



PAY PARITY

Actor Priyanka Chopra Jonas says it's fair to be paid equally for putting in an equal amount of work

LEISURE P2



1ST ANTI-ISLAMOPHOBIA DAY

UN marks the first-ever International Day to Combat Islamophobia in the face of rising hatred against Muslims

INTERNATIONAL P10



TEST EVENLY POISED

Shubman Gill's century helps India reach 289/3 at stumps on the third day in their first innings of the fourth and final Test

SPORTS P12

Student found hanging in Berhampur varsity



File photo of Tarini Prasad Biswal

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, March 11: A 22-year-old postgraduate student of Berhampur University was found hanging from the ceiling fan of his room at New Gents' Hostel on the institute's campus Saturday, police said.

The deceased was identified as Tarini Prasad Biswal, a native of Tirtol block in Jagatsinghpur district. He was a first year student of Industrial Relations and Personnel Management (IR&PM) department in the university under Gopalpur police station, a police officer said.

"Biswal was alone in his room as his roommate had gone to his native place. His classmates knocked at the door as he did not open the door of his room till late in the morning Saturday," said Gopalpur police station in-charge Sarada Prasanna Das.

They grew suspicious and broke open the door only to find him hanging from the ceiling fan. They informed the hostel warden and local police. The hostel warden and a police team rushed to the spot and found him hanging.

Police did not bring down the body but informed his family members about his suicide. The body was found hanging when reports last came in. Police said that the body will be brought down in the presence of his family members after their arrival. OIC Shankar Rao of University police outpost said.

Prima facie, it seems to be a suicide case but the reason for it is not yet known, the officer said, adding further investigation is underway. No case has been registered till the last report came in.

TRUCK MOWS DOWN WOMAN SARPANCH

Nimapara: A woman sarpanch was run over by a speeding truck at Delta Square here, Saturday. The incident took place in the afternoon when Dipa Behera, 32, sarpanch of Biraramachandrapur and a resident of Sadanandpur under Satyabadi block, was on her way home with her nephew, Gulu Behera, in a motorcycle after attending a function here. Dipa, who was riding pillion, fell off the bike near Delta Square. "Before she could stand up, a speeding truck from the opposite side ran over her, killing the woman instantaneously," said an eyewitness. The truck driver, however, fled the spot leaving behind the vehicle. Dipa's nephew lodged a complaint with Nimapara police following which a case has been registered and the truck seized. Dipa's body was sent for autopsy to Puri DHH.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I merely asked ChatGPT when we will see agencies raiding politicians from the ruling party

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP. MAX	36.3°C	35.6°C
TEMP. MIN	21.4°C	21.6°C
Humidity	62%	61%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Dry weather likely	



PRONE TO VOLCANOES: Mount Merapi releases volcanic materials during an eruption at Sleman in Indonesia, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

59 H3N2 cases in state

Health secretary Shalini Pandit advises people to stick to norms like handwashing, avoiding crowded places and using masks

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 11: At a time when the fear of Covid-19 has not subsided fully, at least 59 H3N2 influenza cases were detected in Odisha during the last two months, said director of Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC), Bhubaneswar, Sanghamitra Pati here, Saturday.

A total of 225 suspected flu samples from different parts of the state were collected and tested for H3N2 at RMRC-Bhubaneswar during January and February 2023. Of these, 59 samples were found positive for the H3N2, one for Influenza-A and another for Covid-19, she said.

However, not a single case of H1N1 flu (swine flu) was detected from the suspected samples, she said.

Pati said that healthcare institutions and public health officials concerned have been informed about the detection.

So far, over 3,000 laboratory-confirmed H3N2 influenza cases have been reported from across the country.

"Currently, there is 'no definitive treatment available' for the virus and hence, people should strictly follow the Covid guidelines to keep H3N2 at bay," Odisha Public Health Director Niranjan Mishra told reporters here.

State Health secretary Shalini

Pandit said, "Our 30 district public health laboratories (DPHLs) are continuously monitoring the trend of ILI and SARI cases by testing samples regularly in 23 RTPCR labs and DPHLs. All the DPHLs are doing H1N1 testing on regular basis."

Handwashing, personal hygiene and avoiding crowded places are

the key measures to be followed as done earlier.

Mask must be used by immunocompromised and persons with flu like symptoms, advised the health secretary. Districts are instructed to be vigilant and step up ILI and SARI surveillance at Health facility level and community level, she said.

Centre for more surveillance

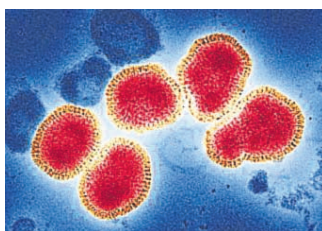
AGENCIES

New Delhi: Amid a rise in cases of seasonal influenza subtype H3N2, the Centre Saturday expressed concern over a gradual increase in Covid-19 positivity rate in some states and said it needed to be promptly addressed.

The Centre requested all states and Union territories (UTs) to follow operational guidelines for integrated surveillance of respiratory pathogens presenting as cases of influenza-like illness (ILI) or severe acute respiratory infection (SARI).

The states were requested to take a stock of hospital preparedness such as availability of drugs and medical oxygen, vaccination coverage against Covid-19 and influenza.

"While Covid-19 trajectory has decreased substantially in last few months, the gradual rise in Covid-



19 test positivity rates in some states is an issue of concern that needs to be promptly addressed," Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said in a letter to states and UTs Saturday.

Despite low number of new cases, equally low number of hospitalisations and significant advances made in terms of Covid-19 vaccination coverage, Bhushan said, there is a need to remain vigilant and focus on the five-fold strategy of test, track, treat, vaccination and adherence to Covid-appropriate behaviour. **Contd...P4**

ED seizes ₹1cr cash from Lalu's kin

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 11: As RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav and his family faced more heat from central agencies in the alleged land-for-jobs scam, the Enforcement Directorate Saturday said it seized ₹1 crore in "unaccounted cash" and detected proceeds of crime worth Rs 600 crore after raids against them in a related money laundering case.

It said the investigation is underway to unearth more investments made on behalf of Lalu's family and their associates in various sectors, including real estate, at various places.

The ED had launched raids Friday at multiple locations linked to Prasad's family members including that of his son and Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi



Tejashwi was called for questioning by CBI Saturday but he did not appear and has sought a fresh date citing personal reasons

Yadav in Delhi.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had recently questioned Lalu Prasad and his wife Rabri Devi -- former chief

ministers of Bihar -- in the case. It is alleged that people were given employment in the railways in return for land parcels gifted

LAND FOR JOB SCAM

or sold at cheap rates to the Yadav family and its associates during Prasad's tenure as the railway minister in the UPA government from 2004 to 2009.

Tejashwi too was called for questioning by CBI Saturday but he did not appear and has sought a fresh date citing personal reasons, officials said. In a statement Saturday, the ED said, "Searches resulted in the recovery of unaccounted cash of ₹1 crore, foreign currency including USD 1,900, 540 gms gold bullion and more than 1.5 kg of gold jewellery worth about ₹1.25 crore." **Contd...P4**

SHORT TAKES

Li Qiang confirmed as China's new Premier

Beijing: China's Parliament Saturday confirmed President Xi Jinping's close aide Li Qiang as the country's new Premier, succeeding Li Keqiang who held the post for the last 10 years overseeing the second largest economy. The annual session of the National People's Congress (NPC), a ceremonial body that routinely passes the proposals of the ruling CPC, approved Qiang's candidature after his name was proposed by Xi.



CoE for veggies at Panikoi on cards

New Delhi: Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare has approved setting up of a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for mango and vegetables under Indo-Israeli Action Plan at Panikoi in Jajpur. The CoE would aim at generating knowledge in nursery management, cultivation practices, production of high quality and large quantity planting material of mango and vegetable crops. "It will focus on demonstration of new varieties, Israeli agro technology in irrigation and post-harvest management technology," said the ministry.

WAS SEXUALLY ABUSED BY DAD, SAYS DCW CHIEF



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 11: Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) chairperson Swati Maliwal Saturday said she was sexually assaulted by her father in her childhood and the trauma led her to fight for the rights of women.

Speaking to reporters after the DCW International Women's Day Awards ceremony here, Maliwal said she faced abuse till the time she was in Class IV.

"I was sexually assaulted by my father when I was a child. I was very small at that time. My father used to beat me up and I used to hide under the bed to save myself," she said. "While hiding under the bed, I used to think how I will teach a lesson to such men who abuse women and children, and how I can help women get their rights," she said.

Narrating her ordeal, Maliwal said that her father would grab her by her braid and slam her against the wall, leading to severe bleeding. "This happened till I was in Class IV," she recalled.

Recently, actor and National Commission for Women (NCW) member Khushbu Sundar said she was sexually abused by her father at the age of 8.

Only railway line that India does not own

Indian Railways boasts of operating one of the largest networks in the world, but it pays ₹1cr to the British for using the railway line in Maharashtra

AGENCIES

New Delhi, March 11: Even though Indian Railways has been undergoing tremendous progress in terms of service with addition of new trains as well as rail lines, there is one little known railway line in Maharashtra that is not owned by the Indian government, but a private company in Britain.

As per sources, 190-km long narrow gauge railway line called Shakuntala Railways between Yavatmal and Murtijapur that was constructed during the British era is still being operated from London.

The Great Indian Peninsular Railway (GIPR), which ran throughout Central India during the colonial period, operated trains on this track. Strangely, this route was not taken into account when the railways was nationalised in 1952. The company that installed the rails

COLONIAL RELIC
This serves as a lifeline for underprivileged people who commute between Yavatmal and Murtijapur, for it costs only ₹150 to travel a distance of 190 km



in the 19th century still owns them. Surprisingly, Indian government still pays ₹1 crore to the Britishers for operating trains here. In 1910, Killick-Nixon, a private British company, founded Shakuntala Railways. This Railways still operates only one round trip per day on narrow gauge routes.

At present, the 190-km journey by railway between Yavatmal and Achalpur in the Amravati district takes about 20 hours. This serves as a lifeline for underprivileged people who commute between Yavatmal and Murtijapur, for it costs only ₹150 to travel a distance of 190 km. A ZD-steam engine made in Manchester

First trans tea stall at Guwahati station

GUWAHATI: In a landmark initiative, the Indian Railways has set up a tea stall at Guwahati station which will be fully operated and managed by members of the transgender community. The idea to open the 'Trans tea stall' was generated and implemented by the North East Frontier Railway (NEFR) to empower the community, its spokesperson Sabyasachi De said. The NEFR collaborated with All Assam Transgender Association for the initiative, he said. The 'Trans Tea Stall' on platform number one of Guwahati station was inaugurated by NF Railway General Manager Anshul Gupta Friday. Talking to reporters, Gupta said that this is a "first-of-its-kind initiative by any government organisation in the country".

in 1921 powered the train, said sources.



MILLIE IS READY TO WRAP UP STRANGER THINGS

Stranger Things actress Millie Bobby Brown says that she is ready to wrap up the series as there's a lot of story that's been told. The Emmy Award nominee admits that she can create stories for herself that are important to her and focuses on the bigger picture, reports *People* magazine.

SHAKIRA BREAKS 14 GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS WITH HER DISS TRACK

Singer Shakira has broken a whopping 14 Guinness World Records following the release of her brutal diss track aimed at her ex-boyfriend. The 46-year-old Colombian songstress and Bizarrap have made history with their song Music Sessions Vol. 53, which is topping the charts, reports *Mirror.co.uk*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Today you may try to make your loved one happy, and perhaps even try to woo the person in a fresh manner. You may not be too satisfied with your friends and relatives, but, Ganesh says, you can expect to go to a party in the evening and make new friends.

TAURUS
Today, Ganesh sees your feelings and emotions running high. There is a strong possibility of an emotional encounter with someone close to you. You are likely to be swayed and influenced by the other in course of this meeting. Avoid getting into any kind of dispute or controversy.

GEMINI
Your day will be spent indulging in activities that appeal to you. You may go out shopping with your family members, or go out to dinner with friends. A leisurely, entertainment-filled, fun day awaits you, says Ganesh.

CANCER
People will be stunned at the swift pace of your work. All your pending tasks and projects will fructify. But Ganesh counsels you not to do anything haphazardly or in any careless manner. Ganesh thinks you as an extraordinary orator.

LEO
Financial gains will make you happy today. You will have the opportunity to participate in social functions. All your work will get completed as per schedule. You will be able to channel your energy effectively, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
Consummation of work and success will be the high points today, says Ganesh. You will gain the much needed appreciation for your dedication to work and your desire to succeed in whatever you do. A long-awaited promotion may materialise today, and there is also the bright prospect of some monetary arrears coming your way.

LIBRA
Ganesh says that today is going to be an unforgettable day for all those people who are in love or a romantic relationship. If you plan to propose to your beloved today is a good opportunity for it as success will come easily to you. You will be able to spend a day filled with joy, happiness and enjoyment.

SCORPIO
Today, you must spend most of the time in meditation and introspection. If you do not meditate, you will be surrounded by negative thoughts and bitterness for others. According to Ganesh, this may hinder your progress and growth in career. Simple living and high thinking may make things easier for you.

SAGITTARIUS
Your stars are mighty today and plan a pleasant day for you, says Ganesh. You are a thorough professional and gamer compliments for this attitude. You also have a knack to sail through all the troubles at work.

CAPRICORN
You love your family and you will try your best to live up to the expectations of your family members. If you are student, you will finish up your existing projects and get on with some fresh assignments, foretells Ganesh. Don't block your imagination; give yourself some freedom so that you can test your creativity and talent. You don't let yourself fly too high otherwise you may lose the track of reality.

AQUARIUS
You may have to remain indoors today. But, don't think that you will get bored. You can do a lot of things, like playing cards and other board games, reading, watching the natural world around, and what not. You will spend the day in a relax mood and look at life from a different perspective, feels Ganesh.

PISCES
You will race ahead of you competition today. No matter what field you are in, you will find yourself at an advantageous point, well ahead of your contemporaries. You will be able to complete the task at hand with less effort than required. Do not let this translate into arrogance as it may come to haunt you in the future, advises Ganesh.

Priyanka speaks out on pay parity

Mumbai: Actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas, who is gearing up for the release of her upcoming spy-action thriller series *Citadel*, has shared that for the first time in her 22-year career, she got equal pay.

Recently, at the inauguration of the South by Southwest Film Festival, the actress shared her version with a bit of scepticism. "I might get into trouble for saying this; it depends on who's watching", she told a news portal.

She continued, "I've been working in the entertainment industry for now 22 years, and I have done about 70-plus features and two TV shows. But when I did *Citadel*, it was the first time in my career that I had pay parity. I'm laughing about this, but it's kind of nuts. I put in the same amount of investment and work, but I get paid much less. But the ease with which Amazon Studios said, 'That's what you deserve; you are co-leads; that's just fair,' and I was like, 'You're right, it's fair.'"

Citadel is Prime Video's upcoming big-budget, globe-trotting spy thriller, starring Priyanka Chopra and Richard Madden. **IANS**



We forget tragedies quite quickly: Dia

Mumbai: Actress Dia Mirza, who stars in *Bheed*, said that the story of the film is much about wider issues of privilege and deprivation, power and powerlessness, humanity and inhumanity, empathy, and apathy.

The trailer of Anubhav Sinha's multi-starrer film *Bheed* was released on March 11. It showcases a strong storyline as well as a powerful cast including Rajummar Rao, Bhumi Pednekar, Dia Mirza, Pankaj Kapur, and Ashutosh Rana.

Summarising the storyline, Dia said, "This trailer reminds us of the vast suffering of millions during the lockdown and captures countless human stories of loss, heartbreak, and helplessness that have never been documented fully. Three years after the lockdown, this trailer also reminds us just how quickly we forget tragedies that have not impacted us directly."

She further continued, "This story is also about much wider issues of privilege and deprivation, power and powerlessness, humanity and inhumanity, empathy, and apathy. I hope the film expands our worldview and helps us to include in it, human beings who are just like us but don't have the luxury to live in a sanitised bubble." *Bheed* is all set to release worldwide on March 24. **IANS**

'I don't consider myself a star'

Mumbai: Kareena Kapoor Khan is unarguably one of the biggest female stars Hindi cinema has ever had. She is now stepping into the 23rd year of her acting career and is totally busy with some exceptional projects in her kitty.

In a recent interview with a media channel, the actress revealed that she never considered herself a star, despite being one of the most sought-after talents in the Hindi film industry for over two decades. "I don't consider myself a star. I believe everyone is special. And I think today everyone wants to be known as an actor, not a star. That is the new standard of cinema, as it should be", stated the *Laal Singh Chaddha* actress.

She feels that any artist becomes a star only when they have established themselves as a good actor first. "In my own family, I have seen some of the finest actors. So, for me, it was always about being a good actor, more than being just a star", concludes the talented actress.

Kareena is set to make her digital debut soon with the upcoming *Sujoy Ghosh* directorial. **AGENCIES**



Hrithik stresses on food and sleep for fitness

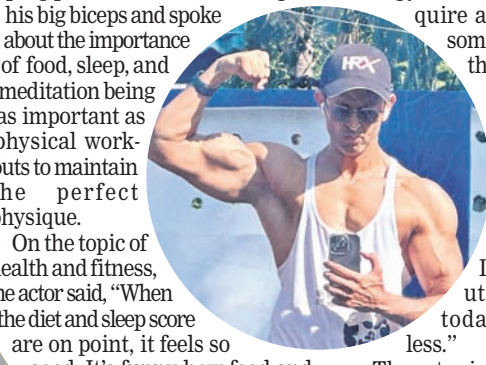


Mumbai: *War* actor Hrithik Roshan has shared a jaw-dropping picture of him flaunting his big biceps and spoke about the importance of food, sleep, and meditation being as important as physical workouts to maintain the perfect physique.

On the topic of health and fitness, the actor said, "When the diet and sleep score are on point, it feels so good. It's funny how food and sleep—the easy sounding ones—are where most of us fail. Because they require a quiet mind and well-disciplined days. Training and gym are so simple; they require aggression, which is somehow easier to access than quiet joy."

He added, "What has helped me change my course and up my joy is meditation. It sounds so boring. But once you give it enough time, magical things happen. I started with 10 minutes a year ago, and today an hour seems less."

The actor is currently busy with his next film, *Fighter*, which also stars Deepika Padukone and Anil Kapoor. **IANS**



PEANUTS



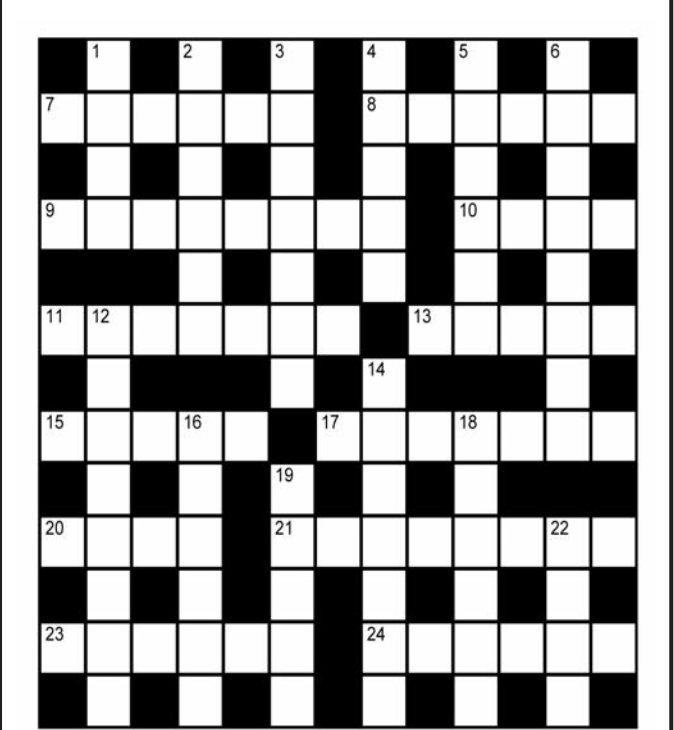
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Cuban city
 - 8 Some African families
 - 9 Severe
 - 10 Furrows
 - 11 Honesty
 - 13 Robin Hood's missile
 - 15 Digress
 - 17 Guarantee
 - 20 Dangerous reptile, briefly
 - 21 Large whale
 - 23 Renounce a relative
 - 24 Funeral speech
- Down**
- 1 Animal's den
 - 2 Newspaper item (4,2)
 - 3 Ill will
 - 4 Tasty fruit
 - 5 Looking glass
 - 6 Fuel starter (4,4)
 - 12 Celestial body
 - 14 Griddlecake
 - 16 Vessel feature
 - 18 Ambulatory
 - 19 North Sea feeder
 - 22 Bird enclosure

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

D	E	S	P	O	T	J	E	T	S	A	M
E	T	W	H	M	I	A					
V	E	R	A	N	D	A	P	A	R	R	Y
I	A		V	A		H					
C	U	P	I	N	E	R	T	H	U	E	
E	P	L	L	N	V	I	T	A	L		
S	I	L	L	V	I	T	A	L			
A	N	G	L	F	V	I	D	I			
L	E	G	O	L	I	V	E	S	U	M	
C	T	N	T								
O	V	E	R	T							
V	A	E	H	U	R	E	N	D			
E	Q	U	I	N	E	B	R	E	E	Z	E

SUDOKU

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

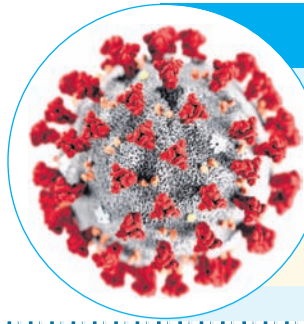
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



MUSIC IN MIND

Artistes Adyasha Das and Sushant Panda perform 'Nirguna Bhajans' on the concluding day of musical festival Samarpan at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Saturday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	68,14,59,984	65,43,44,941	68,11,623
India	4,46,89,968	4,41,55,782	5,30,780
Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204



Eminent writer Gayatri Panda receives Sahitya Akademi Award 2022 for her book of poetry 'Daya Nadi', during an event in New Delhi, Saturday (PIC: CHAMAN GAUTAM)

Shah to address meet in Dhamnagar March 26

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 11: Union Home Minister Amit Shah is scheduled to address a public meeting in Dhamnagar Assembly constituency in Bhadrak district March 26, a senior BJP leader said.

He will address the rally during his one-day visit to the state under the Pravas programme, state BJP general secretary Lekhashree Samantasinghar told reporters.

"During his visit, Shah will address a public meeting at Sainlapur in Dhamnagar Assembly constituency, which falls under Bhadrak Lok Sabha seat. Before that, he will visit the famous Akhandalamani temple of Lord Shiva," she said.

Shah will also hold a meeting with BJP workers at Dhamnagar before his departure to Bhubaneswar, she said. In Bhubaneswar, Shah is scheduled to meet senior state BJP leaders and party legislators before returning to Delhi the same day, Samantasinghar said.

Shah had last visited Odisha in August last year. He had offered prayers at the Lingaraj temple in Bhubaneswar and visited the Netaji Birthplace Museum in Cuttack. He had also attended several events in the twin cities during his two-day visit.

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OHRC for compensation to blast victims

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 11: The Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) has directed the TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TP-CODL) to pay a compensation of Rs 50,000 each to the three persons who suffered injuries in an explosion of an electrical transformer under Chadraskharpur police limits here in 2021.

The commission's directive came while hearing a plea filed by rights activist Pradipta Kumar Nayak. The TPCODL



authorities have been asked to pay the compensation within two months and the Chandrasekharpur police have been asked to submit a report

in connection with the payment of compensation. Nayak had informed the commission that Bijay Behera, who ran a food stall near

Omfed Square under Chadraskharpur police limits here, his 12-year-old son and an employee of his food stall, Gautam Nayak, sustained severe burn injuries when an electrical transformer near the stall exploded March 17, 2021.

On the fateful day, Bijay, along with his son, was preparing breakfast at the stall when the electrical transformer nearby exploded. The hot oil from transformer spilled out and fell on the three, leaving them critically injured. Initially they were rushed to Capital

Hospital and later to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack for treatment.

Gautam and Bijay's minor son had suffered more than 70 per cent burns. They were discharged from SCB in April 2021. "Under this circumstances, it is undoubtedly proved that the above named persons were injured due to burst of 33KV electric metering unit system and they are entitled to get compensation from distribution company i.e. TPCODL," the commission remarked after examining medical and police reports.

'Disaster management becoming Jan Andolan'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 11: Disaster risk reduction and management are turning into a people's movement as envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, his principal secretary P K Mishra said Saturday and called for professionalizing the setup for it.

Addressing the valedictory programme of the third session of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR), he expressed happiness about the enlarged scope of conversation and the breadth and depth of the discussions.

Mishra, who has attended all three sessions of NPDRR since 2013, said that with its pan-India presence, the event is turning disaster risk reduction into a 'Jan Andolan' as envisaged by the prime minister.

Underlining the importance of the theme of the session "Building Local Resilience in a Changing Climate", he pointed out that it responds to the need for localising disaster risk management at a time when disaster risks are not only increasing but new patterns of risks are emerging.

Mishra referred to the prime minister's 10-point agenda that emphasizes the need for building local capacities and initiatives, and especially women's leadership in disaster risk management.

5T Secy takes stock of projects in Sundargarh



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 11: 5T Secretary VK Pandian, who is on a two-day visit to Sundargarh, Saturday took stock of various development and welfare projects in Gurundia, Bonai, Koira and Biramitrapur blocks of the tribal-dominated district.

Pandian visited Government (SSD) Girls' High School in Gurundia and held discussions with the officials and teachers there on implementation of 5T school transformation projects. Soon after, the 5T Secretary visited the SSD Higher Secondary School and Panchayat Higher Secondary School of Gurundia and interacted with the students. He instructed the district administration to complete the 5T school transformation work at the earliest and prepare a master plan for development for the school-hostel complex at higher secondary school.

Pandian also reviewed the ongoing construction of Biju Setu at Tumkela. The project has been implemented by the Rural

Works Division, Rourkela and 40,000 people will be benefited from it.

The 5T Secretary also visited Baner Temple in Bonai and offered prayers. Later, he interacted with the priests and other stakeholders and took suggestions from them on various aspects of transformation of the temple. Pandian asked the district administration to prepare a proposal.

Pandian also took stock of Mission Shakti Cafe in Bonai and interacted with the members of the Mission Shakti Group. He enquired about the benefits they are getting and shortcomings, if any, on implementation of the project.

He also visited the sub-divisional hospital, Bonai and interacted with the doctors and staff there. The 5T Secretary visited the wards and interacted with the patients of the hospital and enquired about the facilities being provided by the hospital.

Later, he visited the hockey training centre and Biju Park of Bonai, Government High School, Baidpali, Gopabandhu High School of Koira, Degree College, Koira, ITI, Koira, Smart Park at Biramitrapur, proposed Urban Area Water Body Rejuvenation Project site at Biramitrapur, proposed new bus stand at Biramitrapur and Government Boys High School, Biramitrapur.

Sports and Youth Services Secretary R Vineel Krishna, Sundargarh Collector Parag Harshad Gavali and other district as well as block-level officials were present during the visit of the 5T Secretary.

'Treaty for sustainable space exploration'

Scientists are calling for a legally-binding treaty to ensure Earth's orbit is not irreparably harmed, given the rate of expansion of the global space industry.

While satellite technology is used to provide a huge range of social and environmental benefits, there are fears the predicted growth of the industry could make large parts of Earth's orbit unusable.

The number of satellites in orbit is expected to increase from 9,000 today to over 60,000 by 2030, with estimates suggesting there are already more than 100 trillion untracked pieces of old satellites circling the planet.

An international collaboration of experts in fields including satellite technology and ocean plastic pollution said this demonstrates the urgent need for global consensus on how best to govern Earth's orbit. They have expressed their concerns in the journal Science.



While they acknowledged that a number of industries and countries are starting to focus on satellite sustainability, they also said this should be enforced to include any nation with plans to use Earth's orbit. Any agreement, they added, should include measures to implement producer and user responsibility for satellites and debris, from the time they launch onwards.

Commercial costs should also be considered when looking at ways to incentivise accountability. Such considera-

tions are consistent with current proposals to address ocean plastic pollution as countries begin negotiations for the Global Plastics Treaty, they said.

The experts also believe that unless action is taken immediately, large parts of our planet's immediate surroundings risk the same fate as the High Seas where insubstantial governance has led to over-fishing, habitat destruction, deep-sea mining exploration, and plastic pollution.

"The issue of plastic pollution, and many of the other challenges facing our ocean, is now attracting global attention. However, there has been limited collaborative action and implementation has been slow. Now we are in a similar situation with the accumulation of space debris. Taking into consideration what we have learnt from the high seas, we can avoid making the same mistakes and work collectively to prevent a tragedy of the commons in space. PTI

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MATTER OF PRIDE: Governor Ganeshi Lal addressing a national seminar on the occasion of Classical Odia Language Day at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

BMC readies itself to save City from heat

Keeping in view the heatwave-like condition, BMC had urged all the corporators to open water kiosks in their respective wards at the earliest



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 11: With people of the City preparing to deal with the gradual rise in temperature, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) held a review meeting for heatwave preparation Saturday.

At the meeting BMC commissioner Vijay Amruta Kulange asked the municipal officials to take all possible measures to deal with heatwave conditions in the Capital during the ensuing summer.

Addressing the officials, the commissioner said, "Planning should cover everyone in the City and each department needs to extend their support to prevent casualties. The hospitals should be prepared well with weather control center and focus should be on keep-

ing doctors and nurses in hospitals available for treating people affected by the heatwave."

Emphasising the need for water kiosks, he directed the concerned officials to ensure availability of regular water kiosks in time especially at places with labourers working in open.

Earlier, keeping in view the heatwave-like condition, BMC had urged all the corporators to open water kiosks in their respective wards at the earliest.

The local civic body had also prepared an action plan to deal with the heatwave condition in City.

Notably, Mayor Sulochana Das had chaired a meeting in the presence of the commissioner and where they had discussed preparation of an action plan to deal with the harsh summer in the municipal area.

The BMC had asked officials to submit the subsection-wise plan and line departments' preparedness at the earliest. After having section-wise plan an SOP will be prepared for citizen awareness. Area wise RWAs, SHGs and social organisations will be requested to support the initiative, the BMC stated.

IMD issues yellow warning for 8 dists

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 11: The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) Saturday forecast thunderstorm with lightning at one or two places over Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Kandhamal, Kalahandi, Nabarangpur, Nuapada and Koraput.

According to the weather agency, light to moderate rain or thundershower is very likely to occur at one or two places over Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Angul, Dhenkanal, Cuttack, Khurda, Boudh, Kandhamal, Kalahandi, Nabarangpur, Nuapada, Rayagada and Koraput.

On the other hand, dry weather is very likely to prevail over the remaining districts over the next 24 hours. March 15 and 16, light to moderate rain or thundershower is very likely at one or two places over Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Rayagada, Koraput, and Malkangiri, the weather agency added.

6 women felicitated for their commendable role in society

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 11: In an event organised at the Central University of Odisha (CUO) in Koraput March 10 to celebrate International Women's Day six working women from varying strata of society were felicitated for their outstanding contribution in their respective fields.

University Vice Chancellor Chakradhar Tripathi felicitated the women in the presence of the University community.

Social activists Basanti Behera and B Rojalin from Welfare of Blind Organisation in Jajpur, Women educationist Rudrani Mohanty, Bijjalaxmi Takri, a security guard of Girls Hostel of the University, B Swarnamala, Caretaker of the Girls Hostel and Laxmi Khilla, Sweeper of the University were

felicitated for devoting their lives to the welfare and empowerment of blind persons.

The Vice-Chancellor also declared to financially support the 11 blind students of the Welfare of Blind Organisation as a token of love. The programme was organised in the University campus at Sunabeda by the Internal Complaints Committee of the CUO on the theme of 'DigitALL: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality'. Bureau of Police Research and Development IG RekhaLohani attended the event virtually as the chief speaker and delivered a lecture on the subject.

District Child Protection Officer of Koraput Rajashri Das and advisor of CUO Sudhendu Mandal attended as the special guests on this occasion.



State's TLR programme bags SKOCH Gold award

Bhubaneswar: Odisha Higher Education department has been awarded the prestigious SKOCH Gold Award for its 'E-Resources for TLR (Teaching, Learning and Resources) at the Universities and Autonomous Colleges' programme Friday. The e-programme enables students and teachers of colleges and universities of the state to read the best journals, e-books and magazines from across the world for free by logging into the accounts provided by their institutions. The state last year signed agreements with global aggregators and publishers like Ebsco and Elsevier to establish this service which benefits members of 32 autonomous colleges and 12 state public universities.

Outfit's schemes for women and children

Bhubaneswar: Civil society organisation 'Chapala Foundation' informed in a press meet here Friday that it will launch schemes for securing women safety and helping underprivileged children March 14. A member of the foundation Jyoti Ranjan Mishra said, "We are going to launch two schemes namely Netaji Student Scholarship and BHAJ. Under Netaji Student Scholarship, we will provide school education to those deprived of it due to poor financial situation." In the first stage of the scheme, we will provide education to 20 students of the City and gradually take it across the state, Mishra added. "Under second scheme Bhai, we will provide free transportation service to desiring women from 11pm at night to 5am in the morning," said chairman of the foundation Chapala Jena. We will launch Whatsapp number '977277416' March 14 where women travelers can call for transportation after 11pm, she informed.



AIRING GRIEVANCES: Members of Students Congress march towards Raj Bhawan to submit a memorandum to the Governor in protest against rising prices of cooking gas cylinders in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

Centre for more surveillance

In light of rising trend in other ILIs and SARIs being witnessed in some states and UTs across the country, a meeting was held recently to review the current situation with the central ministries, departments and organisations concerned.

While influenza is an annual seasonal occurrence, in the present season, a variety of weather conditions and behavioural reasons - less than adequate attention to personal hygiene, coughing without adequate protection, closed indoor gatherings of people, etc. - make the environment conducive to circulation of a number of viral respiratory pathogens like Influenza A (H1N1, H3N2 etc.) and adenoviruses, he mentioned. Under the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), as reported by states and UTs, an increasing trend of ILI/SARI is being observed across the country, Bhushan stated.

Further, according to integrated sentinel based surveillance of ILI and SARI, an upswing of Influenza A is observed since the latter half of December last. "Of particular concern is preponderance of Influenza A (H3N2) being detected in the samples being analysed in various labs. It should also be kept in mind that young children, old age people and people suffering from co-morbidities are particularly at risk and vulnerable to H1N1, H3N2, adenoviruses, etc.," he said.

"In order to limit transmission of these diseases, it is important to raise community awareness regarding adherence to respiratory and hand hygiene and promoting early reporting of symptoms, and limiting contact of those people who are suffering from respiratory illness," Bhushan wrote in the letter. In terms of requisite public health actions, it is essential that state and district IDSP units closely follow the trend of ILI and SARI in their respective areas, monitor the proportion of cases and refer sufficient number of samples for testing for influenza, SARS-CoV-2 and adenovirus. "All states and UTs must in letter and spirit implement 'Operational Guidelines for Revised Surveillance Strategy in Context of Covid-19' which provides for integrated surveillance of respiratory pathogens presenting as cases of ILI/SARI," the letter stated.

ED seizes ₹1cr in cash from Lalu

"Several other incriminating documents including various property documents, sale deeds, etc held in the names of family members (of Lalu Prasad) and benamidaars indicating illegal accretion of huge land bank and electronic devices were also seized," it said.

It said the raids resulted in the "detection of proceeds of crime amounting to about ₹600 at this point of time which is in the form of immovable properties of ₹350 crore and transactions of ₹250 crore routed through various benamidaars".

Investigation is underway to unearth more investments made on behalf of Lalu Yadav's family and their associates in various sectors, including real estate at various places, the ED said. The agency added that while carrying out the searches, all legal formalities were fully observed and due courtesy was extended to the women, children and the senior citizens present at the search premises.

Online 'personal brands' key to job success for Gen Z

Generation Z, people born between 1997 and 2012, perceive online "personal brands" as a crucial tool to gain more advantage in job markets, new research reveals.

The study, led by the University of East Anglia in collaboration with the University of Greenwich, demonstrates the importance of authentically building online personal branding strategies and tactics to bridge the gap between Gen Zs desired and perceived images on social media when job seeking.

The findings, published in the journal Information Technology & People, showed that all Gen Z participants perceived digital personal brands as an essential tool to portray themselves and project strong impressions to employers.

The effort in building and managing personal brands creates win-win results for Gen Z students and employers in the recruitment process. "Previous research has argued that professionals tend to maintain a perfect image online, but we find that for Gen Z job seekers, an imperfect online image works better," said Prof. Alastair Morrison at the University of Greenwich.

The more Gen Z students focus on portraying their brands on plat-



The findings, published in the journal Information Technology & People, showed that all Gen Z participants perceived digital personal brands as an essential tool to portray themselves and project strong impressions to employers

forms such as LinkedIn, the higher the probability that employers will find their profiles and be better able to evaluate candidate talents, skills, traits, and the fit with company culture.

Employers highly recommend LinkedIn to Gen Z students and expect them to build LinkedIn profiles.

"The differentiating factor between Millennials and Gen Z is

the use of technology from an early age and how this has impacted their online behaviour. Gen Z are always connected to digital environments through interactions with their networks, gaming, consuming videos, and creating their own content to share on social media," said co-author Dr. Brad McKenna, Associate Professor in Information Systems at UEA.

Previous research has argued that professionals tend to maintain a perfect image online, but we find that for Gen Z job seekers, an imperfect online image works better

PROF. ALASTAIR MORRISON | UNIVERSITY OF GREENWICH

"Personal branding has shifted from celebrities and top-tier managers to employees and job seekers, making the ways in which people market themselves more of a conscious effort. Job seekers today need to effectively communicate their talents to prospective employers," added co-author Dr. Wenjie Cai, from the University of Greenwich.

The researchers recommend that universities seek personal brand information from Gen Z students to understand them better and to mentor them in the varied ways needed to achieve personal goals and objectives based on skills, knowledge, and opportunities for training and growth. Companies should utilise all possible opportunities to engage with student job seekers, share their organisational cultures, and be open about what they are expecting for specific positions.

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CRAFT EXHIBIT: Visitors check decorative items at an all India handicrafts exhibition 'Craft Bazaar' held at Ainthapali PHD ground in Sambalpur, Saturday

3 lakh Olive Ridley turtles lay eggs on Nasi-2 island

VSSUT STUDENT DEATH

Diatom report says drowning caused death

AGENCIES

Rajnagar, March 11: The mass nesting of endangered Olive Ridley sea turtles began on Nasi-2 island in Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary, Thursday evening. Forest officials Saturday claimed that more than three lakh Olive Ridley sea turtles have laid eggs on Nasi-2 island, the favourite nesting place of the endangered species, since March 9.

With DRDO prohibiting visitors, only a handful of forest personnel on turtle protection duty was at the beach to witness this unique natural phenomenon.

As many as 2,14,058 of the turtles laid eggs on the island Thursday, while 88,000 more arrived for mass nesting Friday. It has been almost a month since the marine creatures started gathering on the island but had not laid eggs due to absence of favourable weather conditions.

Finally, the prevalence of dry weather from March 9 and blow of southern wind prompted them to join mass nesting. Lakhs of mother turtles climbed the beach and laid eggs on the Nasi-2 island from Thursday evening which continued till the wee hours of Saturday. Till Saturday, over 3,02,058 turtles



were estimated to have participated in the mass nesting, forest officials said.

Female turtles were seen digging pits by their two hind legs and laying about 100 eggs in the pit. The size of each egg is like a ping pong ball. The egg shell being flexible does not break when the female turtles lay them in the pit. After laying the eggs, they cover the eggs in sand and return to the sea. The hatchlings come out after 45 to 60 days of incubation period.

The turtle nests have been counted segment-wise at Nasi-2 beach, said official sources. Forest personnel have put up 3-kilometre fencing to restrict the entry of canines into the Nasi-2 island during the mass nesting. Apart from this, steps have been taken to guard the

nesting grounds to protect the turtle eggs from predators like crows and eagles. Moreover, the DRDO has switched off its bright light on its testing site at Wheeler island for safe nesting of the turtles.

Among the nesting grounds in the state, Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary is said to be the largest rookery for the endangered Olive Ridley sea turtle, which is protected under Schedule I of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and accorded the highest protection like endangered tigers.

As many as 5,01,157 Olive Ridley sea turtles had come to the golden beach of Nasi-2 within Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary and laid eggs within three days from March 25 to 28 in 2022, Gahirmatha sanctuary officials said.

Sambalpur: The diatom report of B. Tech graduate Chinmayee Priyadarshini Sahoo has indicated that her death was due to drowning, said Sambalpur SP Battula Gangadhar, adding that the investigation remains open-ended and all angles are being probed. The matter came to the fore after the Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology of VIMSAR at Burla here handed over the test report to Burla police. The viscera examination report is yet to be made available. The report, once available, will establish if consumption of intoxicants and other factors were behind her death. Further probe is on to establish whether she ended her life on her own or it was a case of abetment, the SP said. The Diatoms test is based on the principle that diatoms can be detected in the organs of drowned victims if they aspirated diatom-rich water into the lungs before death. Diatoms are unicellular, photosynthetic and autotrophic organisms that live both in freshwater and saltwater.

Defence personnel duped of ₹2 lakh by cyber criminals

Skeleton emerges in pond as it is dried up for fishing

POST NEWS NETWORK

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, March 11: A man at Army Air Defence College (AADC) at Golabandha in Ganjam district was defrauded of ₹2,03,999 by cyber criminals on the pretext of delivering him a parcel on courier, police said Saturday.

The victim was identified as Bikash Ghosh, 41, a native of West Bengal and an inmate at AADC. The matter came to the fore after he lodged a complaint at the Cyber and Economic Offences police station in Berhampur. Police registered a case and launched an investigation but they are yet to nab anyone for the offence.

Police said that Bikash had ordered a parcel through private courier firm DTDC, February 20. However, after the parcel did not arrive in time, he searched on the internet to contact the company and got a phone number which was mentioned as that of the courier firm.

He rang the number and narrated his ordeal after an unknown person picked up the call. The unknown person replied that the parcel was not delivered as Ghosh's address is not registered with a landmark. He instructed him to click on a link sent by him and deposit additional ₹3 as payment for doing the needful. Ghosh followed the person's directions.

Later, he was assured on call that he will receive his parcel the next day. However, to his horror he received a message that ₹2,67,999 had been deducted from his two savings accounts in State Bank of India (SBI) and ICICI Bank, February 25. He immediately contacted the banks and asked them to freeze the debit card.

The ICICI Bank authorities froze the debit following which he got back ₹64,300 deducted from his account but failed to get back ₹2,03,999 in the SBI account. Later, he lodged a complaint at the cyber police station.

Basta/Rupsa, March 11: In a shocking incident, villagers stumbled upon a gunny bag containing human skeleton from a pond while drying up the water body to catch fish at Panisulia village under Singla police limits in Balasore district, Saturday.

The recovery of a human skull and bones sparked surprise among the villagers. They informed the police who reached the spot and seized the sack. An investigation was launched and a scientific team was also pressed into service.

Sources said a group of villagers stumbled upon the sack, Saturday morning when they were cleaning the pond to dry it up before catching fish. To their horror, upon opening the sack, they found a human skeleton with clothes tucked inside it. As the news spread, a large crowd gathered at the spot. On being informed,



sarpanch Prabhat Das reached the spot and informed the police.

The identity of the deceased is yet to be ascertained but it is being suspected that the person was murdered and then shoved into a sack before being thrown into the pond. The exact cause of death and the identity of the deceased can be ascertained only after the post-mortem report is available, police officials added.

Sources said the skeleton has been sent to the State Forensic Science Laboratory (SFSL). Villagers suspect that the skeleton is of a girl who went missing from the village one and half years back.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, March 11: The divisional forest officer (DFO) in Jeypore of Koraput district has suspended a forester and a woman forest guard with immediate effect until further orders for allegedly demanding and collecting ₹3.20 lakh as bribe for payment of ₹2 lakh ex-gratia each to kin of eight deceased kendu leaf workers.

The suspended forest officials have been identified as Balimela forester Durga Prasad Nayak and a woman forest guard Padmini Patnaik of Kudmulguma under Gumma forest beat of Jeypore kendu leaf forest division in Koraput district.

The two illegally demanded bribe from the innocent tribal people to provide them the ex-gratia amount.

The matter came to the fore after the DFO issued two letters - 78 and 79 dated March 10, 2023 in this regard. Ex-gratia is provided to kendu leaf workers in case of death or permanent disability.

'Watch essential in one's lifestyle'

People from all walks of life must use their time wisely, and to be able to keep up with this fast-paced world, a watch is essential in one's lifestyle, says **Raman Kumar Bagadia**, who owns four World of Titan outlets in Cuttack, in an interview with **Orissa POST**. Excerpts:



■ What was the reason you chose business as a profession?

■ I was born in Manik Ghosh Bazar in Cuttack city. Cuttack is the most prominent business hub of Odisha and being born and brought up by a businessman, my father, Mohanlal Bagadia, it was a natural choice. I spent a lot of time learning the nitty-gritty of business from my father. Next, I started supplying bedding materials to Odisha government's medical store in 1978. That also ran successfully for a long. Now, my younger brother is managing that business.

■ How did you associate with Titan?

■ Due to my education and experience in the market, I used to have good business ideas/sense of business. So, I have always been interested in running my business with top brands. In 1989, I came across an advertisement for an exclusive Titan showroom. I was quite fascinated by it, and interested to start a business with branded watch brand like Titan. I was lucky enough to get the company's first franchise in Odisha. Then, I established the brand's first air-conditioned watch showroom at Cuttack's Buxi Bazar which till now has been a milestone of my life.

■ How is your business performance at present?

■ As we value the priorities of our customers, business has been good despite the technical advancements in recent times. Based on the good performance and customers' demand, I have three other showrooms in Cuttack to cater to their needs. We have

whole range of Titan watches and eyewear. We also have a 1,600 sq ft showroom at Jajpur Road. Watches have a great demand during weddings, birthdays, thread ceremonies and festive season. The company also gifts a slew of offers every now and then to attract customers. The sale was affected during the pandemic. However, it is slowly gaining momentum. We hope to have a good business in the upcoming wedding season.

■ What kind of watches and what other essentials do your showrooms offer?

■ Now Titan is not only limited to quartz watches rather it has created a great demand in the

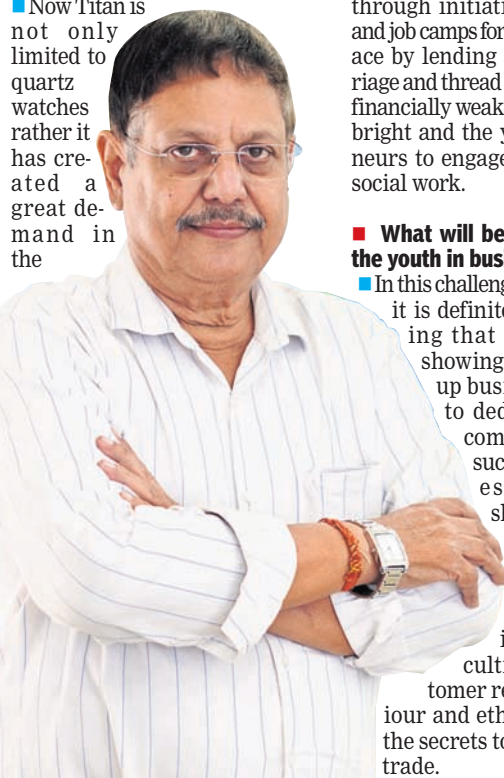
market with its contemporary smartwatches and digital watches. These gadgets not only show you the time but also provide a host of features like tracking your fitness, stress, pulse rate, heart rate apart from reminders and alarms. We also offer men's accessories like wallets, belts, perfumes, sunglasses and gold watches of Nebula.

■ How do you spend leisurely hours?

■ The definition of leisure has changed in today's competitive industry I do business for a living but I also work for the society through initiatives like health and job camps for women. I get solace by lending a hand in marriage and thread ceremony of the financially weak. I encourage the bright and the young entrepreneurs to engage themselves in social work.

■ What will be your advice to the youth in business?

■ In this challenging atmosphere, it is definitely a good feeling that the youth are showing interest to take up business. You have to dedicate yourself completely to taste success in this field especially one should try spending less initially and focus on how to expand the business. It is important to cultivate good customer relations, behaviour and ethics as they are the secrets to succeed in the trade.



2 Forest officials defraud deceased kendu leaf workers' kin; suspended



Reports said that eight kendu leaf workers Ramahari Dora, Budri Dola, Lachhman Badnaik, Mohan Singh, Pari Hantal, Brunda Pangli, Ram Khamar and Samari Pangli died following which the kendu leaf department sanctioned ₹2 lakh ex-gratia each to their surviving family members. The woman forest guard visited the houses of the deceased kendu leaf workers for payment of ex-gratia.

There she forcibly demanded ₹40,000 each from the eight families totalling ₹3.20 lakh informing them that she will have to pay it as a bribe to the senior authorities.

On being informed, a social activist Sarat Buruda informed DFO Prafulla Mandal of Jeypore kendu leaf division and demanded an inquiry. In the first phase, the woman forest guard was suspended after she was proven guilty of her involvement. Forester Durga Prasad Nayak was also suspended after he was found in-

involved in the wrongdoing.

Activist Buruda has also demanded payback of the collected bribe amount to the bereaved family members. The DFO has thanked the social activist for highlighting the wrongdoing by engaging officials from other districts.

Based on a complaint, the DFO conducted a probe and placed the two under suspension after a video of the lady forest guard cheating the tribals went viral.

Locals alleged that this is just the tip of the iceberg and welfare funds and ex-gratia of kendu leaf workers are being rampantly misappropriated in other parts of the district.

The social activist has demanded a high-level inquiry to unravel similar misappropriation of welfare funds and ex-gratia in other parts of the district.

Meanwhile, the Nabarangpur kendu leaf division has been directed to conduct further probes into the involvement of more officials in this connection.

Cauliflowers grown by Sundargarh tribals in popular demand

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh to enhance the livelihood of tribal farmers in the region and ensure a sustainable income for them. Under 'Mission Jeevika', priority is given to agriculture and horticulture-based programs aimed at providing long-term livelihood to farmers," says Ramakrishna Gond, project administrator, ITDA Sundargarh.

Out of nine blocks under ITDA Sundargarh division, the cultivation of cauliflower is done in three blocks - Balisankara, Hemgir and Kutra. With the support of the ITDA, 315 farmers cultivated the vegetable on 250 acre of land during FY 2022-23. The farmers earn a good profit after selling the cauliflowers in the local market.

"This year, the cauliflower harvest has been good. We got quality seeds from ITDA Sundargarh

'MISSION JEEVIKA'



and hence the produce this year has been better. We earned decent profit from the crop this year compared to the previous year," says Harun Barua, a beneficiary farmer from Kutra block.

For cauliflower cultivation, ITDA Sundargarh provided good quality seeds and organic manure to the farmers, free of cost. Apart from this, a team of experts from 'Mission Jeevika' surveys the field

ORGANIC CULTIVATION OF CAULIFLOWER AT BALISANKARA, HEMGIR AND KUTRA BLOCKS

250 ACRE LAND CULTIVATED, 315 TRIBAL FARMERS ENGAGED

SUPPORTED BY ITDA SUNDARGARH UNDER 'MISSION JEEVIKA'

to assess condition of the crop from time to time. The team also advises the farmers on pest management for the crop.

"Earlier we used to put chemical manure in our fields to cultivate Cauliflower. Now, with ITDA Sundargarh providing us organic manure for free, we use the same in our fields. As a result, the cultivation is better now," opines Premdhani Baig, a woman farmer from Sundargarh.

Cauliflower cultivation is done at Rajbasa and Kandeimunda Gram Panchayats of Kutra block under ITDA Sundargarh. Similarly, tribal farmers of Kendudih, Garjanjore and Hemgir GPs of Hemgir block along with Tumulia, Sagbahal and Beheradihi GPs of Balisankara block have cultivated cauliflower this fiscal.

Under 'Mission Jeevika' programme, the farmers of Sundargarh district are able to augment their income by engaging in cultivation of different crops. This year, the farmers have produced vegetables like tomatoes, chilli, brinjals and potatoes along with cauliflower. Cauliflower being a seasonal crop, has been instrumental in enhancing the livelihood of tribal families in Sundargarh, contributing to their socio-economic betterment.

FOCUS SUSTAINABILITY

NATURE'S HIDDEN ECONOMICS



Every layer of nature is giving us something of value - most of it for free. And that's part of the problem. Our mindset as a society nowadays does not recognise public wealth

deposition have had their effects, that answer is more like \$9,300. And then if you value the invisible benefits of the mangrove in terms of the storm protection, fisheries and fish nurseries, that answer becomes more like \$12,000. So, if you use the holistic lens of public wealth and not just the lens of private profits, you get a completely different answer, which is that, clearly, mangrove conservation makes more economic sense than destruction.

Insights like these explain the danger of viewing everything purely from a lens of "private profits". Because of the invisible economics of nature, you forget to account for huge "public losses" and make one wrong decision after another. This is a global story that manifests in many ways across our food systems and our fisheries, but it points to solutions. For example, instead of our current system of industrialised farming, which uses significant chemical fertiliser and pesticide inputs, natural farming is found to offer better solutions that do not harm nature, use less water, sequester carbon, and do not damage human and soil health. The community-managed natural farming system in Andhra Pradesh, which is now practised by over 600,000 farmers, is a proven way of providing higher yields and profits to farmers and healthy food to people with none of the serious damages caused by chemical farming.

Will good economics solve everything? I'm afraid not. But these few examples illustrate the importance of understanding and acting upon the invisible economics of nature. In doing so, we can better understand the costs of "business as usual" and create the right conditions and policies to mitigate the longer-term damage to nature, the true wealth of future generations.

The writer is a noted environmental economist. The column is abridged from the first 'Darryl D'Monte Memorial Lecture' delivered by him under the auspices of the Mumbai Press Club, Marathi Patrakar Sangh and the Forum of Environmental Journalists in India.

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For the politicians of this world who keep fighting over territories, who try to differentiate between us or draw dividing lines, I would challenge them to look at a video of the Earth's rainfall system, and tell me - what borders do you see? It's a simple answer: there are none. There is only one global system, powered by three beating hearts: the Amazon rainforest, Sub-Saharan Africa, and the Indonesian archipelago. You might call them the rainfall factories of our planet. And they represent a perfect example of the hidden economics of nature.

Take the Amazon rainforests for instance. The north-eastern trade winds, as they go over the Amazonas, effectively gather water vapour; around 20 billion tonnes per day, which eventually precipitates in the form of rain across the La Plata Basin. This rainfall cycle - or rainfall factory - effectively feeds an agricultural economy of around \$250 billion per annum in Latin America. The question arises, however: how much do Uruguay, Paraguay, Argentina, and indeed the State of Mato Grosso in Brazil pay to the State of Amazonas for that vital input to their economy?

The answer is nothing, exactly zero. While huge value is being delivered by the Amazon rainforest and its rainfall cycle, there is no price being paid in exchange. Why? Because price is what you pay, and value is what you receive - and nature does not send any invoices. That is the economic invisibility of nature. But it's not just about the Amazonas, or indeed about rainforests. No matter what level you look at, whether it's the ecosystem level, the species level or the genetic level, we see the same problem again and again.

At the species level, estimates show that the approximate total value of pollination provided by bees for crops is around \$200 billion, close to a tenth of the total value of agricultural crops. But when was the last time you received an invoice from a bee for "Pollination Services"?

Or if you look at the genetic level, most of the medicines we use today were found first in a rainforest or a reef, and then those molecules

replicated to scale in a factory.

Every layer of nature is giving us something of value - most of it for free. And that's part of the problem. Our mindset as a society nowadays does not recognise public wealth. We are so mesmerised by the magic of markets that we fail to understand value unless it is expressed in economic (\$) terms and traded in some marketplace. And while some of us may inherently understand the value of nature, our systems, unfortunately, do not. The result is that decisions are being made at a policy level, at an executive level, and at a microeconomic level, which are completely oblivious of the huge value being exchanged all the time - the natural basis of our economy. This is the real challenge.

That brings me to two key questions for today: What insights can we get by "making the invisible visible"? What actions can these insights inform, and by whom?

As part of a study for 'The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity' project, we looked at what part of the economy is strongly dependent on nature in Brazil, India, and Indonesia, what fraction of GDP this represented and the connection between the economics of nature and the lives of the poor. Even though ecosystem services - benefits that flow from nature to humanity for free - were

not very big in percentage terms of GDP - 10, 16, 21% respectively - if we measured how much they were worth to the poor, the answers were more like 90%, 84%, and 79%. So the results were clear - if we destroy nature, we destroy the livelihoods of the poor.

This is a key insight because you can't really have a proper model for development if, at the same time, you destroy or allow the degradation of the most important asset for that development - ecological infrastructure that ensures the supply of essentials to poor rural communities.

The reason we are losing nature boils down, in my mind, to one basic problem: our inability to perceive the difference between public benefits and private profits.

There's an example from Thailand where we found that because the value of a mangrove is not that much - it's about \$600 over that of a nine-year horizon used for measurement - compared to its value as a shrimp farm instead (\$9,600 of farm profits) so there has been a gradual trend to deplete the mangroves and convert them to shrimp farms. But, if you look at exactly what those profits are, almost 8,000 of those dollars are, in fact, subsidies. Furthermore, if you account for how much it costs to restore the land back to productive use once salt & chemical



Pavan Sukhdev

WE ARE SO MESMERISED BY THE MAGIC OF MARKETS THAT WE FAIL TO UNDERSTAND VALUE UNLESS IT IS EXPRESSED IN ECONOMIC (\$) TERMS AND TRADED IN SOME MARKETPLACE



Aakar Patel

Modern states that are focussed on targeting their own citizens, on constant harassment through law and policy, that encourage the raising of militias and lynch mobs, have no record of success

Be fearless and resolute, all obstacles will melt away before you.

THE MOTHER



Politics of Bigotry

One party has the monopoly on bigotry in India. If you are not inclined to support the harassment and brutalisation of fellow Indians you could vote for any number of parties. In Tamil Nadu there are the two parties, both factions of the old DMK, in Kerala there are the various Left groups, in Karnataka there is Deve Gowda's Janata Dal (Secular), perhaps the only party in India that advertises its antipathy to communalism in its name. Then you have the various groups that have splintered from the Congress but retained its surname: TMC in Bengal, NCP in Maharashtra and YSRCP in Andhra Pradesh. They are separate parties but have Congress in their name because of brand recognition but also perhaps to assure their followers that their core ideology is not different from that of the mother-party. Then nationally there is the Congress of course.

You could vote for PDP or NC in Kashmir (assuming there is ever an election there again) or AAP in Delhi or K Chandrashekar Rao's TRS in Telangana. Even the communally formed parties, like the All India Majlis e Ittehadul Muslimeen (Ittehad means unity) or the Indian Muslim League do not have an agenda that is opposed to inclusive secularism.

None of these parties is perfect and many of them have a history of harassing minorities when in power and being unable to prevent their persecution. But there is only one party that actively seeks harassment and if you want that sort of thing then there is only one party for you and that of course is the BJP. No other party seeks to push exclusionary laws on citizenship, on divorce, on food, on segregation as the BJP has done actively especially after 2019. No other party deliberately excludes Muslims: of the BJP's 303 Lok Sabha and 92 Rajya Sabha MPs none is a Muslim. Incredibly, of its more than 1000 MLAs across India there is not a single Muslim. This is deliberate and calculated division of society based on religion that no other party wants to practice, even though it may be rewarding.

The BJP is in some sense resembles parties in the political landscape of Pakistan. There all parties tend to be anti-minority, even though the minority population is only around 3 per cent. Six months after Jinnah's passing in 1948 Pakistan's constituent assembly was told that minorities would be allowed the right to practice their religion freely. They were told that the constitution's religious orientation was only to ensure that Muslims would be more devote and conforming. This did not happen of course because the assumption that they were not pious was wrong, and in any case it is not the role of the state. But after it became clear that it was floundering, attention turned to the minorities. A series of laws excluding them from political office and then actively persecuting them came starting in the late 1950s and by the 1980s it had peaked. Even the socialist ZA Bhutto participated in this out of expediency, with his second amendment that went after the Ahmadiyya community in 1974. In the last couple of decades, this has begun to be reversed to a limited extent. Under Musharraf, the law on fornication was returned from Shariah back to the secular penal code, which Pakistan and Bangladesh share with India. Perhaps it was realised that there was no real benefit to persecution and that the damage to the nation and the state was long term.

In Bangladesh the constitution opens with the Bismillah verse but it also, like India's commits itself in writing to secularism in its preamble. Further down, it says that "the principle of secularism shall be realised by the elimination" of communalism, political status in favour of any religion, abuse of religion for political purpose and discrimination or persecution. Bangladesh is as authoritarian as India is and the political opposition and civil society are harassed in similar fashion. It will hearten Indians to know that Bangladesh is even lower than us in the hated V-Dem liberal democracy index. On Freedom House's Freedom in the World Index also Bangladesh is lower than India and both nations are 'partly free'. However, today Bangladesh is the only nation of the three that has its principal minority community represented in the Cabinet, through Sadhan Chandra Majumder.

India is experimenting after 2014 with the same things that Pakistan tried and failed with in its opening decades. Though India's economic achievements of the current time lie primarily in rhetoric, it is instructive to know that Pakistan often touched 10 per cent growth in the 1960s. Auyb Khan was likened to the Greek lawgivers Solon and Lycurgus by the political scientist Huntington (of 'Clash of Civilisations' fame). The point here being that economic growth, for a short period at least, can go hand-in-hand with exclusionary politics. But not for long. Modern states that are focussed on targeting their own citizens, on constant harassment through law and policy, that encourage the raising of militias and lynch mobs, have no record of success.

This is perhaps the reason or at least one of the reasons that India's political parties have stayed away from this as an ideology, even if it may be electorally rewarding. All parties other than one, of course.

WISDOM CORNER

- People with courage and character always seem sinister to the rest. **HERMANN HESSE**
- Our virtues and our failings are inseparable, like force and matter. When they separate, man is no more. **NIKOLA TESLA**
- The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance. **ALAN WATTS**

WORDSWORTH

Gingerly

Gingerly is thought to come from a Latin root meaning "well-born". It has nothing to do with the other sort of root, the tropical spice called ginger. The Latin word was *genitus*, which is closely connected to other words associated with birth and reproduction, such as *genital*, *congenital* and *progenitor*. Strictly, *genitus* meant merely "born" or "begotten" (it's the past participle of the verb *gignere*, to beget) but seems to have implied a person who was born into a noble or wealthy family. After about 1000 years or so, this turns into the Old French *genor*, meaning delicate or dainty (from *gent*, noble) and 500 years later still is first recorded in English in much its modern form. In its early days in English it was associated specifically with dancing or walking. If you did these things gingerly you took small elegant steps. In 1583 a writer referred to such dancers "tripping like goats, that an egg would not break under their feet". As you might gather from this, the word was then rather negative in tone, suggesting a mincing or effeminate way of moving. Our modern sense, of moving carefully so as not to injure oneself, cause damage or make a noise, first appears about 1600.

SPECTRUM CLIMATE FINANCE

The climate-security failure

World leaders, diplomats, intelligence officials, and scholars convened in Germany in February for the annual Munich Security Conference amid a raging land war in Europe and heightened geopolitical tensions. As a result, the focus was on traditional security threats. That is both understandable and disappointing.

While the first anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine dominated the MSC discussions, along with mass migration and the advent of a new cold war, there was little interest in issues like adaptation to climate change and green finance. Given that the MSC's organisers defined the transformation of relations between the Global North and South as one of this year's themes, the lack of interest in mitigating the worst effects of global warming represents a missed opportunity. More importantly, it reflects a profound misunderstanding of the biggest threat facing our planet today.

This is not the first time that the intelligence community has downplayed a serious (albeit non-traditional) threat. Just as the 2019 conference ignored the risk of a pandemic, this year's conference largely ignored the systemic risks

- including economic regression, food insecurity, and forced displacement - posed by climate change.

But unlike the then-hypothetical threat of a pandemic in 2019, climate change is already wreaking havoc around the world. Forty per cent of S&P 500 companies experienced supply-chain disruptions in 2021, and last year's devastating floods in Pakistan are expected to reduce the country's rice production by 7% this year. This will exacerbate food insecurity and fuel political instability in countries that depend on Pakistan for rice imports, such as Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, and Kenya.

As extreme weather events become more frequent and intense, developing countries will likely be hit the hardest. Last year, flooding ravaged the port of Durban, South Africa, cutting off global supplies of cobalt and other commodities. A super typhoon smashing Taiwan or China's industrial heartland would cripple global semiconductor production, just as the devastating floods in Thailand in 2011 disrupted computer hard-drive supplies and caused the prices of cars, cameras, and phones to spike.

According to the UN, international finance flowing to developing

countries for climate-adaptation programmes is 5-10 times lower than what is needed. And the gap is widening: developing countries' annual climate-adaptation needs are expected to increase to \$160-340 billion by 2030 and to \$315-565 billion by 2050.

Fortunately, governments have become increasingly aware of the urgent need to scale up financing for mitigation and adaptation. But they are not moving fast enough to shore up their supply chains ahead of inevitable disruptions. Last November, for example, the Climate Change Committee, which advises the British government, recommended that the UK offer financial support to countries on which it depends for crucial food imports. In a recent report, the Committee warned that nearly 20% of UK trade relies on climate-vulnerable countries and noted that a spike in food-import prices would hit the country's poorest the hardest.

This analysis mirrors similar studies conducted in Germany and Sweden that called on developed countries to reduce their exposure to climate risks rather than focus on disaster response. But, at a time when governments are spending billions on bolstering their defence

budgets, progress on this front has been sluggish at best, even though neglecting this existential threat could have disastrous consequences.

To survive our age of "polycrisis" - accelerating climate change, war, inflation, and the ongoing pandemic - we must make large-scale investments in mitigation and adaptation. Developed countries must also step up and ensure that lower-income countries on the frontlines of climate change can strengthen their resilience. By funding initiatives like the African Development Bank's Adaptation Fund and the Africa Climate Risk Facility, the international community could provide much-needed protection for the world's most vulnerable populations.

Finally, climate change poses a huge risk to global stability. If we are to build long-term economic resilience, it is in the national-security interest of every country, including the world's richest, to support mitigation and adaptation efforts in the Global South. As we learned during COVID-19, no one is safe until everyone is safe.

The writer is Special Adviser for the UN High-Level Climate Champions. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Xi's absolute power

Sir, This refers to the report "Xi Jinping gets 3rd term as China Prez," Orissa POST, March 11. Xi Jinping has consolidated his hold on China amid increasingly strained relations with the US and the West over Taiwan and the Ukraine war and far-from-friendly ties with India in the backdrop of the lingering Ladakh standoff. The 7.2 per cent hike in the military budget makes it obvious that there will be no let-up in China's muscle-flexing, even as its economy faces the uphill task of making a robust recovery from the upheaval caused by the draconian zero-COVID policy. India needs to be wary of Xi's absolute power: The latest report by the US intelligence community states that China will continue its efforts to achieve his vision of making the country emerge as a 'major power' globally by undermining US influence. Xi is keen on 'the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation' by 2049. The two neighbours have held a series of talks in recent years in connection with the border stalemate, but China has not done enough to reduce the trust deficit as well as hostilities. With Xi more firmly in the saddle, China won't hesitate from making provocative moves in retaliation for the growing closeness between India and the US. While keeping all communication channels open, New Delhi needs to be well prepared - militarily as well as diplomatically - for any eventuality.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Curb wildfires

Sir, This refers to "Wildfire rages in 142 spots," Orissa POST, March 10. Forty per cent of India's forests are fire-prone. High temperature and fast wind, or together, are primary natural causes; mitigation measures must be directed against these causes. Nine out of ten causes of forest fire are attributed to human activities like open burns, vehicular use, industry and materials like burning cigarettes. It is of utmost importance to carry out campfires, if any, away from inflammable materials. All fire sources used should be completely extinguished, if possible with a bucket of water. Before forest fire incidents threaten to snowball out of proportion, it is imperative for the Centre to properly employ the two common technologies, Modern Resolution Imaging Spectro-Radiometer and the more sophisticated Polar Orbital Satellite based SNPP-VIIRS to alert the government on wildfires from time to time.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

of the day quote

Sisodia was set to get bail but CBI deliberately did not let its lawyer appear before the court and a next date for hearing was fixed as a result. In the meantime, ED also made up its mind to arrest Sisodia in the same case to ask the same questions based on the same evidence. This is a textbook example of abuse of law. Probe agencies are abusing the process of law

RAGHAV CHADHA | AAP RAJYA SABHA MP

Everyone had their own model of corruption. Now when action is being taken, everyone is coming together. This is not a grand alliance (maha gathbandhan) but a coalition of the corrupt (maha thug bandhan)

ANURAG THAKUR | INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING MINISTER

I am journeying from Pithoragarh to Uttarakashi to find out how the state may be made self-reliant. This is the task I have taken up after giving up the post of governor

BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI | FORMER MAHARASHTRA GOVERNOR

SHORT TAKES

Man killed

New Delhi: A 21-year-old man was stabbed to death in Delhi's Trilokpuri area on Saturday, an official said. The deceased has been identified as Tushar, a resident of Trilokpuri area. According to the police, information of a stabbing incident was received from the LBS Hospital at the Kalyanpuri police station on Saturday afternoon following which an investigating officer was deputed for further inquiry.

Drugs seized

Guwahati: Assam Police have seized 1.3 kg of drugs in Karinganj district near the state's border with Mizoram, officials said Saturday. The seizure was made from a vehicle on Friday, which also led to the arrest of three persons on charges of drugs peddling. The vehicle was reportedly coming from Mizoram, and the police stopped it at the Kontekchera neighbourhood.

Two arrested

Siliguri (WB): Two Bhutan residents were arrested for allegedly assaulting ice-cream parlour staffers over the price of the dessert at a shopping mall in Siliguri city in northern West Bengal on Saturday, police said. According to the ice-cream parlour's owner, the two arrested persons had dessert at the shop in the shopping mall on Sevoke Road but paid an amount lesser than their bill, a police officer said. When the owner demanded that they pay the entire amount, one of them took out a dagger and lunged at him. He ducked but the dagger cut the neck of a staffer standing behind him, while the weapon slipped from the attacker's hand and hit another employee's leg, injuring both, the officer said.

Three held

Agartala: Three people were arrested in connection with the attack on a parliamentary delegation of the Left and the Congress in Tripura's Sepahijala district, police said Saturday. The delegation, comprising Left and Congress MPs, was attacked in Nehalchandranagar, a border village of Bishalgarh subdivision, on Friday when it was visiting areas affected by post-poll violence. "Three persons have been arrested so far, and steps are being taken to apprehend the others involved in the attack," a police officer said.



Once infamous for female foeticide, Haryana now celebrates the birth of every girl child and today, there are 923 girls for every 1,000 boys in the state

MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR | HARYANA CM

WELCOME MOVE

Assam will soon have a cancer research centre which is believed to be the largest in South Asia, officials said Saturday. The cancer facility has been planned to be built in Kamrup rural district's Amingaon area



DELHI EXCISE POLICY CASE

ED grills Kavitha for 9 hours

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 11: BRS leader K Kavitha deposed before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for nine hours Saturday for recording her statement in connection with a money laundering case linked to alleged irregularities in the Delhi excise policy.

The officials said the BRS leader has been summoned again on March 16 in connection with the case.

The 44-year-old daughter of Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao left the federal agency's headquarters on APJ Abdul Kalam Road around 8 pm amid a heavy presence of her supporters.

She had reached the ED office from her father's official residence on Tughlak Road, located about 1.5 kilometres away, around 11 am. Official sources said during the



nine hours she spent at the ED office, she was confronted with the statements made by Hyderabad-based businessman Arun Ramchandran Pillai, an arrested accused in the case who allegedly shares close ties with her, apart

from those of a few others involved in the case.

Kavitha's statement was recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), they said. Pillai, an alleged frontman of the "south group", was arrested by the ED earlier this week.

Pillai, meanwhile, has moved a city court accusing the ED of forging his statements in this matter.

There was a heavy presence of Delhi Police and central paramilitary forces personnel for barricading the ED office as the supporters of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader staged a protest, during both Kavitha's entry and exit from the ED office.

Kavitha recently asserted during a press conference here that she had done nothing wrong and alleged that the BJP-led Centre was "using" the ED as the saffron party could not gain a "backdoor entry" in Telangana.

Air hostess jumps to death

INDO-ASIAN NEW SERVICE

Bangalore, March 11: An air hostess, who flew down to the city from Dubai to meet her male friend, reportedly jumped to her death on the intervening night of Friday and Saturday.

According to police, the incident took place on the premises of Renuka Residency in Koramangala locality.

The deceased has been identified as 28-year-old Archana from Himachal Pradesh. She had jumped from the fourth floor of the apartment. Preliminary investigations reveal that she worked for a reputed airline company and had come down from Dubai to meet her friend Adesh, a software professional. Adesh hailed from Kerala and is working in Bengaluru. Police state that both were in a relationship for the past several years.

The body has been shifted to the Saint John's hospital. Sources said chances of foul play cannot be ruled out in the case. Details are awaited.

Pulwama widows' row turns violent



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, March 11: Scores of BJP leaders and party workers courted arrest here on Saturday as part of a protest against the Congress government's "insensitivity" towards the widows of Pulwama martyrs and manhandling of BJP MPs Kirori Meena and Ranjita Koli.

Rajasthan Police early Friday removed the widows of the three CRPF jawans killed in the 2019 Pulwama terror attack from the protest site outside Congress leader Sachin Pilot's house here and shifted them to hospitals near their respective residential areas.

Meena and Koli claimed that they were not allowed to meet the widows by policemen who also misbehaved and manhandled them. The widows have been protesting since February 28 and launched an indefinite hunger strike six days ago, demanding a change in rules so that their relatives and not just children can get government jobs on compassionate grounds.

While the protesters threw stones and broke barricades, police resorted to lathicharge to disperse them as they moved towards Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's residence. The party held protests in Jaipur and all district headquarters.

In the state capital, the BJP leaders and workers took out a rally from the party headquarters. As some of them broke the barricades and tried to jump over them, they were detained by police and taken different police stations in

Rajasthan will not tolerate the insult of widows of soldiers, and people's representatives. Today's protest was against the misbehaviour with the widows and people's representatives by the police administration

RAJENDRA RATHORE | RAJASTHAN DEPUTY LEADER OF OPPOSITION

buses. A large number of supporters of Meena had also arrived to join the protest from nearby districts of Dausa, Alwar, Jaipur rural, and Sawai Madhopur. "The BJP will not tolerate this misbehaviour with the widows and BJP MPs by the tyrannical and dictatorial Congress government. Today's protest was against the autocratic Gehlot government of the state," BJP state president Satish Poonia said.

He said the widows and the BJP leaders were insulted by the Congress government and vowed to launch a massive campaign in the state to raise issues bothering the common people. Poonia said the BJP government at the Centre led by former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had introduced packages to support the families of Kargil war martyrs while the Congress is insulting them.

"On one hand, Vajpayee gave strength and respect to families of martyrs and on the other hand the Congress government is insulting these widows," said Poonia while addressing the protesters.



West Bengal School Service Commission qualified candidates for upper primary teachers participate in a protest rally demanding jobs, in Kolkata

3 held for harassing Japanese woman

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 11: Three people, including a juvenile, were apprehended for allegedly harassing and groping a Japanese woman here on Holi, police said Saturday.

A video of the incident, which went viral on social media, showed a group of youths smearing colour on the woman, who appeared uncomfortable. It also showed one of them smashing an egg on her head. Though the woman did not lodge a complaint, the police have taken cognisance of the video.

The video was shot on March 8, when Holi was celebrated, in Paharganj area. The girl was staying in Paharganj and left for Bangladesh on Friday, according to police. In a tweet, the woman said she didn't know it was a serious situation.

"I have just arrived in Bangladesh. I'm really sorry that I didn't know it was a serious sit-

uation. I am fine in mind and body. I will explain more tomorrow," she said. Deputy Commissioner of Police (central) Sanjay Kumar Sain said people seen in the video have been identified.

Three people, including a juvenile, have been apprehended and are being questioned. They have confessed to their involvement in the incident as seen in the video. They all are residents of an area near Paharganj, he said.

A police official said the accused have been bound down, which means they will have to appear before police to join the investigation whenever required. Action has been initiated against the accused under the Delhi Police Act. However, the further course of action will be decided on the basis of the merits of the case and in accordance with the woman's complaint, if any, the police said.

So far, the woman has not lodged any complaint.

Indira asked DMK not to oppose Emergency: Stalin

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Coimbatore, March 11: Indira Gandhi had urged the DMK not to oppose the Emergency but then chief minister late M Karunanidhi had put democracy before his rule and opposed it, only to lose his government, Tamil Nadu CM M K Stalin said Saturday.

The late Prime Minister had sent her messengers to convey to Karunanidhi he should not oppose the Emergency when it was imposed in 1975 and that the DMK government may be dismissed if he did not heed the plea, Stalin said, addressing a mammoth gathering here, where more than 4,000 people from various political parties including the AIADMK and DMK joined the ruling DMK.

He said Gandhi imposed Emergency in the country to "protect herself from a crisis", following which a number of persons



The late Prime Minister had sent her messengers to convey to Karunanidhi he should not oppose the Emergency when it was imposed in 1975 and that the DMK government may be dismissed if he did not heed the plea

M K STALIN | TN CM

were arrested and many leaders booked under the then stringent Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA).

"We were ruling in Tamil Nadu then. At that time, there is a message for Kalaingar (Karunanidhi). From where? From Delhi. Messengers deputed by Madam Indira Gandhi inform him that (you) should not oppose Emergency and that if opposed, the (DMK) government will fall the next second," he said.

However, Karunanidhi told them he was not bothered even about his life and that democracy was important for him. At a public meeting held later at the Marina here, Karunanidhi proposed a resolution against Emergency, Stalin recalled.

Soon after, the DMK government was dismissed, he said, adding "we all were arrested." The CM said he was recalling this incident to highlight that his late father Karunanidhi was never bothered

about power but was only concerned about the people and the country.

Stalin reminded that the Secular Progressive Alliance (SPA), led by his party, had lost one seat to the opposition in the previous Lok Sabha elections in 2019. The DMK chief urged the party cadre to work hard to win all the 40 seats (39 in TN and 1 in Puducherry) in the 2024 general elections, since the people had given a clear mandate for the SPA by giving a thumping victory to the alliance partner Congress' candidate in the recent Erode East Assembly bypoll.

Stalin said the win in Erode East was a reflection of the good governance and schemes given to the people of Tamil Nadu, like free bus travel for women as promised in the manifesto and Rs 1,000 to all girls from classes 6 to 12 in government schools, which was not in the manifesto.

Ozone pollution linked with increased hospitalisations for heart disease

PREVIOUS STUDIES HAVE SUGGESTED THAT OZONE POLLUTION HARMS THE HEART AND BLOOD VESSELS, BUT THERE IS LIMITED AND INCONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE ABOUT ITS INFLUENCE ON THE RISK OF CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 11: Exceeding the World Health Organization (WHO) ozone limit is associated with substantial increases in hospital admissions for heart attack, heart failure and stroke, according to a new study.

The first evidence making this association is published in the European Heart Journal. Even ozone levels below the WHO maximum were linked with worsened health, the study said. "During this three-year study, ozone was responsible for an increasing proportion of admissions for cardiovascular disease as time progressed," said study author professor Shaowei Wu of Xian Jiaotong University, China.

"It is believed that climate change, by creating atmospheric conditions favouring ozone formation, will continue to raise concentrations in many parts of the world. "Our results indicate that older people are particularly vulnerable to the adverse cardiovascular effects of ozone, meaning that worsening ozone pollution with climate change and the rapid ageing of the global population may produce even greater risks of cardiovascular disease in the future," said Wu.

Ozone is a gas and the main air pollutant in photochemical smog. Ozone pollution is different to the ozone layer, which absorbs most of the sun's ultraviolet radiation. Ozone pollution is formed when other pollutants react in the presence of sunlight.



These other pollutants are volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides which are emitted by motor vehicles, power plants, industrial boilers, refineries, chemical plants, and biomass and fossil fuel burn-

ing facilities. Previous studies have suggested that ozone pollution harms the heart and blood vessels, but there is limited and inconclusive evidence about its influence on the

risk of cardiovascular disease. This study examined the association between ambient ozone pollution and hospital admissions for cardiovascular disease, it said.

Data on daily hospital admissions for cardiovascular disease during 2015 to 2017 in 70 cities in China were collected from the two main national health insurance systems. During the study period, the two databases covered approximately 258 million, 25.8 crore, people across the 70 cities, equivalent to more than 18 per cent of China's population.

The types of cardiovascular disease included coronary heart disease, stroke and heart failure, plus subtypes such as angina, acute myocardial infarction, acute coronary syndrome, ischaemic stroke

and haemorrhagic stroke.

Daily eight-hour maximum average concentrations of ozone, fine particulate matter (PM2.5), inhalable particles (PM10), sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and carbon monoxide were obtained for each city from the China National Urban Air Quality Real-time Publishing Platform, the study said.

During the study period, there were 64,44,441 hospital admissions for cardiovascular disease in the 70 cities and the average daily eight-hour maximum ozone concentration was 79.2 microgram per cubic metre (ug/m3). Exposure to ambient ozone was associated with increased hospital admissions for all cardiovascular diseases studied except haemorrhagic stroke, independent of other air pollutants.

Furore over BJP MPs' encounter remarks

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, March 11: The statements of two BJP MPs on recent encounters in Uttar Pradesh have created a furore with the opposition parties slamming the Yogi government.

"The killing of Umesh Pal and his security personnel, is a direct attack on the state government. Remember that even Vikas Dubey was killed and there is no need to tell what will happen to these criminals. I will not be surprised if Atiq's car also overturns," BJP MP Subrat Pathak said.

"Atiq Ahmed should be brought out of jail and killed in an encounter. The gates of heaven will open for the policeman who does so," BJP MP Hari Narain Rajbhar said.

After these two statements were issued, the opposition parties attacked the 'encounter politics' of the ruling BJP.

"Even as questions are arising on the alleged encounter of Usman, whose family claims that his real name is Vijay Chaudhary, the statements issued by these BJP MPs clearly indicate the mindset of this government which follows its own set of rules and not the rule of law," said Samajwadi Party (SP) spokesman Abdul Hafiz Gandhi.

SP MP Prof Ram Gopal Yadav has already said that the UP Police would eliminate one of the two minor sons of Atiq Ahmad who has been allegedly missing since the past few days.

Congress spokesman Surendra Rajput said, "It is clear now that the BJP has no respect for the Constitution. We are definitely in favour of strict punishment for all criminals, but that should be in accordance with law. The bulldozer and encounter policy is not prescribed in the Constitution. The duty of the police is to take the criminal to court and ensure strict



TRIGGER-HAPPY

The police encounters followed in Prayagraj after the gunning down of Umesh Pal, a key witness in the murder of BSP MLA Raju Pal in 2005, and two police personnel in Prayagraj last month

Police said Atiq Ahmad, already lodged in a Gujarat jail in connection with another case, was involved in planning the attack

That Atiq Ahmad fears being killed in an encounter, is evident from the fact that he recently moved the Supreme Court, saying he feared for his life

The Opposition parties attacked the 'encounter politics' of the ruling BJP

punishment as per legal provisions. It is unfortunate that encounters are becoming a rule rather than exception."

BSP president Mayawati has also expressed the apprehension that the UP government, to hide its embarrassment of not having made much headway into the Umesh Pal murder case, could enact a Vikas Dubey-type encounter.

Vikas Dubey was a gangster from Kanpur who was killed in an encounter. Police had claimed

that he died in an encounter while trying to escape after the police vehicle, in which he was being brought back to Uttar Pradesh from Madhya Pradesh (where he was caught), overturned in Kanpur in July 2020.

The police encounters followed in Prayagraj after the gunning down of Umesh Pal, a key witness in the murder of BSP MLA Raju Pal in 2005, and two police personnel in Prayagraj last month.

Police said Atiq Ahmad, already lodged in a Gujarat jail in

connection with another case, was involved in planning the attack.

"Atiq Ahmad conspired the murder while in jail. Atiq Ahmad has killed hundreds of people and forcibly occupied the land of the poor," said the former MP Hari Narain Rajbhar.

That Atiq Ahmad fears being killed in an encounter, is evident from the fact that he recently moved the Supreme Court, saying he feared for his life.

In the petition, he expressed the apprehension that the Uttar Pradesh Police will seek his remand in connection with the Umesh Pal murder and then stage a fake encounter while bringing him from the Ahmedabad prison to Prayagraj.

The Prayagraj Police are completing formalities and likely to bring Atiq Ahmad from Gujarat next week.

DOCUMENTARY ON 2002 RIOTS

Guj Assembly passes resolution against BBC

The resolution requests the Centre to take strict action against the BBC for 'tarnishing the image and popularity of Prime Minister Narendra Modi'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gandhinagar, March 11: The Gujarat Legislative Assembly has passed a resolution requesting the Centre to take strict action against the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) for "tarnishing the image and popularity of Prime Minister Narendra Modi" with its documentary on the 2002 riots in the state.

The controversial two-part series by the BBC titled 'India: The Modi Question' misrepresents the events of 2002 in a malicious and low-level attempt to tarnish India's image globally, BJP MLA Vipul Patel said in the House Friday while moving the resolution.

The documentary claims to have probed certain aspects of the riots, which took place after the Godhra train burning incident, when Modi was the CM of Gujarat.

Patel's resolution was supported by BJP MLAs Manisha Vakil, Amit Thaker, Dhavalsinh Zala and Home Minister Harsh Sanghavi. It was passed by voice vote in the absence of Congress MLAs who were expelled from the House earlier in the day. After passing the resolution unanimously, Speaker Shanker Chaudhary said the attempt by the BBC is 'reprehensible' and is 'condemned vehemently', adding the House passed the resolution to send its message to the Centre.

"India is a democratic country and freedom of expression is at the core of its Constitution, but that does not mean a news media can



act by abusing such freedom," said Patel while moving the private-member resolution in the second sitting of the House.

"If someone behaves or acts like this, then it cannot be taken lightly. BBC is losing its credibility and seems to be working with some hidden agenda against India and the Indian government. Hence, this House requests the central government to take strict action against the mind-boggling findings shown in the BBC documentary," Patel said in the Assembly.

Through the documentary, there is a deliberate attempt to "tarnish the image and popularity of Prime Minister Narendra Modi" with an agenda to affect the country's intention to find top place globally, Patel said. He claimed that opposition parties in other countries support the government during such times, but this is not

the case in India, which allowed international organisations like the BBC to get the strength to carry out activities against the country.

Minister Sanghavi said the documentary was not just against Modi but against 135 crore citizens of the country. "The resolution brought by Vipul Patel for strict action is historic...Is it Modi's fault to realise the dream of making Gujarat a riot-free state? Many forces worked to ensure Gujarat does not get a stable government," Sanghavi said in his speech in the House.

He said the 'so-called intellectuals' started hurling one allegation after another against Modi after he took over as the PM. "As 2024 (Lok Sabha polls) approaches, they (opponents) have no other issue against Modi. They used the BBC to make a documentary," Sanghavi added.

In 2 yrs, drugs worth ₹4,058cr seized in Guj

More than 3 lakh persons were arrested for liquor and drugs related cases during this period in the state, where the sale and consumption of alcohol is prohibited



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gandhinagar, March 11: Gujarat's law enforcement agencies have seized narcotic drugs worth Rs 4,058.01 crore and liquor valued at Rs 211.86 crore in the state in the last two years till December 31, 2022, the government told the Legislative Assembly Saturday.

More than 3 lakh persons were arrested for liquor and drugs related cases during this period in the state, where the sale and consumption of alcohol is prohibited, it said.

Vadodara topped the list among the districts with the seizure of Rs 1,620.7 crore-worth drugs and liquor in two years, followed by Bharuch at Rs 1,389.91 crore and Kutch at Rs 1,040.57 crore, the government said.

"The state's law enforcement agencies seized drugs worth Rs 4,058.01 crore and liquor worth Rs 211.86 crore in two years till December 31, 2022," Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi informed the House in reply to starred questions. The sale and consumption of liquor has been prohibited in Gujarat since its formation in 1960. The amount of IMFL seized stood at Rs 197.45 crore, beer Rs 10.47 crore, and country-made liquor Rs 3.94 crore. Together, agencies seized around 37 lakh bottles of liquor in two

years, the data said.

The data relates to 25 out of the total 33 districts in the state. In terms of the seizure of IMFL, Ahmedabad district topped the list. Rs 28.23 crore worth liquor was seized in the district two years, followed by Surat with Rs 21.42 crore, Vadodara Rs 14.61 crore, and Rajkot Rs 13.84 crore, it said.

A total of 3,39,244 persons were arrested with seized drugs and liquor in the last two years, while 2,987 others are wanted in these cases, the minister told the House. In response to a separate question, Sanghavi told the Assembly that 184.99 kg of narcotics worth Rs 924.97 crore was seized by the Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS) from the state's coastline and 32 Pakistani nationals, one Afghan and seven Indians arrested in this connection.

Further, 75 kg heroin worth Rs 375.50 crore was seized from Adani port at Mundra in two years till January 31, 2023 and two accused were arrested. In September 2021, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), a central agency, had seized around 3,000 kg of heroin, believed to have originated in Afghanistan and worth about Rs 21,000 crore in global markets, from two containers at the Mundra port. It is said to be the single largest heroin haul in India so far.

UP admin initiates work on Ayodhya greenfield township

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, March 11: The Uttar Pradesh government has initiated work on setting up a greenfield township in Ayodhya.

To be developed by December this year, 202 acres land out of 1,407 acres will be developed in Shahnevaipur Manjha village of the temple town in the first phase.

According to a state government spokesman, as the Lucknow-Ayodhya-Gorakhpur national highway is intersecting the township, the state government will request the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to develop a 2 km-long elevated route for the highway traffic.

"Preliminary consultations and deliberations have been held with NHAI. A formal proposal will be moved on behalf of the state government to construct an elevated corridor," said the officer.

Announced in October 2020, the scope of the project was broadened in April last year to include more spiritual elements and promote mixed land development.

The Uttar Pradesh Housing and Development Board (UPHDB)



roped in consultants from Gujarat to examine the township's layout plan.

"We were told to develop the township in phases and generate interest among families looking to buy a property in the temple town. As land was acquired in Shahnevaipur, we will develop 202 acres in the first phase and a scheme offering group housing units and developed plots will be launched within this year. We have to prepare the township before the opening ceremony of the Ram temple scheduled for January 2024," said the spokesman.

Majority of the internal roads will be 18 metres or 36 metres in width and 24 per cent of the space within the overall township will be green zone.

UPHDB will develop land chunks on both ends of the highway to develop the first phase.

Superintending engineer of the housing board's Ayodhya division PK Singh said: "Three tenders have been floated to develop the first phase of the township. By March 31 we will shortlist the agencies which will develop infrastructure and design the elements in the first phase."

UP cops urge netizens to keep strong passwords

ACCORDING TO NCRB DATA, THE STATE IS SECOND ONLY TO TELANGANA IN CYBERCRIME CASES IN THE COUNTRY

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, March 11: The UP Police, in its report - Overview of Cyber Crimes - has urged people to keep strong passwords in order to counter cybercrime.

The report also highlights online malpractices like 'key logging' and 'hacking'.

In the past three years, Uttar Pradesh has recorded more than three lakh cybercrime cases, according to IPS Triveni Singh, Superintendent of Police, cyber-crime cell.

The latest National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data also shows that the state is second only to Telangana in cybercrime cases in the country.

The official said, "Not many netizens secure their online accounts with strong alphanumeric passwords - which is probably the most

fundamental step to ensure cybersecurity. Even the few who take the trouble of coming up with un-easy-to-crack passwords end up using the same (or similar variations) for several accounts. UP has a record number of cybercrime cases reported due to low level of cyber awareness among victims and law enforcement."

"Using weak and simple passwords is a recipe for data breaches, account takeovers, and other forms of cyberattack."

Cyber experts are of the opinion that while simple passwords are a big 'no', remembering a complex password for every account and website is virtually impossible.

According to cybersecurity firms, people still opt for poorly-thought out passwords like - '123456', 'password', and 'qwerty'. Some even go for '111111', '123456789'.

The negligence is nonplussing



at a time when password security issues account for 80 per cent of all data breaches globally, according to Verizon's 2022 Data Breach Investigations Report.

"People use weak passwords as they are easy to remember. Also, we are often required to change pass-

words frequently, and for convenience, people tend to choose simple variations of their previous passwords, which can also easily be guessed by hackers. One way to deal with the problem is using a password manager, which is a tool that stores all your passwords in a

secure, encrypted database. This way, you only have to remember one master password to access all your other passwords."

"Another way to create strong and memorable passwords is to use a passphrase. A passphrase is a sequence of words or a phrase that you can easily remember, such as 'mycatscool23'," said Upendra Upadhyaya, a cyber expert.

However, it is not advisable to save passwords in browsers like Chrome as today's malware programmes can steal saved Chrome and Firefox passwords easily. Using multi-factor authentication, which adds an extra layer of security, can make a huge difference.

Upadhyaya said, "It is best to use long passwords with 10 characters or more with a good mixture of letters, numbers (letters both uppercase and lowercase), and symbols."

The court said if such as criminal is allowed to come out of jail, he would certainly be in a position to influence the witnesses and free and truthful deposition of the witnesses would be impossible.

"The accused applicant is a dreaded criminal and member of the most dreaded criminal gang of India i.e. Gang of Mukhtar Ansari. The accused applicant is facing several criminal cases of heinous offences," it said.

The court said if such as criminal is allowed to come out of jail, he would certainly be in a position to influence the witnesses and free and truthful deposition of the witnesses would be impossible.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mukhtar Ansari gang India's most dreaded: Allahabad HC

Prayagraj, March 11: The Allahabad High Court has denied bail to a member of the Mukhtar Ansari gang in a 2010 murder case in Mau district in which the jailed gangster-turned-politician is also an accused.

The court said Ansari's gang is the "most dreaded criminal gang of India" and it is possible that the accused, Ramu Mallah, could influence witnesses and their deposition in the case if allowed to come out of jail.

Mallah, who is being tried in several other cases, had moved the bail application under Section 439 of the CrPC, which empowers the court to grant bail and also impose conditions on the accused if necessary.

Opposing the bail application, the government counsel Ratnendu Kumar Singh said the accused could influence witnesses and secure acquittal in the present case. To this, the court agreed.

"Merely since the accused has been acquitted as the witnesses have turned hostile in some (other) cases, his criminal history does not get evaporated," Justice Dinesh Kumar Singh observed in his order March 1.



Gangster Mukhtar Ansari, who was an MLA from Mau, is currently lodged in a jail in Punjab



By adopting all possible means, the government is indulging in politics of "suppressing" the unyielding voices of the Opposition. The action of agencies on Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav ji is inspired by this politics

PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA | CONGRESS LEADER

EMERGENCY LANDING

A Lucknow-bound AIX Connect flight from Bangalore made an emergency landing at the Kempegowda International Airport 10 minutes after its takeoff due to a technical issue Saturday, Air Asia authorities said



of the day quote

Modi government is making a sinister attempt to kill democracy by misusing ED-CBI against opposition leaders

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | CONGRESS PRESIDENT

The heinous attack by Sangh Parivar goons on the fact-finding team of opposition MPs visiting Tripura is highly condemnable. It highlights the need for law and order to be restored in the State. Democratic forces should unite to defeat this reign of terror in Tripura

PINARAYI VIJAYAN | KERALA CM

All regional parties are now being converted to family dynastic parties...They are no more for regional aspirations. They are there only for their daughters and sons

J P NADDA | BJP CHIEF

Sisodia lodged in 'VVVIP' ward: Sukesh writes to L-G

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, March 11: Alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekhar, who is lodged in Mandoli Jail in the national capital in a money-laundering case, has written another letter to the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, V.K. Saxena, claiming that former Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi Manish Sisodia is "lodged in Ward No. 9 in Tihar Jail-1, which is a VVIP ward".

In his letter sent to the L-G on Friday, Chandrashekhar claimed that Ward No. 9 is a special ward for high-profile VIP prisoners spread over an area of 20,000 sq ft housing only five cells with wooden flooring, which has all the amenities including an exclusive garden to walk around, a special badminton court and a dining area.

"This ward has till date housed VIP/high-profile inmates such as Subrata Roy, Suresh Kalmadi, Amar Singh, A. Raja and recently Sanjay Chandra of Unitech. I was also lodged in this ward from 2017 to 2018 on the instructions of Satyendar Jain (former Delhi Prison Minister)." Chandrashekhar claimed in his letter.

He also claimed that along with Sisodia, only few old inmates and



In his letter sent to the L-G on Friday, Chandrashekhar claimed that Ward No. 9 is a special ward for high-profile VIP prisoners spread over an area of 20,000 sq ft housing only five cells with wooden flooring, which has all the amenities including an exclusive garden to walk around, a special badminton court and a dining area

He also claimed that along with Sisodia, only few old inmates and 'sevadars' are lodged in the ward for his comfort, and not any gangster or serious criminals as alleged by the Aam Aadmi Party

'sevadars' are lodged in the ward for his comfort, and not any gangster or serious criminals as alleged by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

"It's all manipulated and lies. Sisodia is being well taken care of in this VVIP ward, and all these allegations (by AAP) are well-planned and orchestrated by Arvind Kejriwal, Satyendar Jain and the jail administration. The jail administration is like a puppet in the hands of AAP, mainly Satyendar Jain who still controls the jail staff irrespective of the multiple scrutinies," Chandrashekhar wrote in the letter.

"Sir, I humbly request for your urgent intervention in the interest of justice, as I am a witness against AAP. I kindly request you to initiate an urgent inquiry into the VVIP facilities currently being provided to Sisodia in Ward No. 9, Jail 1, and also to take action against the mentioned jail officials in the interest of my safety," Chandrashekhar wrote.

urgent intervention in the interest of justice, as I am a witness against AAP. I kindly request you to initiate an urgent inquiry into the VVIP facilities currently being provided to Sisodia in Ward No. 9, Jail 1, and also to take action against the mentioned jail officials in the interest of my safety," Chandrashekhar wrote.

"Also, I kindly request you to initiate an inquiry against Satyendar Jain to find out how he is still using his power and influence to control the jail administration, even though he has resigned (as Prison Minister) and is in judicial custody," he added.

LEGAL VALIDATION FOR SAME-SEX MARRIAGES

SC to hear pleas Monday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 11: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear a batch of pleas seeking legal validation for same-sex marriages on Monday.

According to Monday's (March 13) cause list uploaded on the apex court's website, the pleas are listed for hearing before a bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and justices PS Narasimha and JB Pardiwala. The apex court had, on January 6, clubbed and transferred to itself all such petitions pending before different high courts, including the Delhi High Court. It had said the counsel appearing for the Centre and advocate Arundhati Katju, representing the petitioners, shall together prepare a common compilation of the written submissions, documents and precedents on which reliance would be placed during the course of the hearing.

"Soft copies of the compilations shall be exchanged between the parties and shall be made available to the court. List the petition along with connected petitions and transferred cases on March 13, 2023 for directions," the bench had said in its order. The counsel for multiple petitioners had told the bench that they want the apex court to transfer all the cases to itself for an authoritative pronouncement on the issue and that the Centre can file its response in the top court.



2023 for directions," the bench had said in its order. The counsel for multiple petitioners had told the bench that they want the apex court to transfer all the cases to itself for an authoritative pronouncement on the issue and that the Centre can file its response in the top court.



Volunteers of the Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Society clean the gold plated walls and dome of the Golden Temple in Amritsar

PTI PHOTO

KARNATAKA POLLS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, March 11: The Election Commission Saturday said it has introduced the facility to Vote-from-Home (VFH) for people above 80 years of age and those with disabilities in the upcoming Assembly elections in Karnataka.

For the first time the ECI is going to provide the facility to those above 80 years of age. Our teams



will go there with a form-12D to exercise their franchise, the Chief Election Commissioner, Ravji Kumar told reporters here.

Though we encourage those above 80 years to come to the polling station, those who cannot avail this facility, he added.

Secrecy will be maintained and the entire process will be video-graphed, Kumar explained. "All the political parties will be informed

whenever there is a movement for Voting From Home (VFH)," Kumar said.

For people with disabilities, a mobile application 'Saksham' has been introduced, which they can login to and choose the facility to vote, the CEC said. Another mobile application,

'Suvridha' has been developed, which is an online portal for candidates to file nominations and affidavits. "Candidates can also use the SUVIDHA portal for seeking permission for meetings and rallies," the top election official explained. The ECI has also launched a campaign called Know Your Candidate (KYC) for the benefit of voters.

El Nino may impact India adversely: Experts

For the third month running, the US government weather agencies on Thursday reiterated the possibility of El Nino conditions developing in late summer this year, which could be an adverse signal for monsoon in India this year

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, March 11: El Nino and La Nina are climate patterns in the Pacific Ocean that can affect weather worldwide. According to meteorologists, El Nino weather patterns this year may lead to deficit monsoon rainfall.

El Nino is the warm phase of the El Nino Southern Oscillation and is associated with a band of

warm ocean water that develops in the central and east-central equatorial Pacific, including the area off the Pacific coast of South America. La Nina refers to the periodic cooling of ocean surface temperatures in the central and east-central equatorial Pacific. It has the capacity to alter direction as well as velocity of the trade winds, which trigger the winter season in India.

For the third month running,

the US government weather agencies on Thursday reiterated the possibility of El Nino conditions developing in late summer this year, which could be an adverse signal for monsoon in India this year.

According to meteorologists, the anomaly in temperature and rainfall is the result of alterations in the weather patterns. The intensity as well as frequency of western disturbances was on the lower side this winter season. Climate experts said that anomalies of cool temperature in the Pacific waters are likely to dissolve that will further impact the Indian monsoon adversely.

Western disturbance is known to drive weather activities and



bringing winter to Northwest India and the adjoining areas of Central India. Although January saw a good number of active western disturbances, they could not have any impact on the weather across the Indo-Gangetic plains.

An IMD official said that the on-

going trend of above normal maximum temperature can be attributed to the country's deficit rainfall that has been recorded for four consecutive months. Winter rains have been largely evading Northwest, Central, East and Northeast India.

The South Peninsula has been recording some rains on account of few low-pressure areas and depressions forming in the South Bay of Bengal, but their impact was confined to the southern parts only.

"La Nina is a climate pattern marked by colder-than-normal sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific Ocean that tend to suppress global temperatures. However, global warming and changing climatic conditions tend to play a major role, which can be temporarily governed by these ENSO conditions but cannot completely outplay the effects of climate change," said G.P. Sharma, President, Meteorology and Climate Change, Skymet Weather.

Dhankhar jabs Rahul over UK comments



Democratic values are important and we cannot allow temples of democracy to be outraged as we are the mother of democracy

JAGDEEP DHANKHAR | VICE PRESIDENT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 11: Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar Saturday attacked Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his comments regarding microphones of Opposition being turned off in Parliament, saying there cannot be a bigger lie to set a narrative.

He said such a thing was done during the "black chapter" of Emergency, but it is not possible now. Temples of democracy cannot be allowed to be outraged, said the vice president and lamented that "some people" are trying to undermine the achievements of the country due to their short-sightedness.

"Democratic values are important and we cannot allow temples of democracy to be outraged as we are the mother of democracy,"

Dhankhar, who is the chairman of Rajya Sabha, said while addressing a gathering at the Chaudhary Charan Singh University here.

On Rahul Gandhi's microphone remarks, the vice president, without naming him, said, "There cannot be a bigger lie when someone tries to set a narrative by saying that in the biggest panchayat, the Parliament, mics are switched off."

"Out of short-sightedness, some people do not display control over their voice and say anything in order to undermine the massive achievements of this great nation," he said at an 'ayurveda mahakumbh' at the varsity.

The Congress leader told British parliamentarians in London on Monday that functioning microphones in Lok Sabha are often silenced against the Opposition.

Pramod is deputy leader of Cong in RS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 11: The Congress Saturday appointed Pramod Tiwari as its deputy leader in the Rajya Sabha and Rajani Patil as a whip.

The appointments were made to fill the vacancies following the retirement of Anand Sharma and the demise of Rajeev Satav. Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi has approved the appointments of Tiwari as deputy leader and Patil as whip of the party in the Rajya Sabha, AICC general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said on Twitter.

A letter regarding these appointments has been sent to the Rajya Sabha chairman.

While Tiwari is a three-time Rajya Sabha MP and has been a former cabinet minister in the Uttar Pradesh government, Patil is a two-time MP in Rajya Sabha from Maharashtra.

Patil is currently suspended from the Upper House for the entire Budget Session of Parliament for unruly behaviour.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge is the leader of the party in the Rajya Sabha and Ramesh is its chief whip.

SHORT TAKES

Dhruvanarayan passes away

Mysuru: Karnataka Congress working president, former MP and senior Dalit leader R. Dhruvanarayan passed away here Saturday. He was 61. According to family sources, Dhruvanarayan suffered a massive heart attack at 6.30 am and left for the hospital with his driver. But he succumbed on the way in the car and was declared dead at arrival at the hospital. Dhruvanarayan joined Congress in 1983 and worked in the capacity of president of the Bengaluru unit of NSUI in 1986.

Man dies

New Delhi: A man died after two cars collided in Delhi Cantonment area, an official said Saturday. The deceased was identified as Ashok Tanwar, a resident of Nangal Raya village in the area. According to police, a police control room call regarding an accident between two vehicles was received at Delhi Cantt police station on Friday at around 7:52 am following which a police team rushed to the spot.

History-sheeter hacked to death

Chennai: A history-sheeter, who was involved in several murders including that of a CPI functionary, was hacked to death in broad daylight in Tiruvarur district in Tamil Nadu. More than 1,000 policemen have been deployed at Needamangalam, Tiruvarur, and other parts of Tiruchi district. Tiruchi police superintendent told media persons that three special teams are deployed to nab the assailants. With Rajkumar having connection with several gangs in Tiruchi and Madurai districts, police are on a high alert as there could be revenge attack to his murder which can trigger a chain reaction.

Kolkata man jumps off bridge

Kolkata: A man parked his motorcycle on the Vivekananda Setu in Kolkata, climbed the railing and clung on to it for a while as passersby stopped and tried to convince him, but he jumped into the Hooghly river below a few minutes later, triggering panic on Saturday morning, police said. The incident happened around 7.45 am, following which a search was started for him in the river, they said. The man, identified as a lawyer practicing at the Sealdah court, was a resident of the Phoolbagan area, they added.

international

of the day quote

I urge the parties to fulfill the commitments they made, not just to each other, but also to the thousands of Yemeni families who have been waiting to be reunited with their loved ones for far too long

HANS GRUNDBERG | UN ENVOY FOR YEMEN

I want to travel around Brazil to inaugurate houses, schools, kindergartens, roads, universities and technical schools. We have to put this country to work

LUIZ INACIO LULA DA SILVA | PRESIDENT, BRAZIL

Lebanon is committed to protecting its security and the security of brotherly and friendly countries by preventing the exporting of any prohibited items to "our brothers who have never abandoned Lebanon"

NAIB MIKATI | CARETAKER PM, LEBANON

SHORT TAKES

Iran to buy jets from Russia

Dubai: Iran has reached a deal to buy advanced Su-35 fighter planes from Russia, Iranian state media said Saturday, expanding a relationship that has seen Iranian-built drones used in Russia's war on Ukraine. "The Sukhoi-35 fighter planes are technically acceptable to Iran and Iran has finalised a contract for their purchase," the broadcaster IRIB quoted Iran's mission to the United Nations as saying in New York. Russian President Vladimir Putin met Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in Tehran last July, stressing closer ties in the face of Western pressure over the war in Ukraine.

Blast kills guard, wounds scribes

Kabul: A bomb blast in the northern Afghan city of Mazar-i-Sharif Saturday killed a security guard and wounded a group of journalists, as well as several children, police said. The blast came two days after a suicide bomber killed the Taliban governor of northern Balkh province in an attack claimed by the Islamic State group. The attack on Mohammad Dawood Muzammil in the Balkh provincial capital Mazar-i-Sharif Thursday marked the killing of one of the highest-ranking officials since the Taliban stormed back to power in 2021.

Tiananmen vigil activists jailed

Hong Kong: Three former organisers of Hong Kong's annual vigil in remembrance of victims of China's 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy protests were jailed Saturday for four and a half months for failing to provide authorities with information on the group in accordance with a national security law. Chow Hang-tung, Tang Ngok-kwan and Tsui Hon-kwong were arrested in 2021 during a crackdown on the city's pro-democracy movement following massive protests more than three years ago. They were leaders of the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements of China and were found guilty last week.

California fights heavy deluge

Los Angeles: Emergency officials in several California counties spent Friday patrolling levees and swollen rivers as an "atmospheric river" storm drenched the already-sodden state with torrential rains, causing floods that washed out roads and prompted evacuations.

KASHMIR ISSUE

Is India a 'friend'? Bhutto chokes on the word

Pakistan rakes up the issue of J&K at every UN forum and platform, irrespective of the topic or agenda being discussed. However, it fails to get any traction or support for its agenda from the wider UN membership that considers Kashmir to be a bilateral issue between India and Pakistan

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

United Nations, March 11: Is India a "friend" for Pakistan? Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari choked on the word "friend" while trying to refer to India and with the word stuck in his craw twice, he finally settled on

"our neighbouring countries". While admitting New Delhi's diplomatic success in preventing Islamabad's attempts to bring Kashmir to the centre of attention at the UN, Bilawal started by referring to India as "our friends within". But he caught himself and on his second try stammered,



As Moldova continues to integrate with Europe, we believe Russia is pursuing options to weaken the Moldovan government probably with the eventual goal of seeing a more Russian-friendly administration in the capital

JOHN KIRBY | NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL SPOKESMAN, WHITE HOUSE

TEXTBOOKS FOR SL STUDENTS

Sri Lanka has used over \$10 million from India's assistance of \$1 billion to print nearly half of the textbooks for its four million young students. India announced a \$1 billion line of credit to Sri Lanka last year as part of its financial assistance to help the country deal with its economic crisis



Japan marks 12 yr anniv of tsunami, nuclear disaster

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tokyo, March 11: Japan Saturday marked the 12th anniversary of the massive earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster with a minute of silence, as concerns grew ahead of the planned release of the treated radioactive water from the wrecked Fukushima nuclear plant and the government's return to nuclear energy.

The 9.0 magnitude earthquake and tsunami that ravaged large parts of Japan's northeastern coast March 11, 2011, left more than 22,000 people dead, including about 3,700 whose subsequent deaths were linked to the disaster.

A moment of silence was observed nationwide at 2:46 pm, the moment the earthquake struck. Some residents in the tsunami-hit northern prefectures of Iwate and Miyagi walked down to the coast to pray for their loved ones and the 2,519 whose remains were never found.

In Tomioka, one of the Fukushima towns where initial searches had to be abandoned due to radiation, firefighters and police use sticks and a hoe to rake through the coastline looking for the possible remains of the victims or their belongings. At an elementary school in Sendai, north of Fukushima, participants released hundreds of colourful balloons in memory of the lives lost.



In Tokyo, dozens of people gathered at an anniversary event in a downtown park, and anti-nuclear activists staged a rally.

The earthquake and tsunami that slammed into the coastal Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant destroyed its power and cooling functions, triggering meltdowns in three of its six reactors.

They spewed massive amounts of radiation that caused tens of thousands of residents to evacuate. Over 160,000 people had left at one point, and about 30,000 are still unable to return due to long-term radiation effects or health concerns.

Many of the evacuees have already resettled elsewhere, and most affected towns have seen significant population declines over the past decade.

"with our friend...", again stopped himself and stammered, "our our", before settling on "our neighbouring countries".

His British-accented eloquence deserting him, this is how Bilawal's sentence sounded: "Whenever the issue of Kashmir is brought up, our friends within, with our friend,

our... our, our neighbouring countries, strongly object vociferously object and they perpetuate a post facto narrative."

Despite the plural "countries", he was apparently referring to only India. "We face a particularly uphill task to try and get Kashmir onto the agenda at the UN," he said. But unlike at his last news conference at the UN in December, he did not hurl any vicious invectives against India or its leaders this time.

Relations between India and Pakistan are on the ice, first, because of the terrorist attacks on India emanating from Pakistan and the free movement of terrorists, and,

second, because Islamabad has refused contacts following India removing Kashmir's special constitutional status.

Tensions between India and Pakistan spiked after New Delhi abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir August 5, 2019. India has categorically told the international community that the scrapping of Article 370 was an internal matter. It also advised Pakistan to accept the reality and stop all anti-India propaganda. India has told Pakistan that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Islamabad in an environment free of terror, hostility and violence.

TENSION OVER TAIWAN

Chinese army seeks wartime law

China views Taiwan as a breakaway province which will one day unite with it. Beijing has not ruled out the possible use of force to reunify the self-ruled island with the mainland

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, March 11: The Chinese military is pushing the government to introduce wartime legislation to defend the country's sovereignty and national interests with force if needed amid the growing tensions over Taiwan with the US, a media report said Saturday.

The deputies of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) in the National People's Congress (NPC), China's legislature, during its current session, called for an urgent need for such legislation, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post newspaper reported.

The ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) has a substantial number of PLA deputies in the NPC, regarded as the rubber stamp Parliament for its routine approvals of the party's proposals.

PLA deputy Wu Xihua, who was among those pushing for wartime legislation, said China should step up law-making for the military.

Ye Dabin, another PLA deputy, said: "Taking our wartime needs



The tasks of national defence and military construction in the new era, especially preparations for military struggles, have become more critical and urgent, so there are these calls to establish and improve the country's wartime legal system

XIE DAN | MILITARY LAW EXPERT, BEIJING

into account, (we should) begin studying wartime legislation in a timely and systematic manner," the Post report said.

Zhang Like, commander of the Shandong Provincial Military District, suggested that China should push for the "introduction of laws such as the mobilisation of reserve forces".

Other deputies called for legislative changes related to the PLA's overseas operations, which have expanded in recent years and include the establishment of a military base in Djibouti in the Horn of Africa and naval escort missions in the Gulf of Aden and waters off Somalia.

Yuan Yubai, a former commander of the Southern Theatre Command,

said Beijing should strengthen legal research and study international laws related to national defence to improve "the rationality and legitimacy" of the Chinese military's overseas missions. Their comments come amid heightened tensions over the Taiwan Strait and the South China Sea.

China views Taiwan as a breakaway province which will one day unite with it. Beijing has not ruled out the possible use of force to reunify the self-ruled island with the mainland. US military and intelligence officials have warned there could be a conflict over Taiwan as early as 2027, the Post reported.

Beijing claims that the US is using Taiwan as a "pawn" to un-

dermine China's rise, and will continue to take stronger measures to push back against perceived increases in support for Taiwan.

Xie Dan, a military law expert in Beijing, said Taiwan was a key factor behind the calls for wartime legislation. "In recent years, Taiwan independence forces have become rampant, seriously threatening our national sovereignty and territorial integrity," Xie told the daily.

"The Anti-Secession Law clearly stipulates the conditions for unifying the motherland in a non-peaceful way. But the situation... is more acute," he said, adding that China faced greater geopolitical risks. "The most urgent need for wartime legislation at present is to adapt to the needs of hi-tech warfare, and further strengthen the mobilisation of reserve forces, requisitioning of strategic resources and integration of military and civilian development."

China has in recent years accelerated lawmaking related to the military, including amending both the Military Service Law and National Defence Law to enhance supervision along the borders.

Last month, Chinese lawmakers approved a resolution that gives the military the power to change how it applies the Criminal Procedure Law during wartime, the Post quoted an NPC saying that the decision was made to safeguard military missions and "improve (the PLA's) ability to win in combat".

MUTINY AT THE BBC

Lineker row heats up in UK

REUTERS

London, March 11: Britain's BBC was forced to axe much of its football coverage Saturday as presenters refused to work in a show of solidarity with Gary Lineker, as a row over freedom of speech escalates, throwing the national broadcaster's programming into disarray.

Former England soccer captain Lineker, the BBC's highest paid presenter and the anchor of the football highlights programme "Match of the Day", was taken off air by the broadcaster Friday after he criticised Britain's migration policy earlier in the week.

The row has sparked a debate over freedom of speech and the BBC's neutrality and risks pulling the government into a dispute with one of the country's highest profile



and most popular sports presenters. The BBC said Saturday's edition of "Match of the Day" would "focus on match action without studio presentation or punditry."

Two other BBC programmes, "Football Focus" and "Final Score", will not air Saturday after presenters including Alex Scott, Jason Mohammad and others said they would not work, while BBC sports radio was hit by walkouts from Mark Chapman and others.

Lineker, 62, had earlier in the

week taken to Twitter to describe new government legislation on migrants as a "cruel policy directed at the most vulnerable people in language that is not dissimilar to that used by Germany in the 30s." Before he can return to presenting, the BBC has said there had to be an agreed position on Lineker's use of social media, prompting accusations from rival politicians and media commentators who said the BBC was bowing to political pressure.

The broadcaster is committed to being politically impartial but has come under pressure from the Conservative government in recent years who accuse it of political bias.

Lineker, who has hosted the BBC's flagship football show for over 20 years, did not say anything about the dispute to waiting media when he left his home Saturday.



PENSION PROTESTS: France faced a seventh day of demonstrations Saturday against President Emmanuel Macron's unpopular pension reform plans amid ongoing rolling strikes which have affected refineries, public transport and garbage collections

United Nations observes first anti-Islamophobia day

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

United Nations, March 11: The United Nations marked the first-ever International Day to Combat Islamophobia with a special event, where speakers upheld the need for concrete action in the face of rising hatred, discrimination and violence against Muslims.

The observation Friday follows the unanimous adoption of a UN General Assembly resolution in 2022 that proclaimed March 15 as such an international day, calling for global dialogue that promotes tolerance, peace and respect for human rights and religious diversity. Xinhua news agency reported. UN Secretary-General Antonio

Guterres stated that nearly 2 billion Muslims worldwide, who come from all corners of the world, "reflect humanity in all its majestic diversity". Yet, they often face bigotry and prejudice simply because of their faith.

Moreover, Muslim women might face "triple discrimination" because of their gender, ethnicity, and faith. The growing hate that Muslims face is not an isolated development, the UN chief stressed.

"It is an inexorable part of the resurgence of ethno-nationalism, neo-Nazi white supremacist ideologies, and violence targeting vulnerable populations including Muslims, Jews, some minority Christian communities and oth-



ers," he said. Stressing that "we must strengthen our defenses," Guterres highlighted UN measures such as a Plan of Action to Safeguard

wherever and whenever it rears its ugly head. This includes working to tackle the hate that spreads like wildfire across the internet," he added.

To this end, the UN is working with governments, regulators, technology companies and the media "to set up guardrails, and enforce them." Other policies already launched include a Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech, and the Our

Discrimination diminishes us all. And it is incumbent on all of us to stand up against it. We must never be bystanders to bigotry

ANTONIO GUTERRES | SECRETARY-GENERAL, UN

Common Agenda report, which outlines a framework for a more inclusive and secure "digital future" for all people.

The UN chief also expressed gratitude to religious leaders across the world who have united to promote dialogue and interfaith harmony.

On March 15, 2022, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution by consensus which was introduced by Pakistan on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation that proclaimed March 15 as "International Day to Combat Islamophobia." The date was chosen as it is the anniversary of the Christchurch mosque shootings, in which 51 people were killed.

of the day quote

The market for electric vehicles is growing exponentially. Tapping this opportunity and understanding the customer needs, we have launched ZAP for a few leading electric vehicles, which will soon be expanded across other EV models

S SUJIT NAYAK | VP AND HEAD (AFTERMARKET BUSINESS), BRAKES INDIA

Vande Bharat has about 15 per cent import content. One of the imported items are the wheels on which the train rolls on

SUDHANSHU MANI | RETIRED GENERAL MANAGER, INTEGRAL COACH FACTORY

Positive momentum effect continued to support the industrial activity for the third consecutive month

RAJANI SINHA | CHIEF ECONOMIST, CARE RATINGS

SHORT TAKES

Centre releases ₹1.40tn to states

New Delhi: The government has released the 14th instalment of tax devolution of more than ₹1.40 lakh crore to states. "The Union Government has released 14th instalment of tax devolution to state governments amounting to ₹1,40,318 crore today, as against normal monthly devolution of ₹70,159 crore," the finance ministry said in a statement Friday. This is in line with the commitment of the Union government to strengthen the hands of states to accelerate their capital and developmental expenditure, it added. Currently, 41 per cent of taxes collected by the Centre is devolved in 14 instalments to states during a fiscal year.

Joshi new MD, CEO of Tech Mahindra

New Delhi: IT company Tech Mahindra on Saturday announced the appointment of former Infosys president Mohit Joshi as MD and CEO designate, who will take over the charge from CP Gurnani after his retirement December 19 this year. The announcement follows the resignation of Joshi from Infosys where he was head of the global financial services and healthcare and the software businesses, which included Fincle (Infosys' banking platform) and the artificial intelligence and automation portfolio.

Sebi resolves 2,672 complaints through SCORES platform

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 11: A total of 2,672 complaints against companies and market intermediaries received through capital markets regulator Sebi's SCORES platform were disposed of in February, according to Sebi data.

At the beginning of February, as many as 2,603 complaints were pending and 2,321 fresh complaints were received during the month, the data released by Sebi Friday showed.

These complaints were related to refunds, allotment, redemption and interest, among others.

The regulator noted that there were seven complaints as of February 2023, which were pending for more than three months. These complaints were related to research analyst, investment adviser, corporate governance/ listing conditions, non-demat, remat and transfer/dividend/rights/redemption.

The average resolution time for a complaint is 30 days, it added.

In a separate public notice, Sebi mentioned six entities against

BILLIONS STRANDED

SVB largest US bank to fail since '08

US banks have lost over \$100bn in stock market value over the past two days, with European banks losing around another \$50bn in value

REUTERS

Washington, March 11: Startup-focused lender SVB Financial Group became the largest bank to fail since the 2008 financial crisis on Friday, in a sudden collapse that roiled global markets, left billions of dollars belonging to companies and investors stranded.

California banking regulators closed the bank, which did business as Silicon Valley Bank, Friday and appointed the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) as receiver for later disposition of its assets.

Based in Santa Clara, the lender was ranked as the 16th biggest in the US at the end of last year, with about \$209 billion in assets. Specifics of the tech-focused bank's abrupt collapse were a jumble, but the Fed's aggressive interest rate hikes in the last year, which had crimped financial conditions in the start-up space in which it was a notable player, seemed front and center.

As it tried to raise capital to offset fleeing deposits, the bank lost \$1.8 billion on Treasury bonds whose values were torpedoed by the Fed rate hikes.

Silicon Valley Bank's failure is the largest since Washington



Textiles exports have a twin problem. Many countries are facing foreign exchange problems post Ukraine conflict, due to which many destinations have cut down non-essential imports

PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

MICROSOFT'S 3RD LAYOFF ROUND

Microsoft has conducted a third round of job cuts that impacted employees in roles related to supply chain, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT). According to CRN, the third wave of layoffs are part of the 10,000 job cuts announced by Microsoft earlier this year



DEBT WOES

Adani seeks to sell stake in Ambuja Cement for \$450mn

REUTERS

New Delhi, March 11: Gautam Adani is seeking to sell a stake in Ambuja Cement for about \$450 million, the Financial Times reported Friday, citing people familiar with the matter.

Adani Thursday made a formal request to international lenders to sell 4% to 5% in Ambuja, his cement business, the report said. The Adani Group did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment.

The embattled Adani Group last year acquired Holcim AG's cement businesses in India - Ambuja Cements and ACC Ltd- for \$10.5 billion, its largest-ever acquisition.

Adani's latest move comes as the group seeks to rebuild investor confidence and allay concerns about its debt by pre-paying loans, in the aftermath of a scathing US short-seller report. Hindenburg Research's report alleged stock manipulation and improper use of tax havens, and flagged "substantial" debt levels, which the group has denied.

Gautam Adani and his family have prepaid all borrowings backed by his conglomerate Adani Group's shares, senior executives told investors at a meeting in London, Bloomberg News reported this week.



- SILICON VALLEY BANK WAS THE US' 16TH LARGEST BANK
- CALIFORNIA REGULATOR CLOSES SVB, APPOINTS FDIC AS RECEIVER
- SVB FOCUSED ON LENDING TO START-UPS; BRANCHES TO REOPEN MONDAY
- FDIC TO SELL BANK ASSETS; 'CHAOS' REPORTED AMID WITHDRAWALS
- CRISIS EXPOSES BANKING 'VULNERABILITIES' AMID RISING RATES

There could be a bloodbath next week as short sellers are out there and they are going to attack every single bank, especially the smaller ones

CHRISTOPHER WHALEN | CHAIRMAN, WHALEN GLOBAL ADVISORS

Mutual went bust in 2008, a hallmark event that triggered a financial crisis that hobbled the economy for years. The 2008 crash prompted tougher rules in the United States and beyond.

Since then, regulators have imposed more stringent capital re-

quirements for US banks aimed at ensuring individual bank collapses won't harm the wider financial system and economy.

The main office and all branches of Silicon Valley Bank will reopen March 13 and all insured depositors will have full access to their in-

'Extinction level event for startups'

Garry Tan, president at Silicon Valley-based Y Combinator, said the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) in the US is an "extinction level event for startups" and will set startups and innovation back by 10 years or more. Y Combinator, popularly known as YC, has been an early investor in firms like Stripe, Airbnb and others. Its portfolio firms work closely with the SVB which has now been taken over by the US government. Razorpay, Zepto, Meesho are among its biggest India portfolio firms.

Top VC firms deeply concerned

Top venture capitalist (VC) firms Saturday issued a joint statement on the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank (SVB), one of the largest US banks serving the global startup community, saying they are "deeply disappointing and concerning". Hemant Taneja, investor and managing partner at General Catalyst, said in a tweet that several VC leaders like Accel, Khosla Ventures, Altimeter Capital, Lightspeed Venture Partners, Mayfield Fund, Ribbit Capital, Redpoint Ventures and others met to discuss the aftermath of SVB's downfall.

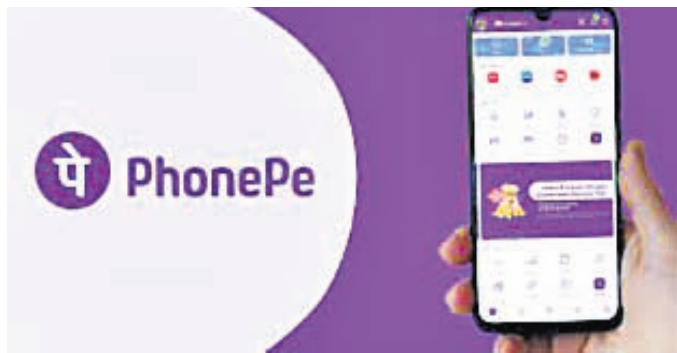
Musk open to buying collapsed SVB

Twitter boss **Elon Musk** on Saturday said that he is open to the idea of buying the collapsed Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) and turning it into a digital bank. Min-Liang Tan, co-founder and CEO of Razer (a consumer electronic company), tweeted: "I think Twitter should buy SVB and become a digital bank". To which Musk replied: "I'm open to the idea".

is willing to merge with Silicon Valley Bank, according to people familiar with the matter who requested anonymity because the details are confidential. While the FDIC hopes to put together such a merger by Monday to safeguard unsecured deposits, no deal is certain, the sources added.

Twitter boss **Elon Musk** on Saturday said that he is open to the idea of buying the collapsed Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) and turning it into a digital bank. Min-Liang Tan, co-founder and CEO of Razer (a consumer electronic company), tweeted: "I think Twitter should buy SVB and become a digital bank". To which Musk replied: "I'm open to the idea".

PhonePe gets payment aggregator licence



THE DIGITAL PAYMENTS GIANT HAS CROSSED \$1 TRILLION ANNUALISED PAYMENT VALUE RUN RATE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 11: Digital payments platform PhonePe has achieved an annualised total payment value run rate of \$1 trillion, or ₹84 lakh crore, mainly on account of its lead in UPI transactions, the company said Saturday.

The company claims to have digitised over 35 million offline merchants spread across tier 2, 3, 4 cities and beyond, covering 99 per cent pin codes in the country.

"We are delighted to reach the

\$1-trillion annualised TPV run rate. We look forward to turbocharging the next wave of growth for UPI payments in India with offerings like 'UPI lite', 'UPI international' and 'credit on UPI' to enable greater financial inclusion for Indians," PhonePe head of consumer business Sonika Chandra said in a statement.

The company said that the growth is backed by its leadership in the UPI space where it holds over 50 per cent market share by value.

The company has also received an in-principle approval for its PA (payment aggregator) licence from the RBI, the statement said.

PhonePe is making significant investments in new businesses like insurance and wealth management, while also enabling the next wave of growth for UPI payments in the country, the statement said.

India, Australia eye \$100 billion trade

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 11: India and Australia Saturday expressed their commitment for concluding the negotiations for expanding the scope of existing free trade agreement by the end of this year with an aim to push the bilateral trade to \$100 billion.

The issue came up for discussions during the meeting of joint ministerial commission between commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal and his Australian counterpart Don Farrell. Farrell is accompanying Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese who is here on an official visit.

On December 29, last year India and Australia implemented an economic cooperation and trade agreement (ECTA) and are now negotiating to expand its scope for a comprehensive economic cooperation agreement (CECA).

"ECTA was the first stage of our economic engagement. We are now entering into phase-2 of our discussions where we are looking at much wider ambit of subjects and taking this into a CECA," Goyal told reporters here.

After the first India-Australia summit talks here March 10 on a range of key issues, Albanese said that both sides are looking at firming up the ambitious CECA by 2023 while a joint statement mentioned that the two prime ministers tasked the concerned officials to expedite the conclusion of a Migration and Mobility Partnership Arrangement (MMPA)

within the next three months.



On the deadline to conclude the CECA negotiations, Goyal said that though anything done with a deadline is always "dangerous" as "you may land up making mistakes", but "we" must do things fast. Both the trade ministers, he said, are committed to speed up the negotiations.

Both the prime ministers have "collectively tasked us to work towards closing the CECA negotiations within this calendar year. We would love to do that. We would work to engage in a same spirit as ECTA and hope for quick outcomes without compromising on its quality," he added.

He also said that "we are very very dissatisfied" with the \$30-billion bilateral trade and the officials of India and Australia have kept a target of \$45-50 billion in the

next five years.

Both the ministers have expressed "unhappiness" towards the trade negotiators and said they "will be much more ambitious and aim for a \$100-billion trade between the two economies," he said.

Farrell said that the two countries "can achieve" this target.

Goyal said huge opportunities are there to increase cooperation in areas like education, technology, audio-video services and sports.

While Australia has some "very" fine technologies, best of education institutes and sports, India can offer in terms of its talent pool, manufacturing base and startup ecosystem, he said.

On increasing agri trade with Australia, the Indian commerce minister said that there are several areas of mutual interest, which are

under consideration of agriculture ministries of both sides to resolve sanitary and phytosanitary (related with plans and animals) problems.

Citing the example of Australian avocados and Indian okra, he said, "both sides have different products where market access is being encouraged. Indian pomegranate arils issue has been resolved. On their side, pet food certification issues are getting resolved".

There is an opening up of some elements of agriculture in the ECTA and "with an open mind we will be looking at forward movement wherever there are areas of complementarity and mutual benefit," he added.

Goyal appreciated Australia for taking care of Indian sensitivities in the agri and dairy sectors where small and marginal farmers are involved.

"We are looking at win-win opportunities in many areas which will open up a lot of potential like in space technology, Australian education systems and critical minerals, energy storage system that are developed in Australia and sports...Our focus has been leveraging on each others comparative competitive advantages to add to trade," he added.

Farrell said that Australia has all the critical minerals to build batteries for electric vehicles.

He also said that in the first month of the ECTA, Australia has shipped goods worth \$2.5 billion to India.

TAX COLLECTION REACHES ₹13.73L-CR

NET DIRECT TAX MOP-UP HAS REACHED 83% OF REVISED ESTIMATE FOR FY23

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 11: Net direct tax collection so far this fiscal grew 17 per cent to reach ₹13.73 lakh crore, which is 83 per cent of the revised target for the full financial year, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said Saturday.

The growth in direct tax mop-up, which comprises personal income tax and corporate taxes, was driven by PIT collections.

On a gross basis, the collection grew 22.58 per cent to ₹16.68 lakh crore.

Refunds amounting to ₹2.95 lakh crore have been issued during April 1, 2022 to March 10, 2023, which are 59.44 per cent higher than refunds issued during the same period in the preceding year.

Direct tax collection, net of refunds, stands at ₹13.73 lakh crore which is 16.78 per cent higher



than the net collections for the corresponding period of last year.

This collection is 96.67 per cent of the total budget estimates and 83.19 per cent of the total revised estimates of direct taxes for the financial year 2022-23, the CBDT said in a statement.

After adjustment of refunds, the net growth in CIT (Corporate Income Tax) collections is 13.62 per cent and that in PIT (Personal Income Tax) collections including STT (Securities Transaction Tax) is 20.06 per cent, it said.

BoI conducts workshop for business correspondents



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 11: Bank of India, Bhubaneswar zone has conducted a one day workshop/capsule training programme for business correspondents (BCs) March 11. The meeting was chaired by Bikram Keshari Mishra (GM, NBG-Odisha).

Rabindra Nath Sarkar (DGM, NBG-Odisha) and Ashok Kumar Jena (DZM, Bhubaneswar zone) along with bank officials were also present. Total 80 BCs from all centres of BoI, Bhubaneswar zone

have participated in the training programme.

The bank has appreciated the efforts of BCs for educating people and bringing them under the umbrella of various government sponsored schemes like PMSBY, PMJJBY, APY, SSA etc. The top performing BCs in various parameters were felicitated by the bank.

The zonal officials of the bank gave presentation on various government business products like SCSS, PPF, NPS, SGB, RBI floating bonds etc.

GILL TON PROPELS INDIA

Shubman recalls his lean patch struggles



full body behind the line of the ball. He did step out time and again to disturb Lyon's (1/75) line. Todd Murphy (1/45) was easily the best Australian spinner on the day. Australian skipper Smith didn't do anything wrong tactically but not giving Matt Kuhnemann (1/43) any spell between lunch and tea was a bit surprising after he had got Indian captain Rohit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, March 11: Shubman Gill doesn't have a problem if he gets dismissed while playing his natural attacking game but what bothered him was getting out while playing a defensive shot which doesn't come naturally to him. Enjoying a golden run, Gill has now hit five hundreds across formats in just under two months and if the run is extended to three months, the count is six. It comprises two Test hundreds, three ODI tons including a double and a T20I hundred. So what did he tell himself during the lean patch? "There was phase in the middle when I was scoring 40s and 50s (52 and 44 against New Zealand in 2021) and getting out and when I played the one-off fifth Test in England, I scored some 20 odd (17) and I got out early in that innings," Gill recalled that not-so-great phase in his 15-Test career.

Sharma (35) in the morning session. Earlier, Sharma looked in good flow as he pulled Mitchell Starc behind square for a six and ran well between the wickets during the 21-over stand with Gill.

The mode of dismissal was disappointing as the delivery from Kuhnemann wasn't a wicket-taking one. It was pitched short and Sharma could have hit it anywhere but his uppish back-foot punch found Marnus Labuschagne at short extra-cover.

In case of Cheteshwar Pujara (42), the stand of 113 was significant but he also got stuck in the post lunch session and a bit more intent from him during that phase could have seen India scoring 300 runs for the day.

"I got a feeling that as soon as I was getting set, I was getting over defensive and over cautious. I was thinking now that I have got set, I will bat as long as possible. I was putting myself under too much pressure and that is not my game. "Once I get set, then I get into a sort of rhythm and that's my game. So I had to tell myself that if I get dismissed while playing my natural game, then it is fine. But problem was I was getting out playing the type of game that doesn't come naturally to me," he explained.

The root cause was trying to play defensive game even when he felt set. "If I get out trying to play a shot after getting set, I can accept that dismissal, because that's a shot and my execution wasn't proper. But if I get out playing a game which isn't my style then it became unacceptable to me," he was very precise in his thought process.

The key was to not put pressure on himself. "So I had to tell myself that I shouldn't put too much pressure on myself when a situation like this arises next time, that

I must convert now that I am set. I needed to keep it a bit free-flowing. It was more about mental make up and I focused on that primarily." Gill assessed that the Motera track wasn't easy for run-scoring. "I think on wickets like these, it is difficult to score runs fluently but it is also important that on these wickets you need to be positive and keep looking for those singles."

Having played a lot of cricket on cement wickets back home in Mohali, Gill has developed an affinity for horizontal bat shots. He hit some on-drives where he could play with a straight bat rather than an angled one and he explained his process.

"I think one of those shots that automatically develops when you play bouncer. I am used to playing bouncers with a plastic ball on cement surfaces and the balls which were a little fuller. It developed as I practised it over and over (again) and it was more instinctive than anything else."

Gill said on a track like this where there are periods of lull, one needs to train his mind not to play indiscreet shots.

"You have to remind yourself constantly that things are going well because there was a phase where we didn't hit a boundary for the longest time and at that time, you had to tell yourself that it's okay if you are not getting runs now but if you stick to your processes then there will be an over where you will get 2-3 boundaries. So process is not to lose patience, you can get out but also you might be able to get boundaries."

Nathan Lyon may have got just a single wicket after sending down 30-odd overs on the day but he feels that his effort Saturday was way better than his 11-wicket match haul in Indore on a track designed for spinners.

"It's more of a patient game. When the pitch is like Indore... I felt like I bowled better today than what I did in Indore. And it's just coming down to doing your basics well enough for long enough," Lyon said.

For him, Tests like these are decided in the last half an hour and right now it is on even keel. "Where are we in the game? I think it's pretty even to be honest with you, we know in this part of the world, games can speed up quite quickly, so it's about being patient for long periods of time and not chasing the game," the veteran off-spinner said.

ELEGANCE AT ITS BEST: Virat Kohli plays a backfoot on-drive during his innings against Australia, Saturday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, March 11: Shubman Gill gave ample display of his immense talent with a stylish hundred (128, 235b, 12x4, 1x6) but India's batting unit didn't fully press home the advantage, ending the third day at 289/3 against Australia in the fourth Test, here Saturday.

Gill batted for nearly six hours for his knock to justify his selection in playing XI ahead of KL Rahul but India scored only 256 runs in 90 overs. The hosts are still 191 runs behind Australia's first innings total of 480.

Leading the series 2-1, India need a 3-1 series win to qualify for the World Test Championship final. If India lose this match and Sri Lanka win their ongoing series against New Zealand 2-0 then the island nation will qualify for the WTC final against Australia.

In case India play a draw, and Sri Lanka fail to win 2-0, the WTC final will be between India and Australia in June at the Oval.

All eyes will be on Virat Kohli (59 batting, 128b, 5x4), who looked purposeful and confident during his two

BRIEF SCORES

**AUSTRALIA 480
INDIA 289/3**
(Shubman Gill 128, Virat Kohli 59 batting, Cheteshwar Pujara 42, Rohit Sharma 35). Match to continue.

hour plus stay at the crease, on the third day. There was no celebration after completion of his 29th half century in Test cricket.

The pace of his partnership with Ravindra Jadeja (16 batting, 54b, 1x6) will set the narrative for the final couple of days.

The Indian team management is probably mulling batting the entire fourth day and try to get a lead in excess of 150 in order to unleash the spinners on the final day, when significant turn will be on offer. As of now, the pitch continues to be firm but also on the slower side.

As the SG Test ball gets older, scoring becomes increasingly difficult and Australia took a cue from India. Till 93 overs were bowled, Steve Smith didn't take the second new ball, preventing India

from getting some easy runs.

But the day certainly belonged to Gill, who is currently going through a purple patch in his career. In a space of less than two months (since January 15, 2023), he has scored five international hundreds across three formats.

The pleasing aspect of his batting is how languid he is as he holds the shape when he drives through the off-side. He can also play the sweep and reverse sweep effectively without taking any unnecessary risk.

Gauging the slowness of the track, Gill was standing well outside his crease. The purpose was to meet the deliveries early as staying inside the crease would mean the ball would take an extra second to reach and in turn stroke-making would be difficult.

That was the reason, he scored his first 40 to 45 runs quickly but once Australian skipper Smith got a hang, he got Alex Carey to stand up to the stumps to pacer Cameron Green in order to stop him from converting back of the length deliveries into half volleys.

Gill was stuck in 70s for a long

time before he upped the ante to reach the nervous 90s. He first stepped out and hit the ball over Lyon's head for a boundary before playing a paddle scoop over to complete his ton.

The hallmark of a great batter is adaptability and that is where Gill is a cut above his peers. On tracks with pace, one would find him stay beside the line of the ball and try to ride the bounce. On sub-continental track, he would get his

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Navi Mumbai, March 11: Shafali Verma's explosive unbeaten half century (76 n o, 28b, 10x4, 5x6) and Marizanne Kapp's sensational five-wicket haul (5/15) fired Delhi Capitals to a massive 10-wicket win against Gujarat Giants in the Women's Premier League here Saturday.

Kapp broke the back of Gujarat Giants' innings with a stunning spell, taking the top four wickets in the line-up as Delhi bowlers produced a clinical display to keep the opponents to a lowly 105/9 at the DY Patil Stadium here.

In reply, Shafali came out firing on all cylinders to produce a ruthless knock in the company of captain Meg Lanning (21 n o) as DC completed the chase in a mere 7.1 overs.

DC made their intentions clear right from the word go, with Shafali taking a special liking for the Gujarat bowler Ashleigh Gardner, smacking her for four fours and a six in the fourth over to collect 23 runs.

Shafali continued to attack, this time hitting Tanuja Kanwar for a couple of sixes to help Delhi knock off



the majority of their target, with 87 runs coming in the powerplay.

Shafali brought up her second half century in the WPL, from just 19 balls as the senior pro in Lanning happily chose to take the backseat and enjoy the right-handed batter's power hitting, which tore apart the Gujarat's bowling attack.

Earlier, Kapp produced a stun-



ning spell at the top to reduce the Giants to a precarious 33/6 after seven overs, a position from which they could never recover.

After Kapp set the tone, the others continued to apply constant pressure on the Gujarat batters. The seasoned Shikha Pandey (3/26) also had a memorable outing.

Kim Garth (32 n o) and Georgia

Wareham tried to weather the storm and get some much-needed runs for their side, but their efforts could only provide Gujarat Giants' innings some respectability.

While Gujarat's lower order, which did bulk of the scoring, did not attempt risky strokes for quick runs, they also could not find gaps for boundaries. There were no boundaries hit between overs 13-16.

Kapp provided Delhi with a perfect start, cleaning up Sabhineni Meghana (0) and Wolvaardt (1) before trapping the big gun Gardiner (0) before to leave the Giants tottering at 9/3 inside the first three overs.

Pandey made matters worse for Gujarat, getting Dayalan Hemlatha (5) caught behind by wicketkeeper Taniya Bhatia, and Kapp then snaffled the big wicket of the in-form Harleen Deol (20).

BRIEF SCORES

Gujarat Giants Women 105/9 (Kim Garth 32 n o, Georgia Wareham 22, Harleen Deol 20; Marizanne Kapp 5/15, Shikha Pandey 3/26) lost to Delhi Capitals Women 107/0 (Shafali Verma 76 n o) by 10 wickets.

Odisha FC part ways with head coach Gombau



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, March 11: Indian Super League (ISL) club Odisha FC Saturday announced that they have decided to part ways with head coach Josep Gombau.

The Juggernauts who were eliminated after defeat to ATK Mohun Bagan had finished in sixth position in the standings and reached the playoffs for the first time in their history. However, the Spaniard who was in his second spell in charge of the club will leave with immediate effect.

"The club has reached this decision based on its ambitions and the standards that have been set for the present and foreseeable future. OFC would like to thank Josep for his contributions in various capacities over the course of his tenure and wishes him the best for the future. Further announcements will be made in due course," Odisha FC said in a statement.

Odisha FC started the ISL 2022-23 season brightly winning six out of their first ten matches but their form dipped in the second half of the season as they only managed three wins in the remainder of the league season.

They qualified for the playoffs courtesy of Bengaluru FC's win over FC Goa but fell at the first hurdle when they suffered a 0-2 loss at ATK Mohun Bagan in the knockout match.

The Juggernauts haven't made any comment on his potential replacement as the team continues to prepare for the Super Cup.

Germany script close win against Australia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rourkela, March 11: Goalkeeper Jean-Paul Danneberg produced some incredible saves as Germany rode on Malte Hellwig's sole strike to beat Australia 1-0 in the first leg of the Hockey Pro League, here Saturday.

In a replay of the World Cup semifinals that led to late heart-break for Australia, it was Germany who came up on top once again at the Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium to secure all three points.

Australia started the game on the front foot with their midfield press turning possession over multiple times, but it was Germany who created the first clear opening.

It was a powerful hit by Malte Hellwig which blasted past Rennie in the Kookaburras goal and struck the top left corner of the backboard giving the World Champions the lead.

Second quarter continued from where the first quarter left off as Australia continued their search for the equaliser but Germany remained disciplined in defence.

Australia won their first penalty corner with five minutes left in the half but Danneberg in the goal for Germany, made the save. Jack Welch forced another save out of Danneberg with a powerful hit

from the top of the circle and Hinrichs was sharp in gathering the rebound and clearing.

Germany and Australia exchanged chances early in the second half. Australia had a fantastic opportunity off a German turnover with Sharp getting off a shot from the top of the circle, but Ephraums attempted deflection took the ball away from the goal. The third quarter failed to produce a goal despite the high intensity.

Australia won a penalty corner with 10 minutes left in the game as Ephraums shot from close range was blocked by Danneberg but the ball got stuck under his leg and Australia had an opportunity.

It was Welch who took on the corner but his shot was run down brilliantly by Tom Grambusch. Australia won another penalty corner a few seconds later, but a fantastic double save by Danneberg continued to frustrate the Kookaburras.

Danneberg continued thwarting Australian attacks, pulling off saves from a drag flick by Gupte and a tomahawk by Marais to keep Germany ahead with 5 minutes left in the game.

With 15 seconds left in the game Australia mustered one final chance through a penalty corner, but Danneberg saved again and earned Germany a win and all three points.



Players of Germany (in black) and Australia in action in Rourkela, Saturday

Shafali, Kapp fire DC to 10-wicket victory

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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Jhye Richardson ruled out of IPL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sydney, March 11: Australian pacer Jhye Richardson has been ruled out of the upcoming IPL after undergoing a surgery for hamstring issues.

Richardson was supposed to link up with Mumbai Indians for the season beginning March 31. He was earlier ruled out of the three ODIs against India beginning March 17.

He underwent surgery after the recurrence of his hamstring injury last week. "Injuries are a big part of cricket, that's a fact," Richardson tweeted. "Frustrating? Absolutely. But I'm now in a scenario where I can get back to doing what I love and work bloody hard to become an even better player than before. One step back, two steps forward. Let's do this."

VINICIUS INSPIRES REAL COMEBACK

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Barcelona, March 11: Vinicius Junior sparked Real Madrid's 3-1 comeback over Espanyol in the Spanish league Saturday, keeping Barcelona within reach in the title race. Joselu Mato put Espanyol ahead at the Santiago Bernabeu in the eighth minute. But Vinicius equalized in the 22nd before Eder Militao headed Madrid in front for good in the 39th.

Substitute Marco Asensio added a third goal in stoppage time as Madrid ended a three-game winless run between the league and the Copa del Rey.

Carlo Ancelotti's team reduced Barcelona's lead to six points before the front-runners visit Athletic Bilbao Sunday.

Karim Benzema missed the game as he rested to recover from an



Vinicius Junior (L) points skyward in celebration after scoring against Espanyol in their Spanish league match, Saturday

ankle problem. Before the game, Ancelotti said that he expects his striker to be ready to face Liverpool in the Champions League Wednesday, with Madrid holding

a 5-2 advantage from the first leg of the round of 16. Madrid will then visit Barcelona March 19 in a "clásico" that will likely weigh heavily in the title fight.