Climate Change and map solutions for a Sustainable Future was also organised in association with Socratus. The unique event was held at Gita Gobinda Sadan Tuesday in the presence of K Murugesan, IFS, Member Secretary, State Pollution Control Board, Odisha.

Murugesan said, "Odisha is highly vulnerable to the climate crisis. I am very happy that SwitchON Foundation has undertaken this initiative. This is the most important issue and will certainly complement the current efforts of the state government to build awareness and inspire them

#### Sonepur records highest temp of 37.7 deg Celsius

Bhubaneswar: In Odisha the temperature in March is likely to increase by 3 to 5 degrees across the state. A heatwave warning for Odisha has been issued by the MeT for the next five days Tuesday. Sonepur Tuesday recorded the highest of 37.7 degree Celsius in the state followed by Bioudh at 37.5 degree Celsius. The mercury in Bhubaneswar, which registered 35.8 degree Celsius Monday reached 36.7 degree Celsius Tuesday, the Met office said.

### SSIFIED

#### AFFIDAVIT

I, Dhirendra Bhusan Pandey @ Dhirendra Pande (44 years), S/o-Kshyamanidhi Pandey, R/o Ambabhona, P.O.-Ambabhona, P.S./Tah.-Ambabhona, Dist.-Bargarh, Odisha solemnly affirm before the Court of Executive Magistrate, Ambabhona that both the name Dhirendra Pande & Dhirendra Bhusan Pandey is the name of same & single person for all purposes.

Forum being held from March 1-3, at Gurugram under the directives of Central Vigilance Commission. Various debate and quiz com-

petitions were organized for students of Gurugram University, Sector 51, Gurugram and Government Girls College, Sector 14, Gurugram. Essay writing and



#### Sisodia, Jain ...

The BJP had stepped up its attack on the AAP following Sisodia's arrest and had been demanding his sacking, along with that of Jain, from the Delhi Cabinet.

"BJP's struggle has borne fruits.

We had been demanding that

Manish Sisodia and Satyendar

Jain would have to resign and also

go to jail. And out of embarrass-

ment, Chief Minister Arvind

Keiriwal had to accept their res-

ignations. This is a victory of BJP

workers, a victory of truth," Delhi

BJP working president Virendra

involvement in the liquor scam.

Sachdeva said.

tinue," he added.

The monthly average minimum temperature over the Indian region was the fifth highest during this February since 1901. Rainfall average over the coun-

Warmest February...

try is most likely to be normal (83-117 per cent of long period average) in March, Bhan said. The LPA of rainfall over the country as a whole during March based on data from 1971-2020 is about 29.9 mm.

He said below-normal rainfall was expected over most areas of northwest India, west-central India and some parts of east and northeast India.

"Liquor scam has happened with Normal to above-normal rainfall your complicity and right under is likely over most parts of peninyour nose. You are responsible for sular India, east-central India and it. Our struggle, demanding some isolated pockets of north-Kejriwal's resignation, will coneast India.

Bhan said currently, La Nina The Congress said Sisodia has conditions were prevailing over been arrested in an "open-and-shut case the equatorial Pacific region, which of corruption", and demanded that was expected to weaken and turn Kejriwal should be arrested too for his to El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) neutral conditions during

#### the pre-monsoon season.

He said it was too early to forecast the impact of El Nino conditions on the monsoon season. "April would be a better time to forecast the impact of El Nino on the monsoon. We will issue a forecast mid-April," Bhan said.

#### Q3 GDP growth...

The construction sector has grown by 8.4 per cent in the quarter compared to 0.2 per cent growth a year ago

Electricity, gas, water supply and other utility services segment has grown by 8.2 per cent compared to 6 per cent growth a year ago.

GVA growth in the services sector -- trade, hotel, transport, communication and services related to broadcasting -- was 9.7 per cent during the third quarter against 9.2 per cent.

Financial, real estate and professional services grew by 5.8 per cent in the third quarter over 4.3 per cent earlier.

Public administration, defence and other services posted 2 per cent growth against 10.6 per cent in the third quarter of the last fiscal.

"Real GDP or GDP at constant (2011-12) prices for the years 2021-22 and 2020-21 stands at ₹149.26 lakh crore and ₹136.87 lakh crore, respectively, showing a growth of 9.1 per cent during 2021-22 as compared to a contraction of 5.8 per cent during 2020-21."

Nominal Net National Income (NNI) or NNI at current prices for the year 2021-22 stands at ₹203.27 lakh crore as against ₹172.23 lakh crore in 2020-21, showing a growth of 18 per cent during 2021-22 as against a contraction of 3 per cent in the previous year, it stated

Per Capita Income or Per Capita Net National Income at current prices is estimated at ₹1,27,065 and ₹1,48,524 respectively for the years 2020-21 and 2021-22, it stated.

Gross Capital Formation (GCF) at current prices is estimated at ₹73.62 lakh crore for the year 2021-22 as compared to ₹55.27 lakh crore during 2020-21, it stated

The rate of GCF to GDP is 31.4 per cent during 2021-22 as against 27.9 per cent in 2020-21. The rates of capital formation in the years 2011-12 to 2019-20 and 2021-22 have been higher than the rate of saving because of positive net capital flow from RoW (rest of the world), it stated.

In terms of the share to the total GFCF (at current prices), the highest contributor is Non-Financial Corporations followed by the Household sector, the share of which stood at 44.1 per cent and 40.5 per cent respectively in 2021-22, it stated. The rate of GCF to GDP at con-

stant (2011-12) prices was 31.7 per cent in 2020-21 and 35.5 per cent in 2021-22, it stated.

Gross savings during 2021-22 are estimated at ₹70.77 lakh crore against ₹57.17 lakh crore during 2020-21, it stated.

Naba heat spills...

Mohanty, BJYM state president Irasish Acharya, party MLAs and other senior leaders participated in the march demanding a CBI investigation into the minister's murder.

BJP state president Samir

Acharya said although a month has passed since the murder of the minister, the police have not yet been able to unravel the motive behind the assassination. "Not only this case, the Crime Branch is unable to crack many cases handed over to it. Mamita Meher murder case, the double murder case in Mahanga and Pihu murder case are the classic examples,' Acharva said.

Later in the evening, as many as 22 agitators, including Acharya, were arrested on the basis of a case (135/23) under several Sections of the IPC including 147, 294, 353, 323, 332, 325, 307 and 506.

The health minister was shot dead last month allegedly by a police officer who was arrested and dismissed from the service.

### FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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









#### **OrissaPOST** WEDNESDAY | MARCH 1 | 2023 | BHUBANESWAR

# state

in Odisha has taken action promptly

after the report on road connec-

tivity in the state was published.

Apart from Koraput district, 723

# 6,412 villages in Odisha lack road connectivity

**KORAPUT DISTRICT THE WORST SUFFERER WI** 848 VILLAGES REMAINING INACCESSIBLE

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Feb 28: A total of 6,412 villages in Odisha lack road connectivity, according to a report. Among them, 848 are situated in Koraput district only. Sources said that the Odisha government along with the Centre is planning to develop commutable roads in these areas. The deplorable fact however is that despite independence for over seven decades, many parts in India are still inaccessible due to lack of commutable roads.

Koraput district is a prime example of this. Roads have not come up at many places in the district due to alleged connivance between politicians and unscrupulous government officials. Residents of this district have been deprived of many welfare projects implemented by the Odisha government due to lack of roads. Taking advantage of the situation, neighbouring states are trying to encroach upon land belonging to Odisha by wooing residents of Koraput district with various welfare programmes. In the process inter-state border disputes are flaring up.

AP ministers and officials are visiting Kotia panchayat in Koraput

### Youth ends life 13 days after mom's murder

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, Feb 28: Tragedy struck a family at Bipulingi village under Chhatrapur police limits in Ganjam district Monday night when a youth died by suicide consuming pesticide. Unable to bear the loss of his mother who was murdered only 13 days back, Debashis Choudhury took the drastic step.

Sources said that Debashis had gone into depression since his mother Suprava's death. A pesticide packet was found close to his body. Family members rushed him to the Chhatrapur hospital where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival.

Suprava was sleeping at night when she was brutally hacked to death February 16 by miscreants. Since then, police have also not been able to make much headway into the case.

Family members said that Debashis was becoming moody and depressed with each passing day since his mother's death. They alleged police inaction in probing the death of Suprava prompted Debashis to take the drastic step.



district at regular intervals too woo residents of various villages. Malnutrition deaths of several children in Nagada village have worsened the situation. Locals alleged that the residents of the village frequently lose out on welfare schemes due to the lack of a commutable road

The matter came to light after the chief engineer (Road Planning), Rural Works department directed all superintendent and executive engineers to submit detailed reports on the issue. He also directed his subordinates to identify all habitations that do not have a proper roads. The engineers have been asked to find out the distance of the

human habitations in Kalahandi, 401 in Balasore, 330 in Rayagada 357 in Sambalpur, 325 in Angul, 202 in Bolangir, 208 in Bargarh, 130 in Bhadrak, 75 in Boudh, 127 in Cuttack, 154 in Deogarh, 306 in Dhenkanal, 212 in Gajapati, 160 in Ganjam, 122 in Jagatsinghpur, 24 in Jajpur, 82 in Jharsuguda, 207 in Kandhamal, 57 in Kendrapara, 78 villages from the main road in in Keonjhar, 120 in Khurda, 183 in Koraput district. Instructions have Malkangiri, 188 in Mavurbhani, also been issued to prepare a plan 85 in Nabarangpur, 198 in Navagarh, for construction of roads con-279 in Puri, 45 in Sonepur and 186 necting all the inaccessible areas. in Sundargarh district lack road connectivity

The chief engineer issued the order following publication of a The Rural Works department report by the Centre-sponsored in the state Assembly in June, 2019 Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak had promised to provide connec-Yojana (PMGSY) scheme. It aims tivity to human habitats in various at providing road connectivity to districts of the state by the end of unconnected habitations in India. the 2019-20 fiscal. However, as of A place is termed 'developed' now, many villages and habitats only when it is connected by at least suffer due to lack in connectivity.

one road. Once a road is built connecting the locality to other parts of a particular state development occurs in other spheres also. The Rural Works department

# BNP's migratory birds start returning home



Kendrapara, Feb 28: The migratory birds that arrived at the Bhitarkanika National Park(BNP) last year in October have begun their homeward journey. Every vear the water bodies inside the park wear a colourful look due to the arrival of a large number of avian species from aborad.

The birds fly thousands of miles to Bhitarakanika to escape the harsh winters in Siberia, Afghanistan, Iraq, northern Asia and some central European countries. They usually stay in Bhitarakanika for about three-four months before starting their home ward journey. With signs that winter is about to end, the birds have started leaving BNP, Forest officials said Monday.

DFO of Rajnagar Mangrove Forest Division (Wildlife), Gopinath

Borrower/Guarantor

### Kangaroo court convicts man of rape attempt

POST NEWS NETWORK

Udala, Feb 28: A kangaroo court convicted a man Tuesday of allegedly trying to rape his daughter-in-law in the absence of her husband under this police limits in Mayurbhanj district. After conviction, the man was garlanded with shoes and paraded around the victim's village.

The victim, who had fled to her parent's village, narrated her ordeal there. Irate villagers summoned the accused and his son. They tied up the accused before garlanding him with shoes. On being informed, personnel from the Udala police station reached the spot and rescued the elderly man. A probe has also been launched into the incident, police said.

The incident occurred when the victim went to sleep in her room after dinner Monday night. Her husband and mother-in-law were not at home. Taking advantage of the situation, her father-in-law allegedly tried to rape her. The woman managed to flee and raised an alarm. She then went to her own village. This incident sparked tension among the residents of the survivor's village. They convened a kangaroo court and pronounced the accused and his son guilty. The accused's son was also badly thrashed.

NOTICE

[Rule-8(1)]

Possession

19.10.2022

24.02.2023

as per Notice

₹6,12,719.94

as on 19.10.2022

charges thereon

POSSESSION NOTICE

interest & other

# Honey collectors causing wildfires at Bhitarkanika

**IN THE LAST 4 YEARS, THERE HAVE BEEN 11** 

#### CASES OF FOREST FIRES IGNITED BY TORCHES

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Feb 28: Rampant use of torches during honev collection at Bhitarkanika National Park (BNP)has led to wildfires 11 times in the last four years, sources said Tuesday. The fires were doused, but not before causing substantial damage to cashew and mangrove forests spread over acres of land.

During investigation regarding the fires, Forest department officials found matchboxes and extinguished torch sticks. The findings have proved beyond doubt that the honey collectors were using lighted torches to drive away the bees. Sources said that approximately 480 quintals of honey are collected annually from the BNP forests.

The burning of a four-acre of forest cover in Barunei jungle in April. 2018 is a case in this point. When officials reached the spot they found a half-burnt sack and matchboxes. Similarly, wildfires occurred

twice in forests in Mahakalapara block. Locals managed to apprehend



some of the honey collectors responsible for the fire. They said that the use of torches is not only causing wildfires but also leading to the decrease in honey bee population. The decline in bee population

poses a serious threat to global food security and nutrition, officials said. **Environmentalists Hemant** 

Kumar Rout, Ashok Kumar Swain, Prabhu Prasad Mohapatra and Sheikh Chand said that using torches to destroy beehives for honey can cause serious environmental problems.

The Forest department has imposed restrictions on entry of people into this dense jungle full of

valuable flora and fauna. At the same time, it also is the ideal place for bees. The lure of honey prompts people to break rules and enter the core areas of the forest, officials said. Forest officials said local residents are entering the jungle to collect honey and in the process harming the environment.

Officials of the department in-

formed that even though many vil-

lages lack roads, efforts are on to

connect them with other parts of

the state as quickly as possible.

Officials pointed out that in most cases the honey collectors do not extinguish the torches properly once their job is over and that results in forest fires. Usually the honev collectors enter the forests from February to May. With the months falling in the dry season even the minutest of sparks can cause fires, officials opined.

Environmentalists said that the situation can be avoided if the Forest department provides train people the proper method to collect honey. They suggested that the honey collectors be brought under the department. If that happens the Forest department can also earn substantial revenue. the environmentalists added.



Borrower: M/s. Auto Centre, All those pieces and parcels

Prop.: Shariqa Jabeen, W/o.: of Land situated being and Abdul Azim / Guarantor: Abdul lying at Village: Rajendrapur, Azim, S/o.: Abdul Rahim / Legal Suraj Bihar, 2<sup>nd</sup> Line, Representative of Borrower & Registration District: Ganjam,

760001, Address-2: At: Niladri North: Canal, South: Road / Symbolic

that this year, the park has wit-

nessed an increase in the number

of migratory birds. A total of 140

types of bird species numbering

Bhitarkanika during the winter

season as per the report of the

'Mid-winter Bird Status Survey

-2023'. The survey was carried

out January 6 in five forest and

During the 2022-23 winter season

the maximum number of visitors

belonged to various species of geese

and ducks. A total of 81,930 geese

and ducks were spotted in Bhitarkanika belonging to 15 dif-

ferent species. An estimated 14,786

sore birds-waders of 26 types and

6,753 herons, egret and bitterns

also were spotted in the park.

However, strangely not a single

variety of pelicans, cranes and

flamingos were spotted.

wildlife ranges under BNP.

visited

about 1.39.959

Bihar, 1<sup>st</sup> Lane, Berhampur, Ganjam, Odisha-760001 Borrower: M/s. Ashirbad Poly All those pieces and parcels o.: Mr. K Ramachandra Rao / situated being and lying at ₹24,14,715.88 23.11.2022 as on 23.11.2022 Guarantor: Mr. K Praveen Kumar, Plot No.: 2117/7308, Khata - interest & othe 24.02.2023 S/o.: Mr. K Ramachandra Rao, No.: 1482/4358, situated in charges thereon are at Address: At: Mouza: Haladiapadar, SRO: Both Haladiapadar Road Street, Berhampur-I, Tahasil: Kanisi, Dist.: Ganjam, admeasuring Area Golanthara, Ganjam - 760003 Ac.0.060 Dec, standing in the name of Mrs. K Anasuya, W/o. Mr. K Ramachandra Rao, Bounded by East: Land of Arjuna Gauda, West: Land Covered Under Plot No.: 2109, North: Land of K Praveen Kumar, South: Land of Govinda Kumar Patro / Physical Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 01.03.2023 Authorised Officer, Bank of Maharashtra

Type of Possession

 Guarantor : Aalia Zaman, D/o.;
 Sub-District: Berhampur, Plot

 Abdul Azim, All are at Address-1;
 No.: 39/5165 & 42/5166, admeasuring Area: 523 Sqft.,

 At:
 Goutami
 Hall
 Road,

 Berhampur, Dist.: Ganjam, Odisha Bounded by East: Land of Kishore Chandra Jena, West: Canal,

 Scoold Address - 0
 All Neth Work: Canal, Source Chandra Jena, West: Canal,

#### Espionage accused remanded to jail

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, Feb 28: Police produced the ITR espionage accused in court as his fourday remand period came to an end, Tuesday, Baburam Dev, the accused was again remanded to jail after his bail plea was rejected

Dey, a technical officer in the Telemetry department of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur under Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) was arrested this month after he was found sharing sensitive defencerelated data after being honev trapped by Pakistani woman 'spy'. He was produced in the court of first class judicial magistrate (JMFC) in Balasore and was remanded to police custody after his bail plea was rejected.

#### Drugs worth ₹30L seized in Balasore. 3 held by police

Balasore: Three people, including a woman, were arrested and brown sugar worth ₹30 lakh was seized from their possession, police said Tuesday. Acting on a tipoff, police intercepted a car in Jaleswar locality area and seized 302gm of brown sugar from it, SP Sagarika Nath said. She stated that all the persons held are from West Bengal. She informed that further investigation is underway. It should be stated here that Balasore district is slowly turning out to be a haven for drug peddlars. Despite police efforts to nip the problem in the bud, contraband dealers are using the district to send drugs to other parts of the country.



Police had taken Dey on remand for four days to interrogate him and gather information. During the remand period, officials of Andhra Pradesh's intelligence wing and Indian Air Force (IAF) also joined the interrogation. Sources said that the accused has provided vital information regarding the details that have been passed on to the Pakistani 'spy'. Police said that if necessary. Dev will again be taken on remand for further questioning.



Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015 [Rule-8(1)] of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules-2002 Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of India, Sahid Nagar Branch under the Securitisation 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 & expenses thereon 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 hereir below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules 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, Sahid Nagar Branch for an amount mentioned below with interest & expenses thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets. Date of Demand Notice/ Date of **Description of the** Liabilities due as per Notice **Immovable Property** Possession ₹ 41,50,336.98 17.12.2022 All that part and parcel of Land and Building consisting + interest & of Khata No.: 704/85, Plot No.: 562/1973 23.02.2023 expenses thereon admeasuring Area: Ac.0.026.42 Dec, Status: Stitiban Khurda, Communication Address: At: N-6, Plot No.: 181, Kissam: Gharabari, situated at Mouza: Balianta, P.S./SRO: Balianta IRC Village, Bhubaneswar, Khurda, Odisha - 751013 Dist.: Khurda, standing in the name of Mr. Chita Ranjan Mishra, Bounded by North: Road, South: Property of Kailash Chandra Sahoo & Others, East: Property of Sovita Rani Mohapatra, West Authorised Officer, Bank of India **Bank of India** E- AUCTION SALE NOTICE Zonal Office: Bhubaneswar Zone, 1/1D, Star House, Jayadev Vihar, Navapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Ph.: 0674-2362249 E-Auction Sale Notice Under SARFAESI ACT, 200 Where as the Bank acting through its Authorised Officer in exercise of its powers under-Section 13(4) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (SARFAESI) has decided to put up for E-auction of the following property for realization of the debts due to the Bank **Reserve Price** Date & BRANCH / Name & Address of the **Description of the Property** EMD / Bid Time of Borrower / Co-Borrower /Guarantor/ Total Dues E-Auction ncrement Amou RANIHAT BRANCH , PH.: 0671-2419528 / All that part and parcel of Land situated 20.03.2023 over Mutation Khata No.: 436. Plot No. Borrower: M/s. Manyata Traders, Prop.: Mrs. Minati 510, Area: Ac.0.270 Dec. (11,761.20 at 11.00 A.M. Singh, At: Malgodown, College Square, Cuttack-753003 ₹ 95,26,000/sqft.), Kissam: Gharabari, Mouza Guarantor: M/s. Ruchi Constructions & Promoters, to 11.30 A.M. At: Arunodaya Nagar, Bimala Nivas, Cuttack-753012 Adalia, Tahasil: Cuttack, Tahasil No with unlimited ₹ 9,52,600/-Total Dues: ₹1.38.61.028.73 as on 11.03.2018 -275, DSRO: Cuttack, Dist .: Cuttack extension of interest, costs and expenses from 12.03.2018, less any 754001, Standing in the name o 10 (Ten) M/s. Ruchi Constructions 8 ₹ 50,000/-Promoters, Represented by its partner : Mr. Susanta Kumar Dash, Bounded by North: Bhagabata minutes each Goswami Land, South: Village Road, East: Muna Sa, West: Kadanali Last date & time for submission of EMD & Documents: 17.03.2023 upto 4.00 P.M. Inspection will be provided to the prospective bidders on any working day is before 17.03.2023 with prior appointment of the authorised officer The sale shall be subject to the terms and conditions and provisions prescribed in the SARFAESI Act 2002 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. This is also a 15 days sale notice to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) of the aforesaid loan account for settlement of their outstanding dues with the Bank and to participate in the public auction on the above mentioned date. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in (1) https://www.ibapi.in

(2) https://www.mstcecommerce.com (3) www.bankofindia.co.in

Place: Bhubaneswar
Date: 01.03.2023

CBC 34106/12/0037/2223

(Secretary) BEE



# power post

#### FOCUS STATE BUDGET

Delight is the secret. Learn of pure delight and thou shalt learn of God **SRI AUROBINDO** 



# Unity on Ukraine

ussia's illegal invasion of Ukraine – a blatant attempt to destroy an independent, sovereign state living peacefully within recognized bor-Let the world we want to live in and how international relations should be managed in the future. One year on, the search for answers is even more urgent, and it must involve countries near and far from the war.

Failure to defend the core principles of sovereignty and independence anywhere risks opening the door to autocratic and aggressive regimes everywhere. To live in a world where disputes between states are resolved through negotiations rather than force, we must recognize that the war's challenge to the post-1945 international order affects every country, regardless of political system or alliance. In fact, it is smaller, less powerful countries that will suffer most if the world divides into competing blocs, as it did during the Cold War.

As a former secretary-general of the United Nations and a former president of Colombia, we do not view the war in Ukraine with a European or Western perspective. When we visited Kyiv in August 2022 at Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's invitation, we did so as members of The Elders, the group of independent leaders that Nelson Mandela founded to advocate for

peace, justice, human rights, and a sustainable future on this planet. As Elders, we are interested in ending wars, not winning them, and we believe it is never too soon to start preparing for future dialogue to achieve a just and sustainable peace in line with the UN Charter.

We look at this terrible war and its consequences through a global lens. We understand that for countries experiencing inflation and poverty because of the collapse of grain supplies and soaring energy prices, defending international norms and holding Russia accountable are less urgent issues than a foodsecurity crisis that is threatening millions of vulnerable people.

Similarly, we understand why, at a time when geopolitical power dynamics have become less predictable, some countries are seeking to balance their political and economic interests in ways they believe will help preserve their future security and prosperity. For many countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, Western talk about upholding the values of the "international community" rings hollow, given rich countries' failure to distribute vaccines equitably during the COVID-19 pandemic, or to deliver long-promised funding to tackle the climate crisis

Still, the response from Asia, Latin America. and other parts of the world beyond Europe and North America must not be to retreat from international law and universal rights, or to remain neutral toward what is happen-

ing in Ukraine. Contrary to what some suggest, neutrality does not advance the prospects for peace; it simply emboldens Russian President Vladimir Putin to persist in his goal of destroying Ukraine, and may encourage similar acts of aggression and territorial expansion elsewhere.

It has been 80 years since the Moscow Declaration, when the wartime Allies committed to "a general international organization, based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all peace-loving states." Today, we need a renewed commitment by all UN member states to play their part in reinvigorating an equitable rules-based order that protects and works for everyone, including the least powerful.

Achieving and sustaining a revitalized international order requires fairer systems of global governance and greater consistency in applying the rules. Rising regional powers have a vital role to play – and important choices to make - in this regard. Last year's G20 summit in Bali demonstrated how regional powers like Indonesia can help bridge divisions. Political leaders reaffirmed the centrality of the UN Charter and ensured that the Global South's interests were reflected in the debates and final commitments, such as on food and energy security.



Ban Ki-moon & Juan Manuel Santos

Today, we need a renewed commitment by all **UN** member states to play their part in reinvigorating an equitable rules-based order that protects and works for everyone, including the least powerful

**STRIKING A BALANCE** 

n February 24, Odisha Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari presented the state budget for 2023-24 with a total outlay of ₹2.30 lakh crore as against ₹2 lakh crore of the previous fiscal. The budget has evoked mixed reactions. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik described it as people's budget, while the Opposition dubbed it disappointing, lacklustre and an election budget. Normally, the budgetary outlay is decided in tandem with an expected rise in nominal GDP growth and nothing is evaluated in absolute value as inflation enhances the nominal value. Hence budgetary outlay is evaluated by taking inflation into account or as a percentage of GDP.

Thus, for working out all fiscal indicators, the nominal GSDP or GSDP in the current price is estimated to grow by 12.5% (real GSDP 8% with inflation 4.5%) to reach ₹8.61 lakh crore in 2023-24. It may be noted that in addition to ₹2 lakh crore, Pujari had presented a supplementary budget of ₹16,400 crore in November 2022, which proved redundant and just a routine affair. Since the budgetary outlay is about 15% more than the previous annual budget and higher than the projected nominal GSDP growth rate, the present budget seems to be expansionary.

In 1999-2000 as a percentage of nominal GSDP, the budget size of Odisha was 16%. It increased to 19.92% in 2012-13, and further to 28% in 2021-22, 30% in 2022-23 and is estimated to be 30% in 2023-24.

Total Programme Expenditure outlay for 2023-24 has increased to ₹1.25.000 crore from ₹100.000 crore in the previous fiscal. The Programme Expenditure comprises state sector schemes, central sector schemes, and centrally-sponsored schemes. The administrative expenditure has increased marginally to ₹94,000 crore from ₹89,500 crore in the previous fiscal. The outlay for disaster response funds will be ₹3,700 crore, while transfers from the state will have an outlay of ₹7.300 crore.

Administrative expenditure comprises salary, pension, interest payments etc. It means the government is not going to create more employment which will decimate the spirit of youth. Both Centre and most of the state gov-



Over the years, the Union government has made use of cesses and surcharges as an additional revenue mobilisation measure in which states have no share. The levy on account of cesses and surcharges is very high at more than ₹7 lakh crore now

more than 62% of expenditure re-

sponsibilities but are given only

37% of revenue-raising power,

while the Union government owns

63% of revenue-raising power to

spend on 38% of its expenditure re-

sponsibilities. The states should,

therefore, get more from the central

fund, but the disconcerting news is

that the states' share in the cen-

tral tax is declining. Over the years,

the Union government has made use

of cesses and surcharges as an ad-

ditional revenue mobilisation meas-

ure in which states have no share.

The levy on account of cesses and

surcharges is very high at more

Total revenue receipts for the

year 2023-24 include the state's

share in the Central taxes of ₹46,251

crore, the state's own tax of ₹53,000

crore, own non-tax revenue of

₹52,500 crore and grants from the

Centre of ₹32,749 crore. The state's

dependence on central transfers

has reduced with the state's own

revenue (own tax and non-tax)

contributing about 57.18% to the

In its total revenue receipts,

Odisha's share from central tax was

38.12% in 2017-18. But it has de-

clined to 18.49% in 2022-23. It is

estimated to decline further to

20.11% in 2023-24. Similarly, in its

total revenue receipts. Odisha's

share from the Centre's grant-in-

aid contributed 20.73% in 2016-17. But gradually it has declined to

total revenue pool.

than ₹7 lakh crore now.

ernments feel job creation in the organised sector is not important. This is quite erroneous. Job creation in the organised sector leads to new job creation in unorganised/informal sector.

In line with the Centre, capital expenditure has increased by a mammoth proportion. This is welcome, but due to the incompletion of various projects in due time, cost overrun is increasing. Actually, the enhancement of expenditure on social infrastructure like health. education, and housing has a more positive impact on the economy than capital expenditure. The allocation in the first agriculture budget presented in 2013-14 was ₹7166 crore. In 2023-24, it is estimated to be ₹24.829 crore as against ₹21.166 crore in the previous fiscal. This is a welcome feature.

The outlay is proposed to be financed through revenue receipts of ₹1,84,500 crore and capital receipts containing borrowing and other receipts of ₹45,500 crore. The state's revenue receipts comprise its own tax revenue, non-tax revenue, the state's share in the central tax as recommended by the respective finance commissions and the grant-in-aid from the Centre. The grant grant-in-aid consists of centrally sponsored schemes, central sector schemes and transfers from the state.

According to the Fifteenth Finance Commission, states bear

16.39% in 2022-23 and is estimated to be 14.24% in 2023-24. Total central share in the state's revenue receipts has declined from 58.42% in 2016-17 to 42 70% in 2022-23 It is es timated to be 42.81% in 2023-24.

State's own tax to GSDP ratio has increased from 3.6% in 1999-2000 to 6.14% in 2022-23 and is expected to be 6.15% in 2023-24. It should touch 6.75% as per the Thirteenth Finance Commission. However, many states have also a lower tax-GSDP ratio than Odisha and fail to spend allocated outlays.

Non-tax revenue as percentage of GSDP which was 1.5% in 1999-2000 was estimated at 6.07% in 2022-23 (RE). It is projected to remain at the same level during 2023-24 (BE). Thus, the total own revenue as percentage of GSDP has increased from 5.05% in 1999-2000 to 14.88% in 2021-22 and is estimated at 12.25% in 2022-23 (BE).

But the real concern is Odisha is witnessing a massive increase in non-tax revenue due to a rise in mining royalties. But this is not sus tainable as mineral resources are not unlimited. The state government should explore other avenues to raise resources.

The state has adhered to fiscal discipline as all fiscal parameters are within the prescribed limits. The state has been able to achieve debt sustainability through prudent expenditure management and adherence to the targets of FRBM Act of 2005. The budget contains a revenue surplus of ₹26,738 crore which is 3.1% of GSDP.

Fiscal deficit is projected at ₹25,844 crore which is 3% of GSDP. The year-end debt stock for the financial year 2023-24 is estimated at ₹1,12,882 crore which is 13.1% of GSDP, less than the stipulated 25% limit. The interest payment to revenue receipts for the budget estimates of 2023-24 is estimated to be 3.92%, well below the prescribed limit of 15%. For adhering to fiscal discipline, revenue should be raised more but expenditure should not be pruned as is happening in the case of central and all state budgets. It seems that the Odisha finance minister has tried to strike a balance between income and expenditure so as to maintain fis-

The writer is an Odisha-based economist and columnist. Views are personal.

cal discipline.

### IN JEST THIS

Santosh Kumar

**THE STATE HAS** 

**ADHERED TO** 

**DISCIPLINE AS** 

**ALL FISCAL** 

PARAMETERS

PRESCRIBED

LIMITS

**ARE WITHIN THE** 

**FISCAL** 

Mohapatra

Now, the G20 presidencies of India, Brazil, and South Africa offer an opportunity to build on Indonesia's achievements over the next three years. The current fault lines must not be allowed to obscure the fundamental goal we all share: a world in which disputes are settled peacefully and in accordance with international law and human-rights obligations.

Restoring the credibility of the multilateral system demands more than ethical leadership and moral consistency. It also requires ambitious reforms to the global peace and security architecture - a task that must include the thorny issue of reforming the UN Security Council.

We need a system that is fairer, more representative, and capable of taking decisive action in response to grave violations of the UN Charter. As we move toward the Summit of the Future that UN Secretary-General António Guterres has planned for next year, we owe it not only to the Ukrainian people but to all humanity to reject aggression and end impunity for aggressors. That is how we can live up to the UN Charter's promise of a world free from the scourge of war.

Ban Ki-moon is a former secretary-general of the United Nations. Juan Manuel Santos, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, is a former president of Colombia. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

#### WISDOM CORNER

JIM ROHN	Either you run the day or the day runs you.	66
MILTON BERLE	If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door.	66
FRANK SINATRA	The best revenge is massive success.	66

#### WORDS**WORTH**

#### Gazump

t's not easy to formulate a definition that matches the brevity of this useful little word. It means to unfairly acquire a property by making a better offer than one that has already been accepted by the seller. It takes up to three months in most parts of the UK to exchange formal contracts on the sale of a house. So there's plenty of time for the gazumper to persuade the seller to accept his higher offer and unceremoniously dump the previous buyer who thought he had a firm agreement. Of course, it takes two to gazump - honest householders stick to their word. But at times when prices are rising rapidly or demand is high, cupidity is easily excited by a substantially improved offer. The term can also be applied to a form of sting by the seller in which the person who has agreed to buy is persuaded to increase their offer because of a real or fictitious claim that a better one has been made by somebody else. In recent years, the term has been extend to overbidding on other kinds of contracts: Back in 2006 a 14-year-old Neymar had a twoweek trial at the club. They failed to follow through on their interest and the next time they tried to sign him he was seven years older and it would have cost them €150m to gazump Barcelona (The Independent, 22 Jan. 2015). Some dictionaries suggest gazump comes from the Yiddish gezumph, to overcharge or cheat.

# What 'nepo babies' inherit, mostly, is a name



Melvin Durai

**NEPOTISM OCCURS IN ALMOST EVERY INDUSTRY, BUT IT'S PERHAPS MOST CONSPICUOUS IN THE MOVIE INDUSTRY** 

Tt had been several years since Tom and Ram had seen each L other, so when they bumped into each other at a grocery store, it was a good opportunity to catch up.

"Hi Tom, how are things at the bank?

"Great. I just celebrated my 10th anniversary as president." "Congratulations! How's your

wife doing?'

"She's doing well. She was recently promoted to executive vicepresident at the bank.'

"That's wonderful. What about your son, John? Following in his old man's footsteps, I'm sure.'

"Oh yes, I tried to persuade him to get into another line of work, but he wouldn't listen. He's one of our regional managers. Our daughterin-law, Jen, is a branch manager, our daughter, Amanda, works in the marketing department, and our dog, Sparky, works in advertising. He appears in all our ads. If Sparky can make deposits at the bank, so can you!' "How cute! What about your dad?

Is retirement treating him well?"

"He's not retired anymore. I persuaded him to join our bank. He accepted the newly created position of Manager of Canine Control. He makes sure Sparky does most of his depositing outdoors.'

'Must be nice to have your family working together."

"Yes, it's very nice. People might accuse me of nepotism, but it's not nepotism if you hire people based on their qualifications. As I told the marketing manager, 'Don't hire my daughter because she's related to me. Hire my daughter because she's the most qualified applicant related to me."

This may seem like an extreme form of nepotism, but it's more common than you think - a company president handing jobs to his relatives like Christmas presents. In most cases, particularly in private industry, nepotism is not illegal, though it can certainly be considered unethical and unfair. It's unfair to all the people who don't have relatives in high places and must

scratch and claw to get ahead. You don't know how many times I've heard from relatives who say, "Why couldn't you have been a company president instead of a lowly writer?"

Nepotism occurs in almost every industry, but it's perhaps most conspicuous in the movie industry. If mom or dad is a big movie star, then son or daughter will get an opportunity to be a star. They may have inherited a certain amount of talent, looks and charm, of course, but talent, looks and charm won't open doors for you if you're related to a lowly writer.

Children of celebrities who follow their parents into the same creative field have been labeled as "nepo babies," a shortened form of nepotism babies. Colin Hanks, son of Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson, and Lily Rose-Depp, daughter of Johnny Depp and Vanessa Paradis, are among the many "nepo babies" in Hollywood.

"Nepo babies" are also common in Bollywood, Kollywood and other movie industries in India. You don't

have to search too deeply to find a few Abhishek Bachchans - actors whose family connections greased their path to stardom. If he dropped the "chan" and was Abhishek Bach instead, he might be composing music in Germany. And if he dropped the "Bach" and was Abhishek Chan instead, he might be making martial arts movies in Hong Kong.

But what should you do if your parent is a big movie star and you love acting? Should you pursue another career, just so you aren't labeled a "nepo baby"? Certainly not. You should try to make it on your own without piggybacking too heavily on your parent's success.

That's what Norah Jones, daughter of the legendary Bengali musician Ravi Shankar, did. She became a huge star in her own right. making a name in pop, jazz, folk and country music.

Of course, Norah inherited great musical talent. I can't say the same about many "nepo baby" actors.

What they've inherited, mostly, is a name.



#### TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are 101 requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

### rissapost



#### **Ambitious Congress**

Sir, This refers to the report "Cong ready for BJY 2.0," OrissaPOST, Feb 28. Another long march is being planned for Rahul, this time from the north-east to the west. The traction could give the Congress more bargaining power while negotiating with likely allies, but banking on a Bharat Jodo Yatra alone to dislodge the mighty BJP is ambitious. Harping on its old promises and taking to the streets on the Adani issue minus a common agenda that seeks to fix the perceived flaws in the BJP's governance model does not look like a winning strategy. A below-par performance in this year's Assembly elections would be the undoing of all such grandiose plans. The delay in reaching out to non-BJP parties and being responsive to coalition compulsions will only help the ruling party's cause. Buoyed by the success of the Kanyakumari-to-Kashmir march, the Congress may have only hardened its stance on being the first among equals. However, the party's strategy could be a repeat of 2019. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is confident that the BJP is beatable, provided Opposition parties fight Lok Sabha polls unitedly. At this juncture, the possibility of their coming together appears remote.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

#### Period leaves

Sir, The Supreme Court has recently rejected a plea, seeking state governments to implement nationwide menstrual leave for employed women, and observed that this being a policy matter; the Centre has to take a call on the same. 'Period leave' for employed women has been a topic of debate in India for some time now, especially after restaurant aggregator Zomato's decision to give up to 10 days of the same per year, which, however, stirred controversy on gender equality. Menstruation is no longer a taboo in our country, but people often judge you when you talk about it openly. Since ages, women have been a victim of misconceptions surrounding menstruation which has been an impediment in their growth at workplace. They face discrimination and are contrived to suffer menstrual pain in silence. The severity of period-related pain and cramps (dysmenorrhea) experienced by women add to their mental strain. While this leave policy is not widespread the world over, it is gaining traction in countries like Spain, Japan, Taiwan, where legislations are already in vogue which entitle employees to paid menstrual leave. Providing 'period leaves' for women can help companies promote gender equality and support the well-being of their women employees. —

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI









The Maharashtra government is extravagantly spending crores of rupees to show their smiling faces, instead of solving the woes of the common man. We have decided to boycott the invitation for high tea. Instead, we will meet the new Governor of Maharashtra, Ramesh Bais, and share our concerns with him AJIT PAWAR NCP LEADER

X-

#### ASSAM EYES GUINNESS RECORD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will witness 11,140 dancers and drummers performing on Bihu in Guwahati to make it to the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest recital of the folk dance form





government at the Centre is not democratic. It does not work for the people. This government only runs its dictatorship

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE CONGRESS PRESIDENT

UP's Skil Development department is ushering in a new era where the youth will not only be skilled but also will be made fit for modern-day industry demands

YOGI ADITYANATH UP CM

Any killing, especially a targeted killing. is a matter of grave concern and condemnable. We condemn it

GHILLAM NARLAZAD DEMOCRATIC PROGRESSIVE AZAD PARTY CHAIRMAN

#### SHORT TAKES

#### Myanmarese gangraped

New Delhi: A refugee woman from Myanmar was allegedly gang-raped by four men in Southeast Delhi, an officer said Tuesday. According to the police, the victim had alleged that before being gang-raped, she was made unconscious and was abducted by an autorickshaw driver from the Kalindi Kunj area. The incident occurred on February 23. In her complaint, the victim stated that after the men gang-raped her in a room following her abduction, she was even thrashed by the accused. Later, they abandoned her on the road in an isolated area.

**11 Maoists** granted bail

Kolkata: The Calcutta High Court, Tuesday granted bail to 11 Maoists accused in the 2010 Jnaneswari Express accident, in which as many as 148 persons were killed and 180 were injured. The 11 accused were granted ball after spending almost over a decade since their arrests while the investigation of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the matter is yet to be concluded. A division bench of Justice Debangshu Basak and Justice Md. Shabbar Rashidi, while granting the bail of the 11 accused Maoists, questioned whether the investigation agency is not aware of the fundamental rights of the accused.

### -X UNUSUAL RISE IN TEMPERATURE **Spruce up healthcare facilities: Centre**

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 28: Amid unusual rise in temperatures in some places ahead of the summer season, the Union health ministry has written to all states and Union territories, asking them to ensure that all their health facilities update information on heat-related illnesses and deaths on the designated portal.

Drawing attention to "National Action Plan on Heat Related Illnesses", which is available on website of National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), the ministry requested for dissemination of guidance document to all districts for effective preparedness of health department and health facilities to address heat impact and management of cases arising because of it, record maintenance and surveillance etc.

From March 1, daily surveillance on heat-related illnesses under National Programme on Climate Change and Human Health (NPC-CHH) in all states and districts will be conducted on Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP), Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said in the letter to all states and



Temperatures have already touched unusual high at some places in the country and substantial deviations from expected normal temperatures for this time of the year are also being reported from some states and districts RAJESH BHUSHAN I UNION HEALTH SECRETARY

Union territories "Please ensure that all the health facilities participate using existing P-form level login information and continue to keep line lists of cases and deaths as per the prescribed formats," Bhushan said. In the letter, Bhushan also urged all states and Union territories to review health facility preparedness for avail-

ability of adequate quantities of essential medicines, intravenous fluids, ice packs, ORS and all neces sarv equipment

Availability of sufficient drinking water at all health facilities and continued functioning of cooling appliances in critical areas must be ensured, he said."Temperatures have already touched unusual high at some places in the country and substantial deviations from expected normal temperatures for this time of the year are also being reported from some states and districts," Bhushan said.

The daily heat alerts which are being shared by NPCCHH, NCDC, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with states indicate forecast of heat wave for next few days and may be disseminated promptly at district and health facility level, he wrote.

He asked the state, district and city health departments to ensure implementation of heat-related health action plans and support in planning, managing and assessing response to heat along with responding agencies.

Bhushan further stressed that health departments of the state must continue efforts on sensitization and capacity building of medical officers, health staff, grassroot level workers on heat illness, its early recognition and management. Health facility preparedness must be reviewed for availability of adequate quantities of essential medicines, intravenous fluids, ice packs, ORS and all necessary equipment.

Telangana BJP leaders to intensify campaign

Sources said the party will be holding one rally each in the 119 Assemblies of Telangana after completing over 10,000 street corner meetings across the state

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 28: The BJP top brass, including Home Minister Amit Shah and party president JP Nadda, Tuesday held a meeting here with party leaders from Telangana as they look to intensify their campaign for the state assembly polls expected later this year.

Sources said the party will be holding one rally each in the 119 assemblies of Telangana after completing over 10,000 street corner meetings across the state

Rallies are expected to begin by the end of March.

State leaders were also asked by the party leadership to further strengthen the organisation by inducting prominent personalities, including leaders from different parties who are favourably inclined to the BJP ideology, and boosting the number of members in booth



committees from their current strength of around 10 to over 20.

BJP national general secretaries Sunil Bansal and Tarun Chugh, both of whom are coordinating the party's work in the state, besides Telangana party chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar, Union minister G Kishan Reddy, Lok Sabha MP Arvind Dharmapuri and MLA Etela Rajendar were among those who attended the meeting.

The meeting comes in the wake of the CBI arresting Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia in the alleged liquor scam case in which the BJP has claimed that BRS MP K Kavitha is also involved, a charge rejected by her.

The CBI has arrested a Hyderabad-based chartered accountant in the case, and the BJP has alleged his links with her. BJP sources, however, asserted there was no discussion on the issue in the meeting.

#### China's new foreign minister to visit India

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Feb 28: China's new foreign minister Qin Gang will visit India later this week to attend the G20 Foreign Ministers' meeting in the national capital, according to the Chinese Foreign Ministry

Qin is expected to meet his Indian counterpart S. Jaishankar on the sidelines of the G20 meeting, where according to reports, they are likely to discuss the border issues and review the outcome of talks at diplomatic and military levels, to resolve the matter.

The Chinese Foreign Minister's visit to New Delhi comes even as the two countries continue efforts to resolve border disputes along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh area and attempts of incursion by the People's Liberation



#### TMC Twitter account restored after 13 hrs

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/ Kolkata, Feb 28: The official Twitter account of TMC was restored after more than 13 hours on Tuesday evening, party officials said.

The account was hacked late on Monday night and its name was changed to 'Yuga Labs', sources in the party said. "It was restored at around 4 PM after nearly 13 hours," a member of the AITC media team said.

The party lodged a complaint with the cyber cell of Kolkata Police, he said. TMC national spokesperson Derek O'Brien said in a statement this morning that the account was compromised. "We are in touch with officials from Twitter who are working to rectify the issue. They have assured us of prompt action," O'Brien, who is also the leader of the party in Rajya Sabha, said.

After its account was restored, the party, which is in power in Bengal, posted three tweets about



#### FIR against Telangana MLA

Latur: Police have registered a case against suspended BJP leader and Telangana MLA T Raja Singh for alleged hate speech in Maharashtra's Latur city, an official said Tuesday. Singh has been accused of delivering an inflammatory address to create communal tension, at an event on February 19 to celebrate the birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the official said. Various organisations had urged the Latur superintendent of police to take action against Singh, warning of a protest if their demand was not met, said the official.

Two killed

Surajpur/Surguja: Two persons were killed in attacks by elephants in Surajpur and Surguja districts of Chhattisgarh, forest officials said Tuesday. Jitan Vek (30) was trampled to death by an elephant in Pampapur village under Surajpur forest range on Monday night, divisional forest officer (Surajpur) Sanjay Yadav said. The victim and a few other villagers were on their way to a wedding at the time of the attack.

'Didir Suraksha Kavach' (Didi's Protective Shield), its ongoing mass outreach campaign.

New Delhi, Feb 28: Senior

Congress leader Shashi Tharoor

Tuesday shared a list of leaders

against whom graft probes were al-

legedly stopped after they switched

sides to the BJP and took a swipe

at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's

'na khaunga na khane dunga' slo-

gan, saying that probably "he was

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister and

AAP leader Manish Sisodia was

sent to five-day custody of the CBI

by a special court here in a excise

policy scam case after being ar-

widely circulated on social media,

of eight leaders -- Assam Chief

Taking to Twitter; he shared a list,

Tharoor's swipe came a day after

only talking about beef".

rested on Sunday.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Anganwadi workers stage a protest for their demands at Azad Maidan in Mumbai

by Tharoor claimed that graft

stalled after they switched sides

in support of the BJP."This is going

around, so sharing as received.

Always wondered about the mean-

ing of 'na khaunga na khane dunga'

. I guess he was only talking about

beef!" Tharoor said, referring to the

anti-graft slogan attributed to Prime

The CBI on Sunday evening ar-

rested Sisodia after nearly eight

hours of questioning on various

aspects of the now scrapped excise

policy for 2021-22, which the probe

agency says suffered from irreg-

ularities both in its formulation

and implementation, allegedly

intended to benefit people with

links to the AAP.

Minister Narendra Modi.

PTI PHOTO

#### Galwan Valley martyr's Tharoor takes dig at PM's slogan father arrested in Bihar The screenshot of the list shared

probes against these leaders were PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

> Hajipur/Patna, Feb 28: The opposition BJP in Bihar Tuesday expressed outrage over reports of police action against the father of an Army man who had died fighting the Chinese troops at Galwan Valley in Ladakh in 2020.

The police in Vaishali district asserted that Raj Kapoor Singh was arrested following an FIR lodged under the SC/ST Act by a resident of the same village who had objected to the construction of a memorial of Jai Kishor Singh, who was killed in the skirmish.

"Raj Kapoor Singh was arrested on Saturday night after lodging of the FIR at Jandaha police station

in which the complainant had alleged that the accused was constructing, illegally, a memorial of his son," said Vaishali Superintendent of Police, Manish. According to the complainant, he had raised objections about the construction since it was obstructing his way but the accused misbehaved with him.

Reports in a section of the media alleged that the father of the deceased Bihar Regiment jawan was "dragged" by the police and beaten up.

The SP, however, rubbished the reports, insisting that nobody had behaved inappropriately with the arrested accused, who was now in jail.

Army of China.

"At the invitation of Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang will attend the G20 foreign ministers conference in New Delhi, India on March 2." the Chinese Foreign Ministry said in a brief statement on Tuesday

"As the main forum for international economic cooperation, the G20 should focus on addressing outstanding challenges in the field of international economy and development and play a greater role in promoting world economic recovery and global development," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Mao Ning said.

# Key rocket engine test for Chandrayaan-3 mission successful

**CHANDRAYAAN-3 IS A FOLLOW-ON MISSION TO CHANDRAYAAN-2 TO DEMONSTRATE** END-TO-END CAPABILITY IN SAFE LANDING AND **ROVING ON THE LUNAR SURFACE** 

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Feb 28: The flight acceptance hot test of the CE-20 cryogenic engine that will power the cryogenic upper stage of the launch vehicle for the Chandrayaan-3 mission was successfully conducted, according to the Indian Space Research Organisation.

The hot test was carried out for a planned duration of 25 seconds at the High Altitude Test Facility of the ISRO Propulsion Complex at Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu on February 24, the Bengaluru-headquartered national space agency said.

Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, for-

mer Karnataka chief minister BS

Yediyurappa, Suvendu Adhikari,

Bhavna Gawli, Yashwant Jadhav,

Yamini Jadhav, Pratap Sarnaik

and Narayan Rane -- who either

joined the BJP or its allies.

"All the propulsion parameters during the test were found satisfactory and closely matched with predictions," an ISRO statement said Monday. The cryogenic engine will be further integrated with the propellant tanks, stage structures and associated fluid lines to realise the fully-integrated



flight cryogenic stage, ISRO said. Earlier this year, Chandrayaan-3 lander successfully underwent EMI/EMC test at UR Rao Satellite Centre here. EMI-EMC (Electro -

Magnetic Interference/ Electro -Magnetic Compatibility) test is conducted for satellite missions to ensure the functionality of the satellite subsystems in the space environment and their compatibility with the expected electromagnetic levels, it was noted.

This test is a major milestone in the realisation of the satellites,' ISRO had said. Chandrayaan-3 interplanetary mission has three major modules: the propulsion module, lander module, and a rover. The mission's complexity calls for establishing radio-frequency (RF) communication links between the modules.

During the Chandrayaan-3 lander EMI/EC test, launcher compatibility, antenna polarisation of all RF systems, standalone auto compatibility tests for orbital and powered descent mission phases, and lander and rover compatibility tests for post landing mission phase were ensured, according to ÎSRO.

Chandrayaan-3 is a follow-on mission to Chandrayaan-2 to demonstrate end-to-end capability in safe landing and roving on the lunar surface. ISRO plans to launch the mission in June. It will be launched by Launch Vehicle Mark 3 (LVM3) from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota (Andhra Pradesh).

The propulsion module will + carry the lander and rover configuration till 100 km lunar orbit. The propulsion module has Spectro-polarimetry of Habitable Planet Earth (SHAPE) payload to study the spectral and polari met-ric measurements of Earth from the lunar orbit.









# **Drugs, rave parties &** Chitta-'Udta Kullu' is HP tourism's dark side



A serious dimension to the illicit drug trade in Himachal Pradesh, particularly the Parvati valley, is the entry of "chitta"-a heroin derivative smuggled into Himachal Pradesh from Punjab

This is a highly addictive, lethal and dangerous form of narcotics being consumed by teenagers and youths

THE POLICE, AS PER INTELLIGENCE INPUTS, CLAIM THAT FOREIGNERS, ESPECIALLY NIGERIANS, BASED IN DELHI ARE BEHIND THE SUPPLY OF "CHITTA" AND SYNTHETIC DRUGS TO MANY HIMACHAL PRADESH TOWNS

For

years, the valley

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kullu-Manali, Feb 28: Kasol, once an obscure village tucked away in the Himachal hills, has now gained notoriety as the "Amsterdam of India" as tourists looking for a high see it as the biggest hotspot for opiates, cannabis (weeds) and now 'Chitta" -- a contaminated form

of heroin. Kasol is also a gateway to Malanathe name that sells internationally for high-grade 'Malana Cream heroin.

On Maha-Shivratri, when hundreds of devotees from Kullu had trekked

the strenuous 14km path, while others drove to 'Biili Mahadev' -- an ancient Lord Shiva temple, overlooking

the spiritual town and Beas river, a group of spirited youths - all in their mid-twenties, checked into a quaint little home-stay at Kasol. "We are from Bangalore, study

ing engineering and MBA courses Kasol is a name that sells for different reasons. It drove us all here. Well, it coincides with Mahashivratri -- a perfect day to chill, and party!" one of the youngsters enthusiastically told this writer when asked about his trip. Adventurers, back-packers and solo trekkers have completely transformed Kasol. The local economy has been booming exponentially under the shadows of unexplained

'mysticism'. Other vill Shalal, Kheerganga, Tosh and 11 'awareness vans'

#### Parvati valley in an area stretching across 8 to 24kms that have also become places for night-life

and full-moon "rave-parties". Here, Hashish or marijuana drawn from illegally grown Cannabis, in its hybrid forms is easily available. Drug trafficking is an accepted trade that locals are

increasingly using to market Parvati valley as an remained the most favoured place for foreigners -- Australians, British, Israeli, US nationals, Russians, inaccessible

Polish the time the police party reaches, they quietly wind-up and escape. They also have a strong informer network. It's difficult to penetrate or catch them. Some unscrupulous elements in the police are also alleged to be in connivance.

Director General of police Sanjay Kundu admits that the police are not oblivious to smuggling of tons of charas from Parvati valley, Malana ,Manikaran and these places like Rasol etc or "Chitta" reaching Manali and Kasol because of its increased demand at home-stays and those arriving to "chill".

The consumption of "Chitta" is highest in Kangra, Shimla, Una and Kullu districts. Small rural towns like Rampur, Rohru, Reckong

# Sheep rearing vital source of livelihood in Himachal

Being a reliable source of income to the shepherds through the sale of wool, animals, meat, manure, milk, and skin, the Himachal State Wool Federation is playing a major role in strengthening the pastoralists with an aim to save wool growers from exploitation by middlemen and traders

on-the-spot payment.

around 1.9 kg per sheep.

eration said the total wool pro-

duction in the state is 15.50 lakh kg,

which comes to an average of

from Rs 34.10 to Rs 71.50 per kg

and for black wool from Rs 25.50 to

Rs 45 per kg. Also, the federation

provides 20 per cent higher rates

in case of white crossbred wool in

order to motivate breeders to adopt

a cross-breeding programme and

keep pace with the demand of the

industry for apparel grade wool, said

The rate of white wool ranges

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shimla, Feb 28: Sheep rearing in Himachal Pradesh is an important source of livelihood for a large percentage of small and marginal farmers mainly settled in tribal areas, an official said.

Rampur Bushari and Gaddi breeds are famous for indigenous carpet wool production in the country. Some private agencies are investing in organic certification and standards like responsible wool standards of the Himachali wool to

cater to a small market in the West. As per livestock census of 2019, the sheep population in the state is 7,91,345, including 72,821 of exotic breeds. Besides providing the technical and mechanical sheep shearing facilities to the breeders. the federation is also maintaining a revolving fund of Rs 133.39 crore for the procurement of wool from them. The procurement rate ranges from 125 to 150 metric

tons, depending upon the market and the breeders are provided

emerging drug abusers 'destination'. Most of the areas where the drug addicts go for getting a high or attending rave parties are hazardous and tracks. It's difficult

**Italians** and for police to reach especially in the dark. By

Peo, Theog. Paonta, Baddi-Brotiwala



#### the spokesperson. A spokesperson for the wool fed-

The federation is also providing mechanical sheep shearing facilities at the subsidised rates.

Jai Singh, a progressive sheep breeder from Deol village in Holi in Chamba district, said he sells about 900 to 1.000 kg of crossbred wool to the federation at the rate of Rs 85.80 per kg. He has a flock of 800 sheep.

Mohinder Thakur, another sheep breeder from Chotta-Bhangal in Kangra district, said he migrates to Ramshehar near Nalagarh in winters with his flock of about 300 sheep.

### World's smallest pump used to save patient's life

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chandigarh, Feb 28: A 70-year-old woman got a new lease of life after the world's smallest pump -- 'Impella' -- was used to support her heart pumping mechanism while removing her heart veins blockage at a hospital in Punjab.

Rohit Mody, Director and Head of Department (cardiology), Max Super Speciality Hospital in Bathinda, said

the patient came to the emergency ward with cardiogenic shock

Impella is a miniature heart pump which is used to support the heart's function during critical procedures when the biological heart function is low and multiple stenting is required. Mody said the patient heart function (LVEF) was just 10-15 per cent and her angiography revealed left main disease (LM) with triple vessel disease (TVD).

In such cases, coronary artery bypass graft surgery or multi-vessel angioplasty with mechanical cir-

culatory support is the effective therapy as an alternative to surgical revascularisation in selected patients with triple-vessel coronary artery disease.

**OrissaPOST** 

WEDNESDAY | MARCH 1 | 2023 | BHUBANESWAR

"We decided to perform a procedure with the help of Impella, a mechanical circulatory support device," he said.

Impella is a niche but very effective device for patients with poor

heart function. Its support also

helps maintain hemody namic stability and provides left ventricular unloading during the procedure, reducing long-

term incidences of major adverse cardiac and cerebrovascular events, said Mody. The procedure done through

the femoral artery restored the functioning of all vital organs. The patient was discharged after one week in a stable condition and she has now recovered fully and is leading a normal life, the doctor said.

#### **Himachal Pradesh** gears up to tackle drought-like situation

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shimla, Feb 28: The Himachal Pradesh government has geared up to mitigate the drought-like situation in the wake of the dry weather across the state owing to insufficient snow and rains.

A meeting was organised here Monday under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Prabodh Saxena to discuss the strategy to tackle water shortage. The Chief Secretary has taken a report of the situation from the District Commissioners

He reviewed the damages and loss caused to Agriculture and Horticulture Departments due to scanty snow and rains.

He directed the Jal Shakti department to collect information about the drinking water supply schemes likely to be hit.

Saxena stressed upon the preservation of traditional water bodies and to upkeep them on priority, an official statement said.

It added directions were issued to the Forest Department to be equipped with their men and machinery to face any situation due PTI PHOTO to forest fires during the summer. "The departments should work Cold may grip Himachal again in close tie-up with the State Disaster Management Department and should be ready to take timely action during any unforeseen calamities which may arise due to dry spell," Saxena said.



JOVIAL MOOD: Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu dances with the students during the annual function, at a school where

#### in Shimla

The Chief Secretary also appealed to the people to avoid wastage of water and to use it judiciously.

Meanwhile, cold is likely to grip the state again with heavy rain forecast in the next two days by the Met Office. "Some areas in the state are likely to experience rainfall or thunderstorms with squall or hail from February 28," a Meteorological Department official said.

### flagged off to sensitise people about HIV/AIDS

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Feb 28: Punjab government has flagged off 11 "awareness vans" to spread awareness about HIV-AIDS and provide adequate treatment to infected people, an official statement said.

The month-long long public awareness campaign is a joint initiative of the Punjab State AIDS Control Society and Health and Family Welfare Department. These IEC (Information, Education and Communication) awareness vans, which were flagged off by Health Minister Dr Balbir Singh from Mohali Monday, are equipped with LEDs to exhibit audio-visual aware ness films, while printed material will also be distributed among people.

Lab technicians and counsellors have been specially assigned with these vans, who will conduct free HIV/AIDS tests of people at their doorstep, the minister said. Singh said the vans will visit different villages of all the districts in Punjab to sensitise people about the disease.

Each van will cover four to five villages daily and overall, 1,650 villages will be covered in a month, said the statement. The minister said, theatre artists will also perform street shows at villages to create awareness about HIV/AIDS



Chandigarh, Feb 28: Police forces of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh will work together on joint operations against gangsters and criminals and will strengthen closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras at the entry and exit points of both

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

and Una-Haroli.

states This was decided at a coordination meeting here on Thursday between the Director Generals of Police of both states.

Punjab's DGP Gaurav Yadav assured total support to his Himachal Pradesh counterpart Sanjay Kundu to combat organised inter-state crime, including smuggling of drugs and illicit liquor via Punjab and Himachal border.

Giving a call for total synergy and teamwork between both states, he



Punjab, HP cops to take on gangsters

said both the forces should work as one team and activate the basic policing and sharing real-time information by the use of latest technology.

He also proposed to organise frequent meetings between district police shiefs and SSPs of both the states to discuss activities of the gangsters and criminal gangs as so

**Punjab's DGP Gaurav** Yadav assured total support to his Himachal Pradesh counterpart Sanjay Kundu to combat organised inter-state crime, including smuggling of drugs and illicit liquor via Punjab and Himachal border

many of issues and crime patterns are similar and inter-related.

Himachal DGP Kundu assured support to Punjab and said that it was decided to work in close coordination to give a "knock-outpunch" to the inter-state organised crime.



#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shimla, Feb 28: Cold is likely to grip Himachal Pradesh again with heavy rain forecast in the next two days by the Met office.

"Some areas in the state are likely to experience rainfall or thunderstorms with squall or hail from February 28," Meteorological Department official said. He said chances of heavy rainfall and snowfall likely to occur in the districts of Chamba, Kangra, Kullu, Mandi, Shimla and Lahaul-Spiti March 1.

The Met department's forecast said the western disturbances -storm systems originating from the Mediterranean Sea and moving across the Afghanistan-Pakistan region -- would remain active in the region till March 1. Meanwhile, Keylong in Lahaul-

Spiti district was the coldest town in the state with a low of minus 5.1 degrees Celsius. The minimum temperature

in Shimla was 8.2 degrees, while it was 1.8 degrees in Manali and 11.2 degrees in Dharamsala. Shimla saw a high of 16.6 degrees.

AJNALA INCIDENT PUNJAB POLICE GIVING 'GATKA' TRAINING TO ITS PERSONN

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

strations.

Chandigarh, Feb 28: In the wake of the recent Ajnala incident, the Punjab Police has started providing traditional Sikh martial art training to its personnel for self-defence and tackling any untoward incident during protests and demon-

lice at the police station at Ajnala in Amritsar for the release of one of his aide. Six policemen, including a Superintendent of Police rank of-

ficer, were injured during the clash last week. In another incident February 8, protesters seeking re-Experts, including 'Nihangs' lease of Sikh prisoners had clashed Sikhs, have been roped in to train with Chandigarh police, injuring the personnel in 'Gatka' to learn selfmore than 30 personnel at the defence techniques, they said. Chandigarh-Mohali border. Nihangs are Sikhs armed with

Protesters, including some traditional weapons and wear blue 'Nihangs' carrying swords and sticks had even thrashed some porobes. The move comes in the backdrop of the recent incident in which licemen and damaged police veself-styled Sikh preacher Amritpal hicles. Gatka, a sikh martial art, is



a style of stick-fighting and is a technique of self-defence.

In the past two days, police in Muktsar and Jalandhar provided

'gatka' training to police personnel including their quick response team (QRT).

"We provided train-Gatka. ing of 'gatka' to police personnel," said a sikh martial Manjit Kaur, art, is a style of Superintendent of Police (headstick-fighting and quarters), is a technique Jalandhar Rural of self-defence Tuesday. Initially, we will

provide training to QRTs. Thereafter, we will provide training to personnel of other police stations," she said. This training will continue in the coming days, she further said.

Another police official said this training will help in developing skills on how to tackle anyone who is attacking with a sword

or stick Similarly, the Muktsar

police also arranged training for 'gatka' and brought over 13 experts to impart self-defense techniques to policemen, officials said. Muktsar Deputy

Superintendent of Police (Headquarters) Avtar Singh said around 300 personnel in police stations were given 'gatka' training. "Wewill again provide training for 'gatka' in future," he further said.







national 



The Congress wants discussions on important issues but Parliament does not even take our (Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and leader Rahul Gandhi) voices on record PRIYANKA GANDHI CONGRESS LEADER

#### **ON CARDS**

Uttar Pradesh will soon get 79 new women police outposts and counselling centres will also be set up across 74 districts of the state



# uote

The Bihar government has no money left for development. It is not interested in giving houses to the poor or getting roads constructed

GIRIRAJ SINGH UNION MINISTER

One resolution unequivocally condemns the continuing and increasing attacks against Muslims other minorities and

Dalits. It is the duty of the Centre and state governments to ban illegal and criminal organisations that have undertaken a systematic campaign of terror in the garb of cow protection, anti-conversion, 'love jihad

ASADUDDIN OWAISI AIMIM CHIEF

I was a witness to the ongoing planning of the MVA government to arrest then leader of opposition Devendra Fadnavis and Girish

Mahajan. That government had even planned to invoke the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act 1999 against Mahaian, I cannot repeat what I had said that time to stop them

EKNATH SHINDE MAHARASHTRA CM

#### SHORT TAKES

#### PM's brother hospitalised

Chennai: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's younger brother Prahlad Modi has been admitted at a private hospital in Chennai due to a kidney ailment, sources said Without providing further details, the sources at the hospital in Ayanambakkam said that his condition is stable. Prahlad Modi, who is also the Vice President of All India Fair Price Shop Dealers Federation, is on a spiritual tour with his family and had visited the Madurai Meenakshi temple, Rameswaram temple and Kanniyakumari Devi temple.

#### 3 students die

# After SC rap, Punjab Guv says budget session on March 3

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 28: Amid a tussle with the AAP government, Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit Monday told the Supreme Court that he has summoned the Assembly for the budget session on March 3 even as the top court told both sides that constitutional discourse has to be conducted with a sense of decorum and mature statesmanship.

The court, which was hearing the state government's plea against the governor's alleged "refusal" to summon the Budget session for March 3, said the Punjab government is duty-bound to furnish information as sought by the governor and at the same time the governor is also duty-bound to accept the recommendations of Cabinet on the convening of assembly.

The apex court said there was no occasion for the Punjab governor to seek legal advice on whether to convene a Budget session as he is bound by the aid and advice of ministers. A bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud took note of the submission of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the governor, that the plea filed by the Punjab government does not survive in view of the governor's decision to convene the Assembly.

tional dialogue between func-

"Political differences in a de-

mocratical polity are acceptable

and have to be worked out with so-

briety. Unless these principles were

borne in mind, the effective im-

plementation of constitutional val-

ues is liable to be placed in jeopardy,"

the bench also comprising Justice

PS Narasimha said

tionaries.

While this court is cognisant of free speech and expression, constitutional discourse has to be conducted with a sense of decorum and mature statesmanship, particularly in the context of constitu-

The tussle between Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit and Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann had worsened last week with Purohit indicating he is in no hurry to summon the assembly's budget session, and reminding the CM about his "derogatory" response to a letter from the Raj Bhavan. In that February 13 letter, the governor had asked Mann to explain the process of selecting 36 government school principals for a training seminar held recently in Singapore, and raised other issues as well.

Mann had responded that he was only answerable to three crore Punjabis, not to a Centre-appointed governor and also questioned the Centre's criteria for appointing governors

Purohit had called Mann's replies not only "patently unconstitutional but extremely derogatory" also, saying he was compelled to take legal advice. Purohit's letter to CM Mann had come two days after the Puniab Cabinet decided to call the assembly session on March 3 and requested the governor to summon the House

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Feb 28: Karnataka Police said Tuesday that it has cracked the murder case of a 71year-old man in Bengaluru and arrested his son and two contract killers in connection to the crime. Investigations have revealed that

the victim's son, Manikantha (30), had hired the contract killers by paying them a sum of Rs 1 crore. The two other accused were identified as T. Adarsha (26) and Shivakumar (24).

The victim, Narayanaswamy, was hacked to death on February 13 in the parking lot of his apartment. The police said that they also suspect the role of other persons in the case and will arrest them soon

According to the police, the victim favoured Manikantha's second wife and decided to register his property in her name. Feeling dejected by this, he then decided to kill his father.

In 2013, Manikantha was jailed for allegedly killing his first wife. He was again imprisoned for a second time for trying to kill his second wife. He met the contract killers while he was in prison for the second time and had promised them of Rs 1 crore and an apartment each for killing his father.Manikantha also paid Rs 1 lakh in advance, the police said.

Narayanaswamy owned an apartment complex which had 28 flats, as well as acres of land in Bengaluru. He had decided to register one of the flats, 1.7 acre of land and Rs 15 lakhs in cash in the name of Manikantha's second wife's name. The Marathahalli police are investigating the case.



# Son pays ₹1 cr to get father killed Killers of Kashmiri Pandit gunned down



#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Feb 28: Two terrorists believed to be behind the recent killing of a Kashmiri Pandit were gunned down early Tuesday in an encounter with security forces Security

inside a mosque in south Kashmir's Pulwama disforces cordoned off trict. An Army jawan

the two local militants were holed up inside a mosque. We were dedamage to the mosque," a senior police officer said.

During the encounter, a soldier working with 55 Rashtriya Rifles received a bullet in his thigh, puncturing a main artery. There was heavy loss of blood and the soldier could not survive, the officer

pened, he said one of the terrorists, identified as Aqib Mustaq Bhat, was killed in the mosque premises. The other, identified as Ajaz Ahmed Bhat, a resident of Trall near Pulwama, jumped out, possibly from a window and took

> refuge in a house close to the mosque. His location was tracked through techni-

cal surveillance and security forces trapped him inside the house before shooting him dead, the of-

ficer said. On Sunday, Sanjay Sharma, a bank guard, was shot dead by terrorists barely 100 metres from his home in Achan in Pulwama when he was on his way to the local market. Sharma, was rushed to hospital by passersby but it was too late.

"Killed #terrorist identified as Aqib Mustaq Bhat of #Pulwama (A category). He initially worked for HM #terror outfit, nowadays he had been working with TRF. #Killer of late Sanjay Sharma #neutralised," Additional Director General of Police Vijay Kumar tweeted earlier in the day.

# New law makes Gujarati compulsory



passed unanimously by the 182member House as both the oppo-

APPEARING FOR THE PUNJAB GOVERNMENT, ALLEGED THAT THE GOVERNOR WAS HIJACKING THE CONSTITUTION THE APEX COURT SAID THERE WAS NO OCCASION FOR THE

PUNJAB GOVERNOR TO SEEK **LEGAL ADVICE ON WHETHER TO** CONVENE A BUDGET SESSION AS HE IS BOUND BY THE AID AND **ADVICE OF MINISTERS** Senior advocate A M Singhvi,

appearing for the Puniab government, alleged that the governor was hijacking the Constitution."A constitutional authority is acting in ignorance of the Constitution. He is hijacking the Constitution," Singhvi said.

SENIOR ADVOCATE A M SINGHVI,

Mehta told the apex court that the plea filed by the Punjab government has become infructuous and will not survive."Governor never refused and he said he is taking legal advice." he said. The top court earlier in the day agreed to hear the plea of the Punjab government as Singhvi requested for urgent hearing on Tuesday itself.



said. Recapping what had hap-٢ ----

an area in Padgampora was also killed. village following a tip-off Security forces cordoned off an area in that at least two armed Padgampora village terrorists were hiding following a tip-off that at least two armed terrorists were hiding inside the mosque, officials said. The incident, which comes after Sunday's killing of a Kashmiri Pandit, took place around 1.15 am.



treme restraint given the fact that termined to ensure there was no

Chennai: Three school students riding two bicycles on Tuesday were hit by a speeding SUV at Valaymaptu village near Vaniyambadi in Tirupattur district of Tamil Nadu, police said. The three boys identified as S. Rafig and two siblings, R. Vijay and R. Suriya, who were in their bicycles died on the spot.

#### 2 dead in blast

Valsad: Two employees were killed while as many injured in a blast in an industrial unit's plant in Gujarat's Valsad district, police said Tuesday. Valsad District In-Charge Superintendent of Police Vijay Singh Gurjar said: "A blast in Ven Petrochem and Pharma occurred around 11.30 p.m. on Monday and rescue operation is going on."



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gandhinagar, Feb 28: The Gujarat Assembly Tuesday unanimously passed a bill which makes teaching the Gujarati language compulsory in all primary schools in the state, including those affiliated with CBSE, ICSE and IB boards.

If a school is found violating the provisions of the "Gujarat Compulsory Teaching and Learning of Gujarati Language Bill, 2023" for more than a year, the government would "direct the Board or institution" to disaffiliate the school. The bill, tabled by state Education Minister Kuberbhai Dindor, was sition parties - the Congress and the Aam Âadmi Party - supported its provisions.

As per the bill document, the schools which are currently not teaching Gujarati will have to introduce Gujarati as an additional language for classes 1 to 8 in phases from the upcoming academic year 2023-24. "Every school shall follow textbooks prescribed by the Gujarat government for teaching Gujarati as an additional language. The state government will appoint a deputy director-level officer of the Education Department as the competent authority to implement the

provisions of this bill," said Dindor. If a school is found violating the provisions for the first time, it will be liable to pay a penalty of Rs 50,000, as per the bill document. The penalty will be Rs 1 lakh and Rs 2 lakh for subsequent violations.



School students and teachers release balloons during an event organised on the occasion of National Science Day in Kolkata

PTI PHOTO

#### **Student ends life**

Bidar (Karnataka): A 22-yearold MBBS student committed suicide by jumping off a sevenstorev building in Bidar district of Karnataka Tuesday. The deceased has been identified as Srirama Kadagi. According to police, Srirama was a final-vear medicine student at the Bidar Institute of Medical Sciences (BRIMS). He was residing at the BRIMS hostel and committed suicide in the morning. Police explain that Srirama hailed from Chitaguppa taluk of Bidar district.

#### Man arrested

Lucknow: A fraudster from Pune has been arrested after he stole Rs 38 lakhs from a businessman in Lucknow. Police said Keshav Jha. the accused, told the complainant that he was an iron rod dealer, and could provide the product to the latter at cheaper price.

# Villagers look for support to market 'Kalakand'

### 5 children dead in Kolkata

Kolkata, Feb 28: Amid the grow-

ing cases of adenovirus in the state,

West Bengal saw the death of five

children primarily due to respi-

ratory infections in different hos-

pitals here in the city in the last 24

hours but doctors are unsure

whether it was due to Adenovirus.

a health department official said

were undergoing treatment at

Kolkata Medical College and

Hospital while three others were

treated at the Dr. B C Roy Post

Graduate Institute of Paediatric

Sciences, he said. "All of the five

children died due to pneumonia.

We are still waiting for the test

report on a nine-month-old to con-

Out of the five children, two

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tuesday.

Restricted by limited scope of sale of their produce, the villagers said, majority of households involved in the production of Kalakand often have to throw away their surplus in the fields

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rajouri (J&K), Feb 28: Residing along the barbed wire fence of the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir's Nowshera sector, villagers engaged in producing sweet milk cakes, locally known as 'Kalakand', are eyeing government support to market it in and outside the Union territory.

Restricted by limited scope of sale of their produce, the villagers said, majority of households in-



volved in the production of Kalakand often have to throw away their surplus in the fields. Kalakand is prepared by processing cow milk on wood fire in Sehar, Makri, Namb and Kadali villages, located ahead of the Anti-Infiltration Obstacle System along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district.

"Milk cakes produced in our vil-

lage are of the best quality but unfortunately, we do not have any scope of sale in outer markets. Our sale is mostly in Army areas on the LoC," Kamal Parkash, a resident of Sehar village who makes a living by selling the sweet, said.

He said the government should take steps to provide adequate scope to milk cake producers to sell their produce so that they can make a living properly."Our village is on the LoC facing Pakistan, and there are very few opportunities to earn a livelihood. Proper marketing of Kalakand can boost the economy of our area as a large number of people are engaged in its making," Parkash said.

More than a dozen forward posts of the Pakistani army are visible from the villages in the area. A majority of the houses here have splinter marks, reminiscent of the times when cross-border shelling was a routine affair before a renewed ceasefire agreement came into place two years ago.

Parkash said a majority of the households have milk-producing animals and they have to throw away surplus milk. Vicky Kumar, another local resident, said they collect cow milk from houses in the village.

"The cow milk is processed for

hours over wood fire and a meagre quantity of sugar is added to it. The product is healthy as no preservative, flavour or any other substance is added," he said, adding that despite a lot of effort, "we are struggling to get customers and a proper value for the product".

He said the majority of villagers in the area are dependent on agriculture and face various hardships due to bad roads, poor healthcare and strict security restrictions. Army personnel guarding the border also lauded the villagers for producing "pure and very tasty" sweets

Senior scientist and head of the Krishi Vigyaan Kendra, Rajouri, Arvind Kumar Isher said his office was working on a project to ensure the sale of Kalakand outside LoC villages."The need of the hour is that the produce of the villagers be made available in markets of big cities like Jammu," he said.

firm whether she died due to Adenovirus or not," the official said Two infants died in government hospitals in Kolkata due to respi--

ratory infection, a health official said on Tuesday.











# international



A weak America pays the bad guys: Hundreds of millions to Pakistan, Iraq, and Zimbabwe last year alone NIKKI HALEY | INDIAN-AMERICAN REPUBLICAN US PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

#### **TESLA TO BUILD PLANT IN MEXICO**

Mexico's President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said Tuesday that electric car company Tesla has committed to building a plant in the city of Monterrey, an industrial hub in northern Mexico



# uote **Putin orders Ukraine border** tightening as drones hit Russia

vasion of its neighbour.

Russian capital, his comments came hours after drone attacks targeted several areas in southern

and western Russia and authorities

closed the airspace over St.

Petersburg in response to what

Also Tuesday, several Russian tel-

evision stations aired a missile at-

tack warning that officials blamed

on a hacking attack. Russian forces

pressed forward their weeks-long

drive to encircle and capture the

eastern Ukrainian city of Bakhmut

where the commander of Ukraine's

Russian President Vladimir Putin

'CITY IS ON FIRE'

troops, including mercenary

fighters from the Wagner Group,

defenders' supply lines and force

them to surrender or withdraw.

"Despite significant losses, the

prepared assault units of Wagner,

enemy threw in the most

are trying to cut the Ukrainian

Around Bakhmut, Russian

ation as "extremely tense"

some reports said was a drone.

Kyiv, Feb 28: Russian President Vladimir Putin Tuesday ordered officials to tighten control of the border with Ukraine after a spate of drone attacks that Russian authorities blamed on Kyiv delivered

impossible as long as the strong leadership system is established in the whole party and there is the united might of all the people KIM JONG UN NORTH KOREAN RULER

India believes

that the world must resolutely

terrorism is the most

indefensible violation

display zero tolerance. After all,

strategic partner of ours. We have a wide broad, deep relationship with India. There will be a

relationship and in the multilateral engagements he takes part in on the margins of the G20

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

#### SHORT TAKES

## Prachanda to

Kathmandu: Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda is preparing to reshuffle his Cabinet to fill as many as 16 ministries, which fell vacant after three political parties pulled out of his government, as part of his efforts to keep the newly formed fragile coalition together, according to a media report Tuesday. Nepal's second largest party in Parliament - CPN-UML -Monday withdrew its support to the "Prachanda"-led government following a rift over backing the Nepali Congress' candidate for the presidential poll, plunging the Himalayan nation to another spell of political instability.

Italy: Migrants paid 8,000 euros each



EARLY SPRING THAW TURNS BATTLEFIELDS TO MUD

RUSSIAN FORCES ADVANCE NORTH AND SOUTH OF BAKHMUT

KREMLIN: KYIV MUST ACCEPT LOSS OF LANDS ANNEXED BY RUSSIA

US TREASURY SECRETARY YELLEN VISITS KYIV. PLEDGES MORE AID

#### Blinken warns Central Asia of dangers from war

Ankara: The Biden administration Tuesday pledged to support the independence of the five Central Asian nations in a not-so-subtle warning to the former Soviet states that Russia's value as a partner has been badly

compromised by its year-old war against Ukraine. In Kazakhstan for a series of meetings with top Central Asian diplomats. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said no country, particularly those that have traditionally been in Moscow's orbit. can afford to ignore the threats posed by Russian aggression to not only their territory but to the international rules

service Tuesday to bolster security in the four regions - currently only partially controlled by his forces - and also to counter what he described as growing espionage and sabotage operations against Russia by Ukraine and the West.

sualties but provoked a security stir as the war with Kviv stretched



near the village of Gubastovo, 100 kilometres (60 miles) from Moscow. Andrei Vorobvov, governor of the region surrounding the Russian capital, said in an online statement.

The drone didn't inflict any damage, Vorobyov said. He didn't specifically describe the drone as Ukrainian, but said that it likely targeted "a civilian infrastructure object." Pictures of the drone showed it was a Ukrainianmade type.

sell new Brexit deal

### **Pak court issues** non-bailable arrest warrant against Imran

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Feb 28: A Pakistani court Tuesday issued a non-bailable arrest warrant against former prime minister Imran Khan in the Toshakhana case but he was granted bail in three other cases. amid high drama outside the court premises where thousands of his supporters converged to support their leader.

Khan, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief, travelled from his Zaman Park residence in Lahore to Islamabad, his first appearance here in the federal capital after being shot at a public rally in November last year.

The four cases include prohib



ited funding at a banking court located at the judicial complex here, a terrorism case at the anti-terrorism court in the same complex. The third was related to the Toshakhana, which was scheduled at the sessions court in F-8 Kachehri, situated half-an-hour drive from the judicial complex.

The fourth case was an attempted to murder case at the same sessions court.

Additional sessions judge Zafar Iqbal issued a non-bailable arrest warrant against the 70-year-old former prime minister in the Toshakhana case.

The court issued a non-bailable arrest warrant against Khan and adjourned the hearing till March 7 for his repeated failure to appear before the court. His indictment, in this case, was earlier postponed twice due to his failure to appear in court

Khan has been in the crosshairs for buying gifts, including an expensive Graff wristwatch he had received as the premier at a discounted price from the state depository called Toshakhana and selling them for profit.

# Israel says motorist killed in West Bank held US citizenship



Israeli soldiers search a Palestinian's car after Monday's shooting

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jerusalem, Feb 28: Israeli authorities said Tuesday that a motorist shot to death by a suspected Palestinian gunman in the occupied West Bank held both American and Israeli citizenship. It was the latest in a bloody string of violent at-

FAR THIS YEAR, 62 tacks roiling the PALESTINIANS, ABOUT HALF region. **OF THEM AFFILIATED WITH** The govern-

ARMED GROUPS, HAVE BEEN KILLED ment identified **BY ISRAELI TROOPS AND CIVILIANS** the slain man as IN THE SAME PERIOD, 14 ISRAELIS, Elan Ganeles, 27, of West ALL BUT ONE OF THEM CIVILIANS. Hartford, Conn. HAVE BEEN KILLED IN PALESTINIAN ATTACKS

A friend told local media he had been visiting Israel for a wedding

and driving on a highway near the Dead Sea when he was shot. The attackers remained at large Tuesday. Ganeles was the sole fatality

of what the army said was a multisite shooting spree a day earlier. The army said the attackers opened fire at an Israeli car near the Palestinian city of Jericho, hitting Ganeles.

The assailants, travelling in one vehicle, then drove further and fired again, the army said. The attackers set their own vehicle afire and fled, setting off a manhunt. Ganeles died later at Hadassah Medical Centre, the hospital said. He is to be buried Wednesdav in the Israeli central

The Jewish Federations of North America said it was devastated. "A recent college graduate, Elan had a bright future ahead of him. Our hearts go out to his family and to the West Hartford community and we cry together with them. May Elan's memory be for a blessing," it said in a

lences to Ganeles's family.

statement. David Waren, President of the

Jewish Federation of Greater

Hartford, said: "We extend our deepest condolences

to the Ganeles family and affirm our solidarity with the people of Israel at this time of escalating violence. May Elan's memory be a blessing for his family and

our entire community. Ganeles's killing came a day after two Israelis were killed by a Palestinian gunman in the northern West Bank, triggering a rampage in which Israeli settlers torched dozens of cars and homes in a Palestinian town and one Palestinian was killed. It was the worst such violence in decades.

So far this year, 62 Palestinians, about half of them affiliated with armed groups, have been killed by Israeli troops and civilians. In the same period, 14 Israelis, all but one of them civilians, have been killed in Palestinian attacks

# Sunak in Belfast to

ground forces described the situ-Capturing Bakhmut, scene of some of the war's bloodiest battles, would be Russia's first major prize in more than six months and open the way for taking the last based order and the global economy. remaining urban centres in the Donetsk region, one of four Moscow claims to have annexed in its "speinstructed the FSB security cial military operation" in Ukraine.

The drone attacks caused no ca-

into its second year last week.

Ukrainian officials didn't immediately claim responsibility for the attacks, but they similarly avoided directly acknowledging responsibility for previous strikes and sabotage while emphasising Ukraine's right to hit any target in Russia following the full-scale in-

of human rights and has no justification in any circumstances. Its perpetrators must, therefore, always be held accountable S JAISHANKAR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER OF INDIA

Nothing is

India is a global

lot on the agenda in the bilateral

EDWARD PRICE SPOKESPERSON FOR THE US

# reshuffle Cabinet





Crotone: Rescue teams pulled more bodies from the sea Tuesday, bringing the death toll from Italy's latest migration tragedy to 65, as prosecutors identified suspected smugglers who allegedly charged 8,000 euros (nearly USD 8,500) each for the "vovage of death" from Turkey to Italy.

#### China to host **Belarusian leader**

Beijing: Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, a close ally of Russia, was expected to arrive in Beijing Tuesday for a state visit that will be watched closely for signs that China could change its stance on Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. The three-day trip is a reminder that the war in Ukraine has farreaching effects on global alliances. China, which has long retained close ties with Lukashenko, said the visit is an "opportunity to promote the further development of allaround cooperation between the two countries.'

Seoul: South Korean and US

"ironclad" security

### US with Northeast, **Calif digging out**

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Feb 28: Heavy snow bookended the United States Tuesday with a late-season storm bringing a messy morning commute to the Northeast and California residents digging out, or in some cases simply stranded, after yet another storm. While not a blockbuster storm

by regional standards, the Northeast felt what could end up being the most significant snowfall of what has so far been a mild winter.

A winter storm warning covered parts of the Northeast, including Connecticut, New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Rhode Island, with heavy snow forecast through Tuesday afternoon. Most of the nation's flight cancellations or delays were concentrated in the Northeast early Tuesday.

#### REUTERS Belfast/London, Feb 28: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak was in Northern Ireland Tuesday to sell his new deal with the European Union to ease post-Brexit trade, a measure he hopes will finally break

the political deadlock in the province Sunak is trying to secure the backing of all sides in Northern Ireland so he can reset relations with the EU - and the United States without angering lawmakers in his own party and in Belfast who are most wedded to Brexit. His deal seeks to resolve the ten-

sions caused by the Northern Ireland protocol, a complex agreement which set the trading rules for the British-governed region that London agreed before it left the



EU in 2020, but now says are unworkable

In order to keep open the politically-sensitive border with EUmember Ireland, Northern Ireland remained in the EU single market for goods, raising the prospect it would slowly diverge from the rest of the United Kingdom, fuelling fears in unionist communities.

Sunak said his agreement, the Windsor Framework, would strengthen the union, scrap rules that affected everything from the

UK government says it has listened to NIreland's concerns

DUP, pro-Brexit Conservatives yet to give verdict on deal

Deal with EU eases post-Brexit trade

Sunak hopes to break political deadlock in the province

import of sausages to sandwiches and give lawmakers on the ground a greater say over the rules and regulations they take from Brussels.

The success of the deal is likely to hinge on whether it convinces the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) to end its boycott of Northern Ireland's power-sharing arrangements.

These were central to the 1998 peace deal which mostly ended three decades of sectarian and political violence in Northern Ireland.

city of Raanana. Israeli President Isaac Herzog extended condo-



SELFIE TIME: A man takes a picture with a robot at the Mobile World Congress (MWC) in Barcelona, Spain

# Suspected schoolgirl poisoning attacks rattle a shaken Iran

THE REPORTED ATTACKS COME AT A SENSITIVE TIME FOR IRAN, WHICH ALREADY HAS FACED MONTHS OF PROTESTS AFTER THE SEPTEMBER DEATH OF MAHSA AMINI FOLLOWING HER ARREST BY THE COUNTRY'S MORALITY POLICE

special commandos are conducting "realistic" combined drills here, involving AC-130J and MC-130J warplanes, to strengthen the commitment between the allies, a US official said Tuesday. The Exercise Teak pital beds. Knife kicked off a month-long

run early this month, according to Captain Kimberly Chatto, Director of Public Affairs for US Special **Operations Command-Korea** (SOCKOR), as tensions rose due to North Korea's missile launches, including that of a long-range one February 18.

#### SK, US hold joint special ops drills

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dubai, Feb 28: Over the past three months, hundreds of young girls attending different schools in Iran have become overpowered by what are believed to be noxious fumes wafting into their classrooms, with some ending up weakened on hos-

Officials in Iran's theocracy initially dismissed these incidents, but now describe them as intentional attacks involving some 30 schools identified in local media reports, with some speculating they could be aimed at trying to close schools for girls in this country of the over 80 million people.

The authorities have not named suspects, but the attacks have raised fears that other girls could be poisoned apparently just for seeking an education — something that's never been challenged before in the over 40 years since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Iran itself also has been calling on the Taliban in neighbouring Afghanistan to have girls and women return to school. The first cases emerged in late November in Qom, some 125 kilometres (80 miles) southwest of Iran's capital, Tehran. There, in a heartland of Shiite theologians and pilgrims, students at Noor Yazdanshahr Conservatory fell ill in November.



They then fell ill again in December. Other cases followed, with children complaining about headaches, heart palpitations,

feeling lethargic or otherwise unable to move. Some described smelling tangerines, chlorine or cleaning agents. At first, author-

ities didn't link the cases. It's winter in Iran, where temperatures often drop below freezing at night. Many schools are heated by natural gas, leading to speculation it could be carbon monoxide poisoning affecting the girls. The country's education minister initially dismissed the reports as "rumours".

But the schools affected at first only taught young women, fuelling suspicion it wasn't accidental. At least one case followed in Tehran, with others in Qom and Boroujerd. At least one boys' school has been targeted as well. Slowly, officials began taking the claims seriously. Iran's prosecutor-general ordered an investigation, saying "there are possibilities of deliberate criminal acts. Iran's Intelligence Ministry reportedly investigated as well.

On Sunday, Iran's state-run IRNA news agency filed multiple stories with officials acknowledging the scope of the crisis.

Attacks on women have happened in the past in Iran, most recently with a wave of acid attacks in 2014 around Isfahan, at the time believed to have been carried out by hard-liners targeting women for how they dressed. But even in the chaos surrounding the Islamic-Revolution, no one targeted schoolgirls for attending classes.









# business

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

deposit rate.

a funding crunch

rates are in the green.

May 2022.

Even at the lowest 7 per cent,

fixed deposit pricing is positive

for customers because even after

a surprise spurt in retail inflation

for January at 6.52 per cent, the real

Inflation has been over 6 per



I am working with a target to make India number one global automobile manufacturing hub and to take its size to **₹15 lakh crore in the** near future NITIN GADKARI UNION MINISTER

#### **KEY INFRA SECTORS' OUTPUT GROWS AT FOUR-MONTH HIGH**

Production of eight infrastructure sectors -coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity -- expanded at a four-month high of 7.8 per cent in January 2023, according to official data released Tuesday.



uote

# **Banks forced to offer inflation-beating FD rates**

First time in many years, fixed deposit rates turn positive at 8 pc

#### make the tax system faceless, and to address problems faced by taxpayers NARENDRA MODI

We used

technology to

PRIME MINISTER

Manufacturing sector is in good health. Core sector data and high frequency indicators show continued growth momentum

V ANANTHA NAGESWARAN CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISOR

Grievance Appellate Committee squarely takes on the issue of accountability of platforms towards digital nagriks

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR MINISTER OF STATE FOR IT

#### SHORT TAKES

#### All-India HPI rises 2.8 pc

Mumbai: The all India house price index (HPI) rose 2.8 per cent in the October-December guarter of 2022-23 as compared with 3.1 per cent a year ago, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India Tuesday. The RBI releases quarterly HPI based on transaction-level data received from the registration authorities in ten major cities. The cities are: Ahmedabad. Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi. Jaipur, Kanpur, Kochi, Kolkata Lucknow, and Mumbai. The movements in HPI during the third quarter of the current fiscal varied widely across the cities - ranging from a growth of 7.1 per cent (Kochi) to a contraction of 9 per cent (Jaipur). "On a sequential (g-o a) basis, all India HPI increased by 1.3 per cent in Q3:2022-23; while Lucknow, Kolkata, and Jaipur recorded sequential contraction in the index, it rose for the remaining

#### Al to triple aircraft fleet

cities," the RBI said.



and the recent spike is due to an increase in deposit rates since December.

The rates are better even from other angles, too, as one-year post office deposit fetches 6.6 per cent and 6.8 per cent for two years, while 10-year government securities yield just 7.35 per cent.

cent for 10 months of 2022 forcing the Reserve Bank to increase rates The high rate offering also comes by 250 bps to 6.50 per cent through as banks have almost fully passed six consecutive hikes beginning on the 250-bps hike in RBI rate since May last year to their bor-For the fortnight to January 13, rowers, they've not been doing so 2023, credit growth rose 16.5 per cent for deposits, leading to a funding annualised as against 10.6 per cent gap and forcing them to borrow growth in deposits. In fact, for alfrom the market. According to the most the entire year, deposit growth new deposit pricing, on average has been in the mid-single digit any depositor of a public sector

bank is assured of 7 to 7.25 per cent for fixed deposits for a tenor ranging from 200 days to 800 days.

The nation's largest lender State Bank of India, which has the largest retail franchise with around 20.000 branches, is offering 7.10 per cent for the general public and a higher 7.60 per cent to senior citizens on an annualised basis for fixed deposits in the 400 days bucket.

Punjab & Sind Bank is offering the highest at 8 per cent to retail depositors, and 8.50 per cent to senior citizens for the 221-day bucket.

The Central Bank of India gives the second best rate at 7.85 per cent to senior citizens for 444 days

and 7.35 per cent to retail, while Union Bank of India is pricing its 800 days deposits at 7.30 per cent and 7.80 per cent for retail and senior citizens.

Punjab National Bank is offering retail and senior citizens, respectively, at 7.25 per cent and 7.75 per cent on its 666 days bucket, Bank of Baroda's new pricing comes at 7.05 per cent and 7.755 per cent for 399 days; Bank of India is offering the same rate as that of Bank of Baroda for 444 days, while Bank of Maharashtra's new rate is 7 per cent and 7.50 per cent for 200 days.

For 400 days, Canara Bank is offering 7.15 per cent and 7.65 per cent; Indian Bank is paying 7 per cent and 7.50 per cent for its 555 days deposits; UCO Bank comes at 7.15 per cent and 7.25 per cent for 666 days; and Indian Overseas Bank is offering 7 per cent and 7.50 per cent for 444 days.

On the other hand, the largest private sector lender HDFC Bank offers only 7 per cent to the general public and 7.50 per cent to senior citizen depositors for five years, while its immediate peer ICICI Bank gives 7 per cent for more than 15 months to retail and 7.5 per cent to senior citizens for over 15 months.

Retail inflation for industrial workers rises to 6.16% in Jan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 28: Retail inflation for industrial workers rose to 6.16 per cent in January from 5.50 per cent in December, mainly due to rise in prices of certain food items. In a statement Tuesday, the

labour ministry also said that food inflation stood at 5.69 per cent in January as against 4.10 per cent in December. In January 2022, it stood at 6.22 per cent.

"Year-on-Year inflation for the month (of January) stood at 6.16 per cent compared to 5.50 per cent for the previous month (of December 2022) and 5.84 per cent during the corresponding month (January 2022) a year before," the labour ministry said.

The All-India CPI-IW (Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers) for January increased by 0.5 points to 132.8 points compared to December 2022.

The maximum upward pressure in the current index came from the housing group, which contributed 0.40 percentage points to the total change.

On an item basis, house rent, wheat, wheat atta, cow milk, apple, banana, orange, brinjal, lady finger, kundru, cumin seed/jira, egg hen, cooked meal, pan finished, zarda,

### medicine allopathic and toilet soap, among others, became costlier. According to the statement, the

increase was largely checked by fall in prices of potato, poultry chicken, sunflower oil, cabbage, carrot, cauliflower, peas, onion, soyabean oil, capsicum, french beans, green coriander leaves, radish and tomato, among other commodities.

In terms of the index, Coimbatore recorded the maximum increase of 3 points while Labac-Silchar registered the maximum decrease of 1.5 points.

The Labour Bureau, an attached office of the Ministry of Labour & Employment, has been compiling CPI-IW every month. It is based on retail prices collected from 317 markets spread over 88 industrially important centres in the country.

# Indian shares post worst losing streak in 4 years

**SENSEX AND NIFTY, PREVIOUSLY, HAD FALLEN FOR A RECORD NINE DAYS ON THE TROT IN MAY 2019** 

#### AGENCIES

Mumbai, Feb 28: Indian shares registered their longest losing streak in nearly four years Tuesday, amid persistent rate hike fears and sustained foreign selling, ahead of the domestic GDP data for the December quarter.

Benchmark Sensex and Nifty slid for the eighth straight day to close at four-month lows Tuesday as growing worries over interest rate hikes to stem inflation and FII sell-



Mahindra, Power Grid, UltraTech Cement, Tata Motors and HDFC were the major gainers.

Analysts said that weak sentiment continued to prevail as traders warv of high inflation concerns unwound their positions in commodity stocks such as metals and

### Most of Adani group stocks bounce back

New Delhi: Shares of eight of the ten listed firms of the Adani group ended with gains Tuesday

after taking a beating in recent

### Bharti Airtel to raise mobile services rates across all plans this year: Mittal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Barcelona, Feb 28: Bharti Airtel is looking to raise mobile phone call and data rates across all plans this year, the telecom firm's Chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal said here.

The company last month increased the price of its minimum recharge or the entry-level for the 28-day mobile phone service plan by about 57 per cent to ₹155 in eight circles.

Responding to a PTI query on the need for a tariff hike when the company's balance sheet is healthy, he said the return on capital in the telecom business is very low and a tariff hike is expected this year.

"It (tariff hike) will happen across the board," Mittal said at Mobile World Congress (MWC) here Monday. He said the company has injected a lot of capital that has



made the balance sheet strong but the return on capital in the industry is very low.

That needs to change. We are talking of small increments that need to come in the Indian tariff situation. I hope it happens this year," Mittal said.

Asked about the impact of price increase on people at the bottom of the pyramid, he said the hike is low compared to the spending people are making on other things.

"Salaries have gone up, rents have gone up except one thing. There is no one complaining. People are consuming 30 GB for almost paying nothing. We don't have more Vodafone (Idea) type of scenarios in the country. We need a robust telecom company in the country. The dream of India is digital, economic growth is fully realised. I think the government is fully conscious, the regulator is conscious and people are also very conscious," Mittal said.

The company stopped its minimum recharge plan of ₹99, under which it offered 200 MB of data and calls at the rate of ₹2.5 paise per second.

While the short-term ARPU target of Airtel is ₹200, it focuses on a medium to long-term ARPU target of ₹300 through price hikes for sustainable operations.

New Delhi: Air India plans to triple its current fleet of 113 aircraft in a few years as it inducts new aircraft and refurbishes older planes as part of a bigger overhaul, Chief Executive Officer Campbell Wilson said Tuesday. Tata group-owned Air India has said that it would increase its fleet by a record 470 aircraft, funding the \$70 billion order with internal cash, equity and through sale-and-leasebacks. The airline will purchase 220 of the planes from Boeing and 250 from Airbus. The airline, which was once considered a world-class service in India, saw its image tarnish in the mid-2000s due to financial troubles, an ageing fleet and poor service. Air India is also in talks with other airlines that are a part of the Star Alliance group of carriers to enhance cooperation, Campell said at a press conference.

ing unnerved investors. Investor wealth eroded by ₹10.58 lakh crore in the eight-day decline.

Sensex and Nifty, previously, had fallen for a record nine days on the trot in May 2019.

Paring its early gains, the BSE Sensex declined by 326.23 points or 0.55 per cent to settle at a fourmonth low of 58,962.12. The barometer opened higher and later touched a high of 59,483.72 in line with gains in Asian markets.

The NSE Nifty also retreated from the day's highs to settle at a more than four-month low of 17,303.95, showing a loss of 88.75 points or 0.51 per cent. As many as 33 of Nifty stocks declined.

From the Sensex pack, Reliance Industries fell the most by 2 per cent. Tata Steel, Bajaj Finserv, ITC, NTPC, Bharti Airtel, Tech Mahindra, Titan, Axis Bank and Bajaj Finance were among the other major laggards.

Asian Paints, Mahindra &

oil & gas. Investors are also cutting their

long positions due to high valuations of India market compared to other markets, they added.

The broader equity market, however ended higher, with the midcap gauge climbing 0.60 per cent and smallcap index gaining 0.40 per cent.

Among the sectoral indices, metal declined 2.37 per cent, oil & gas dipped 1.42 per cent, energy (1.35 per cent), teck (0.87 per cent), IT (0.83 per cent) and bankex (0.21 per cent). Consumer discretionary, industrials, telecommunication, utili-

ties, auto, realty and power were the gainers. In Asian markets, South Korea, Japan, and China ended higher, while Hong Kong settled in the

red. International oil benchmark Brent crude advanced 0.67 per cent to USD 83 per barrel.

Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) offloaded shares worth sessions. Adani Enterprises stock jumped 14.22 per cent to settle at ₹1.364.05 on the BSE. During the day, it rallied 19 per cent to ₹1,421.95. Shares of Adani Ports climbed 5.44 per cent, Adani Green Energy gained 5 per cent, Adani Wilmar rose 5 per cent and NDTV gained 4.99 per cent. Adani Power advanced 4.98 per cent, Ambuja Cements (3.75 per cent) and ACC (2.24 per cent). However, Adani Transmission fell 5 per cent and Adani Total Gas declined 4.99 per cent. Since January 24 when the US short seller Hindenburg Research came out with its report on the group, all the ten firms have lost ₹12.07.848.69 crore in market valuation. At current exchange rate, this translates to around USD 147 billion.

#### ₹2.022.52 crore Monday, according to exchange data.

#### **BIZ BUZZ**

#### Federal Bank opens 27th branch in state

Berhampur: Federal Bank inaugurated a new branch at Hotel Kamas Inn Building at Zenana Hospital Road, Berhampur. Among the



oldest banks, Federal Bank, established in 1931, inaugurated its 27th branch in Odisha at Berhampur. On this occasion, Berhampur MP Chandra Shekhar Sahu, Mayor Sanghamitra Dalei were present as chief guests Among others Epari Siva Prasad Rao, Secretary V. Santosh Kumar were also present. Vice President Sabu R.S, Zonal Head, Kolkata Zone, Manoj Kumar Mahapatra, Regional Head, Bhubaneswar Region, Pranaya Kisor Nayak, Business Head, Kolkata Zone, Rituraj, Assistant Vice President and Kumarjit Satpathy, Branch Manager along with employees of the bank were present and assisted in conducting the programme.

#### Union Bank of India takes possession of property

Balasore: Jivan Jyoti Behera, authorised officer of Bhadrak Branch-2 has taken physical possession Tuesday for NPA account of RK Chemicals. Previously, Demand Notice was served September 28, 2021 under section 13 (2) and symbolic possession was taken January 6, 2022. Tuesday, with the help of local police, physical possession of the plant and machinery along with land and building situated at plot No: 315, under khata No: 767/277 in the name of Tulasi Mallick at Mouza: Taragana, PO: Ichhapur, P.S: Bhadrak have been taken. Now, it is expected that

Union Bank of India will recover its dues by selling this property at eauction as there is no barrier regarding sale of this property.



#### Housing, auto drive PL growth

Mumbai: Growth in personal loans accelerated to 20.4 per cent annually in January 2023 largely driven by 'housing' and 'vehicle loans', according to data released by the Reserve Bank Tuesday. The growth in the personal loans segment was 12.8 per cent in January 2022. The data on sectoral development of bank credit in January 2023 showed that the personal loan outstanding on January 27, 2023, was ₹39.59 lakh crore as against 32.87 lakh crore in a year ago. Data further revealed that housing loan outstanding was ₹18.88 lakh crore in January this year as against ₹16.36 lakh crore a year ago. The loan outstanding in the vehicle segment was nearly ₹5 lakh crore in January 2023 against ₹3.95 lakh crore in January 2022.

# Bitcoin moves towards Satoshi's payment dream

#### REUTERS

Tokyo, Feb 28: Satoshi Nakamoto would be proud. Adolescent bitcoin may finally be repaying its creator's faith.

The 15-year-old cryptocurrency has filled many roles - from source of speculation to hedge against inflation - but has struggled to find a clear identity. Now there are growing signs it's edging towards

its intended purpose: payments. "The development in terms of building out crypto payments has continued apace, even if it's gone somewhat unnoticed because of the volatility in the broader market," said Richard Mico, US CEO

of Banxa, a payment-and-compliance infrastructure provider. The amount of bitcoin stored on the Lightning Network - a payment protocol layered on top of

the blockchain - has jumped by two-thirds over the past year to hit an all-time high of 5,580 coin, according to crypto data firm The Block

Crypto payment specialists have also seen strong volumes.

US - based BitPay said transaction volumes jumped 18% last year versus 2021. CoinsPaid said volumes in the fourth quarter of 2022 rose 32% compared with a year before.

#### **BITCOIN & BRAZILIAN REAL**

So why has crypto failed to fulfill pseudonymous inventor Nakamoto's dream, spelt out in a famed 2008 white paper titled "Bitcoin: A Peer-to-Peer Electronic Cash System?"

Price volatility, slow processing speeds and persistent regulatory uncertainty are among the factors



that have rendered cryptocurrencies unwieldy as a means of payment. Few merchants price good or services in crypto.

Nonetheless, proponents say bitcoin offers lower transaction costs and quicker speeds than traditional cash, especially for crossborder transfers.

Aside from bitcoin, other cryptocurrencies including stablecoins, which are pegged to the value of traditional currencies, have emerged as popular options, particularly

for cross-border payments, remittances, plus in emerging markets where the value of local currencies have been hit by inflation.

Stellar, a blockchain that enables cross-border payments, saw the number of trades on its platform increase to 103.4 million last month from 50.6 million in January 2022

Volumes for trades across exchanges between bitcoin and Turkey's lira and Brazil's real increased by 232% and 72%, respectively, CryptoCompare data showed.

#### **CAN YOU HANDLE THE STRESS?**

It's not all smooth sailing for the widespread adoption of crypto for payments; for one thing, there's the question of whether blockchains are ready to handle the stress of processing thousands of transactions at a time, especially without a simultaneous jump in transaction fees.

Efforts by some of the world's largest economies, including Japan, China and India, to create their own digital currencies (CBDCs) could also choke crypto payments growth, say some market players. For others, though, growing interest in CBDCs is evidence that blockchain payments tech is here to stay.

Traditional finance firms looking to embrace crypto payments have also shrugged off recent market volatility. One, Visa inking a deal this month with crypto firm WireX to directly issue crypto-enabled debit and prepaid cards.

"Crypto is evolving into a viable alternative for more and more -( people around the world," said Mico at Banxa.









Virat Kohli goes through his nets session ahead of the third Test against Australia, starting Wednesday

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Indore, Feb 28: India are expected to enhance their aura of invincibility at home with another series win while a down and out Australia will need nothing less than a monumental effort to bounce back in the third Test, beginning here Wednesday.

India have already secured the Border-Gavaskar trophy and they will now be playing for a record-extending 16th straight series win at home and a guaranteed spot in the World Test Championship (WTC) final in June.

Leading 2-0 in a four-match series, India are sitting pretty and just need to make one tough decision of choosing between out-of-form KL Rahul and Shubman Gill.

Rahul is no more the vice-captain of the side but the team manage ment has shown tremendous faith in him and he might well get another opportunity to get back among the runs. The only hundred of the series, which has been dominated by spinners, has come from the bat of Rohit Sharma. If India get to bat on day one, the conditions will be ideal for the likes of Cheteshwar Pujara and Virat Kohli to pile on the runs.

The trio of Ravindra Jadeja, R Ashwin and Axar Patel has not just delivered with the ball, it has also scored the bulk of the runs so far in the series. Since they can't be expected to get runs in the lower order regularly, the onus lies on the top-order.

Contrary to Australia's inexplicable sweeping tactics, Indian batters have adopted the conventional approach against the impressive Australian spinners

Rohit has been brilliant with his feet movement, Kohli too has looked assured in the middle and an unbeaten 31 from Cheteshwar Pujara in his 100th Test must have made him more confident going into the third Test.

The square at

lost the game in session, should hurt more.

employed in Delhi and are expected

to take a more conventional ap-

Ashwin and Jadeja. In terms of their squad compo-Such has been their domination sition, a lot has changed with Pat that Patel has only got to bowl 26 Cummins back in Australia to be overs. How the Australians defend with his ailing mother. Ashton against the spinners will be key Agar, Josh Hazlewood and David to their chances here. Runs are al-Warner too are back home. Steve ways vital but their batters need to Smith will lead the side. bat long. It has to be a mix of cau-The visitors could not be faulted

tion and aggression as the over atfor the amount of effort they are puttacking style of play is likely to be ting in to stage a comeback in the counter-productive. series. They seem ready to shun the Travis Head is expected to open inexplicable sweeping tactics they

alongside Usman Khawaja. Khawaja struck a well-made 81 in Delhi and Head briefly put pressure on the

proach to counter the rampaging

spinners with his aggressive play. Frust head to continue in the same fashion while Khawaja will be expected to play the waiting game.

The fulcrum of their batting Smith and Labuschagne, average less than 30 so far in the series and without their runs, an Australia fightback will be highly unlikely.

All-rounder Cameron Green is fit again alongside Mitchell Starc and both are expected to start Wednesday. Australia are likely to continue with three specialists spinners in Nathan Lvon, Todd Murphy and Matthew Kuhnemann.

# Kiwis pip England in thriller<sup> $\leftarrow$ </sup>

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wellington, Feb 28: Tim Southee's New Zealand team earned two places in international cricket history with their dramatic, one-run comeback win over England in the second Test.

They were only the fourth team after England (in 1894 and 1981) and India (in 2001) to win a Test after being forced to follow-on and only the second after the West Indies to win by a margin of one run.

New Zealand also was part of one of the most tense final days of a Test when at various times both teams had victory in their grasp and even a rare tie seemed possible. At the start of Day 5, a New Zealand win seemed the most unlikely of all possible scenarios: they had lost the series-opening match by 267 runs and been forced to follow-on 226 runs behind in the second Test.

New Zealand were depleted: their bowling lineup depended heavily on the new ball pair of Southee and Matt Henry in the absence of Trent Boult and Kyle Jamieson.

Neil Wagner had been demoted from the new ball role he had in the first test but it was the pugnacious bowler who had the foremost role on the last day when he took four wickets and held three catches.

New Zealand now can rest after saving their unbeaten run in Test series at home which stretches back to 2017. England will return home to regroup for the Ashes series against Australia in July. But they no longer are heading into



A FINISH TO REMEMBER: New Zealand players celebrate their win over England in the second Test in Wellington, Tuesday

that series with almost juggernaut momentum after coming to the

end of a six-Test winning streak. On a day of constant twists and turns Tuesday, Joe Root scored 95 in a partnership of 121 with Ben Stokes (33) which appeared to have secured England's victory and a 2-0 win in the two-match series.

Root and Stokes were out within a run of each other with 56 runs still needed and the match which had been heading England's way tilted back in favor of New Zealand with seven wickets down.

Wicketkeeper Ben Foakes then made 35, facing down the New Zealand attack and shepherding the tailenders to get England within

seven runs of victory before his dismissal triggered another twist.

No.11 James Anderson clubbed a boundary off Wagner which left England two runs from a match and series victory. Then in the last, dramatic moment. Anderson was caught down the leg side by a diving Tom Blundell from the bowling of Wagner.

In a defining comeback for Wagner and his short-pitch bowling, he returned figures of 4/62 and was instrumental in the win. BRIEF SCORES: England 435/8d

& 256 (Joe Root 95, Ben Foakes 35, Ben Stokes 33; Neil Wagner 4/62, Tim Southee 3/45) lost to New Zealand 209 (f/o) & 483 by 1 run.

## India prioritise English conditions

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Indore, Feb 28: India are on course to reach their second straight WTC final and if they end up winning here, a pacefriendly track could be laid out in the final game of the series in Ahmedabad to prepare for the summit clash in London in June. Before the start of the Border-Gavaskar trophy, India needed to beat Australia 3-0 or 3-1 to qualify for the WTC final and keep the destiny in their own hands.

India skipper Rohit Sharma doesn't want to jump the gun but, ahead of the third Test beginning at the Holkar Stadium on Wednesday, he said the team has already spoken about simulating English conditions in the fourth and final game against Australia. There is a strong possibility that India might end up facing Australia

in the WTC final "It will be a different ball game (facing Australia in England) for both teams, actually. There is definitely a possibility of that (Ahmedabad as preparatory game for WTC final). We have already spoken about it. We need to get the guvs ready for it." Rohit said in a that is what Australia would aim media interaction. The WTC final will be played at The Oval in London from June 7-11, right after the IPL. Rohit Sharma said Shardul Thakur becomes an important member of the side in overseas conditions. "The important one is Shardul Thakur: because he comes into the planning for us. We don't know how



Steve Smith observes the Indore pitch ahead of the third Test

ready he is since he has just got married (laughs). We don't know how many overs he has bowled. But that thought process is definitely there.

"If we get the result we want here (Indore), we might think of doing something different in Ahmedabad for sure. But we are not there yet. We have to win this game and then talk about it. That'll be the right thing to do," he said. "You are never in on these wickets'

Need to stick to plans: Smith Batting in India demands unwavering focus and patience, and

"Things haven't gone to plan so far in this series. We have got ourselves into some good positions but not been able to take advantage of them. We can hopefully rectify it this week," said Smith on eve of the game.

Half of the side fell to the sweep shot in the second Test, a game they could have won if it wasn't for the second innings collapse. "For a few players, the sweep is a very productive shot. If they are going to play it, they've to commit to it a 100 percent," he said.

Australia aim to unsettle

### WFI denies all allegations of sexual abuse

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 28: The sidelined WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh Tuesday appeared before the government-appointed oversight committee, which is investigating into sexual abuse allegations against him, and outrightly rejected all the charges

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 Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) boss Brij Bhushan has sexually harassed several women wrestlers, intimidates the athletes and run the sport body in an autocratic manner.

Brij Bhushan arrived with his 20odd supporters for the meeting which went on for nearly three hours. "Brij Bhushan appeared before the committee today. He straightaway denied all the allegations. He said he never did anvthing wrong," a sports ministry source told PTI.

Brij Bhushan, howe

### Bumrah out of IPL, no comeback in 6 months



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 28: Struggling to shake off his injury woes, Jasprit Bumrah has been ruled out of the IPL for failing to fully recover from his back injury and is unlikely to make a comeback in the next six months, a BCCI source told PTI Tuesday.

It's yet to be ascertained if the

seasoned pacer, who also missed the

T20 World Cup in Australia last

June 7 at The Oval. Bumrah was initially named in India's T20 World Cup squad.

The IPL is starting March 31, and Bumrah has been the lead pacer for Mumbai Indians for many seasons now. The ODI World Cup is scheduled in October-November\_\_\_\_ in India.

The 29-year-old Bumrah has played only five Tests, five ODIs and as many T20Is in 2022, apart from IPL games for Mumbai Indians.

Bumrah, who has a slinging ac

Stadium houses pitches with both black and red soil. The curators have decided to go with the black soil, which usually doesn't offer as much turn and bounce compared to red soil tracks.

Their battered and bruised opponents, Australia, have got a lot of time to reflect on their defeats in Nagpur and Delhi. The debacle in Delhi, where they effectively

3

to do in the third Test after "going away" from their plans in Delhi, said Steve Smith Tuesday.

Smith will captain Australia here in the absence of Pat Cummins who has gone back home to be with his ailing mother. The team's batting mainstay was also the captain when Australia toured India in 2016-17.

rampaging Indian spinners by slowing the tempo of the game. 'For us, it's about sticking to our plans and methods for long periods of time. We can hopefully apply pressure on the spinners and post good totals on the board. That's key for us. Hopefully, we can put that into practice in the middle and execute under pressure," said Smith. the waiting media at the SAI headquarters here, saying the investigation is still on and he won't like to make any comment at this point of time.

The allegations were levelled by prominent grapplers such as Vinesh Phogat, Bajrang Punia, Sakshi Malik and Ravi Dahiya. The wrestlers have already deposed before the committee.

vear, would require a back surgery. "Bumrah has been ruled out of the IPL as he will take another six months to come back. Even then, he might or might not make a comeback. The 50-over World Cup is the target, but that is also not guaranteed," the BCCI source said.

The development means that Bumrah is now also set to miss the World Test Championship final (if India qualify), which starts tion, puts a lot of pressure on his back during loading. Former West Indies pace bowling great Michael Holding had assessed that Bumrah was always a candidate for back injuries.

Last year, he was ruled out of the Asia Cup due to the back injury. He was rushed back into the squad for the T20I series against Australia at home before the T20 World Cup, and he has not played cricket since then.









Paris, Feb 28: World champion Lionel Messi edged Kylian Mbappe again, this time to take FIFA's 'The Best' men's player award. The best women's player was Spain's Alexia Putellas for a second straight year. Putellas won her award from Alex Morgan of the United States and Beth Mead.

After steering Argentina to World Cup glory in an epic final against Mbappe's France last year in Qatar, Messi won the best player vote against Mbappe and Karim Benzema and secured the FIFA prize for the seventh time in 14 years Monday night.

The three players made the final shortlist in voting by a global panel of national team captains and coaches, selected journalists in each of FIFA's 211 member countries, plus fans online. In the FIFA Awards vote, Messi had 52 points, Mbappe 44, and Benzema 34.

Messi broke a record he shared

MEN'S PLAYER: Lionel Messi (Argentina, PSG) WOMEN'S PLAYER: Alexia Putellas (Spain, Barcelona)

LIST OF WINNERS

MEN'S COACH: Lionel Scaloni (Argentina) WOMEN'S COACH: Sarina Wiegman (England coach)

MEN'S GOALKEEPER: Emiliano Martinez (Argentina, Aston Villa)

WOMEN'S GOALKEEPER: Mary Earps

(England, Manchester United) PUSKAS AWARD (BEST GOAL): Marcin Oleksy (Poland, Warta Poznan) FAIR PLAY AWARD: Luka Lochoshvili

(Georgia, Wolfsberger) FAN AWARD: Argentinian fans

with Cristiano Ronaldo, was left off the 14-player shortlist for the award this year for the first time, by making the men's world best XI for the 16th time.

Earlier, Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni was voted FIFA men's coach of the year after leading his team to the World Cup crown. The women's



#### TEAM OF THE YEAR

**GOALKEEPER:** Thibaut Courtois (Belgium, Real Madrid);

DEFENDERS: Achraf Hakimi (Morocco, PSG), Virgil van Dijk (The Netherlands, Liverpool) & Joao Cancelo (Portugal, Man City);

MIDFIELDERS: Kevin de Bruyne (Belgium, Man City), Casemiro (Brazil, Man United) & Luka Modric (Croatia, Real Madrid):

FORWARDS: Lionel Messi (Argentina, PSG), Karim Benzema (France, Real Madrid), Erling Haaland (Norway, Man City) & Kylian Mbappe (France, PSG).

coach award went to Sarina Wiegman, who led England to Women's European Championship title.

The women's goalkeeper award was given to Euro winner Mary Earps of England, and the best men's goalkeeper was Argentina's World Cup winner Emiliano Martinez.



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



