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BHUBANESWAR | TUESDAY, MARCH 21 | 2023

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NSA invoked against Amritpal's associates

RADICAL PREACHER'S UNCLE, DRIVER HELD

AGENCIES

Chandigarh, March 20: The Punjab Police Monday flagged a possible 'ISI angle' as it invoked the stringent National Security Act (NSA) against five men linked to radical preacher Amritpal Singh. whose uncle and driver surrendered amid a state-wide crackdown against his 'Waris Punjab De' group.

The Khalistan sympathiser's uncle Harjit Singh and driver Harpreet Singh gave themselves up before police past Sunday midnight. Harjit Singh, who officials say

helped his nephew gain control over the accounts of "Waris Punjab De", is among the five slapped with the NSA, which allows the preventive detention of anyone who could threaten national security or public order. Harjit Singh will be shifted to the central jail in Assam's Dibrugarh, where the other four were brought on Sunday. They are Daljit Singh Kalsi, Bhagwant Singh, Gurmeet Singh

and 'Pradhanmantri' Bajeka. Punjab Inspector General of Police (Headquarters) Sukhchain Singh Gill told reporters here that specialised units are involved in the efforts to nab the preacher – who gave police the slip during a car

chase in Jalandhar district Saturday. Gill indicated that the preacher. who heads Waris Punjab De, could also be detained under the NSA.

"It can be invoked against him once he is arrested, and the rest of the facts will be made clear to you." he said, replying to a question at the press conference. The IG said police have a strong suspicion of an "ISI angle" and foreign funding against those arrested in this case, and further investigations are underway.

The Punjab government has again extended the suspension of mobile internet and SMS services, this time up to Tuesday noon. Police have warned people against spreading rumours. The Twitter accounts of some Punjab have been "withheld". Gill said he is not aware of this.



BOLT FROM BLUE: A farmer shows his damaged wheat crop at a field after heavy hailstorm, at Rajarampura village, in Jaipur, Monday. Sudden hailstorm damaged the crop across many parts of the country PTI PHOTO

End sealed cover practice, says CJI

AGENCIES

New Delhi, March 20: The Supreme Court Monday refused to accept the Centre's sealed cover note about its views on the payment of One Rank One Pension (OROP) arrears to ex-service personnel.

"We need to put an end to this sealed cover practice in the Supreme Court... This is fundamentally contrary to basic process of fair justice," said a bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices PS Narasimha and J B Pardiwala.

"I am personally averse to sealed covers. There has to be transparency in court... This is about implementing orders. What can be secret here," the CJI said.

While hearing the Indian Ex-Servicemen Movement's plea over OROP dues, the SC said the Centre is duty-bound to comply with its 2022 judgement on the payment of OROP arrears to ex-service personnel, and asked it to pay dues for 2019-2022 worth ₹28,000 crore to them by February 28 next year.

The SC, March 13, came down heavily on the government for "unilaterally" deciding to pay OROP dues in four instalments.



Politicians don't want abusive content!? Do they think we are trying to replace them!!??



Uproar in House over Class X paper 'leak'

OPPN DEMANDS MINISTER'S SCALP; DASH REFUTES CLAIM

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 20: The state Assembly Monday witnessed a pandemonium as Opposition BJP and Congress legislators disrupted the proceedings over alleged leak of the Mathematics paper on the last day of the ongoing Class X examination or matriculation. School

EVALUATION TO START APRIL 3 BHUBANESWAR: The Board of Secondary Education (BSE), Odisha,

will begin the evaluation of answer papers for the matriculation examination April 3. BSE president Ramasis around 5 lakh studer Hazra sa

action was taken. Today, again matriculation question paper was leaked in Puri district much before the commencement of examination. So, we were forced to disturb the Question Hour."

It is a sensitive matter. But the government is mum. So, the meritorious students will be affected, he said, demanding that the

Leopard mauls woman to death⁻

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nuapada, March 20: A 68-year-old woman was mauled to death by a leopard at Jalamadei village inside Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary under Komna block here, PCCF (Wildlife) Sushil Kumar Popli said Monday.

It was earlier said by the department that the woman was killed in an attack by a Royal Bengal Tiger (RBT) Sunday. "It was a leopard and not a tiger," Popli said.

Sanamati Barik had gone to collect firewood near her home Sunday when she was attacked and dragged away by the big cat.

When she did not return home, her family members launched a



'Gopal disclosed

mental disorder'

Bhubaneswar: Gopal Das, who

to police department about his

killed Health Minister Naba Das,

had submitted medical documents

treatment for psychiatric disorder

(Bipolar Affective Disorder) twice

after his unauthorised absence

from duty. This was informed by

Tusharkanti Behera in Assembly

Monday. Gopal, who served as a

police ASI, remained 'absent' from

duty twice. He later submitted his

fitness certificate, Behera said.

leave citing treatment for his

mental disorder, he said.

However, Gopal never applied for

Minister of State for Home

tially-eaten body in the jungle Monday morning. Initially, the Sunabeda forester Siba Prasad Khamari said that based on preliminary investigation it appeared to be an attack by a RBT.

'From the pattern of eating the flesh and sucking of blood from the body, it seems the attack was not by a leopard but by a RBT," he said. It was, however, negated by the PCCF (Wildlife).

The presence of RBTs in the forest is not confirmed. But leopards are known to exist in it, he said.

Popli said Forest officers are monitoring the movement of the Sanamati Barik, 68, had gone to leopard and local people have been collect firewood near her home when asked not to enter the forest. The woman's family will be given comshe was attacked and dragged away pensation as per the law, he added.

				SHORE WARE IN
IN	DEX		VARI	ATION
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	NIFTY	16988.40	₽	111.65
CURRENCY	DOLLAR	82.68		₹0.07
CURR	EURO	88.52		₹0.50
ION	GOLD	₹59,287	₽	₹96
BULLION	SILVER	₹68,500	₽	₹1

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d Max	32.0°C	33.0°	
[₽] MIN	17.3°C	17.0°	≍ Forecast
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Rainfall	6.2mm	5.2mm	moderate rain

and Mass Education (S&ME) Minister Samir Ranjan Dash, however, denied the allegation.

When the House assembled for the day at 10.30 am, Leader of the House and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik moved the obituary reference to condole the death of former MLA from Jharsuguda. Birendra Pandey Sunday

Soon after, the BJP and Congress members trooped to the Speaker's podium and created a ruckus alleging leakage of the Mathematics paper of the Class X board examination. Showing the photocopies of the Mathematics question paper which reportedly was doing the rounds on social media, the Opposition members demanded

resignation of the S&ME Minister. Speaker Bikram Keshari Arukha requested the BJP and Congress members to participate in the Question Hour and raise the issue appeared for the examination and barring some mistakes, the exam passed off smoothly. "Evaluation of answer scripts will be held at 56 centres starting April 3," he said Teachers, who will be engaged in the evaluation exercise, will be given the necessary training, he added. P3

during Zero Hour. However, the Opposition legislators continued their protest without paying any heed to the Speaker's request. In such a situation, the Speaker adjourned the proceedings till 4pm without transacting any business except the obituary. However, normalcy returned to the House in the post-lunch session. Speaking to media outside the

Assembly, BJP Chief Whip Mohan Majhi alleged, "Although the Leader of Opposition had earlier raised the leak of question papers of History and Political Science subjects, no Minister should admit it and resign.

Alleging a question paper leak racket is active in the state, Congress legislator Taraprasad Bahinipati said proper investigation needs to be done in this direction and strong action should be taken against the persons involved in it.

Bahinipati said that the government is playing with the future of students. He, too, demanded the resignation of the School and Mass Education Minister over the issue.

On the other hand, the minister denied the Opposition's allegation and said he had talked with the Puri Collector, board officials and district education officer but there was no information on the paper paper.

BJP leader Mohan Maihi said that the minister was giving 'false information'. He accused Dash of 'misleading' the House about the leak as questions have already gone viral.

frantic search and found her parby the big cat

SHORT TAKES

Mehul Choksi now off **Interpol's Red Notice**

NEW DELHI: The name of fugitive diamantaire Mehul Choksi wanted in a ₹13,000-crore scam in the Punjab National Bank is understood to have been removed from the Interpol database of Red Notice on the basis of his plea to the Lyonheadquartered agency, people in the know of it said. The CBI remained tight-lipped on the issue. The Red Notice is highest form of alert issued by the 195-member country-strong Interpol to law enforcement agencies worldwide to locate and provisionally arrest a person pending extradition. surrender, or similar legal action.

WHITE PAPER Crimes up by 14.65% in state

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 20: As many as 1,78,190 cases of cognizable offences were reported in 2022, which is 14.65 per cent more than those registered in 2021.

While 1,55,420 cognizable cases were registered in Odisha in 2021, the figure rose to 1,78,190 in 2022, as per White Paper of Home department tabled in Assembly Monday.

Out of the 1,78,190 cognizable offences, 1,69,735 were based on true incidents and chargesheets have been framed in 1.18.547 cases. it said. Out of the total cognizable cases, 1379 are murder cases, 626 dacoity, 2998 robbery, 5467 burglary, 14,893 theft, 5352 swindling, 2248 rioting, 3184 rape, 11,663 motor vehicle (MV) accident and 1,30,380 miscellaneous cases were reported in the state during 2022.

The state police, till December last, filed chargesheets in 640 murder, 329 dacoity, 1336 loot, 1800 burglary, 5859 theft, 1360 swindling, 1361 rioting, 2237 rape and 7151 MV cases

Out of 19 economic offence cases in 2022, chargesheets were filed in seven cases.

The state police has registered 1983 cybercrime cases in 2022, of which chargesheets were filed against 272 cases and 441 accused were arrested. Odisha has lodged 263 dowry cases in 2022 while chargesheets were filed against only 119 cases. Of 106 dowry related suicide cases, chargesheets were framed against 89. The overall LWE scenario in the state has remained well under control during 2022 and only 27 Maoist-related incidents were reported last year, it said.

How scandal, mistrust ended Credit Suisse's 166-year run

redit Suisse Group AG, once one of the stalwarts of the global financial system, is no more.

After tense talks over the weekend, UBS Group AG agreed to buy Credit Suisse in an all-share deal for about \$3.25 billion, less than the market value of troubled US lender First Republic Bank. The government-brokered sale marks the Swiss bank's final fall from grace, succumbing to a crisis of confidence that threatened to spread to global financial markets.

For 166 years, Credit Suisse helped position Switzerland as a linchpin of international finance and went toe-to-toe with Wall Street titans before a steady drumbeat of scandals, legal issues and management upheaval undermined investor confidence. While the decay was years in the making, the end came quickly.

In the aftermath of the collapse

of Silicon Valley Bank last weekend, long-suffering Credit Suisse quickly became a focal point of concern. After top shareholder Saudi National Bank told Bloomberg Television Wednesday that it would "absolutely not" invest more in the lender, a rout was on

A \$54 billion financing backstop from the Swiss central bank - sealed in the dead of night Thursday to calm jitters - failed to become the lifeline Credit Suisse had hoped. With the country's banking sector at risk, Swiss authorities stepped in to push UBS to become a reluctant white knight.

The Swiss government "regrets that CS wasn't able to master its own difficulties - that would have been the best solution," Finance Minister Karin Keller-Sutter said at a press conference in Bern Sunday. "Unfortunately, the loss of confi-

dence from the markets and cus-

Suisse is the bi gest casualty of financial turmoil triggered by central



tomers was no longer able to be halted. **BURNING BED**

The seeds of Credit Suisse's rise and eventual downfall were sown in the summer of 1990 when then-Chief Executive Officer Rainer

Gut saw a chance to take control of the Swiss bank's US partner, First Boston, for a modest capital injection and backstopping bad loans. First Boston had embraced highvield debt markets during the 1980s

and lent billions of dollars to fund

risky buyout transactions. The once-lucrative industry had imploded, and one of the most problematic deals was a \$457 million loan for the leveraged buyout of Ohio Mattress Co. The failed financing would go down in Wall Street infamy as "the burning bed."

In the wake of the takeover, Credit Suisse embraced the same kinds of risky businesses - such as leveraged finance and mortgagebond trading - that led to the burning bed deal. Subsequent leaders of the Swiss lender pushed through numerous overhauls, eventually dropping the once-proud First Boston name in 2006

The takeover was part of an aggressive growth strategy, including acquisitions of Swiss rivals, and the complexity kept growing. After succeeding Gut as CEO, Lukas Muehlemann bought Winterthur Insurance Co. in 1997. The Swiss bank then acquired Donaldson.

Lufkin & Jenrette Inc. in 2000, but the deal for the New York-based investment bank turned out to be an expensive misstep, as several of DLJ's top-producing bankers left for rivals in short order.

Winterthur was then sold in 2006 by then-CEO Oswald Gruebel, who ran the bank alongside John Mack for a brief stretch. Frequent management changes created strategic turmoil at the top, while adding pressure on the rank and file to generate returns

CUT AND PASTE

In 2015, a fraud perpetrated by a private banker who had no clients and no banking experience before ioining Credit Suisse was exposed. In the aftermath of the market turmoil of 2008, Patrice Lescaudron a soft-spoken Frenchman - started surreptitiously dipping into a wealthy client's account, using the money to try to win back losses for other customers. Contd...P4





SYDNEY REACTS TO HER ONLINE TROLLING

Euphoria actress Sydney Sweeney, who was once ostracised for her earlier physical growth, opened up about the mental health struggle she went through due to online bullying. She said that now she has learned to take best advantage of her visuals and photogenic skills to overcome the same.

TYGA'S \$80,000 GIFT TO AVRIL

Tyga has gifted his girlfriend Avril Lavigne a custom-made diamond necklace worth \$80,000 from Mavani & Co. Jewelry. The couple's month long relationship seems to be getting more than casual as the duo gets to know each other.



FORTUNE FORECAST



Today is payback time. Just look around you and count the marvellous blessings

that the almighty has showered on you both on the personal and professional fronts. You will thus want to arrange a small thanksgiving meeting with those close to you.

TAURUS

The desire to rule your community, your neighbourhood is likely to get hold of you, today. Don't get carried away by the idea and go bossing around. No one is likely to appreciate your acting high and mighty. Be sure. You will be creating a lot of ene mies. Ganesha urges you to reject such thoughts and wait for the evening.

GEMINI

Your career is finally on track and your dreams don't look too distant any more. A candlelit dinner with your spouse will leave you wanting for more. And you shall get more. A night to remember indeed. Ganesha, however, warns you to hold your horses or an imminent accident awaits you.

CANCER

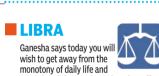
Today, you will be keenly observing the games that people play. But your paranoia will work against you. Certain people are likely to use it to manipulate you and fluence important decisions

LEO

You will demonstrate your skills of networking at the workplace today. At the end of the day you will be afforded the help of some friend or colleague to reduce your workload. You will be able to tide through the day easily if you are able to make some compromises, savs Ganesha

VIRGO

You will end up spending the whole day at work today, making detailed plans for the future. While taking important decisions. Ganesha says, keep your partner informed. Whenever needed, also take the consent of your family to avoid any misunderstandings in the future. It will surprise you to receive the mature advise of your partner



Rajkummar banks on word of mouth

mouth."

The actor made an ex-

ample out of Kantara and

said that he might be sit-

ting in Mumbai, and then

ten other people were

checking with him if he

Language is no longer

had seen Kantara.

Mumbai: Rajkummar Rao is gearing up for the release of his film, Bheed. He said the best PR for a medium-budget film is word of mouth. Citing the example of Kantara, the actor said a mediumbudget movie can pull audiences to theatres if the

a barrier, added the narrative is 'engaging'. National Award winner. The actor said, "The good thing is peo-"Especially for a mediumple now also expect us to budget film, if you do not focus on our stories. All languages tell stories. The give them a big-canvas story has to be engaging; experience, you have to give them (the audience) it has to tell something, something different and he said engaging. Only then can Directed by Anubhav you talk about a film. Sinha the film is set to Right now, I feel the only be released March 24. PR that is left is word of AGENCIES

Bhumi: There is no Planet B

Delhi: The climate warrior and social activist, Bhumi Pednekar, who recently joined UNDP as the first National Advocate of India, has also extended her hands to join PVR Limited, the largest and the most premium cinema exhibition company in India to spread awareness among its patrons about the harmful effects of climate change, inspiring them to make sustainable lifestyle choices to help conserve the environment.

Bhumi said, "I am thrilled to be a part of a focused sustainability campaign by PVR Cinemas. As leaders in the multiplex exhibition space, their initiatives to

reduce power consumption and usage of green measures. There is no Planet Bso the turn to act is now before it's too late.

Among various initiatives being undertaken by PVR, one of the recent ones is the introduction of uniforms made from fabric woven out of yarn from recycled PET bottles. In a span of just 9 months, PVR has been instrumental in recycling 38,000 PET bottles on account of enabling 1000 of its staff to wear sustainable uniforms made out of this fabric (65% recycled polyester and 35% cotton). Going forward,

all mainstream cinema uniforms will be replaced by these uniforms, it was learnt



'Being happy is important than being successful'

Mumbai: On the International Day of Happiness (March 20), actress Avika Gor, who is making her Hindi film debut with Vikram Bhatt's 1920: Horrors of the Heart, spoke about what makes her happy and how she stays positive and mo-

tivated in life. The actress asserts that being happy is more important than being successful.

She said, "Being happy is way more important than being successful, because if you are really happy and you know that, it reflects on your quality of work, then success just follows. That's why I'm a true believer in something like that. So I do stand by it.'

Happiness is also related to health and wellness, as she said, "They say that we should do things for ourselves, not just workwise but also healthwise and stay fit. I think happiness is something that, you know, makes us feel good about ourselves and about our

I am a complete outsider: Adah

Mumbai: Actress Adah Sharma, who marked her silver screen presence with debut film 1920, recently opened up in an interview about being a complete outsider to the film industry. She also shared her biggest learning over the year.

She was asked if she ever felt inhibition in her career due to the 'first move advantage' of actors from film families. She responded, "I try to destroy any feeling that makes me feel self-pity for not being from a film family, because that means that I don't respect the womb I was born in. I feel huge levels of gratitude that I am a complete outsider but still have a really large audience that supports me unconditionally."

Sharing her biggest learning over the vears, she said, "The industry tries very hard to change you and make you a replica of someone else who has been successful. My understanding is that you don't have to thin your eyebrows. Leave them thick, wear them with confidence, and then everyone will want bushy evebrows.'

The actress has The Kerala Story, which is based on true events and Commando 4 in her upcoming pipeline.

AGENCIES

take a break from your work and go off or a vacation. This trip, which you will take, will be beneficial to you and will increase your knowledge and experience. You will find satisfaction and happiness in your personal relationship

Our Bastor was

born in 1930.

lives. So it is very important healthy body.

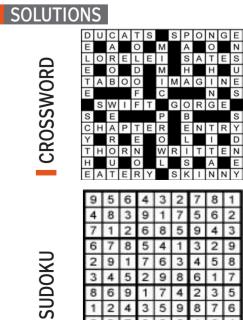
FUN

to have that mental peace and satisfaction to develop a AGENCIES

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.

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5	3	7	8	2	6	1	9	4	

SCORPIO

According to Ganesha, you may just be happy basking in the glory of successful business deals. Focus on your target and there's lot more in store for you on the career front. Sometimes, it's all right to pamper your beloved with precious gifts, and for this you may end up splurging today.

SAGITTARIUS

In your case, the progress will grow two folds today. You will accomplish all the tasks that you take up. Also, you will acknowledge all the people you have con tributed in your success story. Keep a watch when splurging on your near and dear ones, says Ganesha.

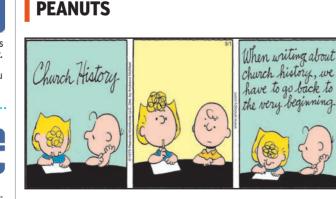
CAPRICORN

Every venture is fraught with risks and accompanied by uncertainties, but if you have any inclination to start one of your own today, you won't be in two minds about it, says Ganesha. For the professionals, the day may bring recognition and accolades

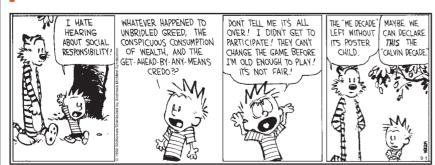
It's time to have a riot with friends! You don't always have to be goody twoshoes. Do something you've never done before and break a few of those self-made rules. Watch how you suddenly become irresistible to one and all, says Ganesha.

PISCES

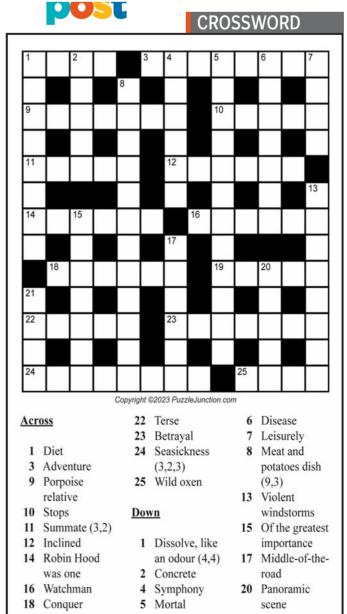
You will be busy dealing with minor conflicts throughout the day. You will need time to come out these conflicts even after they have been resolved. You need to quard against your mood swings if you wish to make progress on the work-front



CALVIN AND HOBBES







CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW





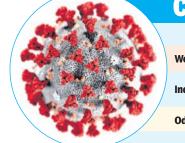


downtown



FARMERS ON WARPATH

Members of Naba Nirman Krushak Sangathan staged a protest near PMG Square in Bhubaneswar, Monday, alleging exploitation by millers and demanding pension for farmers



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
orld	68,25,67,355	65,54,88,717	68,19,943
lia	4,46,96,338	4,41,59,182	5,30,806
lisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204

HSC EVALUATION TO START APRIL 3

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 20: The Board of Secondary Education (BSE), Odisha, will begin the evaluation of answer papers for the matriculation examination April 3.

BSE president Ramasis Hazra Monday said that around 5 lakh students appeared for the examination and barring some mistakes, the exam passed off smoothly.

"Evaluation of answer scripts will be held at 56 centres," Hazra stated. Teachers, who will be engaged in the evaluation exercise, will be given the necessary training, he added.

Meanwhile, School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash rubbished the allegation of question paper leak from Puri.



BIG RELIEF: Students leave Unit-9 Capital Girls' High School, Bhubaneswar in an exuberant mood as the annual High School Certificate Examination concludes, Monday

State able to meet avg peak power: Deb

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 20: With the present capacity of generating 7,920 MW power, the state is able to meet the average peak power of around 4,500-5,000 MW conveniently, said state Energy Minister Pratap Keshari Deb while addressing the media at Geeta Govinda Sadan here, Monday.

In order to provide 24x7 quality and reliable power supply to all consumers, Energy department has been taking several measures for power generation, transmission and distribution sectors, said the minister.

Odisha Power Generation Corporation (OPGC) has added 1.320 MW to its capacity in 2019 to ensure energy security for the state. Transmission and Distribution (T&D) infrastructure has grown commensurately with the increase

in number of consumers as well as growing demand from industrial and service sectors, said Deb.

Giving a detailed note on Budget 2023-24, the minister said that the transmission system availability is more than 99.9 per cent in last 10 years. Provisions have been made in the Budget to address low voltage issues in some pockets of the last mile consumers. "We have launched a new Renewable Energy Policy during Make in Odisha (MiO) Conclave 2022. Budgetary March 2024 to address the low-volt-

provisions have been made to implement that policy. In this budget, ₹50 crore has been provided for Green Energy Evacuation Corridor (new scheme). Another ₹50 crore has been provided for Odisha Renewable Energy Development Fund (new scheme). We have kept a target to add more than 10,000-MW renewable energy capacity in the state by 2030.

The minister further spoke about two umbrella schemes - Chief Minister's Power Development Programme (CMPDP) with an allocation of ₹1.446.50 crore and Chief Minister's Energy Conservation Programme (CMECP) with an allocation ₹272.60 crore – by consolidating ongoing schemes & proposed new schemes. This apart. more than 100 33/11 KV sub-stations shall be commissioned by

age issues. For ensuring disaster resilient power infrastructure, schemes like Radial to Ring Conversion Project (RRCP Phase-II), State Capital Region Improvement of Power System (SCRIPS), Disaster Resilient Power System (DRPS Phase-II) are planned for implementation and a budget provision of ₹477 crore has been kept collectively, Deb said.

Moreover, under CMECP, a budget provision of ₹250 crore has been made for Household Energy Efficiency Programme (new scheme) with an objective of promoting use of energy efficient home/household appliances. About 1,000 energy clubs are actively operating in schools as part of energy conservation and energy efficiency awareness programme. It is proposed to have such clubs in all high schools.

Open RTI portals: Apex court tells High Courts

Only the High Courts of Odisha, Delhi and Madhya Pradesh have set up websites for RTI while Karnataka uses the state govt's portal

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, March 20: The Supreme Court Monday directed all the High Courts (HCs) in the country to set up online Right to Information (RTI) portals to facilitate supply of adequate information.

A three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud expressed surprise over HCs not having online RTI portals even after 17 years of the enactment of RTI Act, 2005, and asked the registrar generals of the HCs to seek directions from their respective Chief Justices for establishment of such portals for district judiciary also. The bench noted that the provisions of RTI Act, state that a person who desires to get information shall do so via an application physically or through electronic means.

"All High Courts shall establish online RTI portals within three months from today. High Courts can formulate adequate provisions to facilitate supply of adequate information. Information to be passed onto the secretary generals of High Courts for administrative directions from the Chief Justices (of HCs). Same directions to be sought from Chief Justice for the district judiciary," the bench directed.

The bench noted in its order that HCs of Odisha, Delhi and Madhya Pradesh have set up online portal for RTI. However, no HC has set up RTI portals for district courts. "After a lapse of 17 years, some



A three-judge bench headed by the Chief Justice expressed surprise over HCs not having online RTI portals even after 17 years of the enactment of the Act

High Courts still await to operationalise the websites for this purpose. Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa High Courts have established website for RTI. Karnataka uses the state government portal," the bench said in its order.

The bench also comprising Justices PS Narasimha and JB Pardiwala passed the order on a petition filed by non-government organisation Pravasi Legal Cell seeking online RTI portals for all HCs and district courts.

As per the petition the lack of online filing of RTI applications causes many issues, including for NRIs. "RTI Act provides a legal mechanism to enforce and implement the citizen's right to information guaranteed under Article 19(1)(a) and Article 21 of the Constitution of India. The present system of submitting RTI applications and corresponding reply from the concerned information officer in physical form take more time which in turn reduces the efficiency of the entire RTI mechanism thus de-

feating the very purpose of the legislation," the petition argued. The apex court had earlier issued notice to the state governments. It noted Monday that 18 states had filed their replies.

13 more steel plants on the anvil

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 20: As many as 13 steel plants with a total capacity of 64.28 MTPA will be set up in Odisha, Steel and Mines Minister Prafulla Mallick told the Assembly Monday

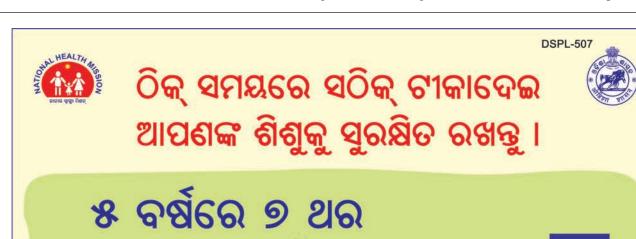
Replying to a question from Padmini Dian (BJD), the minister said the upcoming greenfield projects are proposed to be set up at Barbil, Karakolha, Keonihar. Mahadeiioda and Navagarh in Keonjhar district, Banarpal in Angul, Mahakalapara in Kendrapara, Dhinkia in Jagatsinghpur, with two at Kalinganagar in Jajpur district, Lathikata and Bonai in Sundargarh district and Rairangpur in Mayurbhanj district. Mallick said while Arya Iron & Steel Company Private Limited has

proposed to set up its plant at Barbil, JSW Utkal Steel Limited will set up a plant at Dhinkia, Orissa Alloy Steel Private Limited and Beekay Utkal Steel Industries Limited at Kalinganagar, Envirocare Infraresolution Private Limited at Lathikata, Fedders Electric & Engineering Limited at Bonai and Rungta Mines Private Limited at

Rairangpur. Similarly, Rungta Mines Limited has proposed to set up steel plants at

Steel and Mines Minister Prafulla Mallick informed the House that the state govt has auctioned 41 mines out of which 23 have become operational

of which 23 have become operational. Similarly, the process is on for auction of five more mines while 10 more



Karakolha and Keonjhar, Siddhiriddhi International Private Limited at Mahadeijoda, Orissa Metaliks Limited at Nayagarh, Jindal Steel Odisha Limited at Banarpal and Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India Limited at Mahakalpara.

The minister said the state government has auctioned 41 mines out mines are in pipeline to be auctioned. Mallick told the Assembly that the five mines for which the process is on for auction include Kendudihi North iron ore block, (Keonjhar), Bhanjikusum Manganese block, Kusumdihi Manganese, Kedesala iron ore north-east block and Orahuri Manganese block, all in Sundargarh

'Pakhala' wins hearts with lip-smacking side dishes



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 20: Odisha Monday observed 'Pakhala Dibas' and relished the traditional probiotic dish 'Pakhala' with a variety of delicious side dishes

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and many dignitaries greeted the people of Odisha as the state observed the 'Pakhala Dibas'.

'Pakhala' is a term derived from Sanskrit word 'Prakhyala' meaning 'to wash with water'. Pakhala is also one of the favourite 'Prasads' of Lord Jagannath.

Taking to twitter, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said: "Pakhala is among the best dishes of Odisha. It is unique to our food diversity. While

OTDC prepared special menu at its Nimantran restaurant in Capital city and Puri, and Panthanivas

greeting all on Pakhala Dibas, I called upon all the spread the importance of Odia dishes.³

Odisha Tourism department and Odisha Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC) prepared special menu at its Nimantran restaurant here and Puri, and Panthanivas in Capital city where they offered many varieties of the watery dish, such as 'Paani Pakhala', 'Subasa Pakhala', 'Tava Pakhala', 'Malliphula Pakhala', 'Ghia Pakhala', 'Basi Pakhala', S'aja Pakhala', 'Dahi Pakhala', 'Chipuda

Pakhala', 'Mitha Pakhala', and 'Jeera Pakhala'. Tourism Minister Ashwini Kumar Patra attended the event at Panthanivas and relished Pakhala with others.

Many hotels prepared special 'Pakhala' platters that include 'Tanka Torani', 'Koli Achara', 'Lia Pampad', 'Kadali Bhaja', 'Vegetable Paga', 'Kadali Bhaja', 'Panasa Kasa', 'Chhatu Poda', 'Gota Potala Masala', 'Mutton Kassa', 'Chingudi Chhecha' and 'Mitha Chadchadi'.

Social media platforms were flooded with a large number of people posting pictures of them celebrating the special day.

Not only people from Odisha but the Odia community across the globe celebrated the day. A delegation of environmentalists from Odisha including Soumya Ranjan Biswal, who works for safety of Oilive Ridley turtles, was treated with Pakhala by Odia community and members of The Odisha Society of The Americas in USA. Biswal tweeted, "Pakhala Dibas in America. Huge thanks to the Odia couple Gyana Dash and Archana Dash for hosting and sharing this taste of authentic food that brings the essence of our culture and emotions to all Odia delegates during our stay in USA."

The Saheed Nagar Durga Puja Committee also celebrated the day by hosting a community Pakhala feast which was attended by several political leaders of the state.



ଟୀକାକରଣ ସୂଚୀ

ବୟସ	ଟୀକା	
ଜନ୍ମ ସମୟରେ	ବିସିକି,ଓପିଭି, ହେପାଟାଇଟିସ୍- ବି (କନ୍କ ମାତ୍ରା)	
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୧୦ ସସ୍ତାହ (ଅଢେଇ ମାସ)	ଓପିଭି₋୨,ପେୡାଭାଲେୡ−୨,ଆର୍ଭିଭି−୨	
୧୪ ସସ୍ତାହ (ସାଢେ ତିନି ମାସ)	ଓପିଭି-୩, ପେୡାଭାଲେୡ-୩ ,ଏଫ୍ଆଇପିଭି-୨,ଆର୍ଭିଭି-୩,ପିସିଭି-୨	
୯–୧୨ମାସ	ଏମ୍ଆର୍-୧,ଭିଟାମିନ୍-କ***, ପିସିଭି ବୁଷ୍ଟର, ଜେଇ-୧**, ଏଫ୍ଆଇ୍ପିଭି-୩	23
୧ <i>୬</i> -୨୪ମାସ	ଏମ୍ଆର୍-୨,ଭିଟାମିନ୍-କ ***, ଡିପିଟି ବୁଷ୍ର-୧, ଓପିଭି ବୁଷର-୧,କେଇ-୨**	6/22
୫ <i>−୬</i> ବର୍ଷ	ଡିପିଟି ବୁଷ୍ର-9	3/017
୧୦ ବର୍ଷ	ଟି.ଡି	03/1
୧ <i>୬</i> ବର୍ଷ	ଟି.ଡି	OIPR-10003/13/0176/2223
ଗର୍ଭବତୀ ମହିଳା	ଟି.ଡି-୧, ଟି.ଡି-୨, ଟି.ଡି ବୃଷର*	OIPF

\star ଯଦି ୩ ବର୍ଷ ଭିତରେ ଟିଟି/ଟିଡି ଟିକାର ଦୂଇଟି ମାତ୍ରା ନେଇଥିବେ ।

**କେବଳ ଜେଇ ପ୍ରବଶ ଜିଲ୍ଲା ମାନଙ୍କ ନିମନ୍ତେ

***ଭିଟାମିନ୍-କ ୯ ମାସରୁ ଆରମ୍ଭ ହୋଇ ୫ ବର୍ଷ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟତ ପ୍ରତି ୬ମାସ ବ୍ୟବଧାନରେ ଦିଆଯାଏ ।

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downtown

CHIT FUND SCAM

State reports 1st Covid hospitalisation this yr

The state has reported

positive cases during the

number of positive cases

informed director public

strengthened its LI (influenza-like

illness) and SARI (severe acute

respiratory infections) surveil-

Anyone, who develops symp-

health Niranjan Mishra

past 24 hours. The total

rose to 52 in Odisha,

another 10 Covid

Bhubaneswar, March 20: After a gap of more than four months, the state has reported hospitalisation of a Covid-19 infected patient, officials said Monday

According to sources, the Covid positive patient from western Odisha has been admitted to the Veer Surendra Sai Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR), Burla in Sambalpur district as his health deteriorated. He is now under treatment in the isolation ward of the medical college. A special team of doctors has been formed for his treatment.

"After seeing media reports, we have asked the concerned authorities to share the details of the patient. We will examine which variant of Covid-19 has infected him and whether he was suffering from any other disease or not, director health services, Bijay Mohapatra said.

Following the Centre's instruc-



sore throat, should isolate himself and go for Covid-19 tests, advised

> ported another 10 Covid positive cases during the past 24 hours. The total number of positive cases rose to 52 in Odisha, informed director public health Niranjan Mishra. "However, there is no need to worry. We are testing more than

4,000 Covid tests each day. Our test positive rate has also remained below the national rate," Mishra said. Earlier, the state health secretary, Shalini Pandit had asked all public health labs in 30 districts to continuously monitor the trend of ILI and SARI cases besides H1N1 and H3N2 surveillance. The district-level disease surtion, the Odisha government has

veillance units have been asked to remain in readiness and constantly monitoring the situation. Labs have been kept ready to handle the surge, if the situation arises. sources said.

New Delhi, March 20: Taking on record Centre's application for payment to depositors duped by the Sahara group, Supreme Court Monday said that it would appoint a retired apex court judge to supervise the process of disburse-

POST NEWS NETWORK

ment of money. A two-judge bench of Justices MR Shah and CT Ravikumar reserved its order on an application filed by Union government seeking transfer of ₹5,000 crore from SEBI-Sahara account to Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies for payment to depositors duped by the Sahara group.

The apex court will pronounce order March 27. The court indicated that the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies would also be part of the committee and the court can also appoint an amicus curiae to assist the retired judge.

The bench has also sought suggestions from senior advocate Kapil Sibal and other advocates appearing in the matter with respect to transparency in disbursement of money.



During the hearing, solicitor general Tushar Mehta had submitted that ₹23.937 crore has been lying unutilised in the SEBI-Sahara account. He advocated for the disbursement of amount to depositors duped by Sahara group. Mehta argued that amount shall be deposited in the bank accounts of the depositors in order to maintain transparency and there shall be verification of receipts.

Justice MR Shah, however, observed during the hearing that the

he apex court will pronounce order March 27. It can also appoint an amicus curiae to assist the retired judge

he bench has also sought suggestions from senior advocate Kapil Sibal and other advocates appearing in the matter on transparency in disbursement of money

taken under consideration.

"We are interested in ensuring that the investors get their money,' Mehta submitted. He argued that in case of cooperative societies, there are verified depositors, whose money was duped.

The solicitor general also told the apex court that a meeting of 18 departments, including Cooperation department, ED, SFIO, Income Tax and ministry of Corporate Affairs was held with discussions on pavment of money to depositors.

The meeting was also attended by the Union ministers and agencies were told to let the small investors get the money. Mehta submitted.

Agniveers' passing

out parade March 28

Bhubaneswar: The passing out parade

Continued from P1

lance system. he said.

How scandal, mis...

The deceptions were shockingly simple. He cut out the signature from a document, pasted it on trade orders and photocopied them, according to Lescaudron's own admission. There were red flags along the way, including verbal warnings and written cautions by supervisors in 2008, 2011 and twice in 2013 for breaching compliance policies. And vet Credit Suisse failed to stop him. He was convicted of fraud in 2018 and took his own life in 2020. As long as money was flowing, the bank indulged Lescaudron's bad behavior, according to an independent investigation commissioned by Finma, the Swiss banking regulator, though it stopped short of concluding that the bank

knew of the fraud. **Boardroom Spying**

In January 2019, a long-festering feud between then-CEO Tidjane Thiam and Iqbal Khan, who ran wealth management and had his sights set on one day leading Credit Suisse, broke out into the open at a dinner in a wealthy suburb on Lake Zurich.

What started over a disparaging remark by Khan about Thiam's garden evolved into a lurid corporate scandal, shattering the company's reputation for discretion and exposing a culture in which personal vanities outweighed ethical and legal boundaries

deterioration in terms of trust, reputation and credibility among all our stakeholders.'

As part of an investigation prompted by the Khan episode, the Swiss banking regulator in October 2021 uncovered five additional cases of surveillance from 2016 to 2019. The toxic atmosphere at the top contributed to damaging opera-

tional missteps.

Trading Debacles

In March 2021, Credit Suisse's trading desk was informed that its biggest client wouldn't be able to pay the more than \$2 billion it owed the next day. Archegos Capital Management, the New York-based investment firm that managed billionaire Bill Hwang's personal fortune, had spent the previous two days settling up with other lenders after out-sized bets went bad, and there wasn't enough left for Credit Suisse

The news set off a blame game internally, with executives in New York, London and Zurich turning on one another instead of focusing on damage control. Rivals were quicker to sell off Archegos's collateral, and it took nearly two weeks for Credit Suisse to come up with an initial tally of its exposure: \$4.7 billion. It would eventually grow to \$5.5 billion, obliterating more than a year's profit and tipping the bank into the existential tailspin that led to last week's crisis of confidence. Executives were already under fire for failing to protect the

collapse by law firm Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison. Credit Suisse had a "lackadaisical attitude towards risk" and "failed at multiple junctures to take decisive and urgent action," the report concluded

The bank responded with a series of measures to fix the shortcomings and vowed to use the incident as a "turning point for its overall approach to risk management.

But time ran out.

Final Plan In October last year, the new leadership duo of Chairman Axel Lehmann and Chief Executive Officer Ulrich Koerner - who took charge last year after the fallout from the trading debacles - pitched a return to Credit Suisse's Swiss roots as the best way forward.

They culled jobs and raised \$4 billion in fresh capital. Most importantly, they planned to carve out the investment banking operations and eventually spin off the revived First Boston unit to end a threedecade effort to compete on Wall Street. "The new Credit Suisse will definitely be profitable from 2024 onwards," Koerner said after presenting the restructuring plan. "We do not want to over promise and under deliver, we want to do it the

other way around." But the world wasn't standing still. The end of cheap money was over, the global economy was in

Handloom expo begins at Ekamra Haat

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 20: The state level special Handloom Expo at Ekamra Haat organised by Bovanika was inaugurated Monday. The Expo will continue till March

Principal Secretary, Handlooms, Textiles & Handicrafts Arabinda Kumar Padhee inaugurated the Expo in presence of Shovan Krishna Sahu, IRS, Director of Textiles & Handloom, Srikanta Prusty, Special Secretary to government, H, T & H Department & Managing Director, Boyanika.

Prakash Chandra Mehera, President, Boyanika and other officials

Speaking on this occasion, Padhee said, "The art of Handloom Weaving is highly evolved and its fabrics bear testimony to the artistic ability and tradition of weavers of the state as well as whole country. Handloom Expo is organized with an objective to showcase & sell different handloom products of the state.'

The Expo is sponsored by Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, 40 nos, of

Leading PWCS/SHG/Master Craftsman of the state and 20 nos. of Handloom agencies from outside state along with Boyanika are participating in the Expo. The Exhibition will remain open from 11:00am to

disbursement of amount should

be to the eligible persons without

causing harassment. The bench

observed that people should not

Advocate Suresh Tripathy

submitted that the writ petition

pravers are concerned with

many other chit-fund compa-

To this, SG Mehta responded

that at present they are concerned

with the Sahara group depositors

and other depositions will also be

face any difficulties.

nies based in Odisha.

9:00pm on all days. Apart from marketing Odisha Handwovens, Boyanika is committed to all round socio-economic development of weavers of the state. Boyanika will go on exploring every new horizon for expanding its market in and outside the state in the coming years.



of Agniveers who underwent training at INS Chilka under 'Agnipath' scheme will be held March 28. Admiral R Hari Kumar, PVSM, AVSM, VSM, ADC, chief of the naval staff would be the chief guest and the reviewing officer of the passing out parade. The Indian Navv inducted its maiden batch of Agniveers (men & women) in November 22. The Induction of women in Indian Navy as Agniveers witnessed women undergoing 16 weeks of ab-initio training at the premier training establishment of Indian Navy, INS Chilka which transforms the 'Raw Recruits into Sea Warriors'. The training is based on core naval values of duty, honour and courage encompassing academic, service and outdoor training. The passing out parade of Agniveers (01/22 batch) is scheduled March 28 with the country ready to witness maiden night POP in the Indian Navy. The momentous event marks culmination of rigorous training in the life of Agniveers which shall be

Police gets data from DJ Azex's mobile phone

witnessed by plethora of renowned

Malik, Geeta Phogat, Mary Kom, PT

Usha and veteran sailors.

sports women personalities like Sakshi

Bhubaneswar: The Commissionerate Police Monday fetched vital clues from the mobile phone of the DJ Azex aka Akhsva Kumar Maharana who reportedly committed suicide in his room at

A few weeks after the dinner party, Khan was passed over for promotion and then quit in July. When he later accepted a job at UBS, the move caused concern in Credit Suisse's top ranks that he might poach key personnel. A private security firm was hired to monitor his activities, but was discovered by Khan in an incident that led to a physical altercation.

Although the bank rushed to dismiss the embarrassing incident it was soon revealed that it wasn't unique. Thiam was forced out in February 2020, with then-Chairman Urs Rohner blaming "a

bank and wealthy clients from the collapse of a \$10 billion suite of funds it ran with now-disgraced financier Lex Greensill. The twin episodes shocked the finance world but, in hindsight, they were decades in the making.

The bank's complexity, culture

and controls were to blame for the

massive Archegos loss, according

to an independent report into the

turmoil, and investor confidence was scarce - a combination that proved too much for a bank that never really learned its lesson from the global financial crisis.

"The banking sector isn't like any other sector." said John Plassard, investment specialist at Geneva-based Mirabaud. "Once trust is lost, you can't just rebuild it.'



APPRECIATING ARTISTRY: Handlooms, Textiles & Handicrafts principal secretary Arabinda Kumar Padhee checking out a handwoven saree at the state level Handloom Expo at Ekamra Haat in Bhubaneswar, Monday

Kharvelnagar area here late Saturday evening. "We first tried to get the password of the mobile phone used by the deceased Akshya Maharana. Fortunately, we managed to acquire the password today (Monday) and started a detailed analysis of the mobile phone and chats by him on various social media. We have almost fetched specific data on the basis of which we continue further investigation into the matter.

Now, more free diagnostic tests 3 held for assaulting NIDAAN **SCHEME** petrol pump staffers

CLASSIFIED

LOST

I Sarat Kumar Badatya, S/o. Laxman Badatva. Vill-Chikiti, PS-K.Nuagan, Ganiam District, say that, In year 2010 I purchased one land from Rina Beja but I lost anywhere the original documents and searched all possible places, but didn't got hand. For lost of documents lodge FIR at K.Nuagan Police Station on dated 26.02.2023, to know this for everyone to see in future.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 20: To ensure that the people of the state get qualitative universal healthcare, the state government has expanded the range of free diagnostic services available under Nidaan scheme, said Health & Family Welfare Minister Niranjan Pujari Monday.

Informing that there are 221 types of pathological tests available free of cost at Medical College and Hospitals (MC&Hs) of the state, the minister reiterated that these diagnostic services are assured under Nidaan scheme launched by the Chief Minister first January 2018. "The people, irrespective of their income level. are entitled to these free services at government hospitals and at health sub-centres.



Health and Family Welfare secretary Shalini Pandit said, "The list of essentials diagnostic tests will be modified keeping in view the state's priority and disease burden from time to time."

Pandit clarified that henceforth, the district head quarter hospitals would provide 145 types of tests, the sub-divisional hospitals would offer 121 types of tests, while the community health centres (CHCs) would provide 103 types of tests, primary health centres (PHCs) would offer 65 types of tests and the sub-centres would avail 16 types diagnostic tests free of cost to all patients.

The speciality and high-end pathological tests included in the list would be provided through credible outsourced agencies selected through Gem tender. The selected agency would establish required sample collection centres at district, sub-division, block, CHC

& PHC levels. The heads of health facilities have also been instructed to display the list of assured diagnostic services at prominent places of their respective facilities for public information and awareness.

Minister assured that the quality of free diagnostic services would be ensured through "appropriate external and internal quality control measures" as per national quality assurance standards.

In a notification the department had informed Saturday that the main objective of Nidaan is to ensure provision of quality diagnostics services in public health facilities as per the level of care so as to reduce the out of the pocket spending (OOPS) towards diagnostics through strengthening of public health facilities for tele-radiology (X-Ray), MRI and CT scan services at public health facilities.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 20: Police Monday arrested three miscreants for assaulting employees of a patrol pump at Kalpana Square under Badagada police station. The accused were identified as Manas Barik, Bikram Das and Chinmaya Khuntia of Satyanagar area under Saheed Nagar police limits.

"Monday afternoon, the accused Manas came to Kalpana Petrol pump and asked the staff to fill up petrol in his Bajaj Pulsar bike. Without asking the quantity required, the staff filled petrol worth ₹233 in Manas' bike," informed a police official.

After a heated argument over the matter, the staff extracted all the petrol from the bike. An enraged Manas left the place leaving his bike at petrol pump. He later again came back to the spot along with other accused persons, Bikram and Chinmaya who were armed with a sharp weapon (Pharsa). They started assaulting the employees who reportedly sustained minor injuries. As many as four persons sustained injuries in the incident.

The employees of the pump somehow managed the three accused and later handed over them to police. Police have started probe into the matter registering a case (153/23) in this regard.

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state

Andhra labourers roped in for **Odisha govt projects in Kotia**

arv wall around a state government

engage labourers from Andhra

Pradesh in the projects. They ques-

tioned the move saying how far it

is right to neglect the border vil-

The block administration is

aware of the matter but refused to

comment on the issue. When con-

tacted, a block official said that the

contractor is responsible for im-

plementation of the project and it

is he who engages the labourers.

state government, district and

block administrations are trying to

gain appreciation for implement-

ing developmental projects to pro-

vide livelihood opportunities to

This has come at a time when the

lagers and make them jobless.

Pradesh labourers.



POST NEWS NETWORK

Pottangi, March 20: The neighbouring state of Andhra Pradesh is regularly trespassing into Odisha villages on the fringes and trying to grab land by luring the locals with the benefits of various welfare schemes Not to be left behind, the Odisha

OrissaPOST

TUESDAY | MARCH 21 | 2023 | BHUBANESWAF

government is implementing several developmental projects in these villages to frustrate their bid and wean the locals off Andhra influence.

However, the authorities here are not involving the locals in these developmental works and instead engaging labourers from Andhra Pradesh during implementation of the projects. This has sparked tension and sharp resentment among the local residents.

The engagement of labourers from Andhra Pradesh in a developmental work being implemented in Tadibalsa village on the fringes of the neighbouring state and under Kotia panchayat of Koraput district is a case in this point.

The block administration has ordered for construction of a bound-

THIS HAS COME AT A TIME WHEN THE **STATE GOVT. DISTRICT ADMIN AND BLOCK** ADMIN ARE TRYING TO **GAIN APPRECIATION** FOR IMPLEMENTING **DEVELOPMENTAL PROJECTS IN KOTIA**

the residents.

owned school at Tadibalsa village. The opposition parties have ques-However, the block officials instead tioned that how far it is correct to of roping in the locals as labourers neglect the local residents in the deand providing them a livelihood velopmental projects especially are employing labourers from when the neighbouring Andhra Andhra Pradesh in the project. The Pradesh is launching a plethora money which could have gone into of schemes to lure the Odisha resthe hands of locals as wages is now idents to its side. Locals alleged passing onto the hands of Andhra that the block administration has connived with the contractor to Residents of Neredibalsa village usurp the government while the district administration has turned a close to Tadibalsa have questioned the wisdom behind the decision to blind eye to such wrongdoing.

A villager Samalu Khara of Tadibalsa village said that they are not getting any work despite various projects being implemented by the block administration. They approached the block officials in this regard but their pleas are yet to be addressed

Bimana Manik, another resident of Nredibalsa village alleged that this is regular phenomenon and the contractors of various developmental projects always engage the labourers from Andhra Pradesh instead of the local people who are jobless and seldom get any work when they visit Andhra Pradesh.



LITERACY PROGRAMME: Elderly women appearing for a literacy examination at Siallati UP School under Komna block in Nuapada district as part of a programme of the Union government

Tardy construction hits jumbo movement

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, March 20: Movement of elephants on National Highway-49 in Keonjhar district has been seriously affected due to delay in construction of an underpass at a proposed flyover bridge at Jagmohanpur on the highway.

This has sparked resentment among the locals and animal lovers. In a coordination meeting held on elephant protection, the Forest department had proposed for construction of an over bridge on the highway instead of passenger underpass (PUP) at Jagmohanpur as the route is regularly taken by the elephants to travel to their destinations all the year round.



National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) officials had agreed to construct the over bridge measuring one km in length and earmark a portion of the bridge measuring 532 metre in length for an underpass to facilitate smooth movement of the animals.

Meanwhile, two years have passed since the construction of the national highway but the NHAI authorities are vet to take any step

for construction of the over bridge. A tender inviting interested bidders for construction of the bridge is yet to be floated.

bridge has also seriously affected the movement of people on the highway. They have to inhale the unclean air owing to dust pollution on the highway.

returning to their village after

witnessing the Mandei Yatra

from Dhodra village. Police

seized the pick-up van, de-

tained the driver and launched

On being informed,

Nabarangpur Sub-Collector

visited the Umerkote hospital

and took stock of the treat-

ment of the minor. He also

gave away ₹60.000 to the be-

reaved family and ₹20,000 for

the kid after having a dis-

cussion with the district

Collector: He also assured that

an investigation.

The issue is being regularly discussed in the coordination meetings

held between the two government departments in regular intervals but no step has been taken yet in this regard. Locals alleged that the pachyderms are no less affected. The animals are facing a lot of problem while crossing the highway from one jungle to another. Delay in the over bridge construction has resulted in regular road mishaps on the highway leading to loss of lives and properties.

Locals have warned of an agitation if the NHAI authorities do not start the over bridge and underpass works soon.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

(1) Tender No. etender-East-KUR-460-2022, Dtd. 10.03.2023 460-2022, DTd. 10.02.2020 DESCRIPTION EXECUTION OF THROUGH RAIL RENEWAL FOR A LENGTH OF 8.00 KMS IN DIFFERENT PATCHES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER. (CUTTACK) OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISIO

Approx Cost of the Work (₹) : 103.4 Lakhs, EMD (₹) : 2,01,700.00, Completion Period : 06 (Six) Months.

(2) Tender No. etender-South-KUR 453-2022, Dtd. 09.03.2023

DESCRIPTION : PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF TRACK MAINTAINER ROOM CUM TOO ROOMS IN KHURDA ROAD - PALASA SECTION UNDER THE JURISDICTIO OF DIVISIONAL ENGINEER (SOUTH) KHURDA ROAD

Approx Cost of the Work (₹): 192.88 Lakh EMD (₹): 2,46,500.00, Co 12 (Twelve) Months

Tender Closing Date and Time : At 150 Hrs. of 05.04.2023 (For both the Tenders No manual offers sent by Post / Courie Fax or in person shall be accepted agains such e-tenders even if these are submitte on firm's letter head and received in tim All such manual offers shall be considered

invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration. Complete information including -tender documents of the abo e-Tender is available in websit

Water woe forces Tikiri women to take to the streets



POST NEWS NETWORK

Tikiri, March 20: Frustration among women over shortbut the reality shows an entirely different picture.

Roads were blocked at two spots ov residents of Dora Sahi and

Former Kodinga MLA dead

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kodinga, March 20: Former MLA Bhagabati Pujari of Kodinga Assembly segment in Nabarangpur district passed away at her native Duglahandi village under Koshagumuda block in the district, in the wee hours of Monday.

She was 63 and suffered a heart stroke. Pujari was religious, philanthropic and a good hearted person. Her husband, sons, daughters and other relatives were at her bedside during her death. Her last rites were performed in the presence of family members, villagers and public representatives. Notably, Pujari was elected to the state Assembly from Kodinga Assembly segment on a Congress ticket in 1985

Girl kills self for not doing well in HSC examination

3 members of a family killed in road mishap



POST NEWS NETWORK

Umerkote/Dhodra, March 20: At least three persons including a couple and their son were killed after a speeding pick-up van hit their bike near Bakdabeda under Umerkote

district died on the spot. Chaitanya's four-year-old son accompanying them sustained critical injuries in the mishap and was rushed to the Umerkote CHC for treatment. Later, the kid was shifted to SLN Medical

Dabugaon police limits in the

The delay in construction of the File No. DRM/Enga/KUR/22-23/E-Tende

age of drinking water in Tikiri area as they took to the streets holding water pots and buckets to call out the administrative apathy, Monday.

As per reports, for the last three months, residents of Tikiri panchayat under Kashipur block in Ravagada district have been grappling with water woes.

Stand posts have been installed for drinking water supply to every household in the area but the taps do not give out water. This has put the local people in a fix. The state government is spending crores of rupees for drinking water supply at Jhodia Sahi in Tikiri panchayat Harijan Sahi.

In the absence of adequate water supply, the people have to depend on the open stream water putting their health at risk of many waterborne diseases like diarrhoea. Local intelligentsia have demanded immediate steps to address the issue. Road traffic was affected due to the blockade staged by women.

After receiving information, police personnel arrived at the spot and tried to placate the protesting locals but to no avail. The women were adamant as they declined to go off the street until the administration promises them timely intervention into the problem.

Jajpur Town, March 20: A girl student here in

Jajpur district allegedly committed suicide by hanging for not performing well in the last two papers of her matriculation examination which concluded Monday.

The deceased was identified as Rashmibala Pahil, a student of Jajati Keshari High School at Bamadevpur (Barahata) in Jajpur district.

Reports said that the deceased girl had informed her family members that she could not perform well in the last two subjects of the ongoing matriculation examination. The girl lost her mental balance and ended her life by hanging herself with her scarf inside the house last night. The matter came to light Monday morning. Jajpur Town police sent the body for post mortem and launched an investigation.

App launched to track condition of pregnant women in Ganjam



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, March 20: Ganjam district administration Monday launched an app to track every pregnant woman for their timely tests and health checkups, an official said.

The aim of the initiative is to ensure better health for expectant mothers as well as their children. It will also help reduce the maternal mortality rate (MMR) in the district and track illegal abortions.

"We are committed to ensure better health of the expectant mother. With this user-friendly pregnancy tracking app,

expectant mothers can now get alerts for the important tests during the pregnancy period," Ganjam Collector Dibya Jyoti Parida said after launching the app - 'Nirikhyana'.

Besides pregnant women, the mobile app will also be made available to all ANMs (Auxiliary Nurse and Midwife) and Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs), who are tracking pregnant women from the beginning of their pregnancy.

Timely tests will help to diagnose and address health-related issues of pregnant women before they became more serious and to ensure safe delivery, Chief **BESIDES PREGNANT** WOMEN, THE MOBILE **APP WILL ALSO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ALL ANMS** AND ASHAs

District Medical Officer (CDMO) Uma Shankar Mishra said.

It will also help them stay connected with the healthcare provider to consult and seek suggestions at the time of need and for conducting free ultrasound tests, he said. The district administration provides free ultrasound tests of the expectant mother three times during their pregnancy following the doctor's advice.

The app will also help doctors get important information regarding the women's health and resources at their fingertips, said the CDMO.

By downloading the app on their mobile phones, expectant mothers can also track their pregnancy progress and learn about important stages. They can also connect with other pregnant women and healthcare professionals for guidance and support for smooth delivery, he said.

police limits in Nabarangpur district, Monday.

Budu Bhatra, 45, his wife Ratula, 43, and son Chaitanya, 25, of Motigaon village under

College and Hospital in Koraput for advanced treatment. The mishap occurred when the couple along with their son and the minor grandson was

all the expenses for the treatment of the kid will be borne by the state government. Post mortem will be conducted Tuesday, police said.

https://www.ireps.gov.in Note : The prospective tenderers ar advised to revisit the website 10 (Ter ays before the date of closing of tend note any changes / Corrige ued for this tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg) Khurda Roa R-1091/N/22-23

UTKAL GRAMEEN BANK POSSESSION NOTICE (Sponsored by State Bank of India) (For Immovable Property) Regional Business Office: Region-V, [See Rule-8-(1)] Bhawanipatna-766001, Dist.: Kalahandi

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Utkal Grameen Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Sarfaesi) Act. 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act. calling upon the Borrowers and Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice plus interest and expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The Borrowers/Guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealing with the said properties will be subject to the charge of the Utkal Grameen Bank for the amount stated below with interest, cost and incidental expenses thereon.

<u>CHICHEIGUDABRANCH</u> / Name & Address of the Borrowers / Guarantors	Description of the Security Interest taken over possession	Liabilities due on the specified date as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice / Possession Notice	
Late Barachi Kumar / Guarantor: Amruta Kabir, S/o.: Janiki Kabir, Both are At: Jamunabahal,	Mouza: Jamunabahal, Khata No.: 45/89, Plot No.: 226, Kissam: Gharabari, Area: Ac.0.10, standing in	₹ 5,50,317/- as on 16.03.2023 and further interest,	29.11.2022 / 17.03.2023	
P.O.: Bhejipadar, Dist: Kalahandi, PIN - 766014		cost, etc. thereon	17.05.2025	
Borrower: Sri Laxman Chalan, S/o.: Sri Baikuntha Chalan / Guarantor: 1) Sri Jhankar Ketan Chalan, S/o.: Laxman Chalan, Both are	1424, Kissam: Gharabari, Area: Ac.0.03, standing in	₹ 8,68,524/- as on 16.03.2023 and further interest,	13.01.2023 / 17.03.2023	
At/P.O.: Bhejiapadar, Dist: Kalahandi, PIN -	the name of Laxman Chalan	cost, etc. thereon		
766014, 2) Sri Harekrushna Meher, S/o.: Niranj	,			
Bhagatram Bagarty / Guarantor: Sri. Lambodar	All that Part & Parcel of the Property consisting of Mouza: Baghadungri, Khata No.: 114, Plot No.: 459, Kissam: Gharabari, Area: Ac.0.02, standing in the name of Bhagatram Bagarty	₹8,64,066/- as on 16.03.2023 and further interest, cost, etc. thereon	01.12.2022 / 17.03.2023	
Borrower: Sri Suresh Satnami, S/o.: Pareswar Satnami / Guarantor: Brushaba Satanami, S/o.: Teka Satanami, Both are At/P.O.: Kaliakundal, Dist: Kalahandi, PIN - 766014		₹ 4,72,505/- as on 16.03.2023 and further interest, cost, etc. thereon	29.11.2022 / 17.03.2023	
Borrower: Sri Binayak Harijan, S/o.: Goura Harijan / Guarantor: 1) Sri. Sujit Chandra Bag, S/o.: Balram Bag, 2) Sri Narendra Panigrahi, S/ o.: Chitrasen Panigrahi, All are At/P.O.: Pilikia, Dist: Kalahandi, PIN - 766014	All that Part & Parcel of the Property consisting of Mouza: Pilkia, Khata No.: 229/74, Old- 185, Plot No.: 385, Area: Ac.0.05, Plot No.: 384, Area: Ac.0.01 Dec, standing in the name of Binayak Harijan	₹ 4,62,666/- as on 16.03.2023 and further interest, cost, etc. thereon	29.11.2022 / 17.03.2023	
Borrower: Sri Hemanta Saraf, S/o.: Biswambar Saraf / Guarantor: Sri Parsuram Saraph, S/o.: Gautam Saraph, Both are At/P.O.: Pilikia, Dist: Kalahandi, PIN - 766014	All that Part & Parcel of the Property consisting of Mouza: Nuaguda, Khata No.: 316/66, Old- 6, Plot No.: 423/1387, Old-423, Kissam: Berna (Used for residential purpose), Area: Ac.0.06, standing in name of Hemanta Saraf	₹ 10,25,029/- as on 19.03.2023 and further interest, cost, etc. thereon	01.12.2022 / 20.03.2023	
Prasad Meher / Guarantor: Sri. Santaram Meher, S/o.: Shankar Meher, Both are At/P.O.: Checheiguda, Dist: Kalahandi, PIN-766014	All that Part & Parcel of the Property consisting of Mouza: Naktiguda, Khata No.: 172/125, Plot No.: 230/ 1750, Kissam: Gharabari, Area: Ac. 0.040, standing in name of Padmalochan Meher	₹ 9,50,728/- as on 19.03.2023 and further interest, cost, etc. thereon	29.11.2022 / 20.03.2023	
Digambar Saraf / Guarantor: 1) Sri Gajanan Saraf, S/o.: Sri Gopinath Saraf, 2) Sri Pramod	All that Part & Parcel of the Property consisting of Mouza: Nuaguda, Khata No.: 316/67, Plot No.: 423/1388, Kissam: Gharabari, Area: Ac. 0.06, Standing in name of Biprabhanjan alias and Bipraranjan Saraf	₹6,51,498/- as on 19.03.2023 and further interest, cost, etc. thereon	01.12.2022 / 20.03.2023	
Place: Bhawanipatna, Date: 20.03.2023 Sd/- Authorised Officer, Utkal Grameen Bank				



power post

FOCUS SVB COLLAPSE

The whole world yearns after freedom, yet each creature is in love with his chains; this is the first paradox and inextricable knot of our nature. SRI AUROBINDO



Parliament in Peril

The current logiam in the Parliament is nothing new. It has become an almost regular practice in recent times. Such ruckus is created for the benefit of either the Opposition or the ruling dispensation. All proceedings are stalled, pandemonium breaks out and no business, however important, can be transacted. This is a dangerous pattern of parliamentary behaviour being repeated over and over again. Ironically, both sides – the Treasury and the Opposition benches – cry themselves hoarse about the wastage of public money and the opportunity to speak for the people in the Parliament and inform them of momentous issues facing the country. Thus both sides are contributing in making the Parliamentary form of democracy despicable for the average citizen.

But, the stalemate this time has much more than meets the eye. This time both the Houses of Parliament are not working because of the BJP taking the initiative to stall all proceedings which apparently is triggered by reported remarks made by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during his recent tour in the UK that Indian democracy is under threat, blaming the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government for it. His exact words are: "Democracy in India is a global, public good. If Indian democracy collapses, in my view, democracy on the planet suffers a very serious, possibly fatal blow. So, it is important for you too. We will deal with our problem, but you must be aware that this problem is going to play out on a global scale."

He attributed this dangerous development to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) which, he claimed, has captured almost all of India's institutions.

These words are enough for the BJP to haul the Congress MP over the coals, accuse him of working against the country, instigating foreign powers to interfere with the internal affairs of the country and shaming India's democracy, Parliament, judicial system and her strategic security.

These allegations appear to be a travesty of truth and gross exaggeration. Available evidence suggests Rahul did not exhort foreign powers to meddle with Indian affairs. He is not being allowed to give his version in the Lok Sabha. On the contrary, Union Ministers have taken the lead in demanding he apologize to the House first for his remarks.

The matter could have been disposed of by seeking an explanation or clarification from the man himself and the Parliament could have carried out normal business. But, that is not to be. One BJP MP is even trying to terminate Rahul's Lok Sabha membership. This overreaction of the BJP is intended to stall the House so that the demand for investigation into the Adani scam does not gather strength.

The question is why the BJP is attaching so much importance to Rahul Gandhi and his so-called remarks when it considers him a "Pappu," a nonentity. Certainly, it could not be that it fears him politically for the simple reason that he has come across as a reluctant politician without the calibre to take on the mighty ruling party. The Opposition is in disarray and till date there are no signs that it may shape into a coherent alliance with the Congress forming the nucleus during the run-up to the elections next year. The irony is while the government urged the Speaker to form a commit-

tee to go into Rahul Gandhi's remarks, it is stonewalling all Opposition efforts to order a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the multibillion dollar share market scam and dubious monetary transactions involving Gautam Adani's group.

That appears to be the main reason for the parliamentary logjam so that the demand for the JPC can be shelved to the cold storage and the Opposition denied such a powerful weapon to go after the Modi government. Adani is known to be a close friend of the Prime Minister who cannot escape responsibility for fostering the growth and eventual scam by the Adani group. A JPC will, in all likelihood, open the lid of a can of worms that may cause incalculable harm to the electoral prospects of the BJP in the coming Lok Sabha elections.

This explains the brouhaha over Rahul Gandhi's remarks and the stalemate in the Lok Sabha. The strategy seems to discredit him by any means so that his tirade against the government over Adani group's alleged scam does not get traction from the people during the run-up to the Lok Sabha polls next year. A similar technique helped the BJP deflate Rahul's campaign on the controversial Rafale deal in the last Lok Sabha elections. However, sending the Delhi Police to Rahul's residence in New Delhi to inquire into his statement about women being unsafe might be BJP's undoing and beneficial to Rahul and the non BJP parties in general at this particular juncture.

THE USUAL COCKTAIL

n November 2008, just weeks after the Lehman crash, at a high-profile briefing by top academics at the London School of Economics, the Queen asked a simple question. She said the massive meltdown and imminent recession was "awful," but how come nobody saw it coming? How did all the bright minds, experts and economists fail to anticipate the financial crash of the century? There was a stunned silence. This was a simple question, yet no definitive answer has come even after fifteen years. People are still searching for theories and answers that can explain the crisis. Or maybe, the answer is obvious, but nobody wants to say that the "emperor has no clothes. As an early response to the Queen's query, a group of emi-

nent British economists wrote a three-page note. It blamed the "failure of the collective imagination of many bright people." The note also referred to a "psychology of denial" which had gripped the financial and political world and the elite, even as the crisis was approaching. There was a combination of many factors: wrong advice, neglect of vigilance by auditors, lax regulators who looked the other way, excessive lending and leverage, binge borrowing by those without assets or income. But most of all it was wishful thinking combined with hubris. The Chairman of Citibank had said in the aftermath of the crash, that during the go-go years prior to 2008, "as long as the music is playing, you've got to get up and dance, meaning that his bank continued to do risky lending knowing full well that it would end in disaster.

As a response to the 2008 crisis, many governments led chiefly by the United States passed stricter legislation which would help avoid such financial crashes, brought on by excessive lending (called loan pushing), lax risk management, and other imprudent practices. This was the famous Dodd-



SVB was ranked among the top 20 by Forbes in their America's 100 Best Banks just three weeks before it crashed to zero

Frank bill passed in the United States. And yet we have a big crash on our hands. The implosion of the Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) of California is testimony to the inadequacy of all the legal safeguards put in place since 2008.

Financial crises have a habit of recurring, and their frequency has increased in the past three decades. The details vary, some are not as severe, but the underlying causes are the same or similar. It's a cocktail of greed followed by fear and panic, herd behaviour, combined with shoddy work by auditors or inspectors and laxity by regulators. On top of this cocktail sometimes there is political pressure SVB was ranked among the top twenty by Forbes in their America's 100 Best Banks just three weeks before it crashed to zero. KPMG too had given a clean and strong bill of health. SVB had about 200 billion dollars of deposits of which 93% were uninsured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). And the bulk of these deposits were not given away as loans, but invested in government and other "safe" bonds. The value of these bonds erodes when interest rates start to rise. The Federal Reserve has been raising rates relentlessly

and thus the benchmark rate has gone up by nearly 5 percentage points. This means that if SVB tried to sell the bonds they would not even recover one fourth of the value that they invested. Which means that if depositors come calling, most of them would find that the money had vanished. Why did risk management of the SVB not anticipate this? Why did the inspectors of the Fed not haul up the bank earlier for risk mismatch? In fact the FDIC decided to shut down the bank precisely because of the risk of a bank run.

If depositors rush to the bank

to withdraw their savings, only the first few are able to get their money out. The rest find that they have lost everything, barring what is insured, which in SVB's case was only 7% of the deposits. Fearing this there is a stampede to withdraw, and that collapses the bank. Now under political pressure, the President of the US announced that every depositor would get his or her money back. He denied that this was a government bailout, but it is de facto a bailout using public money. The Fed will give cheap loans to SVB against virtually no collateral, to repay the depositors.

Meanwhile another bank in New York, the Signature Bank has been shut down. In Switzerland, the biggest bank with a global presence, Credit Suisse has imploded. They are desperately trying to rescue it by selling it at a big discount to another bank. The failure of big banks, presently contained within manageable limits, points to a recession. This time the Fed and other central banks cannot immediately cut interest rates since inflation is running high.

This financial crisis, although smaller than the 2008 one, flags the fragility of the bank-based financial system. Banks use public money from depositors to lend to borrowers and support growth. But the borrowed money is in assets which cannot be quickly liquidated. Whereas money can be de manded instantly by depositors. The reason this mismatch works is because of a foundation of trust. The depositors trust that their money is safe in the bank. They trust the banks not to do risky lending, or take excessive risks They trust that greed (to increase profits via risky loans) will not overtake prudence. They trust that regulators will be vigilant and keep banks on good behaviour. They trust that auditors will check that financial statements are accurate and reflect the true picture. But this entire edifice can crumble when there is panic and fear, and a stampede by depositors. Even banks which are otherwise healthy can crumble because of excessive leverage and the inherent instability in the banking model. Hence the trust of regulators, and public leaders calming the frayed nerves of panicking and nervous depositors is very important.

Unfortunately, often the public and taxpayers end up paying for the mess that is being sorted. Profits are private and losses are socialised, is a maxim which keeps repeating.

The writer is a noted economist. ©THE BILLION PRESS

SPECTRUM DISRUPTION

Ajit Ranade

FINANCIAL

HABIT OF

RECURRING,

AND THEIR

DECADES

CRISES HAVE A

FREOUENCY HAS

THE PAST THREE

INCREASED IN

The food-system revolution is coming

Disruption is coming to the agriculture sector. Around the world, livestock farmers are leaving the land, policymakers are targeting the harmful environmental and social effects of industrial meat production, and

dated in the name of efficiency and economies of scale. As a result, the European Union lost more than one-third of its farms, and 40% of its livestock farms, from 2005 to 2020. Policymakers are thus left to consider whether and how to pro-

fectious diseases will spread from animals to humans (zoonoses) through industrial livestock farming, the impetus for tighter regulation will only grow. While livestock and agriculture Public policy also has a role to play. Livestock farming tends to be heavily subsidised in many countries, owing to the sector's low margins and high levels of debt. As sales fall, declining revenue is likely to have significant wel-

WISDOM CORNER

66	Great things are done by a series of small things brought together. VINCENT VAN GOGH
66	Science is organized knowledge. Wisdom is organized life.
44	There is no greater harm than that of time wasted.

WORDS**WORTH**

Gooding

On the morning of the feast of St Thomas the Apostle, 21 December, it was once the custom in parts of England for women to go from house to house for ask for money to cheer their Christmas. This was called going gooding or goin' a-gooding, because it was the custom for grateful recipients to wish all that is good to their benefactors for the festive season. As a result the day was in some places called Gooding Day. The practice was also known as going a-Thomasing or going a-corning. This last phrase came from another tradition of the day, that the women would carry two-handled vessels called gossiping pots or pads in which to get donations of wheat (which American readers may like to be reminded is what corn usually means in England). From this they would make furmenty or frumenty (a drink of hulled wheat boiled in milk and seasoned with cinnamon and sugar; its name comes from frumentum, the Latin for corn). In 1854 Anne Elizabeth Baker remarked in her Glossary of Northamptonshire Words and Phrases that "My good old grandfather always, on this day, gave a bowl of wheat to any of the poor in the village who chose to come for it." She said sadly that the custom was "going fast into disuetude". In 1847, the Hampshire writer Charlotte M Yonge wrote in Scenes and Characters that "St. Thomas's day was marked by the custom, called at Beechcroft 'gooding.' Each mother of a family came to all the principal houses in the parish to receive sixpence, towards providing a Christmas dinner, and it was Lily's business to dispense this dole at the New Court."

Gorbellied

person who is gorbellied is corpulent, with a protruding belly. It seems probable that it derives from Old English gor or gore, meaning at first dung or dirt; in the sixteenth century it shifted sense to our modern one of blood that has been shed as a result of violence. Gorbelly came along early in the sixteenth century, in a poem by John Skelton. The adjective followed soon after - Shakespeare used it in his Henry IV, Part One: "Hang ye, gorbellied knaves, are ye undone?" It dropped out of use in the nineteenth century, with one of the last users in a direct line from the ancients being Douglas Jerrold, who wrote "The gorbellied varlets, with mouths greasy with the goods of cheated worth." These days it appears only rarely, being a word resurrected to give a sense of another age in historical fiction or fantasy, as in Harry Turtledove's alternate history, Ruled Britannia, in which the English failed to defeat the Armada in 1588 and in which the delightful scene-setting opening line is "Two Spanish soldiers swaggered up Tower Street toward William Shakespeare." Turtledove writes later, "Consumption catch thee, thou gorbellied knave!' a boatman yelled." To save anyone pointing it out, it's also in James Joyce's Ulysses.



MICHELANGELO

Robin Willoughby & Nico Muzi

FARMERS AND COMPANIES ALIKE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO ADAPT TO CHANGES THAT ARE NOW INEVITABLE

etters

are most welcome to contribute letters

postal address/email ID. They may also

and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

rissapost

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

send in their valuable comments, opinion

05

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST

(200 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

requested to send their contact numbers and full

columns (between 750-1250

consumers are shifting away from meat to embrace healthier, more sustainable alternatives. With the sector approaching a crossroads, decision-makers in government, industry, and civil society will need to heed the lessons from major transitions in other industries and stort propaging

start preparing. The preparation will require a careful inventory of farmers, workers, and consumers' needs. While farmers are growing older and leaving the land for other pursuits or retirement, the agriculture sector is struggling to attract new entrants - and not just in richer industrialised countries. For every farm manager under 40, there are three over the age of 65 in Europe: and from Sub-Saharan Africa to Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean, the number of older people living in rural areas is increasing while the number of young people declines.

At the same time, farms are becoming larger, and small farm operations are being squeezed. Owing to the challenging economics of farming and the power of a small number of giant industry incumbents, farms are being consoli-

tect family farms, and how to avoid the risks of animal-welfare violations, poor working conditions, and diseases that are inherent in industrial livestock farming.

Policymakers are also waking up to the compelling body of evidence about industrial meat production's environmental harms. While agriculture accounts for nearly one-third of all greenhousegas emissions, livestock alone (particularly cattle) contribute nearly 15%. Moreover, animal agriculture is the main cause of deforestation and biodiversity loss. Forests are razed to free up land not just for animal grazing but also for the additional crops needed to feed those animals. Beef production alone takes up some 60% of land used for agriculture, even though it contributes less than 2% of total calories consumed globally.

In Spain, factory-farm pollution has become so pervasive that pig manure has contaminated nearly one-quarter of all ground and surface water in the country. No wonder regulators are urgently seeking ways to target livestock pollution and produce more on less land. Given the increasing risk that in-

d from most emissions-reduction as schemes, policymakers in Denmark, the Netherlands, and New Zealand are already working to close this gap, and many other countries will soon follow suit. The question now is not whether there will be increased regulation of the livestock industry, but what shape and form it will take. Farmers and companies alike should be prepared to adapt to

changes that are now inevitable. Finally, consumers, too, are shifting away from meat and dairy. Over the past decade, the average person's meat consumption has decreased by almost 17% in the UK and by 11% in Germany. Notwithstanding a recent slowdown, there is still growth in the uptake of alternative proteins – a food source that produces only a tiny fraction of the negative environmental and animal-welfare effects of traditional meat products. Plant-based meat and milk sales are already trending up across the board in the EU, but also in countries like Thailand and South Africa. When these products reach taste and price parity with meat, their uptake by consumers could accelerate very quickly indeed.

fare implications for farmers and other workers tied to the industrial meat-production systems.

Given the complexities of these interacting trends, policymakers and corporate leaders need to start getting in front of this issue now. The experience of other sectors that have begun decarbonising – not least energy – shows that a planned and guided transition is always better than an ad hoc, unmanaged process.

One need look no further than last year's farmer protests in the Netherlands or New Zealand to see how abruptly climate policies can be disrupted when workers and communities feel left out. Unfortunately, we still have only a limited understanding of how best to integrate policy and corporate action to reduce food-system emissions while also protecting livelihoods. Since resisting change is not an option, policymakers and corporate leaders would do well to start thinking about how they will manage it in the coming years.

> The writers are managing directors of Madre Brava. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

Putin in dock

Sir, The International Criminal Court (ICC) has issued an arrest warrant for Russian President Vladimir Putin. The ICC alleges he is responsible for war crimes, including the unlawful deportation of children from Ukraine to Russia. It says the crimes were committed in Ukraine from 24 February 2022 when Russia launched its full-scale invasion. Senior Ukrainian officials applauded the ICC decision, with the country's Prosecutor General Andriy Kostin hailing it as "historic for Ukraine and the entire international law system." Andriy Yermak, chief of the presidential staff, said that issuing the warrant was "only the beginning." ICC prosecutor Karim Khan opened an investigation into possible war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide in Ukraine a year ago. He highlighted during four trips to Ukraine that he was looking at alleged crimes against children and the targeting of civilian infrastructure. In the first reaction to the news from Moscow, Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on her Telegram channel: "The decisions of the International Criminal Court have no meaning for our country, including from a legal point of view." It's time for the ICC to implement the step instantly. Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

Hunt for Amritpal

Sir, This refers to "Amritpal's aides sent to Assam jail," OrissaPOST, March 20. The Punjab security forces' hunt for Amritpal Singh, styling himself like pro-Khalistan leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale by copying his attire and body language, holding an arrow, using religion as a shield and surrounding himself with a battery of armed bodyguards - came as somewhat anti-climax. Fancying himself as Bhindranwale 2.0, Amritpal has warned Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann they would meet the fates of Indira Gandhi and Beant Singh, respectively. Indira and Beant were assassinated in retaliation to Bhindranwale's killing during Operation Blue Star at Golden Temple in 1984. Yet, the state government dithered in taking action until Mann recently got a nudge from Shah. Going forward, restlessness among the youth due to the lack of jobs, easy access to narcotics, gun-running from Pakistan, and a clueless administration have made the state a dangerous cocktail for anti-national activities. Amritpal is tapping into this groundswell of disenchantment to expand his support base with funds and directions from Khalistani separatists abroad working in tandem with Pakistan's deep state. However, one hopes the police action will draw bipartisan support from the political spectrum to neutralise him. Punjab cannot afford to slip back into the dark days N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE of militancy.

 \bullet



national



Uddhav Thackeray may be the heir to Balasaheb Thackeray's wealth but not to the ideology which he has mortgaged to the Congress and the NCP to become the chief minister (in November 2019). I am the inheritor of Balasaheb's ideology and legacy EKNATH SHINDE | MAHARASHTRA CM

SISODIA'S JUDICIAL CUSTODY EXTENDED

Former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's judicial custody was extended till April 3 Monday by a court in a case related to the excise policy being probed by the CBI







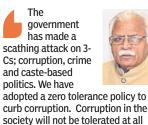
ASADUDDIN OWAISI AIMIM CHIEF



recently approved by the Union Cabinet for promotion of organic

products and exports, will help increase farmers' income manifold in the next 10 years AMIT SHAH

UNION HOME AND COOPERATION MINISTER



MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR HARYANA CM

SHORT TAKES

Two arrested

New Delhi: Two men were arrested for allegedly siphoning off Rs 5 lakh from the account of a person in east Delhi, police said Monday. The accused have been identified as Yatish Kumar (30), a resident of Biinor district in Uttar Pradesh, and Dharmendra Kumar alias Raman Yadav (22), a resident of Mainpuri district in UP, they said. A case was registered on March 9 where the complainant alleged that Rs 5 lakh were debited from his account through multiple UPI transactions without getting any OTP. The complainant got the money by selling a small shop to repay loans, a senior police officer said.

Maoist surrenders Latehar (Jharkhand): A



Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait addresses 'Kisan Mahapanchayat', organised by Samyukta Kisan Morcha, at Ramlila Maidan in New Delhi PTIPHOTO

ED grills Kavitha for 10 hrs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 20: BRS leader K Kavitha was quizzed by the Enforcement Directorate for around 10 hours on Monday after she appeared before the agency for a second round of questioning in a Delhi excise policy-linked money laundering case, officials said.

Dressed in a green saree, Kavitha entered the ED headquarters in central Delhi around 10:30 am, and her questioning and recording of statement began around 11 am and continued till beyond 8:45 pm. The 44-yearold MLC daughter of Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao was first questioned in the case on March 11 for around nine hours following which she was summoned again on March 16.

Kavitha had skipped the deposition last week citing her pending plea before the Supreme Court for relief against the Enforcement Directorate (ED) action in the case. The federal probe agency rejected her claims and asked her to depose on March 20. The apex court has decided to hear her petition on March 24.

On March 11, Kavitha is understood to have been confronted with the statements made by Hyderabadbased businessman Arun

Ramchandran Pillai, an arrested accused in the case who allegedly shares close ties with her, apart from those of few others involved in the case.

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader's statement was recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Kavitha is expected to have been physically confronted with Pillai and her former auditor Butchibabu Gorantla during Monday's session.

The BRS politician has asserted 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" into Telangana.

Pillai, the ED had said, "represented the South Group", an alleged liquor cartel linked to Kavitha and others, that paid kickbacks amounting to about Rs 100 crore to the Aam Aadmi Party to gain a larger share of the market in the national capital under the nowscrapped Delhi excise policy for 2020-21. The "South Group", according to the ED, comprises Sarath Reddy (promoter of Aurobindo Pharma), Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy (YSR Congress MP from Ongole Lok Sabha seat in Andhra Pradesh), his son Raghav Magunta, Kavitha and others.

Urgent climate action needed: IPCC report PRESS TRUST OF INDIA PRESS TRUST OF INDIA We have pledged that till the We have pledged that till the



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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India has been emis very likely to miss the most important cliphasizing the importance of YEED TO B mindful and **CUT BY ALMOST HALF BY 203** deliberate IG IS TO BE LIMITED TO 1.5 utilisation of

Parliament remained paralysed for the sixth day in a row due to protests from rival sides, Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri Monday said an "unambiguous apology" from Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his remarks in the UK that democracy in India is

'under attack" could end the logjam. Several opposition parties, on their part, accused the government that it does not want Parliament to function and is finding ways to divert attention from their demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee probe (JPC) into allegations against the Adani Group.

New Delhi, March 20: As

In a repeat of events since the start of the second leg of the Budget session of Parliament on March 13, both the Lok Sabha and the Raiva Sabha were adjourned without transacting any business due to the protests by the treasury benches against Rahul Gandhi for his London remarks and by the opposition over its demand for a JPC probe into the Adani issue.



UK, sources said Monday. Rahul Gandhi met Birla last week after his return from the United Kingdom.

Sources said that Rahul Gandhi wants to speak in the Lok Sabha to clarify his remarks made in the UK, over which the BJP is demanding an apology from him after accusing the Congress leader

Leaders of opposition parties, including those from the Congress, DMK, RJD, CPI-M, CPI, NCP, JDU, AAP, and Shiv Sena, met in the chamber of Kharge, who is also the Leader of Opposition, in Parliament House complex in the morning and coordinated their strategy on the demand for a JPC

time JPC is not constituted, we will not budge and continue with our struggle. This is not for leaders, but for the people." AICC general secretary Jairam Ramesh tweeted, "Even before Opposition members could sit down BJP MPs started sloganeering and the Rajya Sabha got adjourned almost instantly around 2 pm itself till tomorrow 11 am." "It is clear that the government does not want Parliament to function," he alleged.

Janata Dal (United) president Lalan Singh blamed the BJP for the impasse in Parliament and asserted that the ruling party cannot decide the definition of patriotism and

treason they way it deems fit. "If your leader speaks against the opposition, then it is patriotism, but if Rahul Gandhi says something, it is treason. The BJP cannot decide the definition of patriotism and treason," the Lok Sabha MP told reporters.

In the Lok Sabha, Speaker Om Birla asked agitating members to come to his chamber to discuss issues and find a way out."You come, sit and discuss. Both the ruling side and opposition come to the chamber and discuss. We will find a solution and run the House. We will discuss your topics and issues also," he said.

hold emissions, while the bottom New Delhi, March 20: The world

DEGREES CELSIUS, THE IPCC SAID ELEASING THE REPORT, THE BODY OF THE

wanted Maoist of the proscribed TSPC carrying a bounty of Rs 5 lakh surrendered to the security forces in Latehar district of Jharkhand on Monday. Dasrath Oraon alias Roshan Ji, who is wanted in about 60 different cases related to Maoist attacks, surrendered in the presence of Palamu inspector general Rajkumar Lakra, Latehar superintendent of police Anjani Anjan and CRPF commandant K D Joshi at the SP's office. He is wanted in connection with incidents of IED explosions, a blast in a police van, besides murder, the SP said.

Heroin seized

Mumbai: The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) seized heroin worth Rs 70 crore at the Chhatrapati Shivani Maharai International Airport and arrested two persons, an official said Monday. Based on a tip-off, the DRI officials laid a trap and intercepted a passenger travelling from Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) on Sunday morning, the official said. Following a search, 9.97 kg of heroin was found concealed in the baggage, he said. The contraband, which is worth Rs 70 crore, was to be handed over to a man at a hotel in the city, he said.

Man drowns

Thane/Palghar: A man drowned in the sea in Vasai Maharashtra's Palghar district. an official said Monday. The victim Sahil Sanjay Bhavkar drowned after he ventured into the sea for a swim at Kalam beach in Vasai in Palghar district on Sunday, a fire officer of the Vasai-Virar Municipal Corporation said. Bhavkar's body had gotten entangled in a net and was recovered Monday morning, he said.

above pre-industrial levels but drastic and urgent action in this decade can prevent it, a UN panel on climate

VORLD'S LEADING CLIMATE SCIENTIST SAID (EEPING WARMING TO 1.5 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE PRE-INDUSTRIAL LEVELS REQUIRES DEEP, RAPID AND SUSTAINED GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS IN ALL SECTORS change said in a report on Monday.

The Intergovernmental Panel dressed on Climate Change's (IPCC) Synthesis Report is a summary of all the reports it produced since 2015 on the reasons and consequences of global temperature rise due to anthropogenic emissions. Releasing the report, the body of

the world's leading climate scientists said keeping warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels requires deep, rapid and sustained greenhouse gas emissions reductions in all sectors.

"The Synthesis Report underscores the urgency of taking more ambitious action and shows that, if we act now, we can still secure a liveable sustainable future for all," IPCC Chair Hoesung Lee said. Approved during a week-long session in Interlaken, Switzerland, the report underlined that the "10 per cent of households with the highest emissions per person contribute 34-45 per cent of all house-

mindless and wasteful consump tion."So from that

natural re-

sources

against

point of view, status consumption and consumption inequity need to be ad-

through policy, infrastructure and technology access is a major message from the report. It is just not talking about the bottom 25 per cent of people globally, but it is also talking about the top 10 per cent of the households globally who have disproportionate consumption and contribution to the emissions.

"I think these are extremely important messages which have come out as few of the top messages in this Synthesis Report," said Prof Joyashree Roy, Energy Economics programme, Asian Institute of Technology, and one of the authors of the report.

The report stressed that fossil fuel use is overwhelmingly driving global warming. In 2019, around 79 per cent of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions came from energy, industry, transport and buildings, and 22 per cent came from agriculture, forestry and other land use.

Rahul Gandhi has written to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to allow him to speak in the house over his democracy remarks made in the of insulting the country and its institutions on foreign soil.

"We have asked for a time tomorrow (Tuesday). If allowed, he (Rahul Gandhi) will speak in Parliament. That is what we have been trying for," Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said.

probe into the Adani issue.

"Why is the government shying away from JPC...The BJP is running away from JPC and is finding ways to divert attention and is not allowing Parliament to function," Congress deputy leader in Rajya Sabha Pramod Tiwari alleged.

Amruta Fadnavis case: Bookie held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, March 20: The Mumbai police Monday nabbed suspected bookie Anil Jaisinghani from Guiarat, days after his daughter Aniksha Jaisinghani was arrested for allegedly trying to blackmail and bribe the wife of Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, an official said.

A crime branch official confirmed that Anil Jaisinghani, who has 14 to 15 cases pending against him, was nabbed from Gujarat but refused to divulge details.

The Mumbai Police had on March 16 arrested Aniksha Anil Jaisinghani, a designer, after Devendra Fadnavis's wife Amruta



accused her of offering a bribe for intervening in a criminal case and also threatening her

Anishka Jaisinghani is in police custody till March 21. The accused tried to extort Rs 10 crore from Amruta Fadnavis by "threatening to circulate morphed videos", and hence they invoked Indian Penal

Code (IPC) section 385 (putting person in fear of injury in order to commit extortion) against Anishka Jaisinghani and her father Anil Jaisinghani, the police said last week.

The Malabar Hill police station in south Mumbai had registered a First Information Report (FIR) in the case on February 20 on Amruta Fadnavis's complaint.

The FIR was registered under IPC section 120-B (criminal conspiracy) and sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act pertaining to using illegal means to induce a public servant to show favour or disfavour to any person. Later, the IPC section related to extortion was added

SC extends Khera's bail till April 10

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 20: The Supreme Court Monday clubbed three FIRs lodged against Congress leader Pawan Khera for allegedly making objectionable remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and transferred them to the Hazratganj police station in Uttar Pradesh's Lucknow.

Extending the interim bail till April 10, a bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices P S Narasimha and K B Pardiwala took note of the facts that three FIRs were lodged against Khera.

Out of the three FIRs, two were lodged at the Cantonment police station in Varanasi and the Hazratganj police station in Lucknow. The third FIR was lodged in Assam. The apex court bench directed that the three FIRs stand transferred to Hazratganj police station in Lucknow.

Khera, whose interim bail was extended till April 10, will have to appear before the court of competent jurisdiction in Lucknow to seek regular bail in the matter. The apex court, from time to time, had been extending the interim bail of Khera who was arrested by the Assam Police on February 23 in connection with his alleged remarks against Modi made at a press conference in Mumbai on February 17. The Congress spokesperson was arrested from the Delhi airport after he was deboarded from a plane that was supposed to take him to Raipur.

SC junks PIL for registration of live-in relationships

The PIL was filed by Rani seeking a direction to the Centre to frame rules for registration of live-in relationships as it cited increase in crimes like rape and murder allegedly committed by live-in partners

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 20: The Supreme Court Monday dismissed a PIL seeking framing of norms for registration of every live-in relationship with the Centre and termed it a "hare-brained" idea.

A bench, headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, asked the counsel for petitioner, lawyer Mamta

Rani if she wanted to foster the security of these people or wanted them not to get into live-in rela-

tionships. The counsel replied that the petitioner wanted the relationship to be registered to enhance their social security. "What does the Centre has to do with registration of livein relationships? What kind of hare-brained idea is this? It is high



time this court start imposing cost on petitioners who file these kinds of PILs. Dismissed," the bench also comprising Justices PS Narasimha and J B Pardiwala said.

The PIL was filed by Rani seeking a direction to the Centre to frame rules for registration of livein relationships as it cited increase in crimes like rape and murder allegedly committed by live-in partners. The plea, which referred to the recent killing of Shraddha Walkar allegedly by her live-in partner Aaftab Amin Poonawala, also sought framing of rules and guidelines for registration of such relationships.

The PIL said registration of livein relationships would lead to accurate information being available to both the live-in partners about each other and also to the gov-

there has been a "huge increase in false rape cases filed by women wherein they claim to be living in live-in relationships with the accused, and it is always difficult for the courts to find out from the evidence whether the fact of living in live-in relationships is proved by the backing of evidence".











details.

ernment about each of them regarding their marital status, criminal history and other relevant Besides the increase in crimes like rape and murder, the plea said



March snow leaves fruit growers worried **'J&K polls deferred as BJP**

TWOSTATES

not ready to face voters'

Jammu, March 20: National Conference leader Omar Abdullah Monday attacked the BJP, alleging that the 'delay' in assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir is because they are not brave enough to face voters as they have failed to mitigate people's problems.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, without naming the ruling party at the Centre, said they have also not been able to keep their promise of bringing large-scale investments and create job opportunities in the Union Territory.

"They are not ready to face the people and are escaping from (assembly) elections on one pretext or the other. They used the pretext of delimitation of constituencies and revision of electoral rolls which stands completed long back. They talked about weather not being conducive but have no justification to further delay the polls," he said in a veiled attack on the BJP.

The National Conference (NC) vice president was addressing a public meeting at Bajalta in Nagrota constituency - his first in the city after the abrogation of Article 370. which granted special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, and its bifurcation into two union territories in 2019.

Wearing a white turban, Abdullah said the weather is getting pleasant, they have only two reasons for delaying the polls further, one could be the worsening security situation which they claim has improved and the second being



We were angry from day one but there were som people who celebrated it with a hope of 'new J&K'. The people in Jammu suffered economically because of the stopping of the darbar move and anti encroachment drive, while Leh people are openly expressing that they were happy to be part of J&K

OMAR ABDULLAH | NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEADER

ing united," he said.

that they are afraid to face the voters

the BJP in October 2021.

The former chief minister said "If they had been brave, they for the first time he is witnessing would have gone for the elections. a government which "feels hap-After today's public rally, some piness in inflicting difficulties on people (among the BJP) who were the people. It will be better to get supportive of early elections will rid of this government as soon as also feel jittery," he said in an appossible. parent reference to former legis-Those who celebrated the ablator Devender Singh Rana who rerogation of Article 370 in Ladakh

and Jammu are equally sad, he signed from the post of NC provincial president and joined claimed. "We were angry from day one but there were some people Abdullah said the public meetwho celebrated it with a hope of ing has proved beyond any doubt 'new J&K'. The people in Jammu that the NC is alive both in the suffered economically because of Kashmir and the Jammu province. the stopping of the darbar move "They will try to polarise the and anti-encroachment drive, while situation as they are doing else-Leh people are openly expressing where in the country. We have to that they were happy to be part of frustrate their attempts by stand-J&K," the NC leader said.

The unseasonal snowfall and the sudden dip in *temperature have* done a lot of damage to the fruit-bearing trees

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhaderwah, March 20: Fresh snowfall Monday in the upper reaches of Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district has left farmers a worried lot due to fear of damage to fruit crops as the trees are cur rently in bloom.

According to officials, snowfal ranging between two inches to one foot was recorded in different highaltitude areas, including Kota Top, Jatani, Kansar, Thanhala, Baach Dhar, Shankhoja, Chenera, Kaljugasar and Sivili

Amid the continuous snowfall the district administration has is sued an advisory asking people not to venture near avalanche prone areas and has also suspended vehicular traffic on Bhaderwah Basohli-Pathankot and Bhaderwah Chamba interstate roads.

Farmers, especially fruit growers, claimed that some areas received snowfall March 20 after a long gap, catching them unprepared as they have already started working in their orchards after pro longed winters

'We have already started ploughing our maize fields and were expecting to have a good crop of apricot, almond, peach and walnut as these trees were in the bloom. Saif Din Dhakkar, a farmer of village Kota Top, told PTI.

He said the unseasonal snowfall and the sudden dip in temper-



A man removes snow from a tree after the upper reaches of Jammu and Kashmir received snowfall in Doda district, Monday

ature have done a lot of damage to the fruit-bearing trees.

Additional Superintendent of Police, Bhaderwah, Kameshwar Puri said most of the higher reaches in Bhadarwah and Bhallesa are witnessing fresh snowfall since morning.

"We have issued an advisorv to the people residing in hilly slopes to avoid venturing outside especially near avalanche-prone areas

till weather conditions improve," he said.

He said the traffic on the interstate highways was suspended as a precautionary measure after the snowfall rendered a 30-km stretch from Thanala to Khundi Maral on Bhaderwah-Chamba road and 25-KM stretch from Thantera to Chattar Galla pass on Bhaderwah-Basohli road slippery. "It is still snowing and no vehicles will be allowed to move be yond Thanalla on Bhaderwah-Chamba road and Thanthera on Bhadarwah-Basohli-Pathankot road," Puri said.

OrissaPOS

TUESDAY | MARCH 21 | 2023 | BHUBANESWAR

Students who had started going to school after extended winter vacations with some of them appearing in class 10 and 12 annual examinations next month are finding it difficult to cope with the winter-like conditions.

Kerala HC sets aside election of CPI(M) MLA



Archbishop's statements favouring BJP trigger row

The archbishop's statement comes a couple of weeks after PM Modi, buoyed by his party's poll performance in three

minority dominated northeastern states, said the BJP alliance would

minorities for the

saffron party



ernment of India, then they pounce upon them." the BJP leader from

He also targeted the Congress for blaming the BJP for alleged attacks on churches, saying these incidents have been reported from Chhattisgarh where the country's main Opposition party is in power. He noted that the BJP is in power in states such as Goa and those in the

Kerala CPI unhappy over CM Vijayan's style of functioning Of late, Vijayan appears to have gone into a shell

and it began ever since the prime accused in the gold smuggling case, Swapna Suresh, levelled serious allegations against him and his family

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, March 20: The CPI - the second biggest ally of the ruling Left government -has voiced its displeasure over Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's style of functioning.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, March 20: In a setback for the ruling Left front in Kerala, the High Court here Monday set aside the election of CPI(M)'s A Raja from Devikulam Assembly seat in Idukki district

The order by Justice P Somarajan came on an election petition filed by Congress leader D Kumar, who was the runner-up in the 2021 Assembly polls, alleging that Raja was not qualified to contest the Devikulam seat reserved for the Scheduled Caste (SC) community.

Raja, opposing the plea, had contended that he belonged to the Hindu Paravan community in relation to the state of Kerala and the caste certificate issued by Tahsildar, Devikulam proved the same.

He had also contended that the Returning Officer rightly rejected the objection by Kumar to the nomination paper filed by him.

The CPI(M) leader also claimed that his parents had never converted to Christianity, he was never baptised, his wife was a Hindu and that his marriage was according to Hindu rites which included lighting of a customary lamp and tying of 'thali' around his wife's neck.

On the other hand, Kumar in his plea had alleged that Raia was a Christian, baptised at a CSI church in the hill district, and submitted a fake certificate to prove that he belongs to an SC community.

Kumar, who was defeated by a margin of 7,848 votes in the 2021 polls by Raja, had also claimed that even the wife of the CPI(M) leader was a Christian and they were married in accordance with Christian religious rites.

Agreeing with the contentions of the Congress leader, the court said it was well evident from the eva-

sive answers given by Raja regarding his marriage and the ceremony that there was a 'conscious effort' on his part to conceal the truth. The dress worn by him and his wife are indications of a Christian marriage, the court noted.

The court also said that all the documents placed before him would sufficiently show that the respondent (Raja) was actually professing Christianity at the time when he had submitted his nomination and converted to Christianity long before its submission.'

"As such, after the conversion, he cannot claim to be a member of Hindu religion. On that score also, the Returning Officer ought to have rejected his nomination," the court said

It also held that there was 'utter failure' on the part of the CPI(M) leader to show and prove that his predecessors (grandparents) migrated to Kerala prior to promulgation of the 1950 order by the President of India by which Hindu Parayans in Kerala were declared

as a part of SC community. In short, on both the grounds, it is clear that the respondent is not

a member of 'Hindu Parayan' within the state of Kerala and not qualified to be chosen to fill a seat - the Devikulam Constituency -in the Legislative Assembly which is reserved for a Scheduled Caste, the court said. "...Hence the election of respondent (Raja) as the returned (elected) candidate for the said Constituency in the year 2021 is declared void under Section 98 of Representation of People Act, 1951. There is no claim for the petitioner (Kumar) for declaring him as the returned candidate from

the said Constituency, hence, no such issue was taken up for consideration," it said.

form a government in Kerala considering the increasing support of

AGENCIES

New Delhi, March 20: The BJP Monday accused the ruling Left in Kerala and the Congress of treating Christians in the state like a 'vote bank' and not allowing them to express their views freely if they favour the party in power at the Centre.

Addressing a press conference, Union Minister V Muraleedharan welcomed a senior bishop's statement in Kerala that their community can help the BJP if the party addresses the concerns of farmers. He, however, accused the Left and

the Congress -- the two main parties in the state -- of targeting those religious leaders of Christians whose



line, for his views. "Do the CPI(M) and the Congress say they (Christian priests) don't have the freedom to express their views if that indirectly support the government of India. It is a ridiculous situation that both these parties claim to be pro-minorities but if Christian leaders speak some facts which may favour the gov-

northeast where Christians are in large numbers. The minister said earlier an archbishop, who had raised the issue of 'narcotics jihad', was also targeted by the two parties. Speaking at a meeting attended

mostly by farmers, Pamplany had said, "No protest in a democracy has value if it does not translate into votes during elections."

"We will tell the central government that whichever your party may be, we will vote for you if you can increase the price of rubber to Rs 300. The migrant population will address the issue of your lack of an MP from here," he had said.

The archbishop's statement comes a couple of weeks after Prime Minister Narendra Modi, buoyed by his party's poll performance in three minority dominated northeastern states, said the BJP alliance would form a government in Kerala considering the increasing support of minorities for the saffron party.

In a recent meeting of the CPI's Kollam district unit, which was attended by Cabinet Minister J. Chinchurani, criticism was mounted at the way the government is functioning. Chinchurani, however, remained silent throughout the meeting.

Among other issues, the traffic disturbance caused by Vijayan's big convoy of vehicles was also slammed at the meeting. Speakers described this convoy as nothing but sheer arrogance of Vijayan.

Incidentally, the CPI Kollam unit is one of the most powerful party units. They won all the three seats they contested in the 2021 Assembly polls, besides helping CPI(M) and other allies to win in six other seats.

A media critic on condition of anonymity said, "The CPI is jittery because anything to do with the Left governance affects them too and, hence they have decided to fire the first salvo.



"The Kollam unit of the CPI is upset not just with Vijayan, but also against their state secretary Kanam Rajendran who has always been a staunch supporter of Vijavan. Unlike his glorious predecessors, who often acted as a corrective force, Rajendran for some reason appears to be a mere Yes man of Vijayan," said the critic.

Vijayan's style of functioning in the Assembly has become a talking point as he appears to avoid questions that are posed to him in the floor of the Assembly, and the Congress-led opposition has been on a warpath against him.

Of late Vijayan appears to have gone into a shell and it began ever since the prime accused in the gold smuggling case, Swapna Suresh, levelled serious allegations against him and his family. She alleged that they were indulging in gold and currency smuggling.

Bringing Sanskrit learning to doorsteps EDUCATION ON WHEELS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, March 20: To popularise the Sanskrit language in Jammu and Kashmir, an 'education on wheels' programme has been launched where teachers will visit households in villages to educate people about the ancient language. The initiative, 'Mobile Sanskrit

gurukul', by Jammu-based NGO Vedic Sansthan Trust was started in December last year and has covered over a dozen hamlets in Jammu

The Trust says it wanted to share the treasure of knowledge with people and provide non-formal education in Sanskrit, one of the oldest living languages in the world. "We are reaching out to urban

and rural population to teach them Sanskrit... Our aim is to impart education of Sanskrit to all by qualified teachers by reaching out to every home in rural and urban areas," Trust president Mahant Rohit Shastri says.

As the mobile gurukul moves from village to village to hold classes mostly for youths and children, the response has been encouraging, Shastri savs.

"We request other villages also to call us and benefit from this initiative. We are happy to see people of all castes and creeds participating in this function," he says.

The NGO has visited over a dozen hamlets in Jammu and mostly school-going children in villages have come forward to learn Sanskrit

The target is to educate most of the students in Sanskrit in a phased manner. Shastri says

They have two vans and 10 teachers who spend 4-5 days in each vil-



lage panchayat and also rope in schools in their effort.

Shastri says they had earlier conducted classes to teach Sanskrit to the business community of Jammu.

"People have been enthusiastic about this concept ... They are coming forward voluntarily to get an education. We are distributing free Sanskrit books among the people," he says

A student of class 11 said he was drawn to study the language when he learnt about the 'mobile gurukul'.

"I was going home after school and I saw this 'Mobile Sanskrit Gurukul'. I thought that I should also learn the Sanskrit language and I got the book from there. I am a student in the 11th class and I feel we should also learn Sanskrit like English," the student said.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, at the launch of the mobile Sanskrit gurukul, had observed that Sanskrit is not confined to religious texts and offers a complete knowledge structure of ancient India that covers great works of scientists and experts in medicine, ২ botany and mathematics.

Appreciating the Trust for preserving, developing and propagating the Sanskrit language and the message of the ancient sages. with a flexible and non-formal approach to popularise Sanskrit.











national



The evolution of the **Constitution has to** take place in Parliament and no other 'super body' or institution, including the judiciary and the executive, has any role in it JAGDEEP DHANKHAR VICE PRESIDENT

STAGE SET

The Indian space agency Monday said it will launch the 36 satellites of the UK-based Network Access Associated Ltd (OneWeb) March 26



vised doctors not to use convales-

cent plasma therapy."Antibiotics

should not be used unless there is

clinical suspicion of bacterial in-

fection. Possibility of co-infection

of COVID-19 with other endemic in-

fections must be considered," the

Additionally, in moderate or se-

vere diseases at high risk of pro-

gression, Remdesivir may be con-

sidered for up to five days. It should

be started within 10 days of onset

of symptoms in those having mod-

erate to severe disease with a high

risk of progression (requiring sup-

plemental oxygen) but who are not

for the treatment of more than five

days and is not to be used in patients

who are not on oxygen support or

in home setting, the guidelines

stated. Besides, in rapidly progressing moderate or severe disease.

Tocilizumab should be considered

preferably within 24-48 hours of

the onset of severe disease/ICU

India saw a single-day rise of

over 1,000 fresh COVID-19 cases

Sunday after 129 days. On Monday,

the country reported a single-day

rise of 918 cases while the active

caseload has increased to 6,350.

There is no evidence of benefit

guidelines said.

on IMV or ECMO.

admission.

uote 77

government has taken a serious view on complaints of vulgarity and abusive language in content on OTT platforms and will not

The

hesitate to take tough action to stop this trend

ANURAG THAKUR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING MINISTER

What kind of democracy is this? Does it suit a law minister to threaten the judiciary? It is a threat to judges who refuse to bow down to the

government and it's an attempt to pressure the judiciary SANJAY RAUT SHIV SENA (UBT) LEADER

No Opposition front to take on the BJP is possible without the Congress and if a coalition is formed for the 2024 general elections, the party will have a central role in it

JAIRAM RAMESH CONGRESS LEADER

SHORT TAKES

Four dead

Patna: Four women labourers were killed in an explosion that occurred in a brick-kiln here on Monday. Local police and fire brigade have launched a rescue operation at Lucky brick-kiln located in Byapur village under Maner police station. According to sources, the explosion was so intense that a wall came crashing down trapping the women labourers inside the kiln.

Girl ends life

Saharanpur: A 14-year-old girl in Uttar Pradesh's Saharanpur committed suicide by allegedly consuming poison after she was repeatedly molested and harassed by a youth in her locality, police said. The police have registered a report on the complaint of the girl's father. The girl's father has alleged that Suhail, a youth from the daughter and harass her while coming home. She consumed poison and died during treatment.

India, Japan resolve to boost ties

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 20: The India-Japan global partnership is based on shared democratic values and respect for the rule of law and promotes peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Monday after holding wide-ranging talks with his Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida.

The two prime ministers largely focused on significantly boosting cooperation in areas of clean energy, semiconductors and co-development of military hardware besides exploring ways to deal with regional security challenges amidst the increasing assertiveness of China. During the talks, Modi conveyed

to Kishida that one of the areas of very strong cooperation between India and Japan could be co-innovation, co-design co-creation in the defence manufacturing sector, officials said Modi and Kishida also vowed

immediately accepted.

Tokyo's economic cooperation with New Delhi continues to grow rapidly and it will not only support

further development of India but create significant economic opportunities for Japan FUMIO KISHIDA | JAPAN PM

loan of up to 300 billion yen (around Rs 18,000 crore) for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad high-speed rail.

to work together to deal with press-"The India-Japan Special ing global challenges under India's presidency of the G20 and Japan's Strategic and Global Partnership chairship of the G7 grouping. is based on our shared democratic Kishida, who was in India for just values, and respect for the rule of about 27 hours, said he invited law in the international arena,' Modi to the G-7 summit in Modi said in his media statement. Hiroshima in May, and the offer was "Strengthening this partnership is not only important for both our On the sidelines of the talks, a countries, but it also promotes note was exchanged between the two peace, prosperity and stability in sides concerning the provision of the Indo-Pacific region. In our conthe fourth tranche of a Japanese versation today, we have reviewed

the progress made in our bilateral relations," he added

The India-Japan

based on our shared

NARENDRA MODI I INDIA'S PM

democratic values, and

respect for the rule of law

in the international arena

Special Strategic and

Global Partnership is

The Japanese prime minister arrived in Delhi this morning on a brief visit amid global geopolitical turmoil over the Ukraine conflict and increasing concerns over China's aggressive behaviour in the Indo-Pacific. Modi said he and Kishida exchanged views on defence equipment and technology collaboration, trade, health, and digital partnership.

There was also a fruitful discussion on the importance of re-

liable supply chains in semiconductors and other critical technologies, he said. "Last year, we had set a target of Japanese investment of 5 trillion yen in India in the next 5 years, that is, Rs 3,20,000 crore rupees. It is a matter of satisfaction that there has been good progress in this direction,' Modi said

Modi said "fast" progress is being made on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad high-speed rail project. "Our meeting today is special for another reason as well. This year India is chairing the G20, and Japan is chairing the G7. And therefore, this is the perfect opportunity to work together on our respective priorities and interests," Modi said, adding he explained in detail to Kishida about India's priorities for its G20 Presidency.

In his remarks, Kishida said Tokyo's economic cooperation with New Delhi continues to grow rapidly and it will not only support further development of India but create significant economic opportunities for Japan.

Briefing reporters, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said Modi and Kishida held substantive discussions commensurate with the depth of the India-Japan engagement and that the talks covered cooperation in areas of defence and security, economic partnership, climate and energy, people-to-people exchanges and skill development.

Centre issues revised guideline to treat Covid



India saw a single-day rise of over 1,000 fresh Covid-19 cases Sunday after 129 days. Monday, the country reported a single-day rise of 918 cases while the active caseload has increased to 6,350

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 20: Antibiotics should not be used in Covid cases unless there is clinical suspicion of bacterial infection, according to a revised guideline for the treatment of adult coronavirus patients issued by the Centre.

The revised guidelines, issued Sunday amid an uptick in coronavirus cases, stated that drugs such as Lopinavir-ritonavir, hydroxychloroquine, Ivermectin, Molnupiravir, Favipiravir, Azithromycin and Doxycycline should not be used for the treatment of adult COVID-19 patients in India.

The AIIMS/ICMR-COVID-19 National Task Force met on January 5 to revise the clinical guidance protocol. It has also ad-

Porn clip played at Patna railway station

Patna: Hundreds of passengers waiting to board trains at the Patna railway station faced an awkward situation when a porn clip played at all the TV screens installed across the 10 platforms for three minutes. The incident took place Sunday night. The contract of telecasting videos and films



on the railway stations of Danapur division is given to a private company. Railway Protection Force (RPF) officials immediately contacted them and stopped the telecast. Confirming the incident, Prabhat Kumar, official spokesperson of the DRM office in Danapur, said: "We have initiated an inquiry into the incident and started the process of cancellation of contract. We have registered an FIR against the company officials... It is an intolerable incident. We will blacklist this company." Sources said that a similar incident had taken place on Sunday morning as well in the same railway station.



People hold snow after a hailstorm in Khargone district

Gangster killed

Patna: A notorious gangster. Prince Singh, was killed in an encounter in Bihar's Sitamarhi, police said Monday. The action comes after a series of kidnapping, extortion and murder cases have been reported from various parts of the state. A team of Sitamarhi police shot at the gangster in a retaliatory firing at around 3.30 a.m. The accused was involved in liquor smuggling also. Pankai Sinha. the Inspector General of Police Tirhut range, confirmed the incident.

Four arrested

Thane: Four persons, three of them from Bihar, have been arrested in connection with the shooting of a developer in Navi Mumbai, police said Monday. The main accused in the case was apprehended from Rajkot in Gujarat on Saturday, while the three gunmen he had hired were from Bihar, Navi Mumbai Police Commissioner Milind Bharambe said. Savjibai Gokar Manjeri (56) was gunned down by two motorcycle-born men in Nerul on March 15, he said.

Leopard captured

Pune: A leopard roaming in a residential area on the outskirts of Pune city in Maharashtra was captured on Monday morning after it was tranquilised during a three-hour operation which involved personnel of police, forest personnel and others, an official said.

Al peeing victim moves SC PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 20: A 72-yearold woman, at the centre of headlines after a co-passenger allegedly urinated on her on board a New York-Delhi Air

India flight last November, has moved the Supreme Court seeking a direction to the DGCA and airlines to frame SOPs to deal with such incidents.

The woman said she was constrained to approach the court because Air India and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)

failed to treat her with care and responsibility after the incident. "In addition, the wide-ranging national press reportage full of conjecture and surmises has severely undermined the petitioner's rights as a victim

under Article 21 of the Constitution, and in fairness has also affected the rights of the accused as well. Their rights to a free and fair trial have also been substantially

affected due to a selective leaking of the 'AIR SEWA' complaint of the petitioner, the FIR and selective witness statements being released to the media to match specific narratives," she said in her plea.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, March 20: The Mumbai police have stepped up the security of Bollywood superstar Salman Khan after he received a threatening e-mail, which had led to cops earlier registering an FIR against gangsters Lawrence Bishnoi and Goldy Brar, an official said Monday.

According to the official, two Assistant Police Inspector (API)rank officers and eight to ten constables will be part of Khan's security detail round the clock. Also, fans will not be allowed to assemble outside the 57-year-old actor's residence-cum-office in Galaxy Apartments in suburban Bandra, he said.

Khan was earlier provided

PTI PHOTO

Mumbai cops step up Salman's security

with Y plus category security by the police and he moved around in a bullet-proof car along with his personal security guards. Now, the police have taken additional security measures for the safety of the 'Dabangg' actor, the official said.

Khan was earlier provided with Y plus category security by the police and he moved around in a bullet-proof car along with his personal security guards

On Saturday, the Bandra police registered an FIR (first information report) against three persons -- gangsters Bishnoi, Brar and one Rohit -- for allegedly sending a threatening e-mail to Khan's office. The FIR was registered on the basis of a police complaint lodged by one Prashant Gunjalkar, who according to cops, frequently visits the Bandra-based residence of the popular filmstar and runs an artist management company.

When Gunjalkar was present in Khan's office on Saturday afternoon, he noticed an email had come from the ID "Rohit Garg", the official said quoting the FIR.

The e-mail stated Khan must have seen the interview given recently to a news channel by Bishnoi, and if not, he should see it. Addressing Gunjalkar, it said if Khan wants to close the matter, he should talk face-to-face with Goldy bhai, adding "there is still time but agli bar, jhatka dekhne ko milega" (next time he will receive shock).

ONE FAKE IS ENOUGH STION MANY FACT

lose on the heels of a fake feigning his way into the ranks of a police training establishment for officers in Gujarat, comes news of an Ahmedabad conman breaching the might of the multi-layered security in the most sensitive region of Jammu and Kashmir using fraud credentials of the country's most heavily screened establishment-The Prime Minister's Office . And doing it not once but thrice before nemesis caught up with the culprit. The most heartening part, in

both cases, is that the con-culprits were nabbed and will now face the full brunt of the law but the cause for concern remains. The fake

trainee may, at best, rank as a pro-cedural lapse but the Jammu and Kashmir penetration of a multilayered security grid by a fake who lacked finesse but flaunted Z-plus security in the valley, is the stuff of a national nightmare that needs re-evaluation at the highest level.

While his doctor wife would have you believe that her husband Kiran Patel, the man who faked being an additional director, strategy and campaigns, in the Prime Minister Office(PMO), is working in 'national interest' and is being needlessly defamed, the emerging profile paints an altogether different picture. The impersonator used bluff and bluster, name-drop-

ping, swagger and social media, paraded a plush lifestyle replete with swanky BMW and a posh residence in a pricy area of Ahmedabad, to carry on his business, unmindful of the criminal trail he left behind.

Though the alleged imposter had spread his dragnet around four states besides his home ground of Gujarat, it was on his third high profile visit to the Kashmir

valley that the establishment woke up to his shenanigans and he was picked up from a top hotel, questioned and then taken into custody after he faltered. He was arrested March 3 but the matter remained under wraps until he was produced in court last week and sent to judicial custody.

The conman had been involved in at least three known cases of cheating in Gujarat. Claiming a line of degrees including a PhD. from a US University, on social media, bulk of them fakes, Patel had made it a point to attend meetings held for BJP workers, and hovering around the state party headquarters and the secretariat to

showcase his heft in the portals of power. The man even had the gall to organize a conference claiming it a part of the warm-up to the G-20 summit at a top city hotel on 'emerging avenues for industrial development which was advertised as being attended by top state government officials.

As the trail of investigations hots up, those who were once scrambling to get onto Kiran Patel's bandwagon are doing double time distancing themselves from him now. And these include some BJP leaders as well. However this entire imposter episode has raised more questions than his arrest has answered.





international



Kyiv expects China to use its influence on **Russia to end the** war in Ukraine OLEG NIKOLENKO UKRAINIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON

DROUGHT IN SOMALIA

A new report says an estimated 43,000 people died amid the longest drought on record in Somalia last year and half of them likely were children. It is the first official death toll announced in the drought withering large parts of the Horn of Africa. At least 18,000 people are forecast to die in the first six months of this year



uote



SHEHBAZ SHARIF PAKISTAN PM



RANIL WICKREMESINGHE



BEZALEL SMOTRICH ISRAELI FINANCE MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Thailand PM dissolves parl

Bangkok: Thailand's Parliament was dissolved Monday by a government decree, setting the stage for a May general election that poses an opportunity to lessen the military's influence in politics. The dissolution, just a few days before the end of the four-year term of the House of Representatives, was initiated by Prime Minister Pravuth Chan-ocha, who is seeking a fresh mandate in the election expected to be held May 7 or 14. The date will be announced next week. The election will pit the popular opposition Pheu Thai party, backed by billionaire populist Thaksin Shinawatra, against parties representing the conservative establishment and closely linked to the military.

Moscow opens case against ICC

Moscow: The International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutor and judges, who issued an arrest warrant against Russian President Vladimir Putin, have become the targets of a criminal case,



ON THE BOIL: A protester jumps in the air as he throws a rock towards police next to a burning barricade in the Kibera slum of Nairobi, Kenya. Hundreds of opposition supporters have taken to the streets of the Kenyan capital over the result of the last election and the rising cost of living, in protests organised by the opposition demanding that the president resigns from office PTI PHOTO

'Prachanda' wins vote of confidence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, March 20: Nepal's Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' Monday secured a vote of confidence in parliament, winning the second floor test within three months after the formation of the new government.

Prime Minister Prachanda secured 172 votes in the 275-member House of Representatives. Other 89 lawmakers voted against him whereas one abstained. A total of 262 members of the lower house were present in the house.

The 68-year-old Maoist leader needed at least 138 votes out of 275 lawmakers. Eleven political parties including Nepali Congress, CPN-Maoist Centre, Rastriya Swatantra Party, CPN-Unified Socialist, Janata Samajwadi Party Nepal, Lokatantrik Samajwadi Party, Nagarik Unmukti Party, Janamat Party among others voted in favour

of Prachanda. CPN-UML and Rastriya Prajatantra Party voted against



him. Nepal Workers and Peasants Party abstained.

Prachanda's victory paved the way for the expansion of the cabinet by inducting ministers from ruling alliance including the largest party in the Parliament -Nepali Congress, which has already announced plans to join the government.

The expansion of the cabinet is likely within the next twothree days to give a full shape to the government, according to party sources.

Prachanda Sunday exuded confidence that he will comfortably win a vote of confidence in the House of Representatives.

IMF denies linking loan with Pakistan's nuclear weapons

the international community.

"Russia was the first country I

with Putin during his 10-year tenure stitching together with him an anti-US alliance, said he visited Moscow eight times in the last 10 years and met the Russian leader over 40 times during bilateral and multilateral occasions.

While the thrust of his article was on further developing the strategic ties against the damaging acts of hegemony, domination and bullying, an apparent dig at the US, it also highlighted Xi's peace plan to end the Ukraine war. Buoyed by China's successful mediatory role in bringing a peace deal between archrivals Iran and Saudi Arabia recently following which the two warring Arab countries agreed to resume diplomatic ties. Xi now focuses on



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Islamabad, March 20: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has rubbished claims that the global lender had attached any strings to the revival of a loan programme for Pakistan stalled for months despite the two sides en-

IMF resident representative in Islamabad Esther Perez Ruiz denied attaching any strings to the External Fund Facility (EFF), Geo_ News reported.

"Regarding recent speculation that programme discussions with the authorities for the ninth review under the IMF supported programme may have covered Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme. I want to be categoric that there is absolutely no truth to this or any insinuated link between the past or current IMF supported programme and decision by any Pakistani government over its nuclear programme," the official said. She further said that the discussions have exclusively focused on economic policies to solve Pakistan's economic and balance of payments problems, in line with the Fund's mandate for promoting macroeconomic and financial stability. On March 16, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar promised that there would be no compromise on the country's nuclear and missile programme He made the statement in the Senate in response to Senator Raza Rabbani's questions about the delay in signing the agreement with the IMF. Rabbani regretted that the upper House of the Parliament had "neither before nor today been taken into confidence on what are the conditionalities of the IMF" for extending the loan facility to Pakistan. Geo News reported

XI, PUTIN HOLD TALKS IN MOSCOW

CHINA & RUSSIA HAVE DESCRIBED XI'S TRIP AS PART OF EFFORTS TO FURTHER DEEPEN THEIR "NO-LIMITS FRIENDSHIP"

AGENCIES

Moscow, March 20: Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Russian counterpart and ally Vladimir Putin held crucial talks in Moscow Monday amid concerted efforts by China to push for a peace deal to end the Ukraine war, weeks after Beijing successfully brokered a pact between Iran and Saudi Arabia to end their bitter rivalry.

Xi and Putin, who met over 40 times in the last 10 years to forge close ties to oppose the US-dominated world order, held talks hours after the Chinese leader arrived in Moscow for a three-day state visit to a "grand welcome", official media

official media. Ushakov said the visit would be strictly a business visit, "there will be no additional protocol stuff, the main thing is negotiations, negotiations and negotiations." In his arrival statement, Xi said, "Our two countries have consolidated and grown the bilateral relationship on the basis of no-alliance, no-confrontation and not targeting any third party, and set a fine example for developing a new model of major-country relations". He said China will continue to

work with Russia to safeguard the international system with the UN at its core, the international order underpinned by international law, and the basic norms of international relations based on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. President Putin said that Moscow has studied Beijing's proposals for resolving the conflict in Ukraine and that he will discuss it at a meeting with President Xi. state-run Tass news agency re-

They will continue their talks

Tuesday too, according to Russian

on both sides reported. ported. "We have thoroughly stud-Kremlin aide Yury Ushakov ied your proposals for resolving the media that Presidents Xi and Putin will hold face-to-face talks followed by their delegations later.



Xi's visit follows Putin arrest warrant for war crimes

hina and Russia both denounce international court ruling

we will have an opportunity to discuss this." he stressed.

'We know that you proceed from the principles of justice and observance of the fundamental provisions of international law and indivisible security for all countries.' Putin said, noting that China was taking a "fair and balanced position on most pressing international problems." Putin stressed Russia's

→ peace, Kyiv wants Russia out Fighting rages round Bakhmut in east Ukraine

which we treat with respect, of course," he said. Significantly, as Xi arrived in Moscow becoming the first world leader to meet Putin after the International Criminal Court

(ICC) issued an arrest warrant against the Russian leader accusing him of committing war crimes in Ukraine, Beijing strongly criticised the Court accusing it of double standards. Xi said his plan takes

visited after I was elected President 10 years ago," Xi said in an article titled "Forging Ahead to Open a New Chapter of China-Russia Friendship, Cooperation and Common Development" published in Russia's state-run newspaper

Russian Gazette Monday. Xi, 69, who maintained close ties



Russias Investigative Committee announced Monday, according to a media report. In a Telegram post, the committee said that it has opened cases against ICC prosecutor Karim Ahmad Khan, as well as judges Tomoko Akane, Rosario Salvatore Aitala and Sergio Gerardo Ugalde Godinez, RT reported.

the acute crisis in Ukraine," Putin said, addressing the Chinese leader at a meeting Monday. "Of course,

FRANCE PENSION REFORM

Macron faces no-confidence votes

openness to negotiations. "Of course, we will discuss all these issues, including your initiatives,

into account the "legitimate" concerns of all parties and reflects the broadest common understanding of

More legal cases piling

up against Imran Khan

brokering a deal to end the Russia-Ukraine war in a bid to enhance Beijing's role in global diplomacy.

Khan's nephew held

Islamabad: Pakistan police arrested

Imran Khan's nephew and a number of

his supporters Monday for their alleged

involvement in the attacks on the secu-

rity personnel outside a court here over

the weekend where the ousted premier

arrived from Lahore to appear in the

much-awaited hearing in a corruption

case. Monday's arrests bring the total

Islamabad to 198 since Saturday.

number of Khan's followers detained in

This comes after the Punjab

Police raided Khan's residence

at Zaman Park, Lahore in a

clearance operation, immedi-

ately after he left for Islamabad

to appear before the judges at the

iudicial complex.

Palestine, Israel to de-escalate tension

Cairo: The Palestinian National Authority and Israel reaffirmed their commitment to advancing security, stability and peace for both Palestinians and Israelis. According to a communique released after a meeting between officials from the two sides, Egypt, Iordan and the US in Egypt's Red Sea resort city of Sharm El-Sheikh, the parties recognised the necessity of de-escalation on the ground. the prevention of further violence, as well as of pursuing confidence-building measures, and addressing outstanding issues through direct dialogue.

AGENCIES

Paris. March 20: France's government is facing a critical, maybe fatal, moment Monday with no-confidence motions filed by lawmakers who are furious that President Emmanuel Macron ordered the use of special constitutional powers to force through an unpopular bill raising the retirement age from 62 to 64 without giving them a vote.

National Assembly lawmakers are set to vote in the afternoon on two no-confidence motions, one from the far-right National Rally and the other; more threatening one from a small group that has gathered support across the left. The Senate, dominated by conservatives who back the retirement plan,



Smoke rises from a burning barricade on highway during a protest against pension reform in Rennes, France REUTERS

passed the legislation last week. The no-confidence motions each need the backing of 287 lawmakers in the National Assembly, the lower chamber, to pass. Although the motions appear unlikely to suc-

ceed, the climate of protest that Macron's pension reforms has sparked in parliament and on the streets means the outcome of voting in the National Assembly is not guaranteed.

AGENCIES

Islamabad, March 20: More legal cases are piling up against Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan following the violence staged by his supporters during his hearing at the Islamabad Judicial Complex in the Toshakhana case.

Till now, the total number of cases have gone up to 80. As per details, the latest case has been lodged against the former premier and members of his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party at Islamabad's Golra Sharif police station for setting government vehicles a blaze, attacking police officials and snatching away their official weapons.

Security beefed up around Indian mission in UK

SK lifts years-long mask mandate

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Seoul: Amid a stable Covid situation, South Korea Monday finally lifted its yearslong mask mandate for public transportation. Wearing a mask is no longer mandatory on public transportation, such as buses, the subway or taxis, as one of the last-remaining Covid-19 restrictions came to an end in the country's efforts to return to pre-pandemic normalcy, reports Yonhap News Agency. The decision came two years and five months after the government made it mandatory to wear a mask on public transportation in October 2020 at the height of the pandemic.

VANDALISM BY PRO-KHALISTAN GROUP

AGENCIES

London, March 20: Security was beefed up around the Indian High Commission here Monday and Scotland Yard detained one person in connection with vandalism at the mission by Khalistan supporters a day earlier as India asked the UK to quickly arrest and prosecute those involved in the attack. The tricolour flying atop the Indian High Commission in

London was grabbed at by the protesters waving separatist Khalistan flags and chanting pro-Khalistan slogans Sunday. After the incident, police arrested one person related to the violent dis-

order. In New Delhi, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said Monday that India has asked the UK to quickly arrest and prosecute those involved in pulling down the Indian flag at its mission in London. Kwatra said that India lodged a strong protest and clearly indicated to the British authorities the need for putting up adequate security at the Indian high commission. Following the incident, India summoned the senior-most British diplomat in Delhi and demanded an explanation over complete" absence

of security" at the mission. Kwatra, replying to a question at a media briefing, said the British deputy high commissioner was



summoned and India demanded that the culprits and perpetrators of what happened in London on Sunday be quickly "arrested and prosecuted". On Sunday, a group of pro-Khalistan protesters also attacked and damaged the Indian Consulate in San Francisco, prompting sharp condemnation from Indian-Americans who demanded immediate action against those responsible for it. Kwatra, however, did not respond to a query on reports of pro-Khalistan protesters attacking the Indian Consulate in San Francisco. In Canberra,

San Francisco consulate attacked

Washington/Canberra: A group of pro-Khalistan protesters Sunday attacked and damaged the Indian Consulate in San Francisco, prompting sharp condemnation from Indian-Americans who demanded immediate action against those responsible for it. "We are also appalled by the complete law and order failure in both in London as well as in SFO where a few radicalised separatists attacked India's diplomatic missions," Foundation for India and Indian Diaspora Studies (FIIDS) said after pro-Khalistani protesters attacked the Indian Consulate in San Francisco.

Khalistan supporters gathered outside Australian parliament on Monday to protest against police crackdown on radical preacher Amritpal Singh and his associates in Punjab.Officials from the mission in London said the "attempted but failed" attack had been foiled and that the tricolour was now flying

"grander", with a larger tricolour 🗎 now adorning the India House façade.

The Metropolitan Police said two members of security staff sustained minor injuries, which did not require hospital treatment and an investigation has been launchedafter an arrest on suspicion of violent disorder.















No instructions have been given to banks for not filling Rs 2.000 notes in ATMs. Banks make their own assessment of amount and denominational requirement for ATMs on the basis of past usage, consumer requirement, seasonal trend, etc NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FINANCE MINISTER

AMAZON TO AXE 9K MORE WORKERS

Amazon CEO Andy Jassy said in a blog post Monday that the tech major will slash another 9,000 jobs in the next few weeks. The development comes just months after the e-commerce giant in January this year, said it will lay off over 18,000 employees, amid a rush of other tech companies downsizing their head count



and liquidity are strong enough

to allow them to hold onto their

HTM securities," Moody's said in

HOW COMFORTABLE ARE BANKS

While deposit growth has trailed

credit growth in recent times, the

credit-to-deposit (CD) ratio remains

tem has sufficient stable funding.

able on liquidity, with the coverage

ratio at 135.6% as of September-end,

latest central bank data showed, well

above the regulatory requirement

HIGHER DEPOSIT INSURANCE

After two large bank failures in

the last three years, India has raised

the limit of insurance cover for

depositors in insured banks from

the earlier level of Rs 100,000

(\$1.211.23) to 500.000 per account.

This was done with a view to pro-

viding a greater measure of pro-

This means that the banking sys-

Indian banks are also comfort-

a report

of 100%

ON LIQUIDITY?

comfortable at 75.3%



If you have a smart prepaid meter, your cost of electricity will come down by 2-2.5 per cent and the consumer gains (at benefit)

RK SINGH UNION POWER MINISTER

India is currently a top 10 country for Cisco, and our ambition is to get into the top 5 by 2025. We are on a good trajectory to be there

DAISY CHITTILAPILLY PRESIDENT, CISCO INDIA AND SAARC

This \$4,00,000 investment is a natural extension of our global goal to be net water positive by 2030, helping replenish more water than we use and is a key pillar of our purpose programme AHMED ELSHEIKH PRESIDENT, PEPSICO

SHORT TAKES

SEBI to refund **₹3bn to NSE**

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday directed the market regulator to refund Rs 3 billion (\$36.3 million) to the National Stock Exchange of India in a case involving alleged lapses in the bourse's systems, lawyers representing the parties said Monday. The top court also refused to stay a tribunal order, which had set aside the regulator's ruling against NSE, the lawyers added. In 2019, SEBI passed a series of orders against the NSE and its former chief executives, Chitra Ramkrishna and Ravi Narain, alleging that the exchange did not exercise due diligence while setting a network that allowed highfrequency traders unfair access to some network servers at the exchange. SEBI had ordered the NSE to deposit nearly Rs 11 billion, including interest, in an investor fund and barred it from raising money from the securities market directly or

Gold rallies ₹1,400 to touch all-time high 'Indian banks more resilient than US'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 20: Gold price rallied Rs 1,400 to touch a life-time high of Rs 60,100 per 10 grams in the national capital Monday amid strong global trends, according to HDFC Securities

The precious metal had ended at Rs 58,700 per 10 grams in the previous trade. Silver also zoomed Rs 1,860 to Rs 69,340 per kilogramme.

"Spot gold prices in the Delhi markets traded at Rs 60,100 per 10 grams, up Rs 1,400 per 10 grams," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

In the overseas markets, both gold and silver were trading higher at \$2,005 per ounce and \$22.55 per ounce, respectively. Comex Gold prices traded

higher in Asian trading hours Monday and rose to a fresh 52week high of \$2,005 per ounce, Gandhi said

"Bullions continue surge, with gold on domestic front hitting a new life-time high of over Rs 60.000, as a wave of banking crises shook global markets and put bullion on track for its biggest weekly rise in three years, while bets solidified for a less aggressive Fed in its fight against inflation." Navneet Damani, Senior VP - Commodity Research at Motilal Oswal Financial

Services, said.

Mumbai, March 20: Turbulence in the United States and the European banking sectors has prompted Indian policymakers to assure investors that the domestic financial institutions are resilient. Prime Minister Narendra Modi

REUTERS

and Central Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das have both said that local lenders are strong, after the US banking crisis spilled over to the Indian stock market and rattled bank stocks.

However, analysts say that unlike in the past few years, when Indian banks had large bad loans and limited capital, these lenders are now in a better position to withstand stress

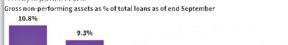
"Right now, Indian banks are showing resilience compared to their US counterparts and that largely has to do with their current capital levels, healthy asset quality and strict monitoring by the regulator," said Anil Gupta, senior vice president and co-group head for financial sector ratings at ICRA ratings agency. He does not foresee a direct impact of the global banking turmoil on Indian banks.

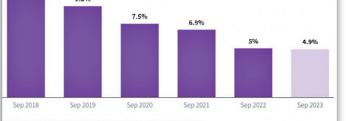
HOW WELL CAPITALISED ARE INDIAN BANKS? The Indian financial sector has

seen large insolvencies, including Yes Bank, over the past three years but lenders have reduced bad debt

BIZ BUZZ







GLOBAL BANKING TURMOIL

rce: Macquarie research and RBI | Reuters, March 20, 2023 | By Kripa Jayara

he Nifty Bank index is down 5.3% since the crisis at Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) erupted earlier this month, compared with a near-18% fall in the US banking index

While the Federal Reserve has raised interest rates by 450 basis points since March last year, India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has increased the policy repo rate by 250 bps since May

India's benchmark 10-year bond yield has risen 20 basis points since the rate hiking cycle began in May 2022, while the comparable US 10-year yield has risen 150 bps since the Federal Reserve started hiking rates

> Indian banks would be able to comply with the minimum capital requirements even under adverse

Indian banks have

proportion of

low-cost current

a high

account savings account

(CASA) deposits and high

ADITYA ACHAREKAR ASSOCIATE

DIRECTOR, CAREEDGE RATINGS

proportion of retail deposits,

making them more resilient

According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) norms, banks are re-

quired to maintain a minimum CET-1 capital by 12-25%, estimates Capital to Risk Weighted Assets Moody's Investors Service. "That Ratio (CRAR) of 9% on an ongoing said, banks are unlikely to realize basis such losses because their funding

As per latest RBI data released in December, the CRAR and Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) ratio of Indian banks stood at 16% and 13%, respectively, as of September-end.

WHAT IS THE ASSET QUALITY **POSITION OF BANKS?**

The gross non-performing assets to total advances ratio for Indian banks has been on a declining trend since hitting a high of 10.8% in September 2018. It fell from 5.9% in March 2022 to 5% in September 2022.

The provision coverage ratio (PCR), which reflects the percentage of funds set aside for bad loans, has also been increasing since March 2021 to 71.5% as on September-end.

HOW ARE INDIAN BANKS' BOND PORTFOLIOS PERFORMING?

One of the pressures faced by US banks is the sharp rise in interest rates, leading to mark-to-market losses on their bond portfolios. Indian banks are not facing the

tection to depositors in banks. While the amount seems small, same level of pressure on their bond portfolios as US banks beit fully insures 98% of deposit accounts, according to a State Bank cause Indian interest rates have risen less. of India (SBI) research note. By If Indian banks mark their held-

to-maturity (HTM) investments to market, it would bring down their



New Delhi, March 20: The government has taken various reforms following which asset quality of public sector banks has improved significantly with gross NPA ratio declining from the peak of 14.6 per cent in March 2018 to 5.53 per cent in December 2022, Parliament was informed Monday.

All PSBs are in profit with aggregate profit being Rs 66,543 crore in 2021-22, and that further increased to Rs 70,167 crore in first nine months of current financial vear. Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat K Karad said in a written reply to Lok Sabha. PSU At the same time

in the financial ecosystem. Major banking reforms undertaken by the government

contrast, deposits of top 10 banks in the US were insured in the range of 38.4% to 66%, SBI said. **GDP likely to grow** at 7%: FinMin

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 20: Indian economy is expected to grow at 7 per cent in FY23 despite global headwinds while retail inflation would moderate in line with wholesale inflation which fell to a 25month low in January, the Finance Ministry said Monday.

Supported by the gains from high services exports, the moderation in oil prices, and the recent fall in import-intensive consumption demand, India's current account deficit is estimated to fall in FY23 and FY24, providing a_ buffer to the rupee in uncertain times, Monthly Economic Review by the ministry said.

This will provide a muchneeded cushion to India's external sector at a time when the Fed

New Delhi: Jindal Steel & Power (JSP) has received BIS certification to manufacture India's first fire resistant steel structures at its Rail Mill & Special Profile Mill in Raigarh, Chhattisgarh. The hot rolled as per IS 15103, can be used for Celsius for a maximum duration of 3 hours. Bimlendra Jha, Managing Director of Jindal Steel & Power, said in a statement, "The licence provided to Jindal Steel & Power to produce Fire Resistant Steel will be a game-changer in strengthening India's infrastructure & its safety standards. Fire Resistant Steel will provide much-needed assurance to the end users for fire safety, building a safer AtmaNirbhar Bharat". A felicitation ceremony for the BIS certifications was held during the World Consumer Rights Day celebration at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi in which the license was formally granted to Jindal Steel & Power

resistant steel

structural steel, manufactured high-temperature or fire-prone areas and can withstand temperatures up to 600 degrees

JSP gets India's 1st BIS licence to make fire

and raised capital since then, putting them in a stronger position. scenarios

Stress tests conducted by the central bank and released as part of the Financial Stability Report (FSR) in December showed that

PSU banks' NPA dips





health of PSBs, Karad said, the government implemented a comprehensive 4R strategy of Recognising NPAs transparently, Resolution and recovery. Recapitalising PSBs, and Reforms

indirectly for six months.

PE/VC investments nearly halve in Feb

Mumbai: Investments by private equity and venture capital funds declined by 44 per cent to \$3.7 billion in February compared to the same period a year ago, a report said Monday. The venture investing industry poured in \$6.6 billion into companies in February 2022 while the same stood at \$4,314 billion in January 2023. In volume terms, the number of deals dropped by 60 per cent in February with 55 transactions getting recorded as against 139 in the year-ago period. the report said, adding that there were 75 deals in January 2023.

Union Bank of India unveils mid corporate branch

BHUBANESWAR: Falcon Group has signed a memorandum of

understanding (MoU) with the government of Gujarat to set up a state of

the art french fries processing facility at Mehsana district of Gujarat with

a proposed investment of ₹1.050 crore. The deal was signed in the presence

of Bhupendra Patel, Chief Minister of Gujarat among other dignitaries.

andre all the

Falcon Group inks MoU with Gujarat govt

Cuttack: Union Bank of India, Cuttack mid corporate branch was inaugurated by Cuttack district Magistrate Bhabani Sankar Chayani in the august presence of Sarvesh Ranjan, Field General Manager, Bhubaneswar Zone. Tushar Kanta Kar, Regional Head, Cuttack Regional Office and Susanta Kumar Nayak, Deputy Regional Head, Cuttack Regional Office along with Sukamal Saha, Chief Manager of Cuttack Mid Corporate Branch were present to grace the occasion.





resilience has increased with provision coverage ratio of PSBs rising from 46 per cent to 89.9 per cent in December 2022, he said, adding capital adequacy ratio of PSBs improved significantly from 11.5 per cent in March 2015 to 14.5 per cent in December 2022.

Total market cap of PSBs (excluding IDBI Bank, which was categorised as private sector bank in January 2019) increased from Rs 4.52 lakh crore in March 2018 to Rs 10.63 lakh crore in December 2022, he said.

Karad also said banks, earlier placed under Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework by RBI, have made significant improvement.

Talking about various measures taken to improve the financial

banks' has earned over the last eight years adtotal profit of dressed credit discipline, Rs 70,167 cr in Apr-Dec FY23 responsible lending and Total m-cap of PSBs improved governance. increased from Rs 4.52trn besides adoption of techin March 2018 to nology, amalgamation of Rs 10.63trn in banks, and maintaining Dec 2022 general confidence of bankers, he said

In reply to another question, Karad said, as per the information provided by Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH), the total estimated vehicle fleet is 30.48 crore (excluding data from Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Lakshadweep), of which 16.54 crore vehicles are uninsured.

Replying to another question, Karad said the government since 2016 has given 'in-principle' approval for strategic disinvestment of 36 cases of public sector enterprises (PSEs) and/or subsidiaries/ units/ joint ventures of PSEs/ banks.

Govt's debt/liabilities at 57.3% of GDP

is likely to raise rates further and ensure that India's external finances are not a major cause of concern, it said.

Indian economy witnessed a growth of 4.4 per cent in the third quarter that ended in December 2022. Growth momentum gathered in Q3 of 2022-23 is likely to be sustained in Q4, as reflected in the performance of High-Frequency Indicators for January/February 2023, it said.

GST collections have now, in February 2023 crossed the Rs 1.4 lakh crore benchmark for twelve successive months.

Noting that falling international commodity prices and government measures have aided in easing inflationary pressures, the report said, inflationary pressures eased in February, with a slight moderation in CPI inflation and WPI inflation softening to a 25-month low.

India to boost aviation infra as demand booms

WEAK INFRASTRUCTURE IS SEEN AS HINDERING INDIA'S AVIATION GROWTH, ESPECIALLY AS IT LOOKS TO CONNECT THE COUNTRY'S HINTERLANDS TO BIGGER CITIES IN A BID TO GET MORE PEOPLE TO FLY

REUTERS

New Delhi, March 20: India outlined plans Monday to invest billions of dollars in airports, aircraft and recruitment as the world's fastest growing economy seeks to meet booming air travel demand. Growth will include new airports, more regulators and air traffic controllers, and new flying schools, Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia told an industry audience at the CAPA India Aviation Summit in New Delhi Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government said this year that the

We need to put in place the civil aviation infrastructure and capabilities that by 2047 country would would be able to support a \$20 spend Rs 980 trillion economy within India billion by 2025 JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA to boost regional CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER connectivity by constructing airports and modernising existing ones.

Scindia said passenger capacity at the country's six major airports is expected to grow to 420



five years from 700. Airline traffic is recovering quickly from coronavirus restric-

tions that led to jets being grounded worldwide in 2020, with manufacturers now struggling to keep pace with aircraft demand and engine

Local air traffic up 56.82% in Feb YoY

ndia's domestic air passenger traffic grew 56.82 per cent to 1.20 crore in February over the same month last year, as per the data released by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Monday. All domestic carriers together had flown a total of 76.96 lakh passengers on local routes in February 2022. The growth in traffic was led by market leader IndiGo, which flew 67.42 lakh passengers during the previous month, cornering 55.9 per cent of the total domestic passenger traffic in February 2023. Air India, AirAsia India, and Vistara, which in the process of merging with Air India, together transported a total of 29.75 lakh domestic air passengers during the month under review. The total market share of the three entities together was 24.6 per cent during the reporting month, as per DGCA data. Budget carrier SpiceJet, which is facing multiple headwinds, recorded the highest load factor at 91 per cent in February 2023 while IndiGo delivered the top on-time performance at 88.8 per cent on an average from across four key airports -- Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bangalore, data show.

shortages grounding some planes. have passengers to fill our airplanes ... now we do not have enough "Surprisingly and shockingly, the situation has turned the other airplanes to fly our passengers, way. Where at one point we did not Scindia said.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, March 20: The total amount of the Central government debt or liabilities is estimated at about Rs 155.8 lakh crore (57.3 per cent of GDP), as March 31, the Parliament was told Monday.

Out of this, external debt, valued at current exchange rate, is estimated at Rs 7.03 lakh crore (2.6% of GDP), Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told the Lok Sabha in a written reply.

The share of external debt is only about 4.5 per cent of total debt/liabilities of the Central government and less than 3 per cent of GDP. External debt is mostly financed by multilateral and bilateral agencies at concessional rates, and therefore, the risk profile stands out as safe and prudent, said the reply.

The minister also said that the RBI. in consultation with the government, has announced various measures recently to diversify and



expand the sources of forex funding to mitigate exchange rate volatility and global spillovers.

Some of such measures are include exemption to Incremental Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) (FCNR(B)) and Non-Resident (External) Rupee (NRE) deposit liabilities from maintenance of Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) and Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) for deposits mobilised up to November 4, 2022.

Also fresh FCNR(B) and NRE deposits were exempted from the extant regulation on interest rates - interest rates shall not be higher than those offered by the bankson comparable domestic rupee term deposits, till October 31, 2022.

OrissaPOST TUESDAY | MARCH 21 | 2023 | BHUBANESWAR

Too Grace-ful from UPW DC rout MI, jump to top spot



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, March 20: UP Warroirz's Grace Harris (72, 41b, 7x4, 4x6) once again set the stage on fire with her heavy-duty hitting, as the team defeated Gujarat Giants for the second consecutive time by three wickets with just one delivery to secure a place in the playoffs of the inaugural season here Monday

Following the win, Mumbai Indians, Delhi Capitals and UP Warriors have made the grade, while Gujarat Giants and Roval Challengers Bangalore have been eliminated from the tournament. Grace smashed the Giants attack to smithereens, hitting seven fours and four maximums in the chase of the Giants' 178/6. When she departed at 172, caught by Kim

Garth of Harleen Deol, there were still seven runs to be scored for victory.

There were a few nervous moments when Simran Shaikh departed and it became 177/7 for the Warriorz. Two runs off the last two deliveries can always be a tricky proposition, but Sophie Ecclestone swept a Sneh Rana delivery to the boundary to signal the win with just one ball to spare. Grace was involved in two pro-

ductive partnerships, with countrymate Tahlia McGrath (57, 38b, 11x4) and Sophie Ecclestone (19 n o). While Graces' stand with McGrath was worth 78 runs, with Ecclestone it fetched 42 runs and it ensured an easy passage into the knockouts with just one balls to spare.

The partnership between Grace

the prized scalp in just the second over of the innings after being dispatched for consecutive boundaries by the Australian.

Monika was given a pep talk by team-mates, and the result was the big wicket two deliveries later. The left-armer kept a back-of-length delivery on middle and leg stump that bounced a bit extra and Healy committed herself to a pull shot slightly early, getting an edge which flew to Harleen Deol at deep deep square leg.

The third over saw the Warriorz lose their second key batter in Kiran Navgire with Australian right-arm quick Kim Garth dismissing the quick for just four and reducing the Warriorz to 2/19.

To add to their woes, left-arm spinner Tanuja Kanwar got Devika Vaidya caught behind the stumps by Sushma Verma in the fifth over. Devika aimlessly raced down the track to flick the ball only to get a feather touch which flew to the keeper

Earlier, a brilliant 93-run partnership between Dayalan Hemalatha (57, 33b, 6x4, 3x6) and the second costliest player Ashleigh Gardner (60, 39b, 6x4, 3x6) helped Gujarat Giants post 178/6 in their do-or-die clash.

The authority and attacking ways with which the duo played indicated they were on a mission. given the do-or-die nature of the contest as the tournament enters its business end.

By the time the partnership ended, with Hemalatha dismissed by Parshavi Chopra (2/29) in the 17th over with the team total on 143, the stand had put the team on course for a competitive total.

South African opener Laura Wolvaardt and Sophia Dunkley went about their task of scoring runs in powerplay with a lot of urgency. **BRIEF SCORES**

GG Women 178/6 (Ashleigh Gardner 60, Dayalan Hemalatha 57; Parshavi Chopra 2/29) lost to UPW Women 181/7 (Grace Harris 72, Tahlia McGrath 57; Kim Garth 2/29) by 3 wickets.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Navi Mumbai, March 20: A breathtaking boundary-hitting show after a clinical bowling attack helped Delhi Capitals thrash Mumbai Indians by nine wickets to jump to the top of the table in the Women's Premier League here Monday.

South African pacer Marizanne Kapp (2/13) struck twice in two balls early on to help Delhi restrict Mumbai, who were put in to bat, to a meagre 109/8. Shikha Pandey (2/21) and Jess Jonassen (2/25) also chipped in with two wickets for DC.

Chasing a small total, the top three Delhi batters of captain Meg Lanning (32 n o, 22b, 4x4, 1x6), Shafali Verma (33, 15b, 6x4, 1x6) and Alice Capsev (38 n o. 17b, 1x4, 5x6) competed among themselves

chased down the target with 66 balls remaining. Already in the playoffs before Monday's match, Delhi and Mumbai

now have 10 points from seven matches each. But Delhi are ahead on net run rate - plus 1.978 as against plus 1.725 of Mumbai.

Delhi face UP Warriorz-who also have qualified for the playoffs -Tuesday, while Mumbai take on Royal Challengers Bangalore who are out of reckoning - on the same day. Tuesday's matches will decide which team tops the table and directly qualifies for the final. The second and third place teams will play the eliminator.

Defending a small total, Mumbai needed early wickets but Delhi openers Lanning and Shafali denied

United in FA Cup semis;

Arsenal extend EPL lead

fifth over when the latter was out. Lanning and Capsey then took upon themselves to chase down the target in a jiffy.

Earlier, invited to bat in the topof-the-table clash, Mumbai were reduced to 10/3 in 3.3 overs with Kapp fetching wickets off consecutive deliveries in the third over, and they never recovered from there.

Pooja Vastrakar top-scored for Mumbai with a 26 while captain Harmanpreet Kaur and Issy Wong contributed 23 each. The 37-run partnership for the fifth wicket between Kaur and Vastrakar was the highest for Mumbai. Mumbai crawled to their lowest powerplay total of 19/3, before another blow struck them.

Introduced in the seventh over, Arundhati Reddy struck in her fifth ball, dismissing Amelia Kerr as Mumbai wickets continued to tumble. Mumbai took 18 runs from the 10th over to reach 46/4 at the halfway mark.

With Kaur needing to play sheetanchor, Vastrakar was given the task to take risks and she had another couple of boundaries in the next over. But her stay was cut short with Jonassen dismissing her in the 12th over.

Runs were hard to come by and even an in-form Kaur could not force the pace of Mumbai innings. Mumbai were 74/6 when Kaur was out and they added 35 runs in the last five overs to go past the 100-run mark.

BRIEF SCORES: MI Women 109/8 (Pooja Vastrakar 26, Issy Wong 23. Harmanpreet Kaur 23: Marizanne Kapp 2/13, Shikha Pandey 2/21, Jess Jonassen 2/25) vs DC Women 110/1 (Alice Capsey 38 n o, Shafali Verma 33, Meg Lanning 32 n o) by 9 wickets.

MATCH SCHEDULE CRICKET **Royal Challengers Bangalore** vs Mumbai Indians 3.30pm UP Warrorz vs **Delhi Capitals**

7.30pm

Telecast: Sports 18 channels

ALCARAZ, RYBAKINA REIGN SUPREME AT INDIANA WELLS



Last year, Alcaraz became the voungest man to reach No.1 in ATF





ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manchester, March 20: It was all set up for a famous FA Cup upset as Fulham led treble-chasing Manchester United at Old Trafford. But in the space of seven chaotic second-half minutes, the visitors were reduced to nine players, had their manager sent off and conceded twice.

It was a meltdown of epic proportions and United capitalised shown red. All three dismissals came over a period of 40 seconds.

All that was left was for Bruno Fernandes to dispatch his penalty and even the score in the 75th. Two minutes later Marcel Sabitzer put United in front and nine-man_(Fulham were on their way out.

Fernandes scored a second to make it 3-1 in the sixth minute of stoppage time and set up a Wembley

semifinal game against Brighton. ARSENAL MARCH ON

NO.1 IN THE ATP RANKINGS REPLACING NOVAK DJOKOVIC

RAFAEL NADAL DROPPED OUT OF THE TOP 10 (RANKED 13TH) FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 18 YEARS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Indian Wells, March 20: Carlos Alcaraz defeated Daniil Medvedev 6-3, 6-2 Sunday to win the BNP Paribas Open title and regain the World's No.1 ranking.

The 19-year-old Spaniard will move from second to first in the ATP Tour rankings Monday, displacing Novak Djokovic. The Serb withdrew from Indian Wells before the tournament began when he couldn't gain entry to the US because he's unvaccinated for COVID-19.

In the women's final, Elena Rybakina beat Aryna Sabalenka 7-6(13-11), 6-4 and handed the world's second-ranked player just her second loss this year.

history after his title at the US Open. He achieved another mark in the third round at Indian Wells. That's when Alcaraz notched his 100th career match victory, the second-quickest player behind John

McEnroe to do so. Alcaraz also became the first man to win the tournament without dropping a set since Roger Federer in 2017 and the youngest man to win the title in the desert. Alcaraz and Rybakina earned

USD 1.262.220 each for their wins. Rybakina carried the momentum from her straight-set semifinal upset of top-ranked Iga Swiatek into the final and beat Sabalenka for the first time in five career meetings. The 10th-seeded Rybakina had

seven aces and No.2 seed Sabalenka committed 10 double faults. Sabalenka won just 11 of 35 secondserve points. Rybakina improved her match record to 16-4 this year; Sabalenka fell to 17-2.

and McGrath had laid a solid foun-

dation and the former continued

even after her country-mate had de-

Grace, who had scored an un-

beaten 59 the last time the teams had

met at the DY Patil Stadium and en-

sured a thrilling victory for the

Warriorz with just one ball to spare,

played with such ferocity, it made

the Giants bowlers look mere pedes-

All this despite the UP Warriorz

being off to a rank bad start on a

pitch that offered good bounce and

carry. The team was down in the

dumps at 3/39 before Grace and

Tahlia came together to turn the

Skipper Alyssa Healy (12) went

early after giving indication she

meant business. Young Giants

medium-pacer Monica Patel took

tables on the Giants.

parted at 117/4.

trians

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 20: Tokyo Olympic bronze medallist Lovlina

Borgohain made a winning start to her campaign as she and Sakshi Chaudhary moved to the quarterfinals of the Women's World Championships with dominant victories here Monday. Both Sakshi (54kg) and Lovlina

(75kg) notched identical 5-0 unanimous decision wins respectively. While Lovlina outpunched Mexico's Vanessa Ortiz, Sakshi got the better of Zhazira Urakbayeva of Kazakhstan to progress to the last eight stage. But the most electrifying Indian

performance of the day was displayed by Preeti (54kg). The youngster though eventually lost her bout to last year's 52kg silver medallist Thailand's Jitpong

Jutamas by a 4-3 verdict, the bout was so close that a review had to be taken Preeti entered the tournament

on the back of a selection row, where her place in the side was questioned as she didn't win the National Championships. However, the 19-year-old justified her place in the Indian team with her fearless performance.

The tenacious Preeti showed aggression against a more experienced opponent to take the first round 4-1. She fought toe to toe with Jutamas as both pugilists connected punches but the the Thai was able to edge the Indian and took the remaining two rounds with the final result being decided by a bout review.

Competing in her new 75kg category, Lovlina, who received a first round bye, won her opening encounter to walk one step closer to a medal. The two-time World Championship bronze medallist looked a little defensive against her stocky opponent.

The Indian, who was considerably taller than her Mexican opponent, was forced to play from a distance as Ortiz capitalised on every opportunity to move forward and attack. The result was that Lovlina wasn't able to connect a lot of the punches as she seemed nervous moving ahead.

Sakshi, the 2021 Asian Championship bronze medallist, utilised her height and long reach to her advantage. She would punch Urakbayeva and step back quickly, not letting her opponent counterattack. The Indian danced around the ring, playing with aggression and released a number of punches to emerge victorious

on it in ruthless fashion to advance to the semifinals with a 3-1 win that keeps its three-pronged trophy pursuit on track.

There is also the prospect of a mouthwatering FA Cup final against Manchester City after the rivals were kept apart in the draw for the last four.

Thoughts of an all-Manchester showdown at Wembley June 3, however, looked in serious doubt after Aleksandar Mitrovic fired Fulham ahead in the 50th minute of the quarterfinal match. That was before the game was turned upside down as Fulham's players and manager Marco Silva lost control.

Emotions boiled over after Willian blocked Jadon Sancho's goal-bound shot in the 70th and VAR instructed referee Chris Kavanagh to review the incident on the touchline monitor.

Before the official could even make a decision, he had shown a red card to Silva for remonstrating furiously in the dugout.

Replays showed Willian had clearly used his hand and was sent off as a result. That sparked outrage from Mitrovic, who angrily approached Kavanagh and was also

Knocked out of Europe Thursday, Arsenal's sights are now solely fixed on winning the Premier League title for the first time in 19 years. And that elusive prize edged closer as a 4-1 win against Crystal Palace moved Mikel Arteta's team eight points clear at the top of the table.

There was no sign of a hangover after the penalty shootout loss to Sporting Lisbon in the Europa League as Arsenal underlined its title credentials. Gabriel Martinelli, who missed the decisive spot-kick in that match, quickly put that disappointment behind him by opening the scoring against Palace.

Arsenal still has to play secondplaced Manchester City and Liverpool before the end of the season. But the London club is in impressive form having won six in a row in the league.

Bukayo Saka provided the pass for Martinelli and became the first player in the league to reach double figures for goals and assists this season. He then went on to score two more himself. Granit Xhaka got Arsenal's other goal, while Jeffrey Schlupp scored for Palace.



RIGHT ON THE MONEY: Bruno Fernandes scores from the spot for Manchester — (United's first goal against Fulham, Sunday

India thrash Barca top Real, inch closer to title

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, March 20: Closer than ever to the title, Barcelona finished the last Spanish league "clasico" of the season by celebrating on the field at Camp Nou. Real Madrid were left complaining about the refereeing after seeing its chances of retaining the title all but end.

Barcelona took a major step to ward winning their first league title since 2019 after coming from behind to beat Madrid 2-1 Sunday, with Franck Kessie scoring in stoppage time to give the Catalan club the home victory and a 12-point lead over second-place Madrid with 12 matches to go.

Barcelona were saved by the VAR for the second consecutive game, as Madrid had a potential goahead goal by Marco Asensio called back in the 81st minute because



ENTERTAINING NIGHT: Barcelona players celebrate after Franck Kessie's (No.19) winner against Real Madrid at Spotify Camp Nou, Sunday

of offside. Last week, they edged still facing criticism over its pay-Athletic Bilbao when an 87thments of several millions of dollars minute equaliser by Athletic forover several years to the former vice ward Inaki Williams was disalpresident of the country's refereeing lowed by video review. committee. Prosecutors have for-Barcelona went into the match mally accused Barcelona of alleged

corruption, fraudulent management and falsification of documentation.

Real is among the clubs siding against Barcelona in the legal proceedings, so is the Spanish government, the league and the football federation. Barcelona has consistently denied any wrongdoing or conflict of interest, saying it paid for technical reports on referees but never tried to influence their decisions in games.

The visitors opened the scoring in the ninth minute with a fortunate own-goal by Ronald Araujo, who unintentionally redirected the ball into the net with a header after a cross by Vinícius Júnior from the left side of the area.

Sergi Roberto equalised after picking up a loose ball inside the area in the 45th, and Kessie netted the winner from the middle of the box after a late breakaway.

Nepal in SAFF **U-17** tourney

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, March 20: India scored an emphatic 4-1 victory over Nepal in the opening match of the SAFF U-17 Women's Championships here Monday.

India scored the first goal in the 10th minute through Shilji Shaji. Just when it looked Nepal would escape the half without conceding more goals, India hit them with a double blow. First, Shilji scored in the 40th minute, her second goal, and barely a minute later, Pooja made it 3-0. Shilji, this time, was the provider.

Barsha Oli scored off a welltaken volley in the 54th minute to reduce the deficit for Nepal. Shilji rounded off a brilliant performance with her third of the night.

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