

leisure



COURTENEY COX REUNITES WITH HER FRIENDS CO-STARS

Courtney 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

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES
Interactive sessions with people 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 Ganesh. You may even express your long-term dreams.

TAURUS
Money matters are likely to take up most of your time, this day. Ganesh 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 exercise your free will and take up tasks to your liking. While the day will be busy, it will also be rewarding, says Ganesh.

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 Ganesh.

VIRGO
Ganesh says 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 completing 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
Ganesh says that any pending legal issues will be sorted out today either in court or through an out of court settlement. Your workload will get eased today and you will be able to find your way out from certain problematic situations. Ganesh showers you with his blessings.

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

SAGITTARIUS
Take it as a piece of advice: 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 Ganesh.

AQUARIUS
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 for the whole twenty-four hours. You'll be in a mood to merry and it will be transformed to everyone around you, says Ganesh.

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 Ganesh's blessings you will definitely succeed, but you need to work hard without getting disappointed.

Raima on exploring layers of relationships

Mumbai: Raima Sen, the well-known 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 understand others better.

"When we watch certain shows for a long time, they have a greater 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 says. Raima feels OTT made us explore the importance of self-love and expression. "In these series,

we can find characters that are similar to us and learn from their experiences," she adds. The versatile actor was recently seen in the psychological thriller *Roktokoobi* and her performance was lauded by all.

AGENCIES

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 a 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."

Manoj is currently promoting his upcoming web series, *Gulmohar*. The series also stars Sharmila Tagore and Suraj Sharma in key roles.



'No worst part of falling in love'

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 your life. He has to be your best friend and that's how you will make a successful and strong partnership."

Jab We Matched, streaming on Amazon miniTV, is four episodic series, helmed by director Srinivas Sunderrajan, written by Neil Chitnis, Amrit Paul, Bhavya Raj and Ritu Mago.



Yami bats for drawing clear line on privacy

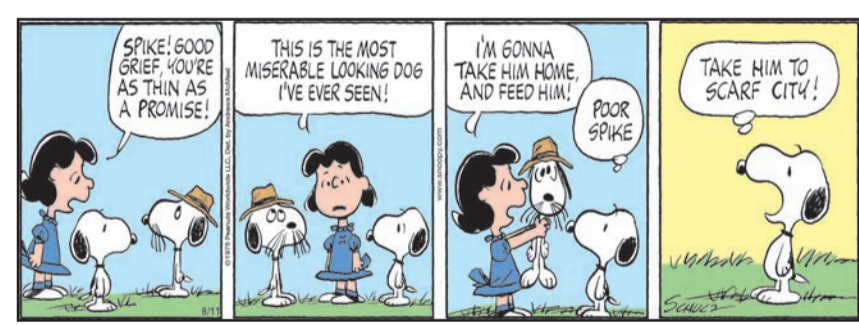
Mumbai: In a recent interview, actor Yami Gautam described an incident that happened in her homeland of Himachal Pradesh, when a teenager asked to take a photo with her but actually began recording her instead. The video was then uploaded online as a vlog and viewed by millions of people. Yami opened 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 tour of my home."

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

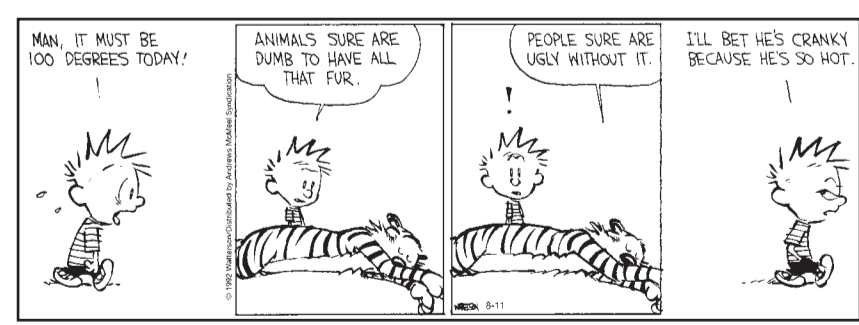
mality out of it. She insisted on drawing a clear line on privacy and advised against overstepping it. She was referring to the invasion of celebrity privacy that resulted from the unauthorised photography of Alia Bhatt in her living room, which caused quite a stir. A picture of the actress inside her home was taken via a zoom lens and subsequently released on a portal. Alia criticised the paparazzi for breaching her privacy. The actor was last seen in *Lost*, which was released on ZEE5 February 16.



PEANUTS



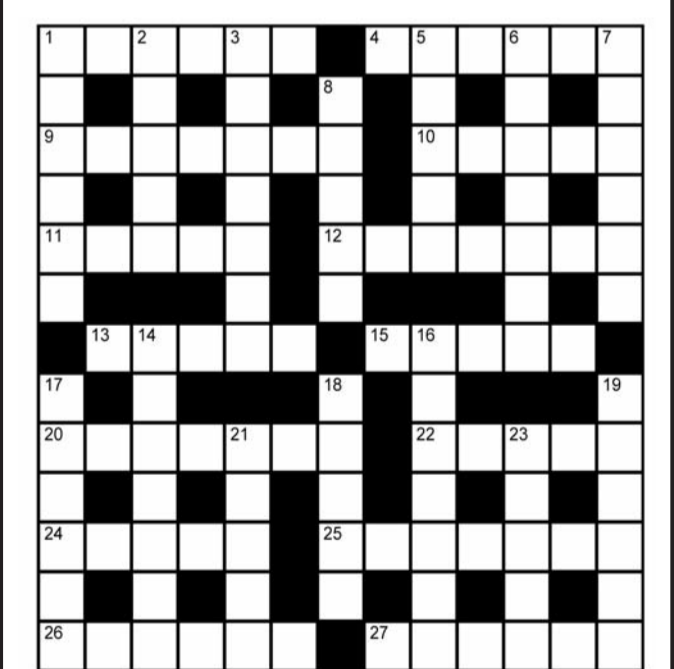
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



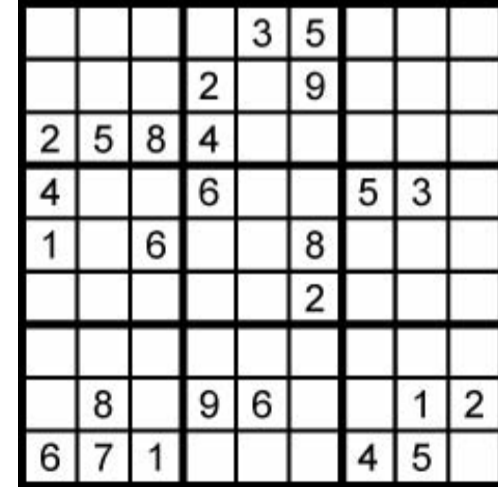
FUN post CROSSWORD



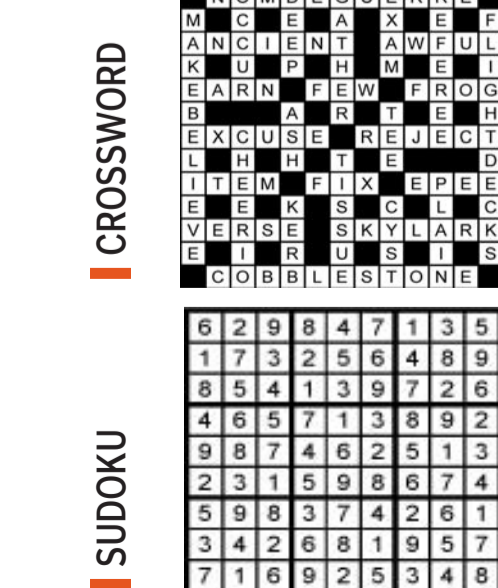
- Across**
- 1 Royal family member
 - 4 Steam, e.g.
 - 9 Precious stone
 - 10 Foreigner
 - 11 Divide
 - 12 Employ
 - 13 Caustics
 - 15 Child's pet
 - 20 Scene
 - 22 Youngsters
 - 24 Cloak
 - 25 Retainer
 - 26 Lauds
 - 27 Reporter's name in print (2-4)
- Down**
- 1 Polite request
 - 2 Utopian
 - 3 Chewed the fat, so to speak
 - 5 Violin maker
 - 6 Belief
 - 7 Marathon member
 - 8 Bouquet
 - 14 Storage locker
 - 16 To the highest extent
 - 17 Colossus of Rhodes, e.g.
 - 18 Lady's travel accessory
 - 19 Dangerous insect
 - 21 Surpass in any field
 - 23 Military garb

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



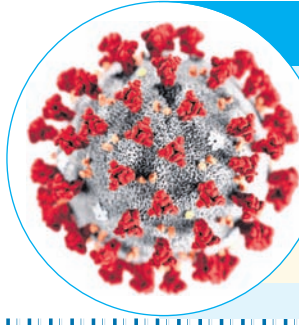
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



IN MEMORIAM

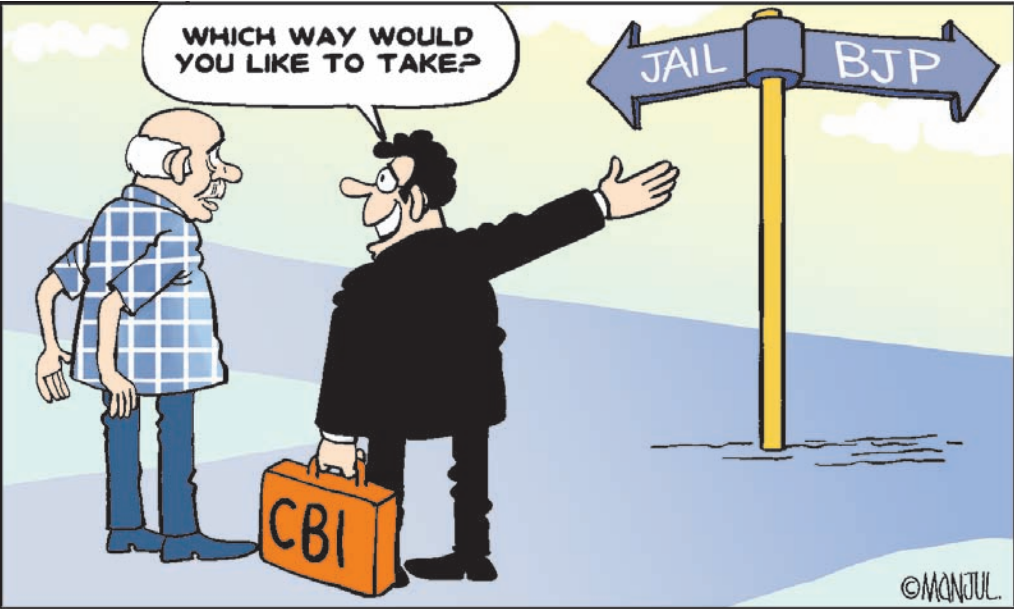
Speaker BK Arukha along with others during the observance of 139th death anniversary of Veer Surendra Sai on the Assembly premises, Tuesday



COVID-19 TRACKER

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

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



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 State Beverages Corporation Ltd (OSBCL) chairman.

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 happens to a customer it would

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 grow sales.

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

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 two-wheelers. But the business was

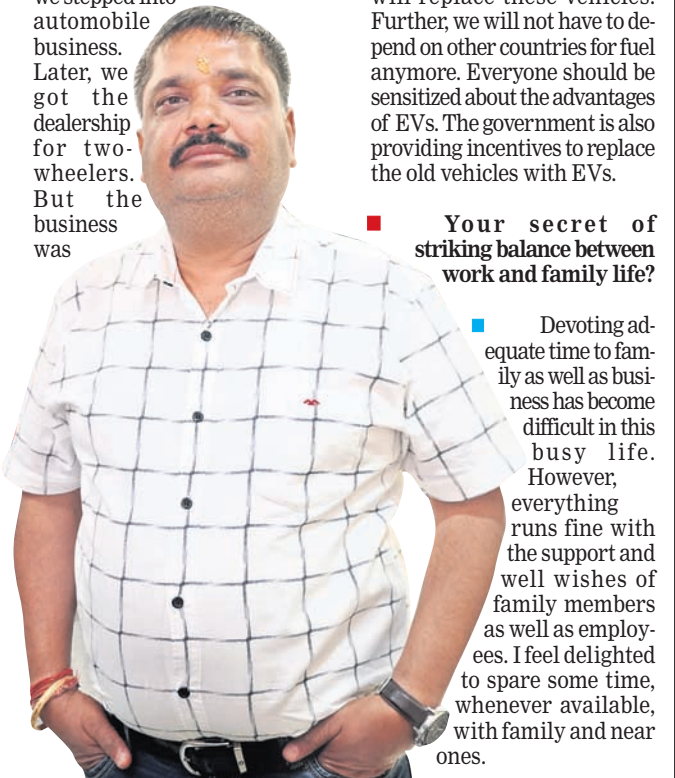
not up to the mark at that time. Our business expanded manifold when we got Mahindra's dealership in 2015. Several products started landing in the market and now Bolero Neo, XUV 300-700, Scorpio and Thar are in great demand.

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 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, with family and near ones.



Sustainable devtpt 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

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

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

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,

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 "pristine 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.

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

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.

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

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.



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.

PLUS II EXAMS START TODAY

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.

NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY City educational institutes engage students



Bhubaneswar, Feb 28: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik paid tributes to the legendary Indian scientist and Nobel Laureate CV Raman on the occasion of the National Science Day, which commemorates discovery of the Raman Effect.

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.

Outfit holds Cycle Yatra to inspire climate action

Bhubaneswar, Feb 28: To celebrate and inspire climate action with a purpose to build a smarter and brighter future for present and future generation, Switch ON Foundation, an award-winning entity, working across four major verticals - Clean Energy, Water, Climate Smart Agriculture, Skill Development and Sustainable Cities, started a six-day Cycle Yatra across Odisha as part of the 'Move for Earth' movement in the state.

POWERGRID ORGANISES AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Gurugram, Feb 28: Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), 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 Working Group (ACWG) of G-20 Forum being held from March 1-3, at Gurugram under the directives of Central Vigilance Commission.



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.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Dharendra Bhusan Pandey @ Dharendra Pande (44 years), S/o Kshyamanihi 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 Dharendra Pande & Dharendra Bhusan Pandey is the name of same & single person for all purposes.

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 embarrassment, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had to accept their resignations. This is a victory of BJP workers, a victory of truth,' Delhi BJP working president Virendra Sachdeva said.

Warmest February...

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

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.

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.

₹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 constant (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...

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

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6,412 villages in Odisha lack road connectivity

KORAPUT DISTRICT THE WORST SUFFERER WITH 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.



district at regular intervals too wo 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

villages from the main road in Koraput district. Instructions have also been issued to prepare a plan for construction of roads connecting all the inaccessible areas.

The chief engineer issued the order following publication of a report by the Centre-sponsored Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) scheme. It aims at providing road connectivity to unconnected habitations in India.

A place is termed 'developed' only when it is connected by at least 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

in Odisha has taken action promptly after the report on road connectivity in the state was published. Apart from Koraput district, 723 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 in Keonjhar, 120 in Khurda, 183 in Malkangiri, 188 in Mayurbhanj, 85 in Nabarangpur, 198 in Nayagarh, 279 in Puri, 45 in Sonepur and 186 in Sundargarh district lack road connectivity.

The Rural Works department in the state Assembly in June, 2019 had promised to provide connectivity to human habitations in various districts of the state by the end of the 2019-20 fiscal. However, as of now, many villages and habitations suffer due to lack in connectivity.

Officials of the department informed that even though many villages lack roads, efforts are on to connect them with other parts of the state as quickly as possible.

BNP's migratory birds start returning home



POST NEWS NETWORK

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

The birds fly thousands of miles to Bhitarkanika to escape the harsh winters in Siberia, Afghanistan, Iraq, northern Asia and some central European countries. They usually stay in Bhitarkanika for about three-four months before starting their homeward 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

Sudarshan Yadav said Tuesday that this year, the park has witnessed an increase in the number of migratory birds. A total of 140 types of bird species numbering about 1,39,959 visited 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 wildlife ranges under BNP.

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 different species. An estimated 14,786 shore birds-waders of 26 types and 6,753 herons, egret and bitterns were also spotted in the park. However, strangely not a single variety of pelicans, cranes and flamingos were spotted.

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.

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.

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 honey 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 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 honey 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.

Espionage accused remanded to jail

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, Feb 28: Police produced the ITR espionage accused in court as his four-day remand period came to an end, Tuesday. Baburam Dey, 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 defence-related data after being honey 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.



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, Dey will again be taken on remand for further questioning.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, PADAMPUR. Bid Reference No- SE-MID-PDP-09 / 2022-23. No-653 / MID/Date-24.02.2023. No.A-1201: Bid documents consisting of Work, Estimated cost, Cost of tender paper, EMD, Time of completion, Class of Contractor, the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in e-procurement portal https://tendersodisha.gov.

Bank of India POSSESSION NOTICE. Zonal Office : Star House, 1/1D, Jayadev 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.

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 tip-off, 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.

BUREAU OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY (A Statutory body under Ministry of Power, Government of India) 4th Floor, Sewa Bhawan, R. K. Puram, New Delhi - 110066 Website: www.beeindia.gov.in, Ph: 011-26766700. Hiring of Professionals on contract basis. Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) intends to engage Senior Sector Experts/ Sector Experts, Project Economists and Consultant (DISCOM) on contract initially for a period of one year extendable subject to satisfactory performance of the individual and future requirement of BEE activities.

Bank of India E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE. Zonal Office: Bhubaneswar Zone, 1/1D, Star House, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Ph: 0674-2362249. 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.

national

of the day quote

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 OWAIISI | 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 Mahajan. 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 Prahlaad 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. Prahlaad 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

Chennai: Three school students riding two bicycles on Tuesday were hit by a speeding SUV at Valaymattu village near Vaniyambadi in Tirupattur district of Tamil Nadu, police said. The three boys identified as S. Rafiq 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."

Student ends life

Bidar (Karnataka): A 22-year-old MBBS student committed suicide by jumping off a seven-storey building in Bidar district of Karnataka Tuesday. The deceased has been identified as Srirama Kadagi. According to police, Srirama was a final-year 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 Chitraguppa 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.



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



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.

"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 constitutional dialogue between functionaries.

"Political differences in a democratic polity are acceptable and have to be worked out with sobriety. Unless these principles were borne in mind, the effective implementation of constitutional values is liable to be placed in jeopardy," the bench also comprising Justice PS Narasimha said.



SENIOR ADVOCATE A M SINGHVI, 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 Punjab 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.

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.

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 Punjab Cabinet decided to call the assembly session on March 3 and requested the governor to summon the House.

Son pays ₹1 cr to get father killed

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Feb 28: Karnataka Police said Tuesday that it has cracked the murder case of a 71-year-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.



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 inside a mosque in south Kashmir's Pulwama district. An Army jawan was also killed.

Security forces cordoned off an area in Padgampora village 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. "Security forces exercised extreme restraint given the fact that the two local militants were holed up inside a mosque. We were determined to ensure there was no damage 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 said. Recapping what had hap-

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 technical surveillance and security forces trapped him inside the house before shooting him dead, the officer 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 TRE #Killer of late Sanjay Sharma #neutralised." Additional Director General of Police Vijay Kumar tweeted earlier in the day.

Security forces cordoned off an area in Padgampora village following a tip-off that at least two armed terrorists were hiding inside the mosque, officials said

New law makes Gujarati compulsory



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 Kuberbhaji Dindor, was

passed unanimously by the 182-member House as both the opposition parties - the Congress and the Aam Aadmi 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

Villagers look for support to market 'Kalakand'

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 Nowsheera 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-



involved 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 Sehar, Makri, Namb and Kadali villages, located ahead of the Anti-Infiltration Obstacle System along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district.

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 Vigyan 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.

5 children dead in Kolkata

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Feb 28: Amid the growing cases of adenovirus in the state, West Bengal saw the death of five children primarily due to respiratory infections in different hospitals here in the city in the last 24 hours but doctors are unsure whether it was due to Adenovirus, a health department official said Tuesday.

Out of the five children, two 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 confirm whether she died due to Adenovirus or not," the official said.

Two infants died in government hospitals in Kolkata due to respiratory infection, a health official said on Tuesday.



INDIA eye WTC final spot

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

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.

lost the game in session, should hurt more.

In terms of their squad composition, a lot has changed with Pat Cummins back in Australia to be with his ailing mother. Ashton Agar, Josh Hazlewood and David Warner too are back home. Steve Smith will lead the side.

The visitors could not be faulted for the amount of effort they are putting in to stage a comeback in the series. They seem ready to shun the inexplicable sweeping tactics they employed in Delhi and are expected to take a more conventional ap-

proach to counter the rampaging Ashwin and Jadeja.

Such has been their domination that Patel has only got to bowl 26 overs. How the Australians defend against the spinners will be key to their chances here. Runs are always vital but their batters need to bat long. It has to be a mix of caution and aggression as the over attacking style of play is likely to be counter-productive.

Travis Head is expected to open alongside Usman Khawaja. Khawaja struck a well-made 81 in Delhi and Head briefly put pressure on the

spinners with his aggressive play. Trust 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 specialist spinners in Nathan Lyon, Todd Murphy and Matthew Kuhnemann.

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 pace-friendly 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.



Steve Smith observes the Indore pitch ahead of the third Test

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 guys ready for it," Rohit said in a 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

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 that is what Australia would aim 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.

"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 the 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.

Kiwis pip England in thriller

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

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 20-odd 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 anything wrong," a sports ministry source told PTI.

Brij Bhushan, however, evaded 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.

Bumrah out of IPL, no comeback in 6 months

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



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

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 year, 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

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 action, 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.

MESSI, PUTELLAS VOTED 'THE BEST' AT FIFA AWARDS



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

LIST OF WINNERS

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

