

ON THE BOIL: A man gestures at burning cans during a demonstration in Paris, Tuesday. It's the latest round of nationwide demonstrations and strikes against unpopular pension reforms and President Emmanuel Macron's push to raise France's legal retirement age from 62 to 64



Odisha lost 50 lives post Cov vaccination

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

New Delhi, March 28: The Centre might be emphasising on universal vaccination to save lives from

dreadfulness of Covid-19, but Odisha

has lost at least 50 lives due to

Adverse Events Following



Odisha has reported 1,632 AEFI after Covid-19 vaccine administration - 1.552 minor, 3 severe and 77 serious - till

March 15 this year

Forest and Environment Minister Pradip Kumar Amat says as many as 55 big cats, including 6 Royal Bengal Tigers, died between 2012-13 and 2021-22

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 28: State



New Delhi, March 28: The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) Tuesday marginally raised interest rate on EPF deposits to 8.15 per cent for 2022-23 from a four-decade low of 8.10 per cent for its over six crore

3 RBTs, 26 leopards poached in 10 years rate to 8.15%

mating Aadhaar to the prescribed FY23 interest

POST NEWS NETWORK

ing March 31.

New Delhi, March 28: The Centre Tuesday extended the deadline for linking PAN and Aadhaar by three months to June 30, 2023, to provide some more time to taxpayers, an official statement said, adding that the earlier deadline was end-

A joint reading of Section 139AA of the Income Tax Act and the Aadhaar Act, however, clearly reveals that PAN-Aadhaar 'linking'

is not mandatory. There is only 'quoting' mentioned and that does

not mean mandatory linking under

According to the Centre, persons can intimate their Aadhaar to

the prescribed authority for

Aadhaar-PAN linking without fac-

Income-Tax Act, 1961, every person who has been allotted a PAN as

July 1, 2017, and is eligible to obtain Aadhaar number, is required to

intimate his Aadhaar to the pre-

scribed authority on or before

March 31, 2023, on payment of a pre-

certain repercussions under the

Income Tax Act with effect from

April 1, 2023. The date for inti-

"Failure to do so shall attract

Under the provisions of the

any law, it was learnt.

ing repercussions.

scribed fee, it said.

Aadhaar by June end

Section 139AA of the **Income Tax Act and** the Aadhaar Act. however, clearly reveals that PAN-Aadhaar 'linking' is not mandatory

authority for the purpose of linking PAN and Aadhaar has now been extended to June 30, 2023." the statement said.

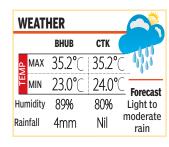
From July 1, 2023, the PAN of taxpayers who have failed to intimate their Aadhaar, as required, shall become inoperative. Notably,

more than 51 crore PANs have already been linked with Aadhaar till date. **EPFO** raises



If you wanted to befriend a human, why didn't you look for someone from the ruling party?

N	ARKE	T WAT	СН	
IN	DEX		VARI	ATION
RSES	SENSEX	57613.72	₽	40.14
BOU	NIFTY	16951.70	₽	34.00
CURRENCY BOURSES	DOLLAR	82.18	₽	₹0.18
CURR	EURO	89.05		₹0.32
ION	GOLD	₹58,860		₹334
BULLION	SILVER	₹70,411	1	₹485



Immunisation (AEFI) till March 15 this year, as per the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (H&FW). Replying to a question from YSRCP MP from Andhra Pradesh Kuruva Gorantla Madhav in the Lok Sabha, March 24, Minister of State (MoS) for H&FW Bharati Pravin Pawar said as many as 1,156 deaths were reported from across

the country following Covid-19 vaccination till March 15, 2023. The highest of such deaths were from Kerala (244), followed by Maharashtra (102), Uttar Pradesh (86), Madhya Pradesh (85), Karnataka (75), West Bengal (70),

Bihar (62) and Odisha (50), Pawar said. Odisha has also reported 1,632 AEFI after Covid-19 vaccine administration-1,552 minors, three severe and 77 serious — till March 15 this year, the H&FW Ministry said. "AEFI of Covid-19 vaccines are

reported and monitored through a well-structured and robust AEFI surveillance system under the Universal Immunisation

HAVE TAKEN THE SECOND DOSE OF COVID-19 VACCINE IN ODISHA

Program," Pawar said.

The YSRCP MP from Andhra Pradesh had asked for details of the mechanism in place to report Covid-19 vaccine-related AEFI and the number of AEFI cases reported from government and private hospitals, and the number of AEFI

related deaths in the country. The Lok Sabha MP also asked about steps taken by the government to sensitise the people and hospitals, in the private and government sector, regarding timely reporting of AEFI and to curb underreporting of AEFI cases. On reporting of AEFI cases, the

Union minister informed that guidelines have been issued to the states to direct district immunisation officers to strengthen reporting of AEFIs following Covid-19 vaccination by networking with

hospitals and medical colleges in the private and government sector. Covid vaccination program managers in the government and private Covid Vaccination Centres (CVCs) including hospitals have also been oriented on it, the minister said.

"For the reporting of Covid-19 vaccination related AEFIs, the SAFEVAC (a web based application for AEFD is integrated into Co-WIN and reporting of AEFIs is done through the Co-WIN SAFE-VAC. The Co-WIN SAFEVAC has the provision of reporting AEFIs by the vaccinator, district immunisation officer and the beneficiary themselves," the minister said.

According to the Union government, at least 3.30 crore people have taken the second dose of Covid-19 vaccine in Odisha.

has lost 29 big cats - three Royal Bengal Tigers (RBTs) and 26 leop ards – to poaching in the last 10 years, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Pradip Kumar Amat told the Assembly Tuesday.

Replying to a question from Congress MLA Tara Prasad Bahinipati, Amat said as many as six RBTs died in the last 10 years of which three were killed by poachers.

Of the 49 leopard deaths from 2012-13 to 2021-22, 26 fell prey to poachers, the minister said.

Based on 2018 data, Odisha has 28 tigers and 760 leopards as per the estimation made by the National Tiger Conservation Authority. Amat said.

Regarding the steps being taken to increase the tiger population in the state, the minister said two tiger projects have been set up in Odisha.

Anti-poaching camps have been set up and special squads have been deployed in the forests, he said

The minister said foot patrolling has been intensified and steps

have been taken for the development of meadows to increase the population of herbivores.

Measures have also been taken to contain wildfires in the jungles, he said.

Earlier, the Forest Minister had informed in the Assembly that 784 elephants died during 2012-13 to 2021-22. According to the last elephant census conducted in 2017, there are 1,976 elephants in Odisha

While 82 jumbos died in 2012-13, the figure was 86 in 2015-16, 93 in 2018-19 and 86 in 2021-22.

During the period, the state government has conducted investigations into 39 elephant deaths and chargesheets against 50 persons were filed. However, not a single accused has been convicted in these cases so far, Amat had said in his statement.

subscribers. In March 2022, it had lowered

AGENCIES

the interest rate on EPF for 2021-22 to 8.10 per cent for its subscribers. from 8.5 per cent in 2020-21.

This was the lowest since 1977-78, when the EPF interest rate stood at 8 per cent.

The apex decision making body of EPFO, Central Board Trustees (CBT) headed by Union Labour Minister Bhupender Yadav, recommended 8.15 per cent annual rate of interest to be credited on EPF accumulations in members' accounts for financial year 2022-23, a labour ministry statement said.

Atiq Ahmed gets life term in 2006 kidnapping case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Prayagraj (UP), March 28: An MP-MLA court here Tuesday held gangster-politician Atiq Ahmed and two others guilty in the 2006 Umesh Pal kidnapping case, and sentenced the trio to life imprisonment.

Ahmed's brother Khalid Azim alias Ashraf and six others were acquitted in the case.

Special MP-MLA court judge Dinesh Chandra Shukla held Ahmed, Saulat Hanif, a lawyer, and Dinesh Pasi guilty in the case.

The three were pronounced guilty under Indian Penal Code section 364A (kidnapping or abduction in order to murder). The maximum punishment under the section is death sentence.

After the killing of then BSP MLA Raju Pal January 25, 2005, 🔫 Umesh Pal, then a zila panchayat member, had told police he was a witness to the murder.

Umesh Pal had alleged that when he refused to retract and buckle under pressure from Ahmed, hewas kidnapped at gunpoint February 28, 2006.

Water 'reservoir' discovered on Moon FINDING IS THOUGHT TO BE ONE OF MOST IMPORTANT BREAKTHROUGHS YET FOR SPACE AGENCIES THAT HAVE SET THEIR SIGHTS ON BUILDING BASES ON LUNAR SURFACE

AGENCIES

Cape Canaveral (Florida), March 28: Tiny glass beads strewn across the Moon's surface with water trapped inside have been discovered, suggesting a potential reservoir of the precious resource which might help astronauts produce drinking water, breathable air and even rocket fuel, scien-

tists say According to scientists, an analysis of lunar soil samples retrieved in 2020 during China's robotic Chang'e-5 mission showed that these spheres of glass - rock melted

and cooled - created in the impacts bore within them water molecules formed through the action of the solar wind on the Moon's surface.

"The Moon is constantly bombarded with impactors - for example micrometeoroids and large meteoroids - which produce impact glass beads during high-energy flash-heating events," said planetary scientist Sen Hu of the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Institute of Geology and Geophysics, a co-author of the study published in the journal

The solar wind is a stream of

Nature Geoscience

charged particles, primarily protons and electrons, emanating outward from the corona, the outermost part of the sun's atmosphere, and permeating the solar system. "Solar wind-derived water is

produced by the reaction of solar hydrogen with oxygen present at the surface of the lunar glass beads," Hu said, with these spheres then acting sort of like a sponge for the water. For future Moon exploration, in-

cluding potential long-term lunar bases staffed with astronauts. water is of vital importance not only as a drinking supply but as a fuel ingredient. The Moon lacks the bodies of liquid water that are a hallmark of Earth. But its surface is thought to harbour a fairly substantial amount of water, for example in ice patches residing in permanently shadowed locales and trapped in minerals.

"Water is the most sought-after commodity for enabling sustainable exploration of planetary surfaces. Knowing how water is produced, stored and replenished near the lunar surface would be very useful for future explorers to extract and utilize it for exploration purposes," Hu said. Contd...P4



Lunar soil samples from China's lunar exploration program Chang'e-5 Mission are displayed during an exhibition at National Museum in Beijing REUTERS







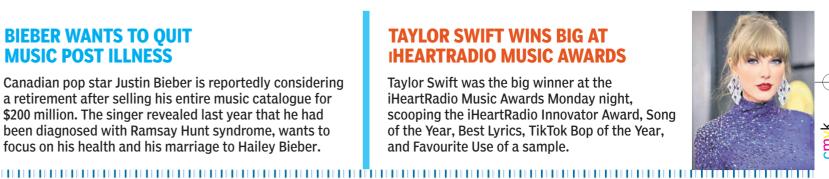


BIEBER WANTS TO QUIT MUSIC POST ILLNESS

Canadian pop star Justin Bieber is reportedly considering a retirement after selling his entire music catalogue for \$200 million. The singer revealed last year that he had been diagnosed with Ramsay Hunt syndrome, wants to focus on his health and his marriage to Hailey Bieber.

TAYLOR SWIFT WINS BIG AT IHEARTRADIO MUSIC AWARDS

Taylor Swift was the big winner at the iHeartRadio Music Awards Monday night, scooping the iHeartRadio Innovator Award, Song of the Year, Best Lyrics, TikTok Bop of the Year, and Favourite Use of a sample.



Babil keeping his inner child alive FORTUNE FORECAST

Mumbai: Actor Babil Khan, who garnered a lot of appreciation with his debut in Anvita Dutt's Qala, has created a character 'Bablu' on Instagram.

The actor keeps sharing miniepisodes of the character's dav-today life struggles Babil has posted eight episodes of this character till

date. In the first

episode, Babil explains how he came up with the idea of the character and shared his reaction when a girl called him a 'fearless ball of life.' In the subsequent episodes, Bablu is seen struggling with maths, spelling, winters, prom, and even being a genie while giving advice.

Talking about the character, Babil said, "Bablu is the child inside of everyone, the child inside you that is free of worries, ego, burdens of social morality and responsibilities, living with a true sense of freedom.' The actor further

mentioned, "As we age in this world, we lose touch with our inner child, Bablu is the representation of the idea that the child inside of you, the purity of you, is still alive, all you need to do is learn to access it.'

On the work front, the actor will be soon seen in the upcoming web series The Railway Men.

'Movie is an experience to have in theatres' Mumbai: Mardaani actress Rani In a recent interview with a

Mukerji has always displayed potent performances in her more than 20 years of tenure in the film industry. Adding another charismatic acting to her resume, in her recent release, Mrs.

Chatterjee vs.

Norway, Rani

portrayed the

role of a doting

mother: The ac-

tress spoke out

about the cyn-

icism around

the movie's re-

lease along

with other

obstacles the

film faced

media portal, the actress said. "There was a lot of challenge for our film because the new fashionable word that is going on is OTT content. It is something that has bothered me a lot. Because I do believe that cinema is an experience to be had in the theaters.

Further speaking about the cynicism the film faced, she said, "There was so much cynicism before the release of the film. So, it was really scary because you are all alone, fighting this cynicism, hoping and praying that the audience validates your belief in good cinema. And the audience has done that.

The film was released in theatres March 17 and did quite well at the box office.

You won't have it any other way as you Today is a good day for you. those days when you will be in a good mood, irrespective of your problems, if any. You will treat your subordinates well, and they will show their appreciation

LEO

Che Guevara may not hold the beacon any more, and the best of the Beatles are long gone. But your desire to revolutionise the world is as strong as ever, sees Ganesha. The best ideas are the ones that come suddenly and subconsciously

GaneshaSpeaks.com

accuracy • reliability • trust

FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

A tough, action-packed day ahead! There may be differ-

Today, you may have some

thing at the back of your

favour, predicts Ganesha

You are extremely competitive. And it doesn't matter how far behind the competi tion is. So today, you will continue your usual quest for getting bette

GEMINI

despise mediocrity.

CANCER

However, don't expect a windfall. It is just one of

day, says Ganesha

TAURUS

ence of opinions with friends over trivial

matters, but you will thrive on it. But all

pending work will be completed, much to your relief. It's a promising and optimistic

mind that will grip you with its complex

impact on others. You may not be willing

to confront unpleasant situations today

Don't worry, the stars seem in your

ty, says Ganesha, Speak freely as you words are capable of making a great

ARIES

VIRGO

Professionalism will be overshadowed by personal preoccupations. Drill your way out of problems today by meeting them head-on. Don't get stuck up on the emotional front, especially in the evening, cautions Ganesha

LIBRA

Gear up to play the peace maker today! Your ability to handle a 'Brady Bunch' hasn't gone unnoticed. So expect to be put in charge of handling disputes among your subordinates at work today, hints Ganesha. Research work may slow to a crawl today, but the offshoot i an auspicious day to enter into new con tracts. You might want to arrange that bit of business over lunch.

Samantha bats for pay parity

Mumbai: Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu, who is on the peak of her career with pipelined projects from both the Hindi and South film industries, is known for holding her solidarity and raising her voice. Recently, in an interview with a media portal, she shared her views on the need for pay parity in the film industry.

The Family Man 2 actress said, "I am fighting hard, not directly. It's not like I am fighting to be paid equally; I want it to be a byproduct of the hard work and success. People should just come and say, 'Yes, we want to pay you this much.' I shouldn't have to beg for it. When I put up this quote in my bio, it says, 'Whatever are your capabilities, you must stretch them to the limit and a little beyond. And when you are a woman in this industry, it's not just enough to stretch your capabilities to their limits; you need to go a little more. There's stress on a 'little more' because it's just that much harder

Mumbai: A complaint against actress Taapsee Pannu and several others has been filed for hurting religious sentiments after she donned a necklace with Goddess Lakshmi's

loaded a picture and a video March 14 from the ramp walk at Lakme Fashion Week held March 12 in Mumbai. The religious outfit Hind Rakshak Sangathan has filed a charge against the Pink actress for violating religious emotions and spreading obscenity.

The allegation was made by Eklavya Singh Gaur, the convener of the outfit's Indore unit, who is also the son of BJP MLA Malini Gaur, Police said that they received a complaint from Gaur against actress Taapsee Pannu for hurting religious sentiments and the image of the religion. Taapsee is yet to react or issue a statement on the legal action. IANS



sculpture paired with a revealing set of clothing as per the complainant. The Manmarziyaan actress had up-

SCORPIO

Work pressure will keep on mounting today, predicts Ganesha. But you shall han dle it with great style, all thanks to your patience. But keep a watch on the radar and learn how to spot stress early and then act on it as quickly as you can.

SAGITTARIUS

Your ship may be rocked by stormy controversies today. Ganesha advises you to steer clear of people looking to give you a piece of their mind. The storm looks to ease away if you lend a patient ear to all such elements, and try and accommodate their views

CAPRICORN

You will starve for some free time, but will find it difficult to steal even a minute from your busy schedule, even if it is for unwinding your overworked soul, says Ganesha. In times like these, one can hardly think straight, let alone be innova tive. You will, however, work your way out by prioritising matters. By the end of the day, your efforts may get paid off, leaving you with the thought that it was all worthwhile after all!

AQUARIUS

Your ideas are bang on target today! Everything you touch turns into gold. You have it in you to make it big, and the time is now. When the going gets tough, the tough get going - you've heard this before, now it's time for some action, says Ganesha.

PISCES

Stabbing with a pen is so much more satisfying than slicing with a sword. With these lofty ideals in mind, you will launch an assault upon your unsuspecting prey with your lethal presentation skills, elicit ing cries of sheer ecstasy and tremen dous applause

Her upcoming film, Shaakuntalam, will hit screens April 17. After Shaakuntalam, Samantha will be seen in Kushi with Vijav Deverakonda. AGENCIES



I don't even

learn mything

from Math!



SUDOKU



CROSSWORD

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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PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES









CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

23 Potato

ceremonies

19 Large eel

SO

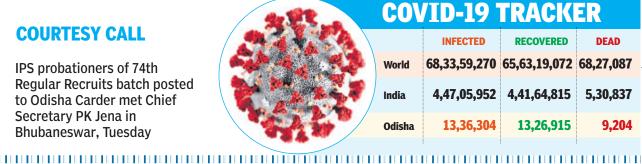




downtown

COURTESY CALL

IPS probationers of 74th **Regular Recruits batch posted** to Odisha Carder met Chief Secretary PK Jena in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
orld	68,33,59,270	65,63,19,072	68,27,087
lia	4,47,05,952	4,41,64,815	5,30,837
isha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9 ,20 4

'Poor healthcare' irks Oppn

THE OPPOSITION TAKES A DIG AT STATE GOVERNMENT OVER HUGE NUMBER OF VACANCIES IN THE HEALTH SECTOR AND LACK OF MACHINERY AND EOUIPMENT IN HOSPITALS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 28: Opposition BJP and Congress legislators Tuesday criticised the state government over the deteriorating healthcare system in the state.

They attacked the government for the huge number of vacancies in the health sector and lack of machinery and equipment in hospitals.

Participating in an adjournment motion, Congress MLA CS Raazen Ekka said there are many vacancies in the Health department in the state. Around 40 per cent of doctor posts are lying vacant. There is a shortage of 7,000 health workers, 10,000 staff nurses, and 6,000 pharmacists in community health centres (CHCs) and primary health centres (PHCs), he said.

He said 12 professor posts and 30 associate professor posts are lying vacant in VIMSAR, the major healthcare centre of western Odisha

Since there are 1,018 bends at VIMSAR, the number of ICUs should be 5 to 8 per cent of the total beds. However, there are 20 ICUs. A medical college was established in Sundargarh and the first batch of students was enrolled, but the 500-bed hospital is yet to be made fully functional, the Congress MLA said.

BJP MLA Mukesh Mahaling said that after Badamba and Narsinghpur, Loisingha has become the hot spot of kidney related ailments.

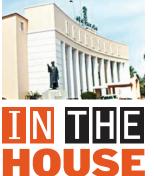
The government has facilitated free dialysis in the name of help. However, there are no dialysis facilities, the BJP leader said.

While the state government is claiming that it has reduced the child mortality rate, 92,000 children under the age of five have died between 2016-17 and 2021-22, he said.

Alleging that there is a fraud racket going on in the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY), he questioned why the Avushman Bharat Yojana is not being implemented in the state.

Replying to the motion, Health Minister Niranjan Pujari said the government is giving importance to providing quality health services to people.

About 30 per cent of the health



budget is being spent on medicines. About 96.5 lakh families have benefited under BSKY and 8.25 lakh beneficiaries are currently undergoing treatment under the scheme. The government has spent ₹1443.73 crore towards medical claims under the scheme since January 2022, he said.

Pujari said Ama hospital scheme has been launched for the improvement of government hospitals, and 147 community health centres will be transformed within 9 months.

The minister said 10 medical colleges and two PG institutes have been opened for the development of the medicare system in the state and a target has been fixed to increase the number of medical seats from 2,125 to 2,500.

The OPSC, he said, has been asked to recruit 3,481 doctors to fill the vacancies and approval has been sought from the Finance department for creation of 5,000 Junior Grade doctors keeping the requirement of doctors in 2023-24.

A lleging that BJD leaders are involved in the fake educa-

tional certificate racket, the op-

position Congress Tuesday de-

manded that those arrested in

connection with the case be

booked under National Security

Speaking in the Assembly dur-

ing Zero Hour, senior Congress

MLA Santosh Singh Saluja said

the fake certificate racket has

put the future of meritorious stu-

"A large number of people got

Act (NSA).

dents at stake.

Cong asks Naveen to visit Japan after House session

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, March 28: With Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik planning to undertake a nineday trip to Japan from April 3, **Opposition Congress Tuesday** suggested that the CM visit the East Asian country after the end of the Budget session of the House.

The Budget session of the Assembly will end April 6.

The issue was raised by Congress Legislature Party Leader Narasingha Mishra in the House during the Zero Hour. "I understand from media that the CM is all set to start his tour to Japan from April 3. We do not have any objection to his (CM) visit to Japan on the state's interest. But, he should not ignore the House which is on session," he said.

Mishra said some important business would be taken up in the House after passage of the Appropriation Bill March 31. The Chief Minister should remain present when the House

takes up a debate on all important Mahanadi water dispute matter. Therefore, we suggest him (CM) to take a trip to Japan accordingly," he said.

jobs in different government de-

partments on the basis of these

fake educational certificates," he

alleged. "Many students lacking

basic knowledge have got top

grades. A candidate who secured

98 marks in English was found not

having any knowledge in that

owner of a coaching centre in

Bolangir, who is alleged to be the mas-

termind of the racket. Saluia said.

erating as the hub for making

The coaching centre was op-

Among those arrested was the

subject," he added.

Sources said that preparations for the CM's trip are in the final stage and the state is expecting to receive huge investment proposals during Patnaik's meeting with top investors in Japan, The state's delegation will be led by Patnaik which will showcase Odisha as a potential investment in food processing, chemicals, plastics, petrochemicals, textile, apparel and tourism for its proinvestors policies.

Japan had been a partner country in the state's flagship investors meet like Make in Odisha (MIO) Conclave, held in December last year. Recently, while replying in the Assembly, Industry Minister PK Deb said that Odisha has emerged as a preferred investment destination due to political stability and conducive business environment. The MiO Conclave 2022 generated investment intents of ₹10.50 lakh crore with potential for 10.50 lakh employment. Before the MiO, Patnaik had met several industry captains in Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Ahmedabad and Hyderabad.

In August 2022, Patnaik had also attended an investors' meet in Dubai and received investment proposals worth ₹22,000 crore.

such fake certificates, he said.

Certificates of 40 reputed col-

leges and universities from across

the country were forged and sold to

job aspirants for lakhs of rupees, he

alleged. Claiming that those involved

in the racket have links with the BJD.

Saluja claimed an IT cell member of

the ruling party was among the 19 peo-

In view of the serious nature

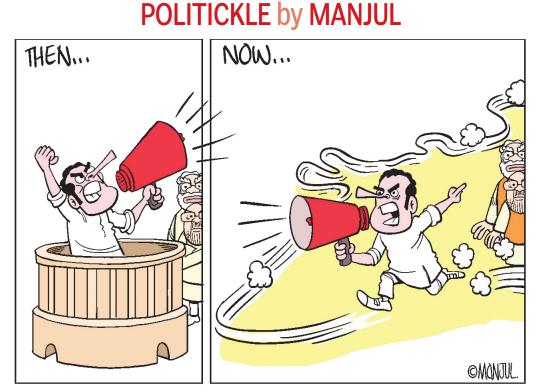
of the offence, those arrested

must be booked under the NSA

he said. The BJD, however, did not

comment on the allegations.

ple arrested in the case.



Oppn slams govt over Mahanadi water dispute

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 28: Raising the Mahanadi issue in Assembly, **Opposition BJP and Congress** MLAs Tuesday slammed the state government over the long-drawn water dispute with neighbouring Chhattisgarh.

Leader of Opposition Jayanarayan Mishra (BJP) raised the issue during Zero Hour and said that to discuss the dispute two House committees were formed under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister and the Speaker. However, no one knows what happened to these panels.

"Have these panels held any meetings? Have they submitted any report?" Mishra asked.

on the amount of money spent on the five-member legal committee formed to fight for Odisha's share of Mahanadi water in the tribunal.

ister make a detailed statement in the House on this issue," demanded the Leader of Opposition.

Congress Legislature Party leader Narasingha Mishra said, "Though two committees were formed to discuss the Mahanadi issue, they have not held a single meeting till now. This shows how serious the state government is on the issue."

"I have moved a motion for

CS for proper use of OMBADC funds



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 28: The 25th board of directors (BoD) meeting of Odisha Mineral Bearing Areas Development Corporation (OMBADC) was convened under the chairmanship of state Chief Secretary-cum-OMBADC chairman Pradeep Kumar Jena at Lok Seva Bhawan here, Tuesday.

The Chief Secretary reviewed the progress made in different works being carried out by the agency, funds that have been sanctioned from the OMBADC so far, urging officials present there to expedite the work with its proper utilisation. In the meeting, OMBADC CEO G Raiesh presented the financial sta-

tus of the corporation for the FY

The projects under the education sector like infrastructure development in elementary, secondary schools and OAVs is under progress. 1,146 secondary schools have also been funded by the corporation under the High School Transformation project under the 5T initiative. Till date works are completed in 1,088 schools out of which 1,065 schools have been inaugurated. The 3rd phase project for 205 schools has also been approved in the current meeting.

The CEO also presented two new proposals related to High School Transformation for 205 schools under the 5T initiative amounting to ₹125.46 crore and to support the Mukhvamantri Sampoorna Pushti Yojana (MMSPY) in 78 ICDS projects amounting to ₹589.46 crore which will be carried out.

Book fake cert racketeers under NSA: Saluja

Mishra also sought information

"Let the Water Resources min-



OP PHOTO

cial discussion on the Mahanadi water dispute, which the Speaker has agreed to allow after passing of the Appropriation Bill," the Congress leader said. Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti, who also belongs to Odisha, could have intervened in the matter, but he is yet to do so, Mishra said.

The issue was raised ahead of the field visit of the Mahanadi water dispute tribunal. Notably, the state government has locked horns with Chhattisgarh since 2016 after water flow in the Mahanadi reduced substantially following construction of dams and barrages by the Chhattisgarh government.

Odisha had filed a complaint November 19, 2016, with the Ministry of Water Resources under Section 3 of the Inter-State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act 1956. A meeting between the two states at CM-level was held but no conclusion arrived.

2022-23, wherein total fine amount collected, funds disbursed and utilised by the different line departments was detailed out. He said that under the compensation money funds, the board has approved 54 projects amounting to ₹17,318.05 crore under different board meetings since the 14th BoD meeting held in April 2019. The projects have been proposed by 18 different departments and most of the approved projects are under implementation. These depart-

ments have successfully utilised an amount of ₹6,227.97 crore (68 per cent) till date out of the total re-

leased fund of ₹9,181.06 crore. For access to drinking water, the corporation has approved 30 mega piped water supply projects for four mineral bearing districts: Keonjhar, Sundargarh, Mayurbhanj, Jajpur and Angul (Pallahada block), out of which two projects have been commissioned and started supplying water to 123 villages.

In the health sector, the corporation has allocated a total of ₹2.942.91 crore for infrastructure development in the district, block and sub-block level health facilities, construction of 150 bedded MCH wing in the medical college at Jajpur, new infra projects for ICDS, construction of composite rehabilitation centers in OMBADC supported mining districts etc.

The board was also informed that in the FY 2021-22 total funds disbursed to different departments was ₹2,672.88 crore whereas in the FY 2022-23 till date, total funds released stands at ₹2,954.27 crore that is an increment of 176 crore. This increase is the result of continuous monitoring of the projects by OMBADC through field visits, joint review meetings etc. The meeting concluded with the release of the Annual Report of OM-BADC "Abhyudaya".

GRABBING EYEBALLS: Intriguing structures await visitors at a yet-to-be inaugurated amusement park built near Taladanda Canal at Jobra in Cuttack, Tuesday

Mo Bus passenger loses ₹50,000 to pickpockets

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 28: Pickpockets continue to target commuters travelling in crowded Mo Bus as some miscreants decamped with ₹50,000 from a couple travelling in Mo Bus No. 18 in Chandrasekharpur area here, Tuesdav

The bus travels from Jagatpur area in Cuttack to Baramunda in Bhubaneswar via Trisulia. The victim, Raj Kishore Jena, a resident of Badapadanpur village in Banki area, along with his wife and other family members boarded the bus at Trisulia for a wedding related shopping in Bhubaneswar.

Meanwhile, Jena was shocked to find some miscreants have stolen ₹50,000 from his pocket taking advantage of the rush inside the bus



at Chandrasekharpur. He immediately informed the bus staff who stopped the vehicle and checked the fellow passengers.

However, Jena failed to trace the thief who managed to escape before the victim came to know about the theft. A case has been registered in this regard by the police on the basis of a complaint lodged by Jena.

G20: Education Working Group meet from April 27 to 29

The third meeting of 'Education Working Group' is scheduled to be held in Bhubaneswar from April 27 to 29 with participation of delegates from G20 countries

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 28: Drawing inspiration from the Prime Minister's call to make 'Jan Bhagidari' a strong element of India's G20 Presidency, month-long events are being rolled out in Odisha to ensure people's participation from April 1 - celebrated as "Utkal Divas"

The third meeting of the 'Education Working Group' is scheduled to be held in Bhubaneswar from April 27 to 29



with participation of delegates from G20 countries. The programmes and selection of themes are being led by the vision and guidance of the Union Minister for Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan

"In case of Odisha, where the theme is 'Future of Work' Pradhan's vision is that there should be widespread deliberations and effective outreach in every district on the emerging skilling requirements and the need for continuous skilling, reskilling and up-skilling," informed a source

familiar with the developments.

The Education Working Group meetings will be held at Mayfair Convention. Minister of State for Education Subhash Sarkar will inaugurate the session April 27. Thereafter, there would be official level deliberations on the four identified priority areas - foundational literacy and numeracy; tech enabled

learning; future of work and research collaboration. The delegates will visit Konark on April 28 evening. Apart from participating in the deliberations, the delegates would get to sayour the best of the state's art and culture, handloom, handicrafts and cuisines through espe-

menus as also exhibits at the venues. Month-long parallel brainstorming sessions covering 35 institutions in the state would be holding deliberations on Future of Work

cially curated performances and

in fields relevant to Odisha. All 30 districts of the state would also celebrate India's G20 Presidency by organising 'Jan Bhagidari' events, such as, quiz contests, essay competitions, declamation contests, mock G20, Yuva Samvad etc. Students from schools, ITIs, polytechnics, colleges including engineering colleges, NSTI and beneficiaries of Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) would be participating in these events.

"As Odisha has a significant tribal population, focus would also be on these tribes and their products would be showcased during the programmes. As 2023 is the International year of Millets, at food festival millets and local cuisines would be served to introduce the G20 delegates and participants to India's traditional food.

The state government is ex-tending all needed support for the G20 programmes.

downtown

OHRC warns public against fraudsters

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 28: The Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) Tuesday issued a public notice warning the people of the state not to trust any person collecting money claiming themselves to be official representative of the state human rights body. It also urged the citizens to contact police or inform commission through its official phone number (94370-92632) in case they come across any such illegal activities.

The commission also informed the public that it doesn't have any branch or sub branch offices in the district or sub-divisional or block level across the state. Similarly, no private person or organization has been appointed as the official representative of the OHRC in district or blocks in the state.

"It is further to inform that the Odisha Human Rights Commission never issues any identity card or authorise any of the organisation or individual to deal with the cases relating to the violation of human rights. Hence, if any such occasion/ cases/ cheating/ fraud/ extortion happens in any part of the state or country, the odisha human rights commission is no way related to it." reads the notice.

The common citizen and alert members of civil society have been directed to report such incidents directly to the Commission without

Utkal Divas fete at Utkal Mandap

Bhubaneswar: Preparations are in full swing for Utkal Divas celebrations April 1 across Odisha. According to sources, the statelevel Utkal Divas celebration will be held at Utkal Mandap here. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will grace the occasion as the chief guest while Assembly Speaker Bikram Keshari Arukha will preside over the meeting. Several ministers, MLAs and other dignitaries will attend the sate-level celebration. Utkal Divas will also be celebrated in all districts of the state. It will also be celebrated in New Delhi and Kolkata, as per an official statement.

Woman dies of electrocution

Cuttack Sadar: A woman died of electrocution at Damadorpur village under Kandarpur police station Tuesday. The deceased was identified as Sanjukta Mallick, 55. On being informed by the locals, police rushed to the spot and recovered the body before sending it to SCB Medical College and



THE COMMISSION INFORMED PUBLIC THAT IT DOESN'T HAVE ANY BRANCH OR SUB-BRANCH OFFICES IN THE DISTRICT OR SUB-DIVISIONAL OR BLOCK LEVEL

SIMILARLY, NO PRIVATE PERSON OR ORGANISATION HAS BEEN APPOINTED AS THE OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OHRC IN DISTRICT OR BLOCKS IN THE STATE

any delay. "We have recently received several complaints regarding some fraudsters impersonating OHRC representatives and collecting money from victims on the pretext of helping them get justice through the agency. Some orgnaisations has been illegally using logos of the commission in their vehicles to deceive people. We have started process to take action against such unscrupulous persons and organizations," told an OHRC official.

CUO holds conference on devpt media

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 28: The two-day international conference on the topic "History of Development in India: Reflections on Economic & Communication Scenario in the 75th Year of Independence" was organised jointly by the Department of Journalism Mass & Communication and Department of Economics of Central University of Odisha (CUO) Tuesday.

Addressing the gathering, Vice Chancellor Tripathi stressed the need for inter disciplinary stud-ies in all aspects which is the call of the National Education Policy 2020. He urged the students to focus on Indian education system instead on the western education system which is imposed upon us. Eminent journalist Prabhu

Chawla, also a Padma Bhusan Awardee, in his key-note address, focused upon the role of journalism in the society starting from the freedom struggle to the present time. He also talked about the status of media and technological innovation. He said that media had rightfully adapted the technology and innovation which became helpful in development media, whether



AGENCIES print, electronic or digital media.





RAIN WOES: The road near ISKCON temple submerged following a heavy downpour in Capital city, Tuesday OP PHOTO

Passing out parade of Agniveers at INS Chilka

Bhubaneswar, March 28: A total of 2585 Agniveers, including 273 females, of the Indian Navy passed out from the portals of INS Chilka, at Odhisa, in a first of its kind - ceremonial night passing out parade, Tuesday under the aegis of Southern Naval Command.

The parade was reviewed by Admiral R Hari Kumar PVSM, AVSM, VSM, ADC, Chief of the Naval Staff, in the presence of VAdm MA Hampiholi PVSM, AVSM, NM the Flag Officer Commanding-in Chief, Southern Naval Command, Hon'ble Member of Parliament PT Usha, eminent sports personality Mithali Raj and also certain imminent naval veterans.

The passing out parade marks not only the successful culmination of 16 weeks of their ab-initio rigorous naval training but also the start of a new voyage in the Indian Navy, where men and women will work together to make the force combat



ready, credible, cohesive and future proof force, officials said. During his address, the Admiral urged the passing out trainees to hone their skills further and develop a strong foundation of knowledge, willingness to learn and commit-

ment to excel in their respective ca reers that lay ahead. He also urged them to uphold Navy's core values of duty, honour and courage, in pursuit of nation building.

2 DEAD, 2 HURT

IN LANDSLIDE

Koraput, March 28: Two women

were killed while another two suffered critical injuries Tuesday after

a mass heap of soil on the banks of

Lejingput nullah near Hikimput vil-

lage under Nandapur police limits

The deceased were identified as

in Koraput district fell on them.

Sashi Hantal, 30, and Daimati Hantal,

32, of Ghagdapandi village. The critically injured women are as Mukta

Kirsani, 31, and Jyoti Badanaik, 35.

Both are also from the same village.

lice officials rushed to the spot and

recovered the body of the deceased

while rescuing those injured. The

bodies were sent for post-mortem.

The injured women were first ad-

mitted to the Nandapur community

health centre. Later they were

shifted to the SLN Medical College

and Hospital in Koraput after their

condition deteriorated.

On being informed, Nandapur po-

POST NEWS NETWORK

The chief guest also awarded medals and trophies to meritorious Agniveers on the occasion. Amalakanti Jayaram, Agniveer (SSR). Ajith P. Agniveer (MR) amongst men were awarded with Chief of Naval Staff Rolling Trophy and gold medal for Best Agniveer SSR & MR respectively.

Two coaches of empty train derail

Puri: Two coaches of an empty train derailed at Puri station yard Tuesday, affecting services, officials said. Services to and from Puri will be slightly delayed in view of the accident, they said. The 18418 Gunupur-Puri Express derailed around 3:30pm while the train was being moved for berthing. As a result of the derailment, signalling was affected due to blocking in all the lines, from route-1 to route-9, they said. No one was injured in the incident, officials said. An accident relief train was sent from Khurda Road, which was working for the restoration of services, they said The East Coast Railway (ECoR) urged passengers for cooperation, stating that the personnel was working hard to position the two coaches, and clear the obstruction

Kareena promotes – early-age learning

Mumbai, March 28: Bollywood

star and Unicef India celebrity ad-

POST NEWS NETWORK

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 28: The State Transport Authority (STA), which is known for innovative ways of using social media to create awareness about road safety. is now using short films by young filmmakers in its campaigns.

As it has launched a special drive to curb under-age student driving, starting from Tuesday, the STA has presented a short film 'Kartabya' directed by Sourav Pradhan based on the theme of discouraging under-age driving. While special drive will be mainly target areas near schools and colleges, and will continue until the first week of April, 'Kartabva' is one of the many films that participated in the National Road Safety Film

Festival organised by the agency

now being used to spread awareness.



The film shows in spite of driv-

ing being prohibited until age 18, how parents allow their children to travel to school and other places using two wheelers. Like child marriage and child labor, under-age driving is also prohibited and is against the government rule.

The short film informs how voung drivers between 15 and 20 account for 6.4 per cent of total drivers on the road. And average of nine teenagers, between the ages of 16-19, is killed every day from motor

Int'l workshop on drought held at SOA

vehicle injuries.

The STA has also informed that in 2021, a total of 53 underage drivers have lost their lives in Odisha. "Driving is not a child's play, don't encourage underage driving," it says.

As per the agency, in the special drive, if caught, the parent or vehicle owner will be fined with Rs 25,000 and a 3-year jail term while the registration of the vehicle will be cancelled. The minor will also not be allowed to apply for license until he or she turns 25.

STA to keep minors off roads Complex surgery of patient at SUM Hosp

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar; March 28: A young team of surgeons at the Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital here have successfully performed a highly complex surgery on a cancer patient which is being billed as the first of its kind in Odisha.

The team performed the complex surgery on a 55-year-old man suffering from pancreatic cancer which was in advanced stage. The tumour involved the major blood vessels of all surrounding vital organs.

The multi-disciplinary team, led by Jyotirmay Jena, Associate Professor in the Department of Surgical Gastroenterology, decided to go for surgery after studying the case

'What bothered us was that the tumour had affected vital parts like the celiac trunk, arteries of

Jena told newspersons here Tuesday. Jena said the team decided to operate because the cancer had re-

mained confined to that area but tackling the blood vessels was the major hurdle it faced. 'Surgery in such cases is generally avoided and life expectancy of the patient is only around six months. A very complex surgery known as 'Appleby Procedure' is done for this type of cancer cases only in a few hospitals across the

world " he said Besides Jena and Behera, SS Mohapatra, Professor in Radio-difor smooth train movements

agnosis, Sumit Mohanty, Associate Professor in Gastro-surgery, Lalatendu Maharana, Associate Professor in Medical Oncology, Sasmita Panigrahi, Associate Professor in Anesthesiology and Rupanweeta Biswal, Assistant Professor in Pathology were in-

Hospital in Cuttack for an autopsy. The police also registered a case (1/23) of unnatural death and started an investigation. The woman was drying her clothes when she came in contact with a live wire and died at the spot, police said quoting the family sources.

Continued from P1

Water 'reservoir'...

The researchers see promise in obtaining water from the glass beads, perhaps through a heating process to release vapour that would then turn into liquid through condensation.

'We can simply heat these glass beads to free the water stored in them," said planetary scientist and study co-author Hejiu Hui of Nanjing University in China.

The capsule returning the soil samples to Earth landed in the northern Chinese region of Inner Mongolia.

About 3.8 pounds (1.7 kg) of soil were collected in the Chang'e-5 mission, with 32 glass beads - tens to hundreds of micrometers wide examined in the study from the small amount of soil made available for this research, Hu said. The glass beads were found to hold a water content of up to about 2,000 parts per million by weight. Hu said he believes that such impact glass beads are a common part of lunar soils, found globally and spread evenly.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 28: An international workshop on 'Drought Scenarios in Odisha: Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies' was recently organised by Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA's) Centre for Climate Smart Agriculture (CCSA) and the Bhubaneswar chapter of

Indian Meteorological Society.

Speaking on this occasion, Binayak Mohanty, Professor at Texas A&M University, USA stressed the need for integration of multi-disciplinary expertise, observational dataset and prediction tools for early warning on initiation of drought in Odisha. He also underlined the impor-

tance of soil moisture dynamics, temporal variability, intensity and frequency of observation for better crop and water management, particularly under drought condition.

Experts who attended the workshop also emphasized the need for preparing composite drought indices for different blocks of the state by integrating the meteorological, hydrological, agricultural and socio-economic data.

SOA Vice-Chancellor Bijay Kumar Sahoo presided over the inaugural program which was also attended by Pro-Vice Chancellor Pradipta Kumar Nanda

liver, stomach and spleen. Celiac trunk, also known as celiac artery which divides into three branches supplying blood to stomach, liver and spleen had to be removed,'

volved in the surgery.

Uday Reddy, Harshal Bhoi, H.Swamyrajesh and Raghunath Raja, all MCH students, were also part of the team.



AMR GENES SPREAD EASILY BETWEEN PEOPLE

ntimicrobial resistance (AMR) genes spread easily through a population and it is heavily influenced by national trends in antibiotic consumption, regardless of a person's own health and habits, finds a study.

The study, published in the journal Nature Communications, suggested that the community of microbes living in and on human bodies may be acting as a reservoir for antibiotic resistance.

So far it was known that AMR genes can spread incredibly fast between gut bacteria, "quantifies the impact national antibiotic usage has on our commensal bacteria".

But the study, for the first time, showed a strong correlation between the frequency of resistance genes present in a country and national antibiotic consumption levels.

'We found that in countries where antibiotics are taken more regularly, their populations also have higher numbers of resistance genes in their gut microbiome," said Professor Chris Quince, from the Earlham Institute and Quadram Institute in the UK.

The reason this collateral damage is such a major problem is that microbes are constantly sharing genes with each other. Known as



horizontal gene transfer; this process helps AMR genes to spread back and forth between species.

"Our bodies are continually im-

porting and exporting microbes and pathogen strains," explained Professor Quince.

"Even a healthy individual, who hasn't taken antibiotics recently, is constantly bombarded by microbes from people or even pets they interact with, which leads to resistance genes becoming embedded in their own microbiota.

"If they exist in a population with a heavy burden of antibiotic consumption, it leads to more resistance genes in their microbiome," Quince said.

Their findings were based on an analysis of over 3,000 gut mi-

crobiome samples collected from healthy individuals, who were not taking antibiotics, across 14 countries

The team carefully catalogued and recorded the number of antimicrobial resistance genes found in the samples by comparing data to the Comprehensive Antibiotic Resistance Database, a public health resource where resistance genes are documented.

They identified a median of 16 AMR genes per stool sample analysed. They also found that the median number of genes varied across the 14 countries for which they had data.

vocate Kareena Kapoor Khan recently visited Mitha Nagar Municipal School in Goregaon (West), Mumbai, to promote foundational learning (in early grades) and to support the #EveryChildReadingMovement in the state that will be launched in April 2023. In her interaction with teachers and primacy grade children, Kareena took a keen interest to

understand how children coped with learning during and after the pandemic. She underlined how important it is for children to learn early to read, write and count, and the importance of offering learning options in children's mother tongue. She then engaged children in a fun storytelling session where she read an interactive story to stimulate their imagination.

"Today I met with young children and saw their immense enthusiasm to read and learn. As a mother, I understand the power of reading and storytelling that can inspire and motivate young minds, especially if it's in a language that they understand well." Kareena said.



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state

Illegal granite extraction kicks up row in Nayagarh

LACK OF REGULAR INSPECTION BY OFFICIALS OF REVENUE DEPARTMENT EMBOLDENING LEASE HOLDERS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, March 28: Illegal extraction of black granite stones, more than the permitted amount from the quarries auctioned in Navagarh district has kicked up a row, sources said Tuesday. They added that lack of regular checking has led to loss of precious revenues for the Odisha government. The sources said that the lease holders are extracting the excess amount of granite stones with the support of Revenue department officials. Complaints have been lodged in this regard.

OrissaPOST

WEDNESDAY | MARCH 29 | 2023 | BHUBANESWAR

People in the know of things said that except in Gania, regular inspections are not being carried out in 45 quarries under seven tehsils of the district. Scores of complaints have been lodged with the authorities but they are yet to be addressed

The sources said that earlier, the district collector and the subcollectors used to conduct regular raids to prevent illegal extraction. Now it has stopped and has sparked resentment among the local residents which if not addressed in time, might snowball into a major agitation.

According to the complaints, 13

Engineering student found dead in Jajpur

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, March 28: Mystery surrounds the death of an 18-yearold girl student of the Government Polytechnic College here. The student, identified as Rojalin Patra, was found dead in her hostel room Tuesday. The deceased was a third-year electrical engineering student. Sources said that Rojalin was brilliant in studies and had been selected for four campus placement interviews

Rojalin's family alleged foul play behind her death. Family members along with others blamed the college authorities for her death They also accused some other students of abetting her to take the extreme step.

"A male student had texted my daughter saying that she got se lected for four campus placements. However, he threatened that he would not allow her to appear for the interviews. Another student attempted to assault her Monday. She was so frightened and agitated that she wanted to leave the hostel immediately,' Rojalin's mother told mediapersons. "However, she did not inform the college authorities about these incidents as she apprehended that other students would harm her once the matter became public," she added. The deceased's uncle alleged on the same lines and blamed the college authorities. "Officials should have informed us about how Rojalin was being threatened by other students. They should have been aware of what was going on... how my niece was being intimidated by others," he stated On being informed, police reached Biraja Hostel and found Rojalin's body hanging from the fan. They brought down the body and sent it for post-mortem. Later, IICs from Korei and Jajpur Road police stations also reached the college to thwart any kind of law and order situation. A detailed probe is underway, police said.

traction is being done as per rules. However, the Revenue department officials are not carrying out its responsibilities, sources alleged. Rama Chandra Sahu, a villager

of Ranpur block supported the allegations of illegal extraction of granite stones. "All the lease holders are extracting quantities more than they are allowed to due to absence of raids or periodic inspections. The lease holders are allegedly bribing the Revenue officials." he said Subrat Sahu of Khandapara

ers are back again to plundering

the mines. Sahu pointed out that

more such raids should be con-

ducted at regular intervals. Rai

Kishore Navak of Navagarh tehsil

said while the lease holders are

earning in crores, the govern-

ment is losing precious revenue.

Chandra Ray said that the ad-

ministration will never hesitate

to conduct raids if they receives spe

cific inputs on illegal mining of

granite stones.

When contacted, ADM Bidhan

quarries have been leased out in locality said the district collec-Ranpur tehsil, 10 in Khandapara, tor in the recent past had conseven in Nayagarh, five each in ducted a surprise inspection. It had Bhapur and Daspalla, four in unnerved the lease holders. Odagaon and two in Nuagaon. However, with no follow up ac Sources informed that illegal tion being taken, the lease hold-

extraction has reached such a stage where the lease holders are meeting the annual extraction limit in just a month. They pointed out that mining is also being done in quarries that do not fall in lease areas. They added that even though use of explosives has been banned, lease holders are flouting the rules with impunity.

Rules stipulate that tehsil officials should conduct a measurement of the lease areas every three months. They will also check whether exRavagada, March 28: In a post-

Action for Employment Guarantee (PAEG) and NREGA Sangharsh Morcha (NSM), activists and academics have hit out against the low allocation for Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) this year. Also various technical glitches found in various Apps associated with MGNREGS are becoming a headache for job-seekers

"Instead of adequately funding the programme, the Union government has repeatedly resorted to needless technical tinkering. The National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS) application for registering workers' attendance, mandated in the current FY, is one such antiworker intervention," some jobseekers in parts of this district said.

the MGNREGS itself is a bit complex. Those who want work must inform the gram panchayat after which an acknowledgement form (C2) with details of the number of workers for a given project (from



a pre-approved list). The muster roll is generated.

An officials of MGNREGS has to take this muster roll to the work site and record attendance on the NMMS application. Once the work is done, a bare foot technician (BFT) or a junior engineer will assess the progress of the work. Subsequently, the bill for the muster roll is ap proved and sent for payment.

The Ministry of Rural Development has made the use of NMMS compulsory for registering workers' attendance under the MGNREGS from January 1, this year. However, digital attendance has become a major headache for the workers. They now have to prove their attendance twice a day with the NMMS by uploading two time-stamped geotagged photographs. The first shows the worker during the 6.00am to 11.00am schedule and the second during the 2.00pm to 6.00pm shift.

"Due to technical issues, the attendance taken in the morning does not get registered in the App on many occasions. We are eligible

Man dies by suicide after assaulting wife

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada/Badasahi, March 28: A man attacked his wife with a sharp weapon Tuesday before dying by suicide at Chhelia 'B' village under Badasahi police limits in Mayurbhanj district. Locals said that the two had a heated argument over the excessive use of mobile phone by the woman following which the man attacked her.

The deceased was identified as Prashant Behera, 55. His wife Minati Behera suffered serious injuries and is currently undergoing treatment at the PRM Medical College and Hospital. Police have registered a case and launched an investigation

The incident occurred when Minati was watching a movie on the mobile phone in front of their house. Enraged at not getting a reply from her, Prashant hit her with a billhook on her neck and limbs. A profusely bleeding Minati collapsed on the spot. Other family members rescued Minati and first took her to the Badasahi hospital and later shifted her to PRM Medical College and Hospital after her condition deteriorated.

Sources said that Prashant consumed poison when no one else was in the house. Family members found him dead on return.





ENCROACHMENT BY ANDHRA PRADESH Construction of tube wells to start in Nandapur block

Raipahad village and connecting it with a water tank constructed by them for supplying drinking water to the villagers. The team also met a contractor who has been engaged by the AP government for setting up pipelines to supply water to houses in Raipahad village. They warned the contractor to stop work or face legal action immediately. Sources said that the Nandapur

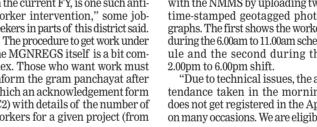
BDO will visit the Raipahad village Wednesday and take steps for installation of tube wells. Tehsil officials, police personnel and public representatives will accompany Mishra. They will first demolish the water tank installed by the Andhra Pradesh government and take up

Glitches mar MGNREGS in Rayagada In many cases, workers do for payment only if the attendance is captured in the app twice daily,'

not get paid even after the completion of a project

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

budget statement by the Peoples'



laved and we suffer even after working whole-heartedly for a project. When real-time attendance is missed once, we turn out to be absentees after applying for that work," he added. The Ministry has also made

Majhi Sabar, a job-seeker from

Akhusingi gram panchayat in

Padmapur block of this district

said. "As a result, payments get de-

Aadhaar-based Payment System (ABPS) mandatory. In simple terms, it means linking both bank accounts and job cards with Aadhaar numbers, which is done at the block level. However, the problem arises when the MGN-REGS website uses an automated process to identify and reject jobseekers based on the Aadhaar linkage. Sometimes, it rejects those whose bank accounts have already been linked with Aadhaar.

Social worker and former chairperson of Padmapur block, Kailash Kraska said that guidelines and technical errors are depriving people of their right to seek work and get wages. "Sometimes, during wage list generation, an error shows up which results in zero muster roll attendance," he informed. Workers have no recourse in such cases." Kraska said.

3 sentenced to jail for ponzi fraud in Balasore



Basant Panigrahi worked as employees of the firm. Âmong them, Dilip, Pushpal and nindva were from West Bengal

The lady by chance met Prabodh on road and narrated her ordeal. The latter took her documents and gave her six cheques of HDFC Bank amounting ₹7.37 lakh. The cheques however, bounced when she deposited them in the bank. Left with no option, she lodged a com plaint at the Sahadevkhunta police station, February 28, 2015. Police registered a case and referred the matter to the court.

SOAKED IN FAITH: Devotees dressed in the attires of various deities take part in a procession for Shitala Yatra of Goddess Budhi Maa in Sambalpur, Tuesday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nandapur, March 28: The Koraput

district administration has noted

Andhra Pradesh's efforts to al-

legedly grab land by setting up

drinking water facilities in some vil-

lages of Nandapur block in Koraput

district. Officials said Tuesday that

work for installing new tube wells

in Raipahad village, which is fac-

ing water scarcity, will start

Wednesday. The neighbouring state

is allegedly trying to get closer to

the locals and wean them away

from Odisha on the pretext of sup-

plying drinking water to villages

block development officer (BDO)

Sujit Kumar Mishra, RWSS engineers Kanhu Charan Sethi and

Rabindra Nath Marandi visited

Raipahad village under the block and

water from a stream which is ap-

took stock of the situation.

On being directed by Nandapur

where there is a shortage.

other development works in conformity with the district collector. The move by the district ad-

ministration, although late, has drawn appreciation from observers and other residents in the block. They pointed out the four other villages in the block are also facing from water scarcity and efforts should be made to eradicate the problem as soon as possible.

However, it is not just the paucity of drinking water which is affecting the village. Senior lady, Jami Hantal alleged that she has been living in a pathetic condition as she has not been getting her pension for the last five months. This correspondent also found an information plaque where it was mentioned that the roads in the villages have been laid with paver blocks at an expenditure of ₹3 lakh in FY 2021-22. However, not a single paver block existed in the village.

Similarly members of 20 families in Raipahad village alleged Preliminary inquiries indicated that the AP officials are drawing that they have been deprived of getting houses under Awas Yojanas proximately 250 metres from the (centre or state).

111 St Con mer

judge ordered.

The judge also awarded three

years of imprisonment each to

branch manager Pranay Kumar

Behera and a staff Abhimanyu

Mohapatra. They were each slapped

'Anwesha-Inn India Pvt Ltd' opened

an office at Station Square in this

town in 2012-13 and lured people

with attractive deposit schemes

by promising them higher rate of

interest on maturity. The com-

pany's chief director-cum-chair-

man was Pradip Poddar while

Sahu, Prabhakar Das, Prabodh

Kumar Panda were the directors.

Similarly, Pranay was appointed

branch manager while Abhimanyu,

Dilip Kumar Bhoumik, Pushpal

Ray, Anindya Chakraborty and

According to the case diary,

with a fine of ₹10,000 each.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, March 28: A special Odisha Protection of Interests of Depositors (OPID) court here Tuesday sentenced the director of a ponzi firm to five years imprisonment for fraud. Two other employees were also handed threeyear sentences each. Judge Biswajit Das of OPID court passed the order after examining the statements recorded by 16 witnesses and 54 documents, special public prosecutor Pranab Kumar Panda said. Panda pleaded the matter on behalf of the Odisha government.

The judge sentenced director Krushna Chandra Sahu of ponzi firm 'Anwesha –Inn India Pvt Ltd' to five years in prison and also slapped a fine of ₹2.40 lakh. In default, Sahu has to undergo an ad-

while the rest were from Balasore and Mayurbhanj districts. The fraud came to the fore after a woman, the wife of Jagannath Barik of Sheikhpatna locality here, failed to get back her deposit after maturity. When she visited the ofditional two years in prison, the fice, she found it closed.

The public is hereby informed that (00.00 hrs) up to 31.03.2024, in r Jajpur District for Chandikhole-Para (Old NH-5A) in the State of Odisha, a	espect of adip section	fee rate s Toll Pla on from k	hall be revised	ur at Km.3.588 i
Category of Vehicles	Fee for single		Fee for monthly pass for 50 single journeys in a month (₹)	Fee for single journey for the commercial vehicles registered within the district of fee plaza (₹)
Car, Jeep, Van or Light Motor Vehicle	150	220	4940	75
Light Commercial Vehicle, Light Goods Vehicle or Mini Bus	240	360	7975	120
Bus or Truck (Two Axles)	500	750	16715	250
Three-Axle commercial vehicles	545	820	18235	275
HCM or EME or MAV (four to six axles)	785	1180	26210	395
Oversized Vehicles (Seven or more axles)	955	1435	31910	480

National Highways Authority of India (Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India)

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public is hereby informed that the User fee rate shall be revised w.e.f 01.04.2023 (00.00 hrs) up to 31.03.2024 in respect of Toll Plaza at Pipili at Km.21.000 in Puri District r Bhuba war- Puri section from Km.0.000 to Km.67.238 of NH-316 (Old NH-203) i he State of Odisha, as per table below

Category of Vehicles	Fee for single journey (₹)	Fee for return journey within a day (₹)	Fee for monthly pass for 50 single journeys in a month (₹)
Car, Jeep, Van or Light Motor Vehicle	135	200	4485
Light Commercial Vehicle, Light Goods Vehicle or Mini Bus	210	315	7000
Bus or Truck	430	645	14285
Heavy Construction Machinery (HCM) or Earth Moving Equipment (EME) or Multi Axle Vehicle (MAV) (Three to Six axles)	655	985	21915
Oversized Vehicles (Seven or more axles)	835	1255	27910
The rates for monthly pass applicable f a distance of 20 km from the above toll pl PIU- Bhubaneswar, NHAI: Email: bhu@	aza shall b		

Project Directo BUILDING A NATION, NOT

Pottery artisans face bleak future

POST NEWS NETWORK

Pattamundai, March 28: When summer arrives, the first thing people without refrigerators remember is clay pots and vessels. Potterv is an art that has been thriving potters are finding it very for centuries and many artisans make out a living out of it. Even in the modern world of plastic, steel and aluminium, some potters have not given up this art form despite a substantial decrease

in earnings Yes, many of them have been forced

to take up different types of work to

earn money. Earlier Sundays and Tuesdays, potters were seen displaying their products on the roadsides of Pattamundai Haat

With

here. However, that number has sizeably recost of clay and duced

Sources said that wood increasing, the though many residents of Matia, difficult to survive as Gangarampur,

demand for products Adhakhanda, has diminished Oupada and Totasahi localities

are still engaged with this ancestral profession, the lack of support from the government is forcing them to switch

to other jobs. However, many belonging to the community said that



since they have not learnt anything else, building clay items is their only way to earn a living.

Nityananda Behera of Adhakhanda village pointed out that people these days use aluminium. plastic and steel utensils. As a result demand for clay items has decreased.

So unless the government steps in, the potters face a bleak future.

Artisan Tulu Behera, on the other hand suggested that if they get training in the use of terracotta, it will be helpful to them. "Price of terracotta products vary from ₹10 to ₹200. If we are trained how to use the material, we can make ₹1,500 to ₹2.000 per week. It will help us to maintain our family," Tulu stated.

Other artisans said that carrying clay objects to the market is also a hassle. "During transportation inevitably some of the objects will break. So we suffer losses during transportation also," stated an artisan.

Overall the clay artisans are in dire straits because of a number of reasons, informed the potters. First, cost of clav has increased. Secondly, the price of wood, needed for baking the clay, has also gone up. So familes of all the potters are facing great financial hardships. They said that unless, the government intervenes. the art of pottery will die a painful and quick death.





power post

n easy way to start a long,

FOCUS DEMOGRAPHY

Care not for time and success. Act out thy part, whether it be to fail or to prosper. SRI AUROBINDO



Do Or Die

The world is dangerously poised to cross the limit of accepted level of global warming. It is only a few tenths of a degree away from the goal of restricting warming to 1.5 degree C above pre-industrial levels. It means within a decade the world will shoot past the target. This is no idle conjecture, but a revelation based on evidence by leading scientists on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The recently released report of the IPCC, an outcome of eight years' work, however, does not give up hope nor does it paint a doomsday scenario. It says it is still possible to stay within 1.5 degree C. But, it all depends on government actions in the next few years to keep greenhouse gas emissions within permissible limits so that temperatures fall back to safe levels, instead of rising dangerously.

While it is known that developed countries have been contributing most to the catastrophic climate change, billions of poor people, who may be partly at fault, are bearing the brunt of the suffering in the form of flash floods, cyclones and other natural calamities which have already taken a toll on hundreds of thousands of lives across the globe. The emphasis of the report is on human efforts to deal with the situation. It says just as human activity has warmed the atmosphere, so also it is human action that can bring temperatures down. It has fixed the goal of cutting carbon pollution and fossil fuel use by nearly two-thirds by 2035 so as to keep the situation under reasonable control. This means a categorical 'No' to new fossil fuel exploration and stopping use of coal, oil and gas by rich countries by 2040

The efforts of the IPCC scientists have succeeded in informing the world that climate change has not simply to do with increase in temperature, melting of ice and rise of the sea level. Apart from that it causes human disasters and makes life on earth unbearable with food insecurity, water shortages, increased mortality, higher transmission of diseases, and displacement. The damage is immense and it hits the poorest populations the hardest as they have limited means to cushion themselves against the effects of climate change. Almost half of humanity now lives in 'contexts that are highly vulnerable to climate change', according to the report.

It would be suicidal to take the report lightly and dismiss it as an academic exercise. The way people in several countries, including India, Pakistan and Turkey faced flash floods last monsoon and Europe and the USA suffered from sweltering heat during last summer, the impact of climate change was brought home to the world in the most concrete manner possible. Even if it appears that the goal of keeping global warming to 1.5 degree C is difficult to achieve, adopting an ostrich-like policy pretending that not much harm would really be done would spell doom for humanity. When this goal of restricting global rise in temperature was set in 2015, in the Paris Agreement, the challenge was immense. During the past eight years, this challenge has only increased but it is also matched by growing insensitivity to the problem by governments and the people at large. Take for example India where the average population has been totally swayed by the governmental argument that, as a poor nation, India cannot do much and it is for the rich nations to compensate whatever it needs to do. Till such time, both the Indian government and the populace are happily going about their normal life and activities and India will soon become the country with the largest number of coal fired power production units. This attitude can only hasten the process of destruction.

What is of paramount importance is concerted international effort and each country, rich or poor, must shoulder its share of responsibility for reducing the emission of greenhouse gases. This can be done by bringing down the use of fossil fuels, which are responsible for 80 per cent of CO2 emissions.

Political decision-makers must stop hiding behind false narratives about climate change impact. They need to tell the truth so that the people can become aware that the way they lived the last few decades through reckless consumption of fossil fuel will no longer be possible in the coming years. Urbanisation, dietary habits and travel by using fuel need to be redefined.

The developed countries have money and technology to stop the planet from burning up. Yet climate financing has been woefully inadequate. The IPCC estimates that investment in climate mitigation and adaptation is three to six times lower than the need to meet the goal of limiting temperature rises to 1.5 degree C. Trillions of dollars of investments over the years are needed to save this planet for human existence. Governments have to rise to the occasion

THE POPULATION BOON

heated debate is to mention global population. Thomas Malthus famously ignited furious arguments in the nineteenth century when he warned that, absent fertility-control policies, exponential population growth would outpace improvements in agriculture and cause recurrent bouts of famine and pestilence. Industrialisation would postpone the crisis, but not forever. These arguments were still raging in the 1960s, when Paul and Anne Ehrlich added fuel to the fire with their bestseller, The Population Bomb. Their fears were reason-Beniamino able, given the data. By 1975, the global population doubled to four Callegari & Per billion - in just under 50 years. It Espen Stoknes has just doubled again, reaching eight billion last November. This raises a new question: Will the pop WOMEN ulation double again to 16 billion? The answer is a resounding no. **AROUND THE** In fact, the global population will **WORLD ARE** not get anywhere close to that **CHOOSING TO**

HAVE FEWER

THE GLOBAL

IS NOW JUST

ABOVE TWO

WOMAN

CHILDREN PER

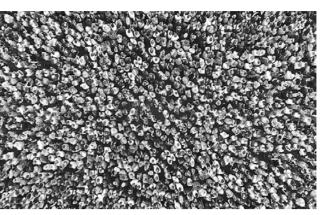
AVERAGE

CHILDREN, AND

FERTILITY RATE

level, owing to a paradigm shift in demographics over the past 50 years. The population growth rate peaked in the 1960s and has been falling steadily ever since. Women around the world are choosing to have fewer children, and the global average fertility rate is now just above two children per woman. Of course, this figure masks large geographic disparities. The number of children per woman is below two in places like Germany and Japan, but much higher in most low-income countries, especially fragile states. Still, the United Nations estimates that the global population could peak at 10-11 billion people this century, before starting to decline slowly. That is a huge number of mouths to feed, but it is nowhere near 16 billion.

Moreover, our own analysis in a new report, People and Planet: 21st Century Sustainable Population Scenarios and Possible Living Standards Within Planetary Boundaries, produced for the **Global Challenges Foundation in** Stockholm, concludes that the global population could peak at a much lower level – around nine billion – by mid-century. And if the



If the world invests more in economic development, education, and health, the global population could fall to levels at which everyone on Earth can have sustainable access to clean energy, shelter, food, and water. The bomb will have been defused, allowing everyone to live a good life within planetary boundaries

world invests more in economic dewith extraordinary policy turnvelopment, education, and health, arounds on food and energy sethe global population could fall to curity, inequality, and gender eqlevels at which everyone on Earth uity. In this potential future, can have sustainable access to extreme poverty would be elimiclean energy, shelter, food, and nated within a generation (by water. The bomb will have been de-2060), with a marked impact on fused, allowing everyone to live a global population trends. good life within planetary bound-Mainstream demographic proaries. This should be cause for jections often struggle to connect

population growth to economic

development. Yet we know that

rapid economic development in

low-income countries has a huge

impact on fertility rates. Fertility

rates fall as girls gain access to

education and as women become

more economically empowered

through access to paid employ-

ment and better health-care and

family-planning methods. When we

incorporated these factors into

our projections, population growth

caveat. To achieve the Great Leap.

governments in low-income coun-

tries must commit fully to pursu-

ing economic development based

on large investments in educa-

tion, rather than economic growth

driven solely by natural-resources

But our findings come with a big

slowed dramatically.

extraction.

celebration Our projections come from a new system dynamics model, Earth4All, which allows us to explore two economic and population scenarios this century. In the first scenario, the world economy continues along a path similar to the one followed during the last 50 vears, many of the poorest countries eventually break free from extreme poverty, and the global population peaks at 8.8 billion in the middle of the century before declining to 7.3 billion in 2100.

In the second scenario, which we call the "Giant Leap," the global population peaks at 8.5 billion by around 2040 and declines to just six billion by the end of the century. This would require unprecedented investments in poverty allevia tion and human capital, along

Moreover, while defusing the population bomb may be necessary for reducing the risk of future civilisational collapse, it is not sufficient. When we investigated the connection between population and planetary boundaries, we found that - contrary to popular myth – population size is not the primary reason that humanity is breaching these boundaries (reflected in problems like climate change). Rather, the main driver is consumption by the richest 10 per cent-a cohort that has an extremely large material footprint.

Humanity's big problem is luxury carbon and biosphere consumption, not population. The places where population is rising fastest have extremely small environmental footprints per person, relative to countries that reached peak population many decades ago. If resources were distributed more fairly, today's global population would already enjoy living conditions exceeding the UN's minimum level, and without the need for significant changes in developmental trends.

People and Planet provides a hopeful outlook on global population. Our findings challenge the common misconception that population growth is the main cause of exceeding planetary boundaries. In reality, the world's wealthiest people are the ones driving us toward the cliff.

Through systemic economic change, we could still provide a good life for everyone within planetary boundaries. We hope our report will lead policymakers to reexamine the impact of consumption patterns and prioritise equitable distribution over economic growth for its own sake

Beniamino Callegari, an associate professor at Kristiania University College, is a member of the Earth4All modeling team. Per Espen Stoknes, Project Lead of Earth4All, is Director of the Center for Sustainability and Energy at the BI Norwegian **Business School.** ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

IN JEST THIS A privilege that not everyone has

- By three methods we may learn wisdom: First, by reflection, which is noblest; Second, by imitation, which is easiest; and third by experience, which is the bitterest.
- am the wisest man alive, for I know one thing, and that is that I SOCRATES know nothing
- The more sand has escaped from the hourglass of our life, the clearer we should see through it. NICCOLO MACHIAVELLI

WORDS**WORTH**

Grimoire

grimoire is a book of magic that may contain spells, conjurations, A sinstructions for divination and the construction of amulets, and other secret knowledge of a supernatural kind. The examples include such famous works as the Sixth and Seventh Books of Moses, The Book of St Cyprian, The Key of Solomon and The Sacred Magic of Abramelin the Mage. The word is French, in the same sense. It began to appear in French-English dictionaries early in the nineteenth century but became more widely known in the 1850s. In French, it was a medieval modification of grammaire, a book of grammar, by which was meant Latin grammar, since at the time there was no other kind. It derives from the Latin grammatica, the study of literature in general, which by the Middle Ages had come to mean knowledge of Latin. The shift from book of grammar to book of magic isn't as weird as it might seem. Few among the ordinary people in those times could read or write. For superstitious minds books were troubling objects. Who knew what awful information was locked up in them? For many people grammar meant the same thing as learning, and everybody knew that learning included astrology and other occult arts. In medieval English, grammarve was likewise the study of Latin grammar and this, too, took on undertones of occult learning, magic and necromancy. It fell out of use but was revived by Sir Walter Scott in his Lay of the Last Minstrel in 1805. Another of Scott's popularisations was the Scots glamour. This was also from grammar, with a small shift in pronunciation, and shared the idea that grammar was linked with witchcraft and sorcery. To us today glamour is physical allure but for the Scots of earlier times, and for Scott, it was enchantment, magic or a spell cast upon a person.

LOI

PLOUGHING THE LAND

husband and wife were driving Adown a country lane on their way to visit some friends. They came to a muddy patch in the road and the car became bogged. After a few minutes of trying to get the car out by themselves, they saw a young farmer coming down the lane, driving some oxen before him.

The farmer stopped when he saw the couple in trouble and offered to pull



the car out of the mud for \$50. The husband accepted and minutes later the car was free. The farmer turned to the husband and said, "You know, you're the tenth car I've helped out of the mud today.' The husband looks around at the fields incredulously and asks the farmer, "When do you have time to plough your land? At night?" "No," the young farmer replied

seriously, "Night is when I put the water in the hole.'



IT'S A PRIVILEGE TO STOP WORKING COMPLETELY AND STILL AFFORD TO PUT A ROOF OVER YOUR HEAD, FOOD ON YOUR TABLE, AND TEETH IN YOUR MOUTH

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, opinior

(0)

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

∠retired, how soon do you want to retire? Depending on your age, health, income and other factors, your answer may vary considerably from other working adults. But how soon would you retire if you had just won the lottery and were now rich enough to hire Gordon Ramsay to make breakfast for you every morning? I have a feeling that your answer, most likely, would be one of these three:

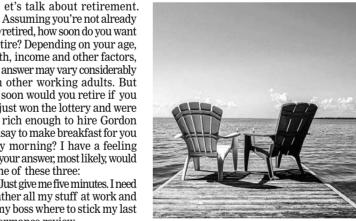
1. Just give me five minutes. I need to gather all my stuff at work and tell my boss where to stick my last performance review.

2. Just give me 15 minutes. I need to say goodbye to all my co-workers and give them my new address in the Bahamas.

3. Just give me 30 minutes. I need to write a note telling my boss that I'm going to miss him/her as much as I miss my last colonoscopy.

Many people dream about leaving their boss a farewell note: "Dear Boss,

Remember when you told me that I need to be more decisive? Well, I just made the fastest decision of my life. I'm taking the day off. Actually, make that a week. Can I



take a week off? On second thoughts, a week is too short. Can I take the rest of my life off?

As of today, I'm officially retired. I'm done working. No more early mornings, no more late nights. No more getting dressed up for meetings, no more getting dressed down in them.

I know I'm too young to be retired, but I'm old enough to be tired. I'm tired of working for you, tired of all your rules, tired of all the BS (business systems). Goodbye, Take care, And don't worry: I'll make sure the door does n't hit me on the way out.

Many people love their jobs, of course, and aren't eager to retire, whether willingly or otherwise. But many others want to retire as soon as they have the financial means to do so

Many people love their jobs, of course, and aren't eager to retire, whether willingly or otherwise. But many others want to retire as soon as they have the financial means to do so. That's why scores of people are protesting in France. angry that a new law has raised the retirement age for French workers from 62 to 64. They won't be able to collect full pension benefits until they're old enough to refer to the president of America as 'Uncle Joe.'

Two years may not seem like a big deal, but imagine that you're 61 years old and counting down the days to retirement, when you can say "adieu" to your job. Then suddenly a new law is passed and you have to say "Re-bonjour, sale boulot" (hello again, you stinking job).

It's worth noting that the retirement age in France is still lower than in most western countries. It's as high as 67 in the United States for full social security benefits, though you can settle for a lesser amount at 62. In India, the retirement age ranges from 60 to 62, depending on the job. If you work for the government, you'll probably be nudged out at 60, unless you can get yourself a top job such as prime minister or president.

What we shouldn't forget is that it's a privilege to have a job that provides retirement benefits or allows you to save for retirement. It's also a privilege to stop working completely and still afford to put a roof over your head, food on your table, and teeth in your mouth.

I'm not a fan of mandatory retirement, but I also think that anyone who has worked 30 years in a iob should be able to dream of a happy retirement, one that comes without buying lottery tickets.

Sagacity essential

Sir, Even though Article 19 of our Constitution promotes freedom of speech, nowadays we see the same being misused knowingly and unknowingly by politicians, leaders, factions and parties. Leaders of all parties just ignore or it seems as if they forget that the Article also has some restrictions. The words used by some of the politicians, irrespective of parties, sometimes go beyond the decency limit resulting in verbal and physical conflicts between party workers and ending up in complete chaos. The recent 'caste defamation issue' and its aftermath is a clear example of how expression of words without being prudent can end up in legal problems and lead to utter chaos and conflicts. Leaders of all parties go for a tirade at the drop of a hat ending up in court cases, arrests and conflicts .What leaders forget is that expressing words without being sagacious can result in counter derogatory remarks finally ending up in court cases and clashes. Leaders got to understand that they have to exercise restraint as the public is watching and listening. In this matter the famous aphorism by Benjamin Franklin "A slip of the foot you may soon recover, but a slip of the tongue you may never get over" turns out to be hundred per cent apt

M Pradyu, KANNUR (KERALA)

Combating pollution

Sir, Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) play an important role in India's economy. About 30 per cent of country's GDP is from SMEs. These SMEs have been identified as a major source of air and water pollution as per different studies. One of the causes of pollution from these units is a lack of regulatory practises such as environmental monitoring, guidelines, and best practices, a comprehensive fuel policy, regulatory enforcement, and poor policy implementation on the ground. As a result of the alarming increase in air and water pollution, it is time for regulators to act as an ombudsman, working on pollution mitigation measures and ensuring effective policy implementation. For better compliance, SMEs should be trained by the Centre and state governments to make them understand environmental laws and regulatory strategies and also to make them aware of ambient and stack-based monitoring. These should be trained for pollution load assessment of industrial emission. SMEs should be trained for water audit for effective waste water management and also dissemination required for – waste management to decrease pollution.

Vijay Kumar HK, RAICHUR (KARNATAKA)





national



Sustained efforts are required to give a fillip to the start-up ecosystem that will further support entrepreneurship, and enable large-scale employment opportunities MANOJ SINHA J-K LT GOVERNOR

BOMBAY HC JUNKS PLEA

The Bombay High Court recently dismissed a writ petition demanding a probe into the role of former Mumbai Police **Commissioner Parambir Singh in** the Antilia bomb scare and the related Mansukh Hiran murder case







BHAGWANT MANN PUNJAB CM

New entrants to the BJP especially those who become **Cabinet Ministers** often make outrageous statements to strengthen their new loyalties. Such statements reveal their own character

JAIRAM RAMESH CONGRESS LEADER

Killings of Muslim vouth by cow vigilantes continues unabated. Attacks on churches and members of the Christian community, particularly Christian Tribals, are reported from several states. Various new false narratives and histories are being created, especially in poll-bound states to heighten communal polarization

SITARAM YECHURY GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA

SHORT TAKES

Top court allows two attempts

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Tuesday allowed Indian medical students who have returned from Ukraine, China and Philippines due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the war, to clear the MBBS final examination in two attempts in accordance with existing National Medical Commission (NMC) syllabus and guidelines without being enrolled in any medical college in India.

Delhi HC orders framing of charges

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Tuesday set aside a trial court's order discharging 11 people, including JNU student Sharjeel Imam and activists Asif Iqbal Tanha and Safoora Zargar, in a 2019 Jamia Nagar violence case and ordered framing of charges against them. While quashing the order, the high court said in a democracy there can be no question of suppressing dissent or infringing fundamental right of freedom of expression by peaceful means but there is also no place of violent collective action to register anguish against ideological differences to a government policy.



Devotees arrive to offer prayers at a temple during the 'Chaitra Navratri' festival in Jammu

Rahul replies to eviction notice; Cong slams Centre

AGENCIES

New Delhi, March 28: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Tuesday replied to the Lok Sabha Secretariat's notice to vacate his official bungalow and said he will abide by the eviction notice, even as his party leaders slammed the government, accusing it of humiliating him.

Rahul Gandhi was Monday served a notice to vacate the government bungalow by April 22 following his disqualification as a member of Lok Sabha after his conviction in a

criminal defamation case last week. In his communication to the LS Secretariat. Rahul Gandhi said. "thank you for your letter of March 27, 2023, regarding the cancellation of my accommodation at 12 Tughlak Lane. As an elected member of the Lok Sabha over the last four terms, it is the mandate of the people to which I owe the happy memories of my time spent here.""Without prejudice to my rights, I will, of course, abide by the details contained in your letter," he said in his letter to the MS branch of the LS Secretariat which

Indian Youth Congress supporter being detained by police during a protest march at Red Fort in New Delhi, Tuesday

Slamming the Centre over the eviction notice, Congress president Mallikariun Kharge said he condemns the government's attitude to "threaten, scare and humiliate" the former party chief. He also said that Rahul Gandhi could go and live with his mother Sonia Gandhi at her 10 Janpath residence or he could himself provide a house by vacating one for the Gandhi scion.

"They will do everything to weaken him (Rahul Gandhi). He can go live with his mother or he can come to me. I will vacate one for him. I condemn this attitude of the government to threaten, scare

No-confidence motion likely against Speaker

with other opposition parties to consider moving a no-confidence motion against Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla over his alleged bias, sources said Tuesday. They said the proposal to bring a motion was mooted at the meeting of party MPs Tuesday morning and Congress leaders are now talking to other party leaders over it

SAVARKAR ROW: PAWAR STEPS IN

New Delhi: Amid strains in the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi alliance over Rahul Gandhi's strident criticism of V D Savarkar, NCP chief Sharad Pawar has stepped in to play the peacemaker by conveying Shiv Sena's concerns on the issue to the Congress leadership. Opposition leaders said Congress has agreed to tone down its criticism of Savarkar, which has led to unease in the NCP and the Shiv Sena (UBT), its alliance part ners in Maharashtra. Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Saniay Raut said he had raised the Savarkar issue in his talks with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi and MVA partners are on the same page on this matter."MVA alliance is intact. If anyone thinks the MVA will break apart, they are wrong," Raut said here.

and humiliate," Kharge said be-'Jai Bharat Maha Satyagraha' in fore leaving for Parliament. New Delhi in the second week of April to protest Rahul Gandhi's

Meanwhile, the Congress Tuesday announced over a monthdisgualification and to press their long agitational programmes from demand for a JPC probe into the block to national level, including a Adani issue

Avoiding hate speech must for communal harmony, says SC

The court made the observations after it was informed by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that 18 FIRs have been lodged in relation to hate speeches

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 28: The Supreme Court Tuesday said abjuring hate speech is a fundamental requisite for maintenance of communal harmony in the country, and asked the Centre what actions have been taken after the lodging of FIRs in hate speech cases.

Observing that merely registering complaints is not going to solve the problem of hate speeches, it reminded the Centre on the need to take action against persons making such statements. The court made the observations after it was informed by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that 18 FIRs have been lodged in relation to hate speeches.

The top court said it had passed an order directing "suo motu" action against culprits on a certain understanding about what was happening in this country and expects the authorities to take prompt action.

A bench of Justices KM Joseph and BV Nagarathna also heard the claim by advocate Nizam Pasha that 50 rallies have been conducted in Maharashtra in the last four months where hate speeches have been made

Pasha said he has annexed news reports regarding this and sought action

Mehta strongly objected to Pasha's submission and asked how a newspaper report could be made the basis of an application. He said the matter can be heard on any other date as it was already past 4 pm.

The court told Mehta that on the



last occasion he had conceded that this matter would be at the heart of democracy.

"Abjuring hate speech is a fundamental requisite for maintenance of communal harmony...We passed an order on certain understanding of what was happening in this country. Don't think that we don't understand what is happening just because we keep silent. We should not be misunderstood," it observed. During the hearing, Mehta, asked, "Are we converting this court into a magisterial court?"

"How can a newspaper report be made the basis? What if a hate speech is made somewhere, this man from Kerala (Pasha) is fully aware about Maharashtra. There is complete peace in the rest of the country and there is no hate speech elsewhere."His public interest is confined to only one state. They have started filing applications on the basis of newspaper reports. We have filed FIRs whenever we have found hate speech," Mehta said.

"Would your lordships have it on some date as it is already 4:30 pm. Is it that urgent? It doesn't look good." The court, however, proceeded to hear the matter. Pasha then told the bench that he has filed an application in the contempt petition.

BSF targets three

filed against Choksi

Fresh chargesheet 'Conman' Kiran Patel's wife held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi: The Congress is in talks

Pilgrims injured

Pathanamthitta (Kerala): As many as 64 people were injured, as a bus carrying Sabarimala pilgrims from Tamil Nadu fell into a gorge in Pathanamthitta district Tuesday, police said. The accident occurred when the bus was returning after darshan at Lord Ayyappa temple in Sabarimala, they said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

diamonds valued at 98 per cent

less than what was projected for get-

ting a loan of Rs 25 crore from the

In its chargesheet filed before a

special CBI court in Mumbai re-

cently, the Central Bureau of

Investigation (CBI) alleged that

Choksi's firm Gitanjali Gems took

the loan from the Industrial Finance

Corporation of India (IFCI) by

pledging 896 pieces of studded jew-

ellery, which were valued at more

than Rs 45 crore by government-ap-

Once the loan account turned

a non-performing asset (NPA), the

proved valuers.

IFCI in 2016, officials said.

had sent him the notice.

IFCI moved to realise the pledged jewellery, but came to a rude shock New Delhi, March 28: Months after fresh valuations showed that after Interpol removed a Red Corner their value was 98 per cent less Notice (RCN) against fugitive diathan what was projected at the time of applying for the loan, the mantaire Mehul Choksi, the CBI has filed a fresh chargesheet against him officials said. for allegedly pledging lab-grown

The fresh valuation done by the IFCI pegged the value of the jewellery in the range of Rs 70 lakh to Rs 2 crore, the chargesheet said."The valuers said the diamonds are of low quality and are lab-prepared chemical vapour diamonds and other inferior colour stones and not real gem stones. Accordingly, the account of Gitanjali Gems Limited was declared as fraud on November 30, 2018," the chargesheet accessed by PTI said. The opinion of the valuers gathered by the CBI during the probe also put the value of 896 pieces of jewellery in the range of Rs 69.32 lakh to Rs 76.99 lakh. the officials said

Ahmedabad, March 28: The wife of alleged conman Kiran Patel, who was held in Jammu and Kashmir for posing as a top official of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), was arrested Tuesday for trying to usurp a senior citizen's bungalow here, officials said.

Malini Patel was on the run ever since a first information report (FIR) in this regard was registered against the couple on March 22, weeks after her husband was held in J&K. She was arrested from a relative's house in Jambusar town of Bharuch district and brought here, said a release by the Ahmedabad city crime branch.

While Malini was arrested in 2017 in a case of cheating and criminal conspiracy registered against her at Naroda police station of the city, Kiran also faces at least four such cases in Gujarat and was also arrested in the past, said the release. Earlier this month. Kiran, a res-



alini Patel was on the run ever Visince a FIR in this regard was registered against the couple on March 22. weeks after her husband was held in J&K

She was arrested from a relative's house Sin Jambusar town of Bharuch district and brought to Ahmedabad, said a release by the Ahmedabad city crime branch

ident of the Ghodasar area of the city, was arrested by the Jammu and Kashmir police from a five-star hotel in Srinagar after the authorities grew suspicious about his activities

Later on March 22, the Ahmedabad city crime branch registered a case under Indian Penal Code sections 420 (cheating), 406 (criminal breach of trust), 120-b (criminal conspiracy) and 170 (personating a public servant) against the couple.

Since Kiran is in judicial custody in J&K, the crime branch had said he would be brought here soon through a transfer warrant.

Border Security Force (BSF) brought down a drone and shot at two others, apparently being used to smuggle heroin, near the India-Pakistan border in Punjab, an official said Tuesday.

Chandigarh, March 28: The

drones near border

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

About 10 kg of heroin, a pistol, a magazine and eight rounds were recovered in the series of incidents. In one case, BSF soldiers opened fire at miscreants who hurled a heroin packet across the border fence in Fazilka district. A BSF spokesperson said the force also apprehended two persons.

In Amritsar's Rajatal village, the movement of a Pakistani drone was detected at around 8:30 pm on Monday and the BSF personnel fired at it, the official. During the search of the area on Tuesday, the force recovered a black coloured drone (a DJI Matrice quadcopter). A packet of heroin weighing 2.6 kg, wrapped with yellow adhesive tape, was found inside a bag attached to the drone, the spokesperson said.

In Amritsar's Bachiwind village, the BSF shot down another drone entering the village from the Pakistan side on Monday night. Three kg of heroin, concealed inside three packets, was recovered from a polyester bag during the search, the spokesperson said, adding two people were also apprehended.

In Hardo Rattan village in Amritsar, the BSF opened fire at another Pakistani drone and later recovered two packets of heroin weighing 2 kg during a search of the area.

In Fazilka district, the BSF personnel opened fire at some miscreants after they heard the thumping sound of something being thrown over the border fence near village Natha Singh Wala early Tuesday morning. The miscreants managed to flee, the spokesperson said, adding that two packets of heroin weighing 2 kg and a Chinamade pistol along with a maga-zine and eight rounds were recovered during the search of the area.

CHEETAH'S DEATH SC seeks task force experts' qualification, experience

The four-and-a-half-year-old female cheetah, named Sasha, died due to a kidney ailment more than six months after she was translocated to the Kuno National Park from Namibia, along with seven other big cats

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 28: A day after a Namibian cheetah died at the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh, the Supreme Court Tuesday sought details of experts in the Cheetah Task Force such as their qualification and experience. The four-and-a-half-year-old female cheetah, named Sasha, died due to a kidney ailment more than six months after she was translocated to the Kuno National Park (KNP) from Namibia, along with seven other big cats. A bench of Justices B R Gavai

and Vikram Nath asked the Centre to furnish details of the experts in the task force who specialise in cheetah management, their experience and qualification within two weeks. The top court's direction came while hearing an application filed by the Centre seeking direction from the court that it is no longer necessary and mandatory for the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) to continue taking the guidance and advice of the expert committee appointed by this court through an order dated January 28, 2020.

The top court had then said that



the three-member committee comprising former director of wildlife protection M K Ranjit Sinh, chief conservator of forests, wildlife administration in Uttarakhand Dhananjai Mohan and the DIG (Wildlife) of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate

Change (MoEFCC) will guide the NTCA in the introduction of African cheetahs in India.

Senior Advocate Prashanto Chandra Sen, appearing for NGO Centre for Environment Law WWF, said that the Cheetah Task Force does not have any cheetah expert in the panel. He said that since cheetahs have been brought, the NTCA should continue to work with the expert committee constituted by the apex court, at least for the initial level.

"Cheetahs have come and we have lost one of them. There is a need to have experts, who have wide knowledge and experience in cheetah management," he said. Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, said that the government has prepared a scientific action plan for introduction of cheetah in India.

"The action plan is a comprehensive scientific document prepared in consultation with scientists, veterinarians, forest officers and cheetah experts from India as well as other countries like Namibia, South Africa, United States of America, etc.," she said.

Bhati said that it cannot be a case that only their experts know everything and other experts do not know anything about cheetah management. Justice Nath observed that nowadays the government is taking a lot of interest in wildlife protection.

The bench posted the matter after two weeks and asked Bhati to submit details of cheetah experts in the task force. The Centre, in its application said that as per the action plan for cheetah introduction in India, annually 8-14 cheetahs are required to be brought in from African countries for the next fiveyears at least and an memorandum of understanding in this regard has been signed between Government of India and Republic of Namibia and South Africa for cooperation in the field of cheetah conservation.









'More than 200 child labourers rescued in **Delhi since January'**



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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New Delhi, March 28: Delhi High Court was informed Monday that more than 200 children working as child labourers here have been rescued since January and further raids are underway.

A bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Sachin Datta granted four weeks to the Delhi government counsel to file a further status report in the matter and listed it for hearing May 4.

Advocate Prabhsahay Kaur, representing the NGO, said during the hearing that there had been "unprecedented success" in rescuing child labourers from various units here since January 11 when the last order was passed for constitution of committees in each district. She said the government rescued more than 200 children and of the 183 complaints filed by the NGO, the authorities had taken action in most of them.

The Delhi government's counsel told the court that in pursuance of an earlier order, a status report had been filed in the matter and added that the process of conducting raids was still going on.

In its status report, the Delhi government said 45 people were killed and 17 injured in the December 8, 2019, fire. It informed that a compensation of ₹10 lakh each was given to the victim's next of kin in all the 45 cases. In the case of the 17 injured, ₹1 lakh each was given to 13 people. Four people could only

be traced only now and

they are being paid the

"In accordance with the

amount.

he Delhi High Court was hearing a plea by NGO Bachpan Bachao Andolan, which filed a petition in the aftermath of a fire that killed over 40 people, including several minors, at a factory in the Anaj Mandi

he NGO had sought a direction to the authorities to inquire into the angle of trafficking and child labour

area here in December 2019

three years having been passed. The high court, in its January 11

order, had said it was "extremely disturbing" that the government was taking a lackadaisical approach and showing extreme insensitivity in the case that had resulted in the deaths of 45 people, including 12 children aged between 12 and 18.

The Delhi Police, in its status report of January 10, had informed that of the 45 deceased, nine were minors -- the youngest being 12 years old - and six children suffered injuries. It had said the factory where the fire broke out was illegally storing and using highly inflammable material without safety

occurred due to burn injuries or suffocation and after an investigation, a charge sheet for commission of of-

precautions and said that the deaths

SHOOTING LOCATIONS IN DELHI CP, Dilli Haat, Chandni Chowk in demand: Official

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 28: Dilli Haat-INA, Chandni Chowk and Connaught Place are among the most sought-after locations for film and web series shoots in Delhi, which has witnessed over a dozen productions since the implementation of the city government's film policy last May, an official said Tuesday.

Under the policy, a single-window e-Film Clearance portal has been created to bring over 20 agencies that grant the various approvals related to film production. The government has facilitated 13 film and web series shoots since the policy's implementation. These include two Hollywood films, the of-

ficial said Place. Dilli Haat-INA and

▶ The Delhi Tourism

Development Corporation

acts as a facilitator for film

productions in the capital

and Transportation

has received 52 applications for film and web series shoots since the Delhi Film Policy - 2022 was introduced last May, the official said



lar." he added.

"Chandni Chowk, Connaught Pritampura are the most sought-

after locations. Producers are also

interested in filming at the Red

Fort. Birla Mandir is also popu-

The Tourism department

cilitated the production of 13 films and web series, including a few international movies. We have received applications (to film) at 52 locations as a movie requires multiple locations. At present, seven applications are in process.'

The official said, "We have fa-

The Delhi Film Policy - 2022 has brought up to 20 different agencies, including those of the Delhi government and the Centre, under one umbrella.

The policy aims to promote "artistic, creative and cultural expression, to brand Delhi as a vibrant film shooting destination by easing approval processes for movie shooting, and to develop and support local talent by providing a skilled ecosystem in the city", the

official said.

The e-Film Clearance -- a completely online single-window clearance mechanism - was finalised by holding regular meetings with various agencies and stakeholders such as production companies even during the Covid pandemic through videoconferencing, the official added. "Earlier, filmmakers had to get approval from 20 different agencies for filming in the city...," he said.

Now, they can procure clearances for filming by visiting the Delhi Tourism website and applying on e-Film Clearance. The online process for clearances from agencies in a timebound manner then begins, the official added

Army promotes Kaman Post as tourist destination

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, March 28: The Kaman Post on the Line of Control (LoC) in Uri sector of Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district will be thrown open to tourists as a destination soon, defence sources said.

The decision to allow tourists to visit Kaman Post on the LoC has been taken by the army. Defence sources said that the Kaman Post would acquaint the tourists with the sacrifices made by the soldiers to protect the territorial integrity of the country.

The Kaman Post overlooks the 'Aman Setu Bridge' spanning the LoC. Half of the bridge is under Indian control while the other half is controlled by Pakistan.



400 BOGUS COs **STRUCK DOWN**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE Srinagar, March 28: The Registrar

of Companies in Jammu and



NOBLE DEED: Security personnel give free medicines to locals at a medical camp orgainsed by Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) in Srinagar

KPDCL starts drive to cut energy, commercial losses

AAP to display posters against PM tomorrow

New Delhi, March 28: The Aam Aadmi Party will be displaying posters against Prime Minister

AGENCIES

directions of the court, in all revenue districts, district task 🧲 force (DTF) on child labour has been constituted and is functioning under the chairmanship of (the) district magistrate with members from the Labour department, WCD (Women and Child Development) department, Police department, Education department, Health department and the MCD (Municipal Corporation of Delhi)

The report said the action of search or inspection or rescue shall be completed in next two weeks. It was stated by the NGO that many such units were still operational in the Anaj Mandi, Sadar Bazar and Nabi Karim areas and while the fire tragedy occurred December 8, 2019, the compensation had not been disbursed yet despite more than

under the Indian Penal Code and Juvenile the Justice Act had been

fences

filed against the accused persons, including the building's owner and manager

The petitioner had moved the court alleging that the child labourers were employed at the factory where the fire broke out December 8, 2019.

It was also claimed that most of the children hailed from Bihar from where they were brought here by traffickers to work in the factories. The plea contended that the minors were "tutored and coerced" by the traffickers to say they were 19 years old and only visiting the factory if caught by the authorities.

Kashmir has struck off over 400 companies for non-filing of business status, an official said. Continuing its drive against

bogus companies in the union territory, the Registrar of Companies exercised powers under Section 10A of the Companies Act 2013 to strike off these companies.

"All the companies who haven't started business and have not filed the report with the registrar were struck off. A due procedure has been followed and an opportunity was given to the company to prove their businesses," a source in the know of things said. The registrar of companies further got the bank accounts of all these companies frozen immediately through DFS and by writing to the banking association. These companies can't use the bank accounts held in their names once frozen.

The Union Territory administration announced an amnesty scheme for defaulters, waiving off the interest and surcharge accumulated in their outstanding bills

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, March 28: Facing high aggregate technical and commercial (AT&C) losses in electricity distribution, Kashmir Power Development Corporation Ltd (KPDCL) has initiated several measures, including disconnecting services to defaulters, to reduce the deficit. "As far as KPDCL is concerned, it has the highest AT&C losses in the country. I would say we are around 64 per cent," Chief Engineer KPDCL Javeed Yousuf



Dar told PTI. The J&K government purchases electricity worth ₹7,500 crore every year and recovers only ₹3,500 crore, Dar said. "So, this is a serious issue so that is why it becomes necessary that we recover the charges from the consumers. It is the reason why we have take the step of disconnecting supply to consumers who have huge arrears outstanding against them," he added.

The Union Territory administration also announced an amnesty scheme for defaulters, waiving off the interest and surcharge accumulated in their outstanding bills. "We treat any consumer who has outstanding against him as a defaulter. Any consumer who has not paid for three billing cycles is to be treated as a defaulter and the bill that goes to the consumer is to be treated as notice. The KPDCL reserves the right to disconnect service to any consumer who has not paid," he added.

The disconnection drive is vigorous and a large number of connections have been disconnected. The list of defaulters has been available with each and every electric sub-division. Arshad Ahmad. a resident, said the steps taken by KPDCL have resulted in improved electricity supply.

"The voltage has increased because the unnecessary use of electricity has dropped. The hooking (electricity theft) has also come down substantially," he said. Ahmad, however, said there was still room for improvement as loadshedding happens at crucial times like Iftaar and Seheri.

Narendra Modi in 11 languages across the country on March 30, party's state convener Gopal Rai said on Tuesday.

"The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will display posters in states across the country on March 30. All state units of the party have been asked to paste posters in their respective states. The posters have been printed in 11 languages," Rai, the Delhi AAP chief and environment minister, told PTI.

Last week, posters reading "Modi Hatao, Desh Bachao" (remove Modi, save India) appeared on walls and electricity poles across the national capital following which the police arrested six people and registered 49 FIRs.

The BJP had retaliated by pasting "Kejriwal Hatao, Delhi Bachao" (remove Kejriwal, save Delhi) posters across the national capital. Meanwhile, Delhi Chief Minister

Arvind Kejriwal alleged Tuesday that the country is passing through difficult times as he mounted a no-holds-barred attack on the BJPled central government.

There is rampant loot by the Centre. They have looted more in seven years than what the Congress had looted in 75 years. The country is passing through difficult times. We are deeply worried about the situation," he charged.

Stepping up his attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the chief minister raised the Adani issue in the Delhi Assembly.

Speaking in the Assembly Tuesday, Kejriwal alleged, "PM is less educated and does not understand things properly. This is worrisome



Modern technology to boost silk production in J&K

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, March 28: The Jammu and Kashmir government said Monday that to boost silk production in the UT, farmers will be trained in using modern technology.

An official said, "The Jammu and Kashmir government is working under a multi- pronged strategy towards revival and holistic development of the Sericulture sector in the Union Territory. "Cocoon growers are being facilitated with requisite skill development training, latest technological interventions and related infrastructural support for transforming the sericulture industry in J&K. "The futuristic roadmap for holistic growth of agriculture and allied sectors will help in ensuring product quality and quantity besides raising global demand.

area expansion under mulberry plantations to increase leaf availability for rearers and to enrich green wealth. "The Forest and Sericulture Departments are jointly working towards achieving J&K's Green Mission besides ensuring marketing support to the cocoon growers in selling their produce in their vicinity." Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha also said during a function. "Our prime objective is to better the lives of farmers associated with this dream fabric besides ensuring uniqueness, beauty and ingenuity of J&K's crafts dominate the global market". The official added that the futuristic roadmap for holistic growth of agriculture and allied sectors will safeguard the age-old skills being transferred from generation to generation. "The effort is aimed at helping preserve and promote the unique and



indigenous craft legacy of J&K across the globe. "The government is giving importance to adoption of latest technological advancements in the silk industry to reduce dependence on imported silk. One of the three important centers in

the country for Research and Development, Training, Transfer of Technology and IT Intervention has been set up at Kashmir's Pampore. "Recently, the Department of Sericulture, Rajouri, Mulberry Circle Lamberi organised Kissan Ghosti/Scientific interaction under ATMA programme.

In a significant accomplishment, Kundan The Lal, a progressive main objective farmer Lamberi of the programme Rajouri, has was to educate silkworm earned ₹91,666.50 in rearers about the latest 20 to 25 days technology and practice by selling 87.6 kg dry crop. for silkworm Similarly, Tilak rearing

Raj of Lamberi Village of Rajouri has earned ₹1.32,356 in 20 to 25 days by selling 131.350 kg of silk. The official further said, "To cater to the research, training and extension needs of Jammu & Kashmir, the Central Silk Board (CSB) has set up the Central Sericulture Research and Training Institute (CSR & TI)

at Pampore, Srinagar, in 1994 to

revive earlier activities of the CSB in J&K.

of

"The institute is actively involved in Research and Development besides human resource development through its network of two Regional Sericulture Research Stations (RSRS) and 8 Research Extension Centers." The High Yielding Silkworm hybrids and improved mulberry varieties have been developed by CSR and TI Pampore to increase the farmers' income through Sericulture. "The Central Silk Board is promoting bivoltine production program extending technical support through six clusters (including two mega clusters) besides extending state of the art soil testing facilities. Due to the continuous efforts of the Institute and technological interventions, the average yield of bi-

voltine cocoons has been enhanced

significantly.





Most people in India are not serious about following road safety rules, and unless their mindset and attitude change, it would be difficult to reduce number of road accidents in the country NITIN GADKARI UNION MINISTER

SURVEY DISCLOSURE

In a loud wake-up call, a new survey has claimed that 61 per cent of Mumbaikars feel dozy at work and nearly 35 of them believe they suffer from insomnia



Lawyers' body moves SC against Dhankhar, Rijiju



Amit Shah religion-based quota violates the Constitution What about religionbased 1) politics 2) propaganda 3) speeches 4) agendas 5) programmes. Do they not violate the Constitution?

KAPIL SIBAL RAJYA SABHA MP

India is now setting new standards on the issue of gender justice during its G-20 presidency SMRITI IRANI UNION MINISTEI

Nitish Kumar deserves the Nobel Prize. He transformed Bihar from a 'Bimaru' province to India's fastest-growing state

JITAN RAM MANJHI HINDUSTANI AWAM MORCHA SUPREMO

SHORT TAKES

Five killed in Pune

Pune: At least five persons, including two minors, were killed and three others critically injured when a speeding pickup van rammed into two motorcycles near Lavanwadi village on the Kalyan-Ahmednagar highway, around midnight of Monday-Tuesday, officials said here. The victims are all farm labourers belonging to the same family, and were returning to their homes along with their minor children after completing the day's work. Suddenly, an oncoming loaded pick-up van collided headlong with the motorcycles which were thrown beside the road on the dark highway, around 11.30 p.m.

Girl molested

New Delhi: Delhi Police has arrested a 56-year-old doctor for allegedly molesting a fouryear-old girl at a clinic in northwest Delhi's Adarsh Nagar area, an official said Tuesday. According to police. the incident took place on Sunday when the girl's mother took her daughter to the clinic

BAN ON CONVICTS FROM FORMING PARTIES

SC to hear PIL in May PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 28: The Supreme Court Tuesday said it would hear in the first week of May a PIL seeking to restrain convicted persons from forming political parties and becoming their office-bearers for the period they are disgualified under election laws

A bench of justices KM Joseph and BV Nagarathna deferred the matter after lawyer Ashwini Upadhvav mentioned it saving it be heard on April 5 or 6 as it was unlikely to be heard during the day."What is the urgency? This can wait. This can come in the first week of May," the bench said. The bench was hearing a 2017

PIL filed by Upadhyay who said convicted politicians, who are barred from contesting elections, can still run political parties and hold posts in them, besides deciding as to who will become a lawmaker.

The petition sought a ban on convicted persons from forming a political party and becoming office bearers for the period they are disqualified under the election laws. It also sought a direction to declare section 29A of the Representation of the People Act as "arbitrary, irrational and ultravires" to the Constitution and to authorise the poll panel to regis-

ter and de-register political. The plea further sought a direction to the Election Commission to frame guidelines to decriminalise the electoral system and ensure inner party democracy, as proposed by the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (NCRWC).



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 28: The Bombay Lawyers Association Tuesday moved the Supreme Court against a high court decision dismissing its PIL against Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju and Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar over their remarks on judiciary and the Collegium system for appointment of judges.

The lawyers' body has challenged the Bombay High Court's February 9 order of dismissing its plea on the ground that it was not a fit case to invoke the writ jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Constitution. The Bombay Lawyers Association (BLA) had claimed

that Rijiju and Dhankhar showed lack of faith in the Constitution with their remarks and conduct. It had sought orders to restrain Dhankhar from discharging duty as the vice president, and Rijiju from discharging his duty as the cabinet minister for the central government.



he Bombay Lawyers Association had claimed that Rijiju and Dhankhar showed lack of faith in the Constitution with their remarks and conduct

Rijiju had said the Collegium system of appointing judges was 'opague and not transparent'

Lawyer Ahmed Abdi said that the petition has been filed with the apex court registry Tuesday. In an appeal, the lawyers' body said that the "frontal attack not just on the judiciary but the Constitution" by the two executive officials has lowered the prestige of the Supreme Court in public. Rijiju had said the Collegium system of appointing judges was "opaque and not transparent".

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar had questioned the landmark 1973 Kesavananda Bharati judgement that gave the basic structure doctrine. Dhankhar had said the verdict set a bad precedent and if any authority questions Parliament's power to amend the

Constitution, it would be difficult to say "we are a democratic na tion"

"It is submitted that the Petitioner herein filed the PIL before the High Court of Judicature at Bombay praying therein to declare the Respondent no 1 and 2 as disqualified candidates to hold any constitutional posts of Vice President and Minister of the Union Cabinet, respectively, based on their behaviour, conduct and utterances made in public," it said. The two constitutional func-

tionaries, "by showing lack of faith in the Constitution by their conduct and utterances made in public and by attacking its institutions, including the Supreme Court, and showing scant regard for the law laid down by the Supreme Court. The conduct of Respondent Nos 1 and 2 appeared to have shaken public faith in the Supreme Court and the Constitution".

The plea said the vice president and the Union minister have affirmed oaths that they will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution. "However, their conduct has shown lack of faith in the Constitution of India," it said assailing the high court's order dismissing its PIL.

They have launched a frontal attack on the institution of judiciary, particularly the Supreme Court, in most derogatory language with out any recourse which is avail able under the constitutional scheme to change the status quo as per the law laid down by the Supreme Court," it said.



Baby turtles at Guhagar beach, in Ratnagiri district, Maharashtra PTI PHOTO

DEFAMATION CASE

HC issues summons to Uddhav, Aaditya, Raut

Justice Prateek Jalan asked Uddhav, Aaditya and Raut to file their written submissions within – *30 days after service of summons*



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi, March 28: The Delhi High Court Tuesday issued sum-

to enter into a prima facie finding___ at this stage, I want to give him an opportunity to respond." Shewale was represented through senior advocates Rajiv Nayar and Arvind Verma and lawyers Chirag Shah and Utsav Trivedi.

EPS takes control of AIADMK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, March 28: In a watershed event for the AIADMK, the party Tuesday elevated Edappadi K Palaniswami (EPS) as its supreme leader, the general secretary, moments after deposed leader O Panneerselvam (OPS) lost one more legal battle against his expulsion from the party.

While the Madras High Court rejected pleas of Panneerselvam and his aides against their expulsion from AIADMK, 68-year old Palaniswami for the first time be-



IRKED BY BLACKOUT Man threatens to blow up Fadnavis' home

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Nagpur, March 28: Enraged by a power failure in his home, a Nagpur man allegedly threatened to blow up the Nagpur home of Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, sending the police into a tizzy, officials said here Tuesday.

Nagpur Police Commissioner Amitesh Kumar said Tuesday morning that the culprit who made the fake bomb threat has

in the locality after she complained of stomach pain. A complaint was filed by the victim's mother on Monday in which she stated that when she entered the clinic with her daughter, she remembered that she forgot her purse outside

Cops stop Sharmila

Hyderabad: Tension prevailed at YSR Telangana Party (YSRTP) leader Y.S. Sharmila's residence in Hyderabad on Tuesday when police prevented her from leaving for Osmania Hospital for a visit to know the problems faced by patients. Scuffle broke out between Sharmila's supporters and the police and in the melee she fell down. Police had shut the gates of Sharmila's Lotus Pond residence to stop her from leaving for the hospital. YSRTP said its leader wanted to conduct 'Janata Raid' at Osmania Hospital to know the plight of patients and pathetic facilities. She questioned the police action in stopping her and YSRTP workers.

Tripura gets new

Deputy Speaker

Agartala: Ruling BJP MLA

came the general secretary after the post's revival last year. Before his elevation. EPS was the interim general secretary

Party founder-leader M G Ramachandran (MGR), former party supremo J Javalalithaa, Navalar VR Nedunchezhiyan, PU Shanmugam and Raghavanandam were the only other leaders who had held that top post in the AIADMK, which was founded in 1972. On being elevated, cadres gave

Palaniswami a rousing welcome and made him wear a dark glass and bright white cap just like MGR and he happily waved at cadres, seen as a gesture of bringing the party under his full control, very much like his iconic predecssors. MGR and Jayalalithaa. He swung into action immediately and announced a new membership drive. Palaniswami assuming the top

position though has brought down the curtain on the leadership issue,



The former Chief Minister thanked his supporters for his elevation. Many jubilant leaders of the main opposition party said his elevation would enable him steer the AIADMK towards better days

ayalalithaa's close aide VK Sasikala was elected as the party's interim general secretary after the former's death but she was later convicted and sentenced to four years in jail in a graft case

the battle is set to continue in courts as OPS camp is determined to take forward its legal struggle. Political commentator and observer of AIADMK since the 1970's. Durai Karuna said that this development does not mean that OPS could be "written off" from the political landscape of Tamil Nadu.

Like in the past (1989), if the AIADMK faces electoral setbacks it may lead to a situation warranting factions eased out of the party to join hands once again, he said. "In politics, there are no permanent friends or enemies. It is the electoral outcomes and several other factors that prove to be decisive." he said.

He pointed to aspects like the resentment among several Most Backward communities against EPS regime's internal quota of 10.5 percent to Vanniyar community. Parallely, he pointed to OPS continuing to strengthen his faction or ganically across the State by appointing office-bearers right from grassroots level.

"OPS has vowed to take the battle to the people's court. Especially in southern districts, it could have a bearing on electoral politics," he said. OPS belongs to the Mukkulathor community, also known as Thevars who wield a decisive electoral clout in southern Tamil Nadu.

been traced and detained for investigations.

According to officials, around 2 a.m. on Tuesday, the Nagpur Police Control Room received a call warning that a bomb had reportedly been planted outside Fadnavis' home before the caller abruptly disconnected.

Not taking chances, a police team and a bomb disposal squad were rushed to the site and a thorough check was carried out inside and outside the VIP home, but nothing was found.

Fadnavis and his family are currently in Mumbai.

The police also traced the caller to his home in the Kanhan area of the city where he was staving in darkness due to a power failure, and in a fit of anger had allegedly made the bomb threat call to mislead the police.

The caller has been picked up and detained for questioning in the fake call matter, said Kumar.

son Aaditya Thackeray and Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Raut on a defamation suit filed by MP Rahul Ramesh Shewale for allegedly levelling frivolous corruption allegations against him and the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena faction.

mons to former Maharashtra chief

minister Uddhav Thackeray, his

Justice Prateek Jalan asked Uddhay, Aditya and Raut to file their written submissions within 30 days after service of summons. The high court also asked Google and Twitter to file their written statements within 30 days on the plea. It also issued notice to the defendants on the interim plea seeking removal of the alleged defamatory content from social media platforms.

The judge, who refused to pass any interim order at this stage, said, "I would like to give them an opportunity to respond and keep it on a short date for further proceedings...These are political fights going on..." Justice Jalan, who posted the matter for further hearing on April 17, said, "I don't want

In the suit, Shewale sought permanent injunction and damages against the defendants, on account of alleged false, malicious and un substantiated allegations made and circulated on social media platforms and other offline and online media. He said the allegations are libellous, unfounded and misconceived tainted with collateral objectives which were made knowingly and deliberately to harm the dignity of the plaintiff and his political party.

"The present plaint demonstrates that the defendant no. 1 to 3 have conspired with each other and with other unknown individuals/ organisations to launch a series of scathing and belligerent attacks against the plaintiff and the political party which the plaintiff be longs to, that is, Shiv Sena, with the oblique motive to malign, defame and injure the plaintiff's reputation based on a series of blatant falsehoods and gross misrepresentations." the plea said.

Heat action plans fail to identify, target vulnerable groups: Report HEAT ACTION PLANS ARE THE PRIMARY POLICY RESPONSE TO ECONOMICALLY THREATENING HEATWAVES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

and former Minister Ram Prasad Paul Tuesdav was elected unopposed as the Deputy Speaker of the Tripura Assembly. Paul was among the four ministers of the first BJP-led government who did not find place in the second saffron party-led government led by Chief Minister Manik Saha. Saha along with eight other legislators, including a woman, on March 8 assumed office as the cabinet ministers against the total ministerial strength of 12. (CPR), which conducted the "first

New Delhi, March 28: A review of 37 heat action plans in India shows most of them do not explicitly carry out vulnerability assessments, leaving the authorities with little data on where to direct their scarce resources

Heat action plans (HAPs) are the primary policy response to economically damaging and life threatening heat waves. They prescribe a number of activities, disaster responses and post-heatwave response measures to reduce the impact of heat waves

Though the exact number of HAPs in India is unknown, some estimates claim the existence of well over 100 HAPs nationwide. The Centre For Policy Research

critical review" of heat action plans at the city (nine), district (13) and state (15) levels across 18 states. said it was unclear to what extent actions prescribed in the HAPs were being implemented.

"India has made considerable progress by creating several dozen heat action plans in the last decade. But our assessment reveals several gaps that must be filled in future plans. "If we don't, India will suffer damaging economic losses due to decreasing labour productivity, sudden and frequent disruptions to agriculture (like we saw last year), and unbearably hot cities as heat waves become more frequent and intense," said Aditya

Valiathan Pillai, associate fellow at CPR and co-author of the report. India logged its hottest February in 2023 since record-keeping began

in 1901, according to the India Meteorological Department. March 2022 was the warmest ever and the third driest in 121 years. The year also saw the country's third warmest April, eleventh warmest August and eighth warmest September since 1901.

Studies show India is one of the most exposed and vulnerable countries to heat. Between 1951 and 2016, three-day concurrent hot day and hot night events have increased significantly, and are proiected to increase between two and four-fold by 2050 under the intermediate and high emission pathways of RCP 4.5 and RCP 8.5.

Representative Concentration Pathways (RCPs) capture assumptions about the economic, social and physical changes to the environment that will influence



climate change within a set of scenarios. The conditions of each scenario are used to model possible future climate evolution.

Heat waves are also projected to come earlier, stay longer, and become more frequent with urban heat island effects exacerbating heat impacts. Increased heat is already leading to more heat-related deaths, heat stress, unbearable working conditions and the wider spread of vector-borne diseases.

By 2050, as many as 24 urban centres are projected to breach average summertime highs of at least 35 degrees Celsius, disproportionately impacting economically weaker sections.

The International Labour Organisation estimates that working hours lost due to heat stress would increase to 5.8 per cent of working hours by 2030, or an equivalent of 34 million jobs.

"Nearly all HAPs are poor at identifying and targeting vulnerable groups. Only two of the 37 HAPs explicitly carry out and present vulnerability assessments. This leaves the implementer with little data on where to direct their scarce resources and could lead to poor targeting," the CPR said in its reporttitled "How is India adapting to heatwaves?



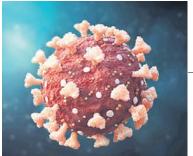
international



We must invest in the African ingenuity and creativity. which will unlock incredible economic growth and opportunities KAMALA HARRIS US VICE PRESIDENT

FRESH NORM

The World Health Organisation Tuesday changed its recommendations for Covid-19 vaccines, suggesting that high-risk populations should receive an additional dose 12 months after their last booster





There is ar increased level of combat active combat in the area of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. My teams there report daily about the attacks, the sound of heavy weaponry. This is practically constant

RAFAEL MARIANO GROSSI IAEA DIRECTOR GENERAL



scarring from the pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and monetary tightening weigh on economic activity **KRISTALINA GEORGIEV** IMF MANAGING DIRECTOR



SHORT TAKES

2 dead in Muslim centre stabbing

Lisbon: Portuguese police shot a man suspected of stabbing two people to death at an Ismaili Muslim centre in Lisbon. authorities said Tuesday. Police were called to the centre late Tuesday morning where they encountered a suspect "armed with a large knife," a police statement said. Police ordered him to surrender but he advanced toward them and was "neutralised." the statement said. The suspect was taken to a Lisbon hospital where he was in police custody.

Greece to hold election May 2

Athens: Greece's centre-right prime minister, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, called a May 21



Pak PM urges parl to curtail powers of CJ

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, March 28: Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Tuesday said that "history would not forgive us" if parliament did not enact laws to curtail the powers of the chief justice, a day after two Supreme Court judges questioned the suo motu powers of the country's top judge.

Addressing the joint session of parliament, Sharif talked at length about the dissenting judgement by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail of the Supreme Court, who lashed out at the unlimited authority of the Chief Justice to take a suo motu (on its own) action on any issue and constitute benches of choice to hear different cases. Their judgment was about the case of suo motu notice



taken by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial February 22 about elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces. Speaking passionately about the need for new laws to limit the chief justice's power, Sharif said that if the legislation were not passed, "history would not forgive us"

Meanwhile, Pakistan's Cabinet has reportedly approved the draft of a legislation Tuesday seeking to curtail the discretionary powers of the Chief Justice of Pakistan. The Express Tribune newspaper reported.

SHOW OF STRENGTH: Indian Naval Ship (INS) Sumedha reaches port at Algiers, as a part of overseas deployment, in Algeria. The ship was received at Port Algiers by officers of the Algerian Navy and officials from Embassy of India, Algiers March 26 PTI PHOTO

French police brace for fresh police for solutions Northern Ireland terrorism threat level rises Northern Ireland terrorism threat level in Norther for fresh police for solutions Image: Comparison of the for solution of the for solu

Strikes against pension reforms kicked off again across France



Protesters march during a demonstration in Marseille, southern France, France's government is unfurling massively ramped-up security measures for a fresh blast of marches and strikes against unpopular pension reforms PTI PHOTO

AGENCIES

Paris, March 28: Tens of thousands marched as protests and strikes against unpopular pension reforms gripped France again Tuesday, with police ramping up security after the government warned that radical demonstrators intended "to destroy, to injure and to kill".

Concerns that violence could mar the demonstrations prompted what Interior Minister Gérald



Ireland from domestic terrorism to "severe" - meaning an attack is highly likely.

The move to return the level to its second highest category follows recent attacks on police offices and comes weeks before political leaders are due to gather in the province to celebrate the 25th anniversary of a peace deal that largely ended

US President Joe Biden said this month that he had accepted an invitation to visit Northern Ireland in April, and both Bill and Hillary Clinton are due to attend an-

have," Chris Heaton-Harris, the

The British government said the level had been increased from "substantial" following the re-



A forensic officer from Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) works at the scene of the Youth Sport Omagh sports complex on Killyclogher Road area, where off-duty PSNI Detective Chief Inspector John Caldwell was shot, in Omagh, Northern Ireland February 23 REUTERS

cent targeting of police officers, and it was not thought to be linked to the anniversary

The threat for Northern Ireland had been held at severe since the system was introduced in 2010. It was lowered, for just over a year, in 2022. Chief Constable Simon Byrne

40 dead in fire at migrant

of the Police Service of Northern Ireland said his officers would not be deterred from "delivering a visible, accessible and responsive community focused policing service to keep people safe". While a 1998 peace deal largely ended three decades of sectarian violence in

Northern Ireland, police officers are still sporadically targeted by small splinter groups of mostly nationalist militants opposed to

An off-duty officer was left seriously injured last month following a gun attack that police said was carried out by the new IRA, a much smaller group than the Irish Republican Army, which disarmed following the Good Friday accord

Detective Chief Inspector John Caldwell was shot a number of times by two gunmen while putting footballs in his car after finishing a coaching session with a youth soccer team. Some 3,600 people died during the fighting between Irish nationalist militants seeking union with the rest of Ireland, and the British army and pro-British unionist militants want-

ing to stav in the United Kingdom. Leaders are due to gather in Belfast in April to celebrate the signing of that peace deal, which was struck April 10, 1998, and partially brokered by the US government of then-President Bill Clinton.

Nashville shooter was ex-student with detailed plan to kill

ASSOCIATED PRESS

three decades of violence.

niversary-related events.

"The public should remain vigilant, but not be alarmed, and continue to report any concerns they British minister for the province, said in a written statement.

general election Tuesday as his party's long-standing lead in opinion polls has declined in the aftermath of the country's worst train disaster. A February 28 collision between a passenger train and a freight train in northern Greece left 57 people dead. The disaster stirred public anger, cutting the conservative New Democracy party's support by a half-point to 4 points over its left-wing main rival, Syriza, according to opinion polls.

Russia test-fires anti-ship missiles

Moscow: Russia's Defense Ministry says Moscow has test-fired anti-ship missiles in the Sea of Japan. The ministry said Tuesday that two boats launched a simulated missile attack on a mock enemy warship about 100 kilometers (60 miles) away. The ministry said the target was successfully hit by two Moskit cruise missiles.

2nd trip to Texas

President Donald Trump might turn to "wild extremism" and

whip up a frenzy on a possible second visit to Waco, Texas,

Manhattan courts on multiple

Washington: Former US

ahead of an expected

indictment from lower

probes of tax fraud and

evasion, but the salacious

stand out being the alleged

film star Stormy Daniels.

"hush money" he paid to adult

Trump is virtually igniting his

White House bid for 2024 in

what the American media

says is an unprecedented

investigations against -- a

confluence that could send

peril in the criminal

legal collision.

Darmanin described as an unprecedented deployment of 13,000 officers, nearly half of them concentrated in the French capital, where police faced down ultra-leftist radicals. In a sign that protests may be losing a little steam, sanitation workers in Paris announced that they are suspending their more than three-week-long strike that has left piles of stinking garbage uncollected on the capital's streets.

The CGT union, which organised the strikes, said in a statement that workers will return to their jobs Wednesday because "we hardly have any strikers left." It was unclear whether private companies responsible for keeping some Paris districts clean will return to work. The CGT reported a dive in the

number of Paris demonstrators Tuesday after a record high of 800,000 five days earlier. Official figures, always far lower, weren't immediately available.

After months of upheaval, an exit from the firestorm of protest triggered by President Emmanuel Macron's changes to France's re-

Violence has since flared and thousands of tons of reeking trash piled up on Paris' streets during the sanitation workers strike. The Eiffel Tower's website announced that strikers had closed down the worldfamous tourist attraction. The Louvre Museum was similarly strike-bound Monday. "Everybody is getting madder," said Clément Saild, a train passenger at Paris' Gare de Lyon railway station, where tracks were temporarily invaded and blocked on Tuesday by protesting workers. He said he supports the strikes despite their impact on

tirement system looked as far

away as ever. Despite fresh union

pleas that the government pause

its hotly contested push to raise

France's legal retirement age

from 62 to 64, Macron seemingly

The French leader previously

used a special constitutional power

to ram the reform past legislators

without allowing them a vote. His

move this month further galva-

nized the protest movement.

remained wedded to it.

transportation and other services. "I am 26, and I wonder if I will ever retire," he said. Another passenger, Helene Cogan, 70, said: "French people are stubborn and things are getting out of hand." The wave of protests Tuesday marked the 10th time since January

that unions have called on workers to walk out and for demonstrators to flood the nation's streets against Macron's retirement changes, which are a key priority of his second term as President.

facility in Mexico: Official



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mexico City, March 28: Migrants fearing deportation set mattresses ablaze at an immigration detention centre in northern Mexico, starting a fire that killed at least 40 people, the president said Tuesday, in one of the deadliest events ever at a Mexican immigration lockup.

Hours after the fire broke out late Monday rows of bodies were laid out under shimmery silver sheets outside the facility in Ciudad Juarez, which is across from El Paso, Texas,

and a major crossing point for migrants. Ambulances, firefighters and vans from the morgue swarmed the scene. Twenty-nine people were injured and are in "delicate-serious" condition, according to the National Immigration Institute.

At the time of the blaze, 68 men from Central and South America were being held at the facility, the agency said. Immigration authorities identified the dead and injured as being from Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador, with Guatemalans being the largest con-

tingent, according to a statement from the Mexican attorney general's office.

Many of them may have been from Guatemala, according to a Guatemalan official, President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said the fire was started by migrants in protest after learning they would be deported.

"They never imagined that this would cause this terrible misfortune," López Obrador said, adding that the director of the country's immigration agency was on the scene. The detention facility is a short walk from the US border and across the street from Juarez's city hall.

Tensions between authorities and migrants had apparently been running high in recent weeks in Ciudad Juarez, where shelters are full of people waiting for opportunities to cross into the US or who have requested asylum there and are waiting out the process.

Nashville, March 28: The former student who shot through the doors of a Christian elementary school in Nashville and killed three children and three adults had drawn a detailed map of the school, including potential entry points, and conducted surveillance of the building before carrying out the massacre.

Metropolitan Nashville Police Chief John Drake did not say exactly what drove the shooter to open fire Monday morning at The Covenant School before being killed by police. But he provided chilling examples of the shooter's elaborate planning for the targeted attack, the latest in a series of mass shootings in a country that has grown increasingly unnerved by bloodshed in schools.

'We have a manifesto, we have some writings that we're going over that pertain to this date, the actual incident," he told reporters. "We have a map drawn out of how this was all going to take place."m He said in an interview with NBC News that investigators believe the shooter had "some resentment for having to go to that school."

The victims included three 9year-old children, the school's top administrator, a substitute teacher and a custodian. Amid the chaos. a familiar ritual played out: Panicked parents rushed to the school to see if their children were safe and tearfully hugged their kids, and a stunned community held vigils for the victims. Rachel Dibble, who was at a nearby church where children were taken to be reunited with their parents, described the scene as everyone being in "complete shock.

"People were involuntarily trem- 🗎 bling," she said. "The children ... started their morning in their cute little uniforms, they probably had some Froot Loops, and now their whole lives changed today." The shooting led President Joe Bidento call again on lawmakers for stronger gun safety laws.

Printed receipts from ATM or grocery store may be toxic: Report Trump may make

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New York, March 28: Do you frequently handle purchase receipts while buying groceries from stores or taking out money from ATMs? Beware, the receipts carry an underrecognised source of hormonedisrupting chemicals in our bodies, finds a report

According to the Ecology Center, a US non-profit working for environmental health, receipt papers contain high concentrations of bisphenols, particularly bisphenol A (BPA) and bisphenol S (BPS)

-- linked to reproductive harm. For their report, they tested 374 receipts from 144 major chain stores in 22 US states and the the US into a new political and District of Columbia. The most common were grocery stores,



restaurants, department stores, drugstores, and gas stations, among others. They found about 80 per cent receipts had the presence of bisphenol (BPS or BPA). "Receipts are a common expo-

sure route for hormone-disrupting bisphenols which readily absorb through the skin. Our studies show most retailers use bisphenol-coated receipt paper," Melissa Cooper Sargent, environmental health advocate at the Ecology Center of Michigan, said in a statement. "Switching

to

non-

The most common were grocery stores, restaurants, department stores, drugstores, and gas stations, among others. They found about 80 per cent receipts had the presence of bisphenol (BPS or BPA)

toxic paper is an easy shift. We urge retailers to stop handing out chemical-laced paper to their consumers and putting employees at risk." she added.

chemical alternatives such as BPS in 20 per cent of receipts. However, the researchers said while BPS is marketed as a safer replacement for BPA, both are endocrine-disrupting chemicals linked to health issues, including cancer. Besides consumers, people working at these stores could be more at risk because their "potential exposure to endocrine disrupting BPS or BPA is constant", the report said.

The report also showed safer

The report called on retailers to protect their "customers and employees by removing bisphenols from receipt paper", and also to stop "printing receipts altogether and offer a digital receipt option".





business



I can say with great pride, happiness, and thanks to all your efforts that India has crossed in its 75th year of independence, as we speak today, USD 750 billion of exports PIYUSH GOYAL COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

HOUSING PRICES MAY RISE 5% IN FY24

Housing prices rose 8-10 per cent in this fiscal year and may further increase by 5 per cent in 2023-24, India Ratings and Research said Tuesday. The rating agency has revised the outlook on the residential real estate sector to neutral from improving for FY24.





If we can reduce our logistics cost to 9 per cent from, currently, 16 per cent, then our exports will increase by 1.5 times

NITIN GADKARI UNION MINISTER

I think the startup winter, which we're talking about or the funding winter that we're talking about is

a reality, but it's going to be short, but sharp

DEEP KALRA MAKEMYTRIP CHAIRMAN

We are expecting inflow of debt mutual funds to our term deposits. CASA of the bank is low at 37 per cent but it is expected to grow next fiscal

SS PRASAD MD & CEO, UCO BANK

SHORT TAKES

₹800cr for EV charging stations

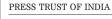
New Delhi: The Ministry of Heavy Industries Tuesday said Rs 800 crore under FAME India Scheme Phase II has been sanctioned to three PSU oil marketing companies (OMC) for setting up 7,432 public fast charging EV stations across the country. The amount has been sanctioned under FAME Scheme Phase II. The ministry has released Rs 560 crore or 70 per cent of the total amount to three OMCs --Indian Oil (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum (HPCL) · - as the first instalment for the installation and commissioning of upstream infrastructure and charging equipment of EV public charging stations at respective retail outlets in the country. installation is expected to be completed by March 2024, the ministry said in a statement. At present, there are 6,586 charging

stations across the country.

87 coal mines

SPURIOUS DRUGS

18 pharma cos **lose licences**



New Delhi, March 28: In a major crackdown against the manufacture of substandard drugs, central and state regulators conducted joint inspections at 76 pharma companies and cancelled the licences of 18 of them for producing spurious and adulterated drugs, official sources said Tuesday.

The inspections were carried out across 20 states and Union territories in the past 15 days, they said. The names of the companies are not yet known.

An official source said that the action has been taken against 76 companies in the first phase of a special drive against the manufacture of spurious drugs.

(70), followed by Uttarakhand "Licences of 18 pharma com-(45) and Madhya Pradesh (23), panies have been cancelled for sources said. manufacturing spurious and adullow in the coming days, they said. terated drugs and for violating GMP (good manufacturing prac-The inspections were carried out tice).... Besides, 26 firms have been across 20 states and Union terrigiven show-cause notices and the tories in the past 15 days, they said. product permission of three firms have been also cancelled," the raised over the quality of drugs manufactured by India-based comsource said.

As part of the special drive, the

11 companies selected to make solar PV modules

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 28: Eleven companies, including Indosol, Reliance and First Solar, have bagged solar photovoltaic manufacturing projects of a total 39,600 MW capacity under the second tranche of the production-linked incentive scheme of the government.

The government has allocated a total capacity of 39,600 MW of domestic Solar PV module manufacturing capacity to 11 companies, with a total outlay of Rs 14,007 crore under the Production Linked Incentive Scheme for High-Efficiency Solar PV Modules (Tranche-II), a power ministry statement said.

The ministry said that manufacturing capacity totalling 7,400 MW is expected to become operational by October 2024, 16,800 MW capacity by April 2025 and the balance 15,400 MW capacity by April 2026.

The Tranche-II is expected to bring in an investment of Rs 93,041 crore. It will also generate a total of 1,01,487 jobs with 35,010 getting direct employment and 66,477 being indirectly employed.

Speaking on the success of the PLI scheme, Union Minister for Power RK Singh said that India is well on its way to climbing up the value chain in the production of the high technology solar PV modules and this capacity addition is a major step towards making India Aatmanirbhar in the solar manufacturing sector.

"The PLI Scheme has proved to be a watershed event in India's Renewable landscape resulting in around 48 GW domestic module manufacturing capacity within the next 3 years. Scheme has boosted government's efforts to reduce not only the impact of global supply chain shocks but also our import dependence adhering to the Prime Minister's vision of an Aatmanirbhar Bharat," Singh said

PSU banks recover 14% of written-off loans in 5 years

Of ₹7.34 lakh crore written-off loans, state-owned lenders recovered ₹1.03 lakh crore, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha

Banks evaluate/consider the im-

pact of write-offs as part of their

regular exercise to clean up their

balance sheets, avail tax benefits and

optimise capital, in accordance

with RBI guidelines and policy ap-

proved by their boards, she said.

Such write-off does not result in

As borrowers of written-off loans

continue to be liable for repayment

and the process of recovery of dues

from the borrower in written-off

loan accounts continues, write-off

does not benefit the borrower, she

Banks continue to pursue re-

covery actions initiated in writ-

ten-off accounts through various

recovery mechanisms available.

such as filing of a suit in civil

courts or in Debts Recovery

Tribunals, action under the

Securitisation and Reconstruction

of Financial Assets and

Enforcement of Security Interest

waiver of liabilities of borrowers

to repay, she said.



PNN/AGENCIES

New Delhi, March 28: Public sector banks could recover only 14 per cent of the written-off loans worth Rs 7.34 lakh crore in the last five years ending March 2022, Parliament was informed Tuesday.

Of Rs 7.34 lakh crore written-off loans, state-owned lenders recovered Rs 1.03 lakh crore, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

So after recovery, net writtenoff stood at Rs 6.31 lakh crore in the last five years.

Replying to another question, the Finance Minister said non-performing assets (NPAs), including, those in respect of which full provisioning has been made on completion of four years, are removed from the balance-sheet of the bank concerned by way of write-off as per RBI guidelines and policy approved by bank boards.

BOI organises online seminar

said.

Bhubaneswar: Bank of India organised an online seminar on the topic of "Frauds in Banks and Precautions to be taken". The welcome address in the inaugural session of the programme was given by Zonal Manager Malaydas S. Speaking on the occasion, chief guest Sushree Mau Maitra. Assistant General Manager and Head of Official Language Department told about various kinds of frauds and the safety measures that could be taken with the help of small protective

Act, 2002, she said.

They pursue to recover by filing cases in the National Company Law Tribunal under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016, through negotiated settlement/compromise, and through sale of non-performing assets, she added.

In another reply, Sitharaman said, the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) frames and implements reservation policies in services and posts under the Central Government for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

"Policies/Guidelines issued by DoPT are extended mutatis mutandis to all Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) by Department of Public Enterprises (DPE). Implementation of the policies/guidelines on reservation is done by the respective CPSEs and is monitored by their Administrative

Ministries/Departments," she said. Similarly, she said, these policy guidelines and instructions are extended by the Department of Financial Services to all Public Sector Banks, Public Sector Insurance Companies and Public Financial Institutions (PSBs/PSICs

& PFIs) for implementation. As per statutory provisions, she said the general superintendence. direction and management of these institutions are vested with the respective Board of Directors.

They function as autonomous entities under the broad framework of Government guidelines and are responsible for carrying out the implementation of the same including those relating to the protection/ representation of various categories of employees, she added.

= (•) Bank of India

Adani shares tumble on report of group seeking time to pay debt

panies.

UNDER SCANNER

▶ Recently, questions have

drugs manufactured by

India-based companies

vision loss in the US

In February, the Tamil

Nadu-based Global Pharma

Healthcare recalled its entire lot

of eye drop allegedly linked to

Before that, India-made

cough syrups were allegedly

linked to children deaths in the

Gambia and Uzbekistan last year

regulators have identified 203

firms. A majority of the compa-

nies are from Himachal Pradesh

More such inspections will fol-

Recently, questions have been

been raised over the quality of

REUTERS

Adani group companies tumbled auctioned in 3 yrs Tuesday after a report said the conglomerate was seeking to renegotiate terms of outstanding loans worth \$4 billion taken last year to buy cement firms ACC and Ambuja Cements.



New Delhi: The government has auctioned 87 coal mines in three years which after becoming operational will generate an estimated revenue of Rs 33,200 crore and provide employment opportunities, an official statement said Tuesday. With a vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, the firstever tranche of Commercial Coal Mine Auctions was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in June 2020, the Coal Ministry said. The government amended the mineral laws to open up the coal sector to provide a levelplaying field to the public & private sector players and to permit auction of coal mines . without any restriction on end use - coal from these mines can be utilized towards own consumption, sale or for any other purpose, it said. "Within a span of less than three years, six tranches of auctions have been concluded successfully and 87 coal mines have been auctioned," the ministry said.

Shares of all the ten listed firms of the Adani group ended lower for the second day in a row Tuesday, with Adani Enterprises tumbling 7 per cent.

The stock of Adani Enterprises tanked 7.06 per cent, the most among the group firms on BSE.

Shares of Adani Ports slumped 5.66 per cent, Adani Power fell 5 per cent, Adani Transmission (5 per cent), Adani Green Energy (5 per cent), Adani Total Gas (5 per cent) and Adani Wilmar (4.99 per cent).

NDTV dropped 4.99 per cent, ACC declined 4.22 per cent, and Ambuja Cements dipped 2.91 per cent.

Many of the group firms hit their lower circuit during the day. All the ten listed firms of the Adani group had settled in the neg-

ative territory Monday.



The group firms have suffered a combined erosion of Rs 80,096.75 crore from their market valuation in two days of decline in stock prices The group stocks have taken a

beating on the exchanges since the report by the US-based short-seller Hindenburg Research came in January this year. The report had made a litany of

allegations, including fraudulent transactions and share-price manipulation, against it.

The group has dismissed the charges as lies, saying it complies with all laws and disclosure reauirements.

Meanwhile, the NSE and BSE have said that Adani Green Energy will be put under the second stage of the long-term additional surveillance measure (ASM) framework from Tuesday.

BUZ

BZ

adani

In two separate circulars, the bourses said Adani Green Energy will continue in the ASM framework but will be moved to the respective higher stage from March 28

The parameters for shortlisting securities under ASM include highlow variation, client concentration, number of price band hits, close-to-close price variation and price-earning ratio.



steps. Chief speaker Ved Prakash Ojha, Chief Manager, Security Department explained about various frauds and how to prevent them. Bipin Ekka, member, Narakas Bank, Bhubaneswar, Official Language Incharge, LIC explained about the security measures, Amrish Kumar, Chief Manager, Department of Official Language of Indore Zone appreciated the knowledge sharing in the seminar. 32 Official Language Officers participated in the seminar. Sonia Sawant, Senior Manager, Official Language Department, conducted the programme.

Triennial meet of SBI SC/ST Employees' Welfare Council



Bhubaneswar: The 11th triennial meet of SBI SC/ST Employees' Welfare Council has been held at Jayadev Bhawan here March 26. The programme was presided by Sourav Ranjan Das, President of SBI ST/ST Employees' Welfare Council. SBI Bhubaneswar Circle CGM Chander Sekhar Sharma attended the programme as chief guest. Sharma highlighted the intrinsic strength of this group and while emphasising all round welfare of the staff, sought support and improved customer connect by the staff to take the

Bank to new heights in Odisha. Other guest memebers like DGM & CDO Manoj Kumar Singh, General Manager (NW-1) Ponnambalam Murugan, DGM(B&O) Bhubaneswar Zone Sanjay Kumar Jha were present at the event. Guests of the meeting were introduced by former General Secretary and Chief Advisor of SC/ST Employees' Welfare Council Bansidhar Sethi, While General Secretary Jitendra Navak read out the achievements of the Council, he committed better individual performance in days to come

Toll revenue to rise 9-11%

.....

Mumbai: Toll road operators are likely to log in lower top line growth at 9-11 per cent in 2023-24 compared to a robust 16-18 per cent rise in revenue this fiscal, says a report. Rating agency Crisil said the jump of 16-18 per cent in revenue this fiscal will be on the back of significant hike in toll rates due to elevated inflation, and healthy traffic growth on national highways. However, the revenue will moderate to 9-11 per cent in FY24 due to falling inflation and a likely moderation in traffic growth, it said. The report, based on an analysis of 49 toll road assets across 14 states, also said that robust toll collections along with adequate balance sheet liquidity will support credit profiles of toll road operators.

The price of the No.1 cryptocurrency has jumped 40% to around

\$27,700 since March 10, when the failure of Silicon Valley Bank careered into mainstream markets

REUTERS

Tokyo, March 28: Bullish bitcoin has been a surprise winner of the banking blowout. Yet investors aiming to ramp up their bets face an ominous obstacle: a lack of liquidity that could trigger wild price swings

The price of the No.1 cryptocurrency has jumped 40% to around \$27,700 since March 10, when the failure of Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) careered into mainstream markets On the flip side, though, its liq-

uidity is drying up. Bitcoin's market depth indicates

the asset is at its lowest level of liquidity in 10 months, even lower than in the aftermath of the FTX collapse in November, according to data provider Kaiko. The market depth for the two leading trading pairs - bitcoin-dollar and bitcointether - stands at 5.600 bitcoin. the equivalent of about \$155 million,

Kaiko said. "As a market maker we try to provide liquidity where we can but we're facing a difficult situation. said Kevin de Patoul. CEO of Keyrock. "There is a big network effect here. In the short term at least, liquidity will remain a challenge.' Slippage, a liquidity measure describing how much prices change between the placement and execution of a trade, has also increased.



Slippage for buying bitcoin with US dollars on the Coinbase exchange is 2.5 times higher than it was at the start of March, said Conor Ryder, research analyst at Kaiko.

The slippage for a simulated \$100,000 sell order has doubled in the past month, meaning the average price you get for each bitcoin is worse than a month ago, Kaiko said.

fect de Patoul referred to was the collapses of Silvergate Capital and Signature Bank, whose networks had long been used by market makers which expand liquidity by rapidly buying and selling tokens - to transact

rently hovering around 68.

THE ALAMEDA FACTOR

Further crimping liquidity, Binance - the world's most liquid crypto exchange - ended zero-fee trading for nearly all its bitcoin trading pairs last week, hitting market makers' ability to charge higher fees for executing trades on the platform.

Liquidity for the bitcoin-tether pair on Binance has dropped 70% since the announcement, while trading volumes have fallen 90%, according to Kaiko data

The vanishing liquidity can be traced back to the collapse of Sam Bankman-Fried's FTX exchange and hedge fund Alameda Research. Alameda was one of the biggest liquidity providers in the crypto industry, and its bankruptcy left a void that has been exacerbated by the banking sector turmoil of 2023.

While most market participants expect new contenders to gradually emerge to perform the network functions of Silvergate and Signature, they say complete replacements are unlikely to pop up overnight.

Until then, "liquidity is probably going to get worse and worse," said Joseph Edwards, investment adviser at Enigma Securities.

Furthermore, it's not just market-maker trouble that's crunching crypto liquidity; Despite bitcoin's recent rally following a lengthy downturn, many investors are still trading cautiously in the \rightarrow wake of the banking crises and rising interest rates, some specialists say.

"Even if some players haven't left the place, they are on the sidelines right now because of what's hap-pening with banking turmoil," Edwards said.









with exchanges. Lower liquidity typically translates to more volatile markets, especially in crypto. Kaiko's Ryder said this was possibly one factor be-

hind bitcoin's leap this month.

CryptoCompare's Bitcoin Volatility

Index spiked to 96 last week, way

higher than the range of 52 to 65 it

saw last month as the cryptocur-

rency held its footing despite broader

market turmoil. The index is cur-

OrissaPOST WEDNESDAY | MARCH 29 | 2023 | BHUBANESWAR



India win Tri-Nation football tournament **FRANCE, SERBIA SAIL ON**



Dusan Vlahovic reacts after scoring against Montenegro

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Geneva. March 28: Kylian Mbappe is captaining France to a comfortable start in qualifying for the European Championship though Serbia's Dusan Vlahovic was the standout striker.

France's 1-0 win at Ireland was earned by defender Benjamin Pavard's rasping 50th-minute shot that was a rare show of attacking force in Dublin. Like France, Serbia has begun

its qualifying program with two wins thanks to Vlahovic striking twice late in a 2-0 win at Montenegro. The first in the 78th was a slick first-time shot to meet a cross from the left flank.

Poland got their first points after beating Albania 1-0 though it was a Major League Soccer (MLS) striker rather than superstar Robert Lewandowski who scored.

Karol Swiderski, who plays for Charlotte and was little used at the World Cup, got the decisive goal just before halftime.

For the second time in four days France players were hugging goalkeeper Mike Maignan at the final whistle for their new No.1's standout saves. Maignan's leaping, stretching save to push away a goal-bound header by Ireland defender Nathan Collins ensured a 1-0 win in Dublin.

S MARUTI SUZUKI



Kylian Mbappe celebrates with Benjamin Pavard after the latter's goal against Ireland, Monday

Depay opened the scoring on Monday for the Dutch with a 24thminute header in a routine 3-0 win over minnow Gibraltar. It seemed like an attack vs. Defense practise even before Gibraltar's Liam Walker was sent off in the 51st for a high tackle on midfielder Mats Wieffer. One minute earlier, Nathan Ake scored with a header and the defender added his second in the

82nd when his deflected shot from the edge of the penalty area rolled softly into the net.

Vlahovic was not fully fit at the World Cup and Serbia went home early without a win and last in a group in which Brazil and Switzerland advanced. The Juventus forward was sharp Monday, scoring with a pair of left foot shots late in a 2-0 win at Montenegro.

Hungary captain Dominik Szoboszlai scored perhaps the goal of the night in a 3-0 win over Bulgaria. Szoboszlai fired in a fast, dipping free kick from 25 yards (meters) into the top right corner of the Bulgaria goal. Bulgaria's second straight loss already looks likely to extend its wait to play at a finals tournament beyond 20

vears.

Belgium had a night off in the five-team group and plays Euro 2024 host Germany in a friendly

Tuesday. That let Austria go clear in the standings, adding a 2-1 win over Estonia to another home win Fridav against Azerbaijan.

Austria trailed for much of the game to Estonia's 25th-minute opener, and led only in the 88th on Michael Gregoritsch's deflected shot from near the penalty spot. Coach Ralf Rangnick was punching the air in jubilation in his technical area, and next takes his team to play favored Belgium June 17.

Sweden got back on track after their 3-0 beating at home to the Belgians Friday, easing past Azerbaijan 5-0. Sweden managed without Zlatan Ibrahimovic, because of an unspecified injury for the 41-year-old forward, and eased some of the pressure that was building on coach Janne Andersson.

Poland coach Fernando Santos got his first points in his new job since leaving Euro 2016 champion Portugal after the World Cup in December.

A modest 1-0 win over Albania was earned by Swiderski's strike in the 41st, when he reacted fastest at the edge of the six-yard box to collect a rebound from a shot that struck a post.

Czechia leads the five-team group with four points, though a 0-0 draw at Moldova was a drop in class from its 3-1 home win over Poland Friday.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Imphal, March 28: India played some inspiring football against higher-ranked Kyrgyz Republic to snatch a 2-0 victory and bag the **Tri-National International** Tournament Trophy with an all-win record here Tuesday.

India had earlier defeated Myanmar 1-0 March 22. The opening goal Tuesday came from centre-back Sandesh Jhingan, who found the target in the 34th minute. India added insurance in the 84th minute with Sunil Chhetri firing home from the spot. Midfielder Brandon Fernandes

put the ball in front of the rival goal off a free-kick and Jhingan pounced on it to find the back of the net to open India's account in the first half.

If the Kyrgyz Republic goalkeeper Tokotaev Erzhan thought the tall Indian defender would go for a header, he was mistaken as Jhingan waited for the ball to land and then swung it with a deft touch into the goal.

India kept launching attacks whenever they had the opportu-

Odisha FC host their 1st-ever 'Club Awards'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: March 28: Odisha FC hosted their first-ever 'Club Awards' ceremony Monday to celebrate the exceptional performances of their players throughout the 2022-23 season in collaboration with a city restaurant here.

THE WINNERS FANS' MOMENT OF THE SEASON: Nandhakumar Sekar

GOAL OF THE SEASON: Pedro Martin (vs KBFC at home)

FANS' EMERGING PLAYER OF THE SEASON: Isak Raite

GOLDEN GLOVE (BEST **GOALKEEPER):** Amrinder Singh

GOLDEN BOOT: Diego Mauricio



nity, and one such move in the 84th minute saw the Kyrgyz Republic defence crumble under pressure as Naorem Mahesh Singh was brought down inside the penalty box by Davvdov Nikolai.

The ensuing spot kick saw Chhetri score his 85th interna-

rhvthm one bit.

Stokes to play as specialist batter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, March 28: England Test captain Ben Stokes will be available only as a specialist batter for Chennai Super Kings in the early stages of the Indian Premier League 2023.

picked by the four-time IPL champions for Rs 16.25 crore during the auction held in December last year, arrived in India last week and has been training for the upcoming season starting March 31. A report in 'ESPNCricinfo' said,

Stokes will likely play as a specialist batter initially to manage his knee injury for which he has taken a cortisone injection — an anti-inflammation medicine.

The 31-year-old has been hampered by recurring injuries to his left knee, with the most recent flare-up happening during England's tour of New Zealand Stokes bowled only nine overs across two Tests and batted with a

Terming the injury "very frustrating", Stokes said he hoped to "get into a position that I feel like I don't have to worry about my knee anymore" with England set to host The star all-rounder, who was Australia for the Ashes this June. CSK batting coach Michael Hussey confirmed Stokes might not bowl at

the start of the IPL. "My understanding is he's ready to go as a batsman from the start. The bowling might be wait and see. I know he had his first very light bowl yesterday (Sunday) since he had his injections in his knee," said Hussey.

"The physics from Chennai (CSK) and ECB (England and Wales Cricket Board) are working pretty closely together. My understanding is he won't be bowling much at all in the first few games of the tournament... It might be a few weeks. I'm not 100% sure, (but we will) hopefully get him bowling at some stage in the tournament," Hussey added.

NEXA

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FAN OF THE YEAR: Suiin PS CONTRIBUTION TO WOMEN'S FOOTBALL: Bala Devi TEAM PLAYER OF THE SEASON (FOR SPORTSMAN SPIRIT): Lalthuammawia Ralte

IRON MAN AWARD (FOR MENTAL TOUGHNESS): Michael Soosaira

> RECOGNITION FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO SPORTS: DSYS

FITTEST PLAYER OF THE SEASON: Carlos Delgado & Thoiba Moirangthem

FANS' PLAYER OF THE SEASON: **Diego Mauricio**

PLAYERS' PLAYER OF THE SEASON: **Carlos Delgado**

tional goal. The striker stepped up to take the kick and tucked it into the corner of the net. This was India's fifth straight win on home turf. Stimac made six changes from the team that started against Mvanmar, but it didn't break their

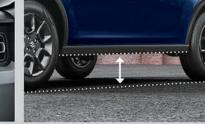
If preparations for the AFC Asian Cup in January next was the main purpose of hosting the tournament, then it was a success. The Indians showed that they are growing in confidence before they go for the all-important continental challenge.

lot of discomfort on the final day

of the second Test in Wellington.





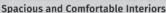


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