



Government of Odisha

DSPL-615



ଆମ ଓଡ଼ିଆ  
ନବୀନ ଓଡ଼ିଆ



*Signing of MoU Between*  
**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**

**&**

**JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY, NEW DELHI**

for establishment of Biju Patnaik Special Centre for  
Odia Studies at  
Jawaharlal Nehru University,  
New Delhi

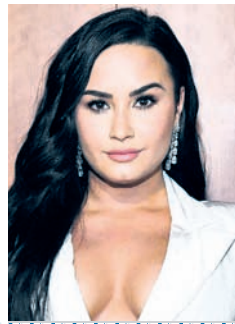
on  
4th February 2024  
3.30 PM

*A momentous collaboration in  
pioneering research in Odia Language !!!  
And monumental leap towards preserving  
and promoting our cultural heritage!!!*

Higher Education Department

OIPR-11001/13/0065/2324





## DEMI LOVATO SAYS SHE IS A SURVIVOR

Singer Demi Lovato has spent years in and out of recovery for alcohol and drug abuse treatment. However, she finally feels happy and healthy after overcoming her troubles. "I've overcome a lot and I am a survivor. That's my story today," said Lovato.

## FRANCIA RAISA: I'M READY FOR A PARTNER

American actress Francia Raisa has been actively dating over recent weeks and she's now keen to find love. Speaking to Extra, the 35-year-old shared: "Lately, I decided this year I'm ready for a partner so ... we'll see."



## Bhumi shares her childhood horror

**Mumbai:** Bhumi Pednekar is one of the most successful actresses in the business. Apart from her work, the *Thank You For Coming* actress is also vocal about environmental and other social issues. In a recent interview, the actress spoke about an incident that took place when she was groped at the age of 14 during a fair in Bandra, Mumbai.

In an interview with a portal, Bhumi said she still can't get over the trauma. She narrated: "I remember this very very clearly. In Bandra, fairs used to happen back then. I was a teenager, probably 14, and was with my family. I knew what was happening. I was walking and somebody kept pinching my a\*s."

She added, "Though I looked back, I couldn't understand who did it because it was very crowded. Somebody tried touching me inappropriately again and again and I was getting paranoid. Though I was with my family, there also was a whole bunch of kids from my building as well. But I didn't say anything at that time because I was thrown off by what had happened."

The actress stated that she still remembers how it felt. "I remember the poking and the pinching. It's like your body remembers... these are traumas that you can't get over," she added.



## Poonam Pandey brutally trolled for faking death

**New Delhi:** Influencers, content creators, and startup founders, along with hundreds of people around the country, Saturday slammed controversial model-cum-actor Poonam Pandey for faking her death, calling it 'shameful' and 'unethical'.

Pandey has once again made headlines by coming back to life after she was declared dead by her PR-cum-doctor team due to cervical cancer.

She posted a video on Instagram on Saturday, saying 'she is alive' and had faked her demise as she wanted to ignite a conversation around cervical cancer.

After learning that it was a PR stunt planned by the actress and that too on a sensitive issue like cervical cancer across all sections of the society took to social media platforms, calling her act as 'shameful', 'unethical' and more.

"Whoever crafted the Poonam Pandey campaign, must know that the message that comes out is that people don't die of cervical cancer," Gabbar, Co-founder of

JoinHoodApp, wrote on X.

"Death stunts for marketing campaigns no matter how important the messaging is at the end is a horrible thing to do. It is the stupidest thing to do ever, super low - absolute horrible PR, attention stunt," said brand consultant and social media evangelist Manish Pandey.

Later in the day, the controversial actress issued a public apology. In a live session on social media, Poonam clarified that the stunt was intended to spread awareness about cervical cancer and the HPV vaccine. She expressed regret for any hurt caused to friends and loved ones.



## GIORGIA OPENS UP ON BREAKUP WITH ARBAAZ

**Mumbai:** Model Giorgia Andriani has candidly spoken about her recent breakup with film producer and actor Arbaaz Khan, revealing that he remains dear to her despite their parting ways.

Giorgia said, "Letting go of somebody from your life is never easy. It is never something that you go through smoothly. But you should always go to what is in alignment with you.

Arbaaz is one of the most amazing people I have ever met in my whole life. He is still dear to me and he will always be that. But I guess you know it is very very important to know where you want to go. The person should also be on the same wavelength."

Giorgia and Arbaaz shared a relationship before deciding to go separate ways. Arbaaz was previously married to Malaika Arora for nearly two decades before their divorce in 2017, with whom he shares a son, Arhaan Khan.

For the unversed, Arbaaz Khan tied the knot with Sshura Khan in a private wedding ceremony December 24 last year in Mumbai.



## Moushumi recalls running away from debut film set

**Mumbai:** Taking a stroll down the memory lane, actress Moushumi Chatterjee has shared about her debut film *Balika Badhu*, recalling how she used to run away in between the shots from the set.

The 1967 Bengali film *Balika Badhu* is directed by Tarun Majumdar.

Talking about the shooting experience of her debut film, the senior actress said: "I debuted at a very young age. I was 12 years old when I did the Bengali film *Balika Badhu*. Initially, I was enjoying the lifestyle but later, I started getting bored, and I started running away in between shots from the set (laughs). Then the funny thing was, with my dad's permission, the production team used to lock me inside a glass room till my next shot sequence."

"Even director Tarun Majumdar



Saab, who is like a father figure, used to be anguished by my behavior on-set, and he ended up giving me a funny punishment where

I had to hold my ears and stand after my mischief. The film *Balika Badhu* eventually became one of the best films in history. This allowed me to come to Mumbai for the first time to receive an award," added the *Prem Bandhan* actress.

Moushumi appeared on the singing reality show, *Indian Idol 14*. The new episode celebrated her father-in-law, Hemant Kumar, a legendary Indian music composer and singer.

In this special episode titled Celebrating Hemant Ji, the contestants paid homage to the celebrated singer, popularly known as the 'Voice of God', as well as showcased their talent by singing some of Hemant's most iconic compositions.

*Indian Idol Season 14* airs on Sony.

### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
You are keenly interested in supernatural and occult phenomena, and today you will indulge in this hobby. You may buy a glossy hard-bound book on tantra or other paranormal things. However, Ganesh warns you to use the knowledge that you gain only for peaceful purposes.

**TAURUS**  
You will find yourself at the crossroads and each turn and twist will come with its share of pros and cons, says Ganesh. Your sentiments may have an ill-effect on your health. You may spend quality time with family members and friends, hoping to shed the burden thrust upon your soul.

**GEMINI**  
Your health interests will take precedence over career, says Ganesh. There are indications that you will spare more time working out at a gym. Those in the field of marketing and advertising will have a fabulous time. A good marketing strategy will bring maximum profits with minimum efforts.

**CANCER**  
Your way of talk today will be such that it can cause misunderstanding. In a fit of emotion, you will take a hasty decision. You will regret the same in future, but you will also get a chance to rectify the same. So, says Ganesh, do not take a any ad hoc or temporary decision but a firm decision.

**LEO**  
You will try to finish your tasks as per schedule and will also be able to earn well. You will benefit from the influence of high ranking officials. They will appreciate your dedication. A promotion may come your way. You will reap the rewards of your hard work, says Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
Ganesh advises you to keep your distance from partnership ventures. You are much better off all alone and have the ability to quell the stampede. Left to yourself, you are the best manager of your sphere of work. Ganesh says today you will garner the support of people by uniting them under you for achieving greater success.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says today you will get the opportunity to lay bare your thoughts and feelings and exchange ideas with others. Your mind will be at ease and more relieved when you have opened up. Your business acumen will be praiseworthy today. Towards evening you will reap the benefits of all those good deeds that you may have done in the near past.

**SCORPIO**  
For you Scorpios, love and intense passion are like a way of life. Today will not be any different, for you will put these on top priority, as you mark today's planner. Well, there is no harm in it, till you know your boundaries. At work, take it easy, for if you fail to resist yourself from making a pass at someone attractive, you may land yourself in serious problems.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
You feel highly balanced today, says Ganesh. Being a family person, you dedicate your time equally at home and carry out responsibilities towards family. When it comes to work, you are at ease today. Enjoy the serenity of nature in the evening.

**CAPRICORN**  
If you are an engineer, you will consider about investing your money in your dream project or a business venture. For sports person, today will be a favourable day for health and wealth, foresees Ganesh. Make every step ahead wisely, otherwise you will have much to regret when something goes wrong.

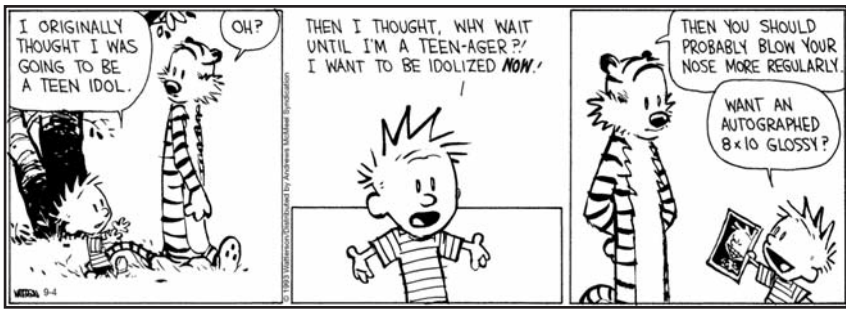
**AQUARIUS**  
One way or the other, money matters will be the highlight of the day. Working environment at your office will be better than before. Be prepared to work harder as today your bosses may assign you some new projects, foresees Ganesh.

**PISCES**  
To get away from your daily tasks you will concentrate on entertainment, fun and rest today. You will feel like a free bird today. In all this also some important task will need your attention today. Ganesh says you feel nice as things around you change.

### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

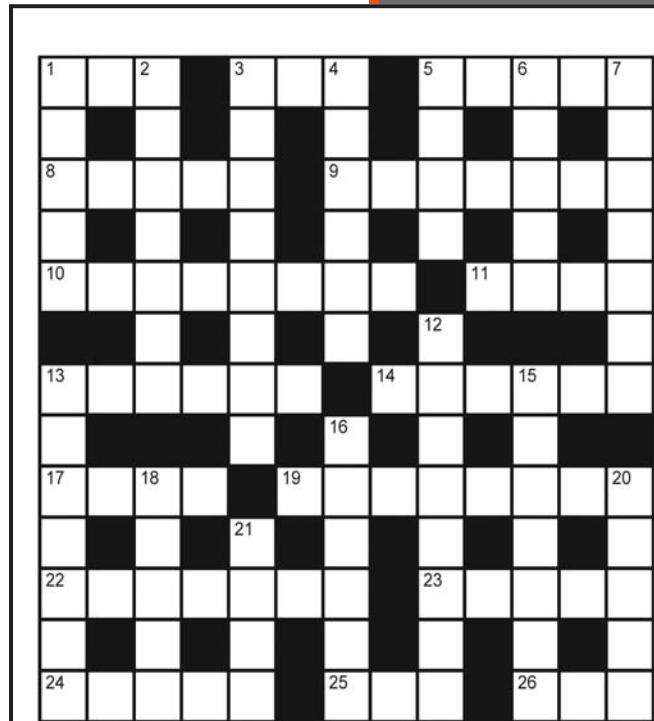


### BREVITY



### FUN post

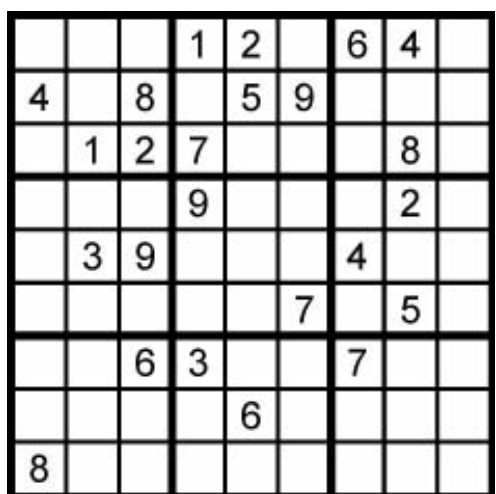
### CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Blueprint
  - 3 Hiatus
  - 5 Extreme
  - 8 In a fog
  - 9 Man of numbers
  - 10 Italian almond liqueur
  - 11 Cross to bear
  - 13 Magician
  - 14 Genuine
  - 17 Uncivil
  - 19 Pastime
  - 22 Woodlet
  - 23 Quartet member
  - 24 Secret meeting
  - 25 Knave
  - 26 Bring home
  - 6 Hyperion, for one
  - 7 Spray can
  - 12 Reached a goal
  - 13 Exercise
  - 15 Imaginary creature
  - 16 Being sour to the taste
  - 18 Lure
  - 20 Leavening agent
  - 21 Stretched

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



**BJP MLA shoots Sena man**  
A saffron party MLA shoots a local Shiv Sena leader inside a police station in Thane district rendering him critical

NATIONAL | P7

**US hits Iraq, Syria**  
US launches airstrikes in Iraq and Syria against more than 85 targets linked to Iran's Revolutionary Guard and the militias it backs

INTERNATIONAL | P8

**Red Sea crisis**  
The Red Sea crisis will not cause any inflationary impact or drastic shortage of goods in India, head of a US-India body says

BUSINESS | P9

**Bumrah lifts India**  
Jasprit Bumrah's six-wicket haul helps India take control of the second Test against England in Visakhapatnam

SPORTS | BACK PAGE



**JOVIAL GESTURE:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik share a light moment during the inauguration of various developmental projects in Sambalpur, Saturday

## CAR RAMS INTO HOUSE; 4 DEAD

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 3:** Four people were killed as their car crashed into a roadside house in Cuttack district, police said Saturday. The accident happened near Gadadharpur village in the Tigrira police station area Friday night, they said. The deceased were friends who were returning home after attending a wedding in Koilkanya village, they added. Low visibility because of fog is likely to have caused the accident, police said. The bodies were sent for post-mortem examination, they added.

# 1st World Odia Language Conference commences

CM Naveen says his government will accept the recommendations of the conference and formulate a dedicated language policy for the state

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 3:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday inaugurated the first ever 'Biswa Odia Bhasha Sammilani' (World Odia Language Conference) here at Janata Maidan.



The conference was inaugurated with the singing of 'Bande Utkala Janani', the state anthem of Odisha. All the Odias in the conference, across the state and abroad joined the festival of Odia language by singing the state anthem at the same time. The chief minister also paid respects to the 15th-century poet Sarala Das who is considered the 'Adi Kavi' (first poet) of Odia literature and remembered the contributions of the writers and poets who enriched the Odia language with their timeless works. Speaking on the occasion, the chief minister said his government will accept the recommendations of the conference and formulate a dedicated language policy for the state, which will pave the way for the future development of Odia language.

Modern culture and technology has an impact on the language. Therefore, there is a need for detailed discussion on all aspects of the language. There should be a thorough discussion on the creation of good literature and for better use of the Odia language, he suggested. Expressing pleasure over the recognition of Odia language as a classical language, the chief minister said that language is the future. The state government has set up Odia University for the development of Odia language and promoting Odia language study. Patnaik said, "Today we have all come together on one stage for the Odia language. Odias residing in India and abroad have also joined in the conference. Renowned Odia writers and researchers have also participated in it. It is a glorious time for Odia language and literature." He appealed to all to work together for the development of Odia language. Renowned Odia author and linguist Debi Prasanna Pattanayak was honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award for his outstanding contribution to Odia language and linguistics. He has been felicitated with a memento and cash award of ₹20 lakh by the chief minister. Patnaik also felicitated Odia writers Pratibha Ray and Sitakant Mahapatra during the inaugural function.



**IRREGULAR by MANJUL**

## Modi gives 'guarantee of guarantees'

**Sambalpur, Feb 3:** In his first political rally in the state since 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday said his guarantee is the "guarantee of guarantees as his government is the last hope of helpless people across the country," in a strong election pitch ahead of Lok Sabha and Assembly polls. After unveiling 18 projects worth over ₹68,000 crore in the state, the PM said, "These projects will benefit the youth of Odisha and will create employment opportunities. The Centre is supporting Odisha in every sector." Besides inaugurating the 400-acre permanent campus of IIM, Sambalpur, Modi unveiled several infrastructure projects across various sectors such as power, roads and railways. Modi had laid the foundation stone for the IIM campus in 2021. While assuring the people of Odisha that his party would ensure development of the state and its people, Modi said the recent Budget provides guarantee for the development of all sections of society including youths, women, poor, farmers and tribals. "Modi's guarantee means guarantee pura hone ki guarantee," the PM said, adding that under the PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, crores of farmers have got direct benefit, including around 40 lakh in Odisha. Modi came down heavily on the Congress for 'insulting' Droupadi Murmu, whose candidature was opposed by opposition parties in the Presidential elections.

**WEATHER**

BBSR	CTC
Max Temp 30.8°C	29.8°C
Min Temp 20.7°C	24.5°C
Humidity 98%	69%
Rainfall Nil	Nil

**FORECAST**  
FOG/MIST IN THE MORNING

**SHORT TAKES**

**Imran, wife get 7-year jail**  
**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan former PM Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Khan were sentenced to seven years in prison and fined Saturday by a court that ruled their 2018 marriage violated the law, his party said. It was the third adverse ruling against the embattled former prime minister this week and comes ahead of national elections Thursday that he is barred from contesting. The jailed Imran Khan, 71, has in recent days been sentenced to 10 years for leaking state secrets and 14 years along with his wife for illegally selling state gifts.

**Punjab Guv steps down**  
**CHANDIGARH:** Punjab Governor and Chandigarh Administrator Banwarilal Purohit submitted his resignation to President Droupadi Murmu Saturday, citing personal reasons. "Due to my personal reasons and certain other commitments, I tender my resignation from the post of Governor of Punjab and Administrator, Union Territory, Chandigarh. Please accept the same and oblige," Purohit (84) wrote in his resignation letter.

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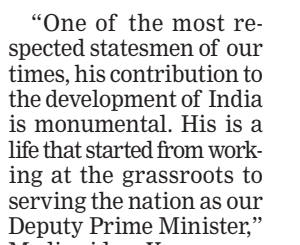
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## Advani to be conferred with Bharat Ratna

**New Delhi, Feb 3:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced Saturday that BJP stalwart and former deputy prime minister Lal Krishna Advani will be conferred the Bharat Ratna, the country's highest civilian award, and described it as a very emotional moment for him.



"One of the most respected statesmen of our times, his contribution to the development of India is monumental. His is a life that started from working at the grassroots to serving the nation as our Deputy Prime Minister," Modi said on X. His decades-long service in public life has been marked by an unwavering commitment to transparency and integrity, setting an exemplary standard in political ethics, the PM said. Modi spoke to the BJP's longest serving president, who is credited with crafting the party's rise through the 90s when it came to power for the first time with Atal Bihari Vajpayee heading coalition governments, and congratulated him.

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- BBA (3 years)
- Bachelor of Design (Fashion / Textile) (4years)
- Bachelor of Film & Television Production (3 years)
- BA.LL.B / BBA LL.B / B.Sc. LL.B (5 years)
- Bachelor of Communication & Journalism (3 years)
- BA in Economics (Hons)(4 years)
- BA in Sociology (Hons)(4 years)
- BA in English (Hons)(4 years)
- B.A. in Psychology (Hons)(4 years)
- B.Com (Hons) (4 years)
- B.Sc. Computer Science (4 years)
- B.Sc. Nursing (4 years)
- B.Pharma (4 years)
- D.Pharma (2 Years)

**Master's Programmes**

- M.Tech. (2 years)
- LLM (2 years)
- MCA (2 years)
- M.Sc Biotechnology (2 years)
- M.Sc. Applied Microbiology (2 years)
- M. Arch (2 years)
- Int. M.Tech & Ph.D (5 years)
- Master of Communication & Journalism (2 years)
- Master in Sports & Yogic Sciences (2 years)
- Master of Hospital Administration (2 years)
- Master of Public Health (2 years)
- MBA (2 years)
- MBA in Business Analytics (2 years)
- MBA in Operations & Supply Chain Management (2 years)
- MBA in Rural Management (2 years)
- MBA in Agribusiness Management (2 years)
- M. Design (2 Years)
- M.Sc. Computer Science (2 years)
- MA in Economics (2 years)
- MA in Sociology (2 years)
- MA in English (2 years)
- MA in Psychology (2 years)
- MA in Public Policy (2 years)
- M.Com (2 years)
- M.Sc. in Physics / Chemistry / Mathematics & Data Science (2 years)
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- Ph.D

**Director, Admissions:** Admission Cell, Koel Campus, Po- KIIT, Bhubaneswar-751024, Odisha, India.  
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WORLD ODISIA LANGUAGE CONFERENCE

# 'Odia, one of the most important languages'

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 3:** Odia is one of the most important languages of India as it has a long and rich history, said Indologist and Sanskritist, Arlo Griffiths - a specialist in ancient epigraphy and philology of India and Southeast Asia, adding that the World Odia Language Conference holds high significance in that backdrop.

Speaking to media at the First World Odia Language Conference here, Griffiths, who made his maiden visit to Odisha in 1999 to study Atharvaveda, said he has made Odisha his



second home over the years. "I take pride in visiting Odisha and learning its language," he

added. Born in the United States, Griffiths received his training in Indology (with a focus on

Sanskrit) at the University of Leiden and later at Harvard. He began his academic career with a doctoral fellowship from the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research that allowed him to pursue research in Vedic philology.

His research focused on Paippal da tradition of Atharvaveda, a tradition still practiced in Odisha to this day. He first visited the state in 1999 and then returned several times to pursue his intellectual interest.

During his research, he learned the (Indo-Aryan) Odia language, and raised interest in non-

Brahmanic traditions. On the sidelines of his doctoral research, he studied descriptive linguistics of the tribal languages of the region, particularly those belonging to the 'Munda' branch of the Austroasiatic family.

While still practicing as an Indologist, with a specialisation in Vedic studies, the focus of his research has gradually shifted to Southeast Asia, first and foremost study of the epigraphical documents in Sanskrit and in vernacular languages.

When asked about his favorite Odia dish, Griffiths said he loves Chhena Poda, a much-cherished local delicacy.

# Mandaviya inaugurates Dharmasala at AIIMS

The three-storey Dharmasala building, with 492 beds in 159 rooms, will provide shelter to patients and their attendants visiting the hospital from Odisha and neighbouring states



On the occasion, AIIMS Executive Director Ashutosh Biswas said that the hospital is dedicated to providing state-of-the-art healthcare services, embracing the latest technologies.

"These cutting-edge facilities will immensely benefit the people of Odisha and neighbouring states, marking a new era in patient care. The fully operational Dharmasala building will be very helpful for the public seeking healthcare service from the national institute," Biswas said.

Similarly, the new Trauma Centre, equipped with ICU, modular OTs, wards and other high-end equipment, will provide quick and efficient emergency services, ensuring timely assistance for patients in critical need, he added.

"The state-of-the-art new Trauma Centre will be a beacon of hope for those requiring urgent medical attention during traumatic situations," Biswas said. Being the standalone trauma centre in the state, this centre will play a pivotal role providing quality and quick services to the trauma victims. The 2nd new HELA facility equipped with cutting edge technology will reduce the waiting time for cancer patients requiring radiotherapy and will be very helpful for providing comprehensive cancer care, he said.

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 3:** Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya Saturday inaugurated 492-bedded Dharmasala, one of its kind facilities in the state and among all new AIIMS across the country.

The three-storey Dharmasala building, having a capacity of 492 beds in 159 rooms, has been built using corporate social responsibility (CSR) contribution of NALCO.

"It has separate male and female blocks with a dining facility, where the patients and their attendants can stay at an affordable cost. The Dharmasala will provide essential shelter for attendants of patients during challenging times," said an official.

Mandaviya also inaugurated a new Trauma Centre and High Energy Linear Accelerator (HELA) Machine at the City AIIMS in virtual mode.

Inaugurating the much awaited Dharmasala and Trauma Centre at AIIMS, the Union Minister said that the new facilities will significantly strengthen the overall healthcare infrastructure and elevate the quality of healthcare delivery in the state.



# Elements from Odia history & culture on display at exhibition

**Bhubaneswar:** On the sidelines of the First World Odia Language Conference, an exhibition has been organised to showcase the state's glorious past, the transformations it is going through and the future it aspires to.

The exhibition is structured along three broad themes and timelines: Ancient, Mediaeval and Modern.

"There are exhibits on the

evolution and development of Odia language and script, ancient rock edicts, copper plate and palm leaf manuscripts, Kalinga style of temple architecture, artifacts from the state's long history of maritime trade and paintings that highlight the brilliance of Odia artists," said a curator.

The renaissance of Odia literature during the Medieval period has also been put on

display, along with the art and craft, dances and music traditions of that period.

"The arrival of printing press and the impact it had on expanded popularity of the Odia language has also been highlighted with appropriate artifacts and photos. The role played by newspapers and periodicals and modern thought leaders also highlighted," the curator added.



# Two arrested in tribal man's killing

**Rourkela:** Biramitrapur police in Sundargarh district Saturday arrested two persons including the absconding accused in connection with the murder of a tribal man. The accused were identified as Santosh Panda, a dhaba owner at Rampal Chowk and his aide Suresh Panda. The victim was identified as Sanika Lakra, a tribal in the area. With the arrest of Santosh, police have arrested all the accused in the Sanika Lakra murder case. Earlier, Suresh Panda was arrested from his home. Lakra was murdered yesterday. Speaking about the case SDPO Biramitrapur Susant Das said, "We have arrested the absconding Santosh from outside, while Suresh was arrested from his house." When asked about the reason behind the crime he said that Santosh and Suresh suspected that Sanika had stolen some iron rods and other materials from the eatery. So, they called him near the dhaba and assaulted him during questioning. Later, Sanika succumbed to his injuries. Police have booked the two under Sections 302 and 34 of IPC and produced them in the court, the SDPO said. Besides, police have also seized the vehicle in which they had tried to dispose of the body. PNN

# Cong ridicules 'BJD, BJP friendship'

**Bhubaneswar:** Hours after Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik as 'Mitra', Opposition Congress Saturday described the BJP and ruling BJD as political partners. Inaugurating the IIM Sambalpur campus, Modi had addressed Patnaik as "Mukhyamantri, Mere Mitra Sriman Naveen Patnaik ji." Reacting to the statement, All India Congress Committee (AICC) Odisha in-charge Ajoy Kumar said the PM did not utter a single word on Patnaik and his close aide VK Pandian. "This proves that both BJD and BJP are together, that's why we organised their symbolic marriage recently. BJD is no more a different party, it has now become BJP," Kumar alleged. Refuting the allegation, Odisha BJP president Manmohan Samal said, "The PM has indicated that some parties were opposing development works. Now, the people can witness what can be done for them, if BJP forms government in the state." While addressing the meeting, Patnaik as usual was very sober towards Modi and addressed him as 'Hon'ble Prime Minister-ji.' Patnaik thanked Modi for taking time off his busy schedule to come to Odisha and grace the inauguration of IIM Sambalpur's new campus. PTT

# CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

**Ramesh Chandra Misra, 71 yrs, S/o- Raj Kishore Misra, 28, Sahidnagar, Bhubaneswar, by virtue of affidavit before Executive Magistrate, Bhubaneswar, declared that to correct my name as Ramesh Chandra Misra instead of Ramesh Chander Misra in the Passport of my daughter Mithi Misra. My Correct Name- Ramesh Chandra Misra.**

**I, Thota Devi, W/o Dugana Duryadhana, At/P.O.- Jayantipur, Dist.- Ganjam PIN-761004 declare by this affidavit No.- 249 dtd. 19.01.2024 that now onwards I shall be known as DUGANA DEVI for all future purposes.**

# 2 ATM fraudsters to serve 1 yr in jail

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 3:** The district sessions court here, Saturday, sentenced two persons to one-year imprisonment while convicting them of ATM fraud.

As per case details, the convict duo - Manoj Kumar Sahu and Gobardhan Patra - had fraudulently swapped the complainant's ATM card on the pretext of offering help, but later swindled Rs 1.46 lakh on different occasions.

According to Nandankanan police, Manoj and Gobardhan were waiting near an ATM kiosk under this police limits looking for an opportunity, when the complainant, Bidyadhar Patra, reached there to withdraw cash. Bidyadhar encountered a technical glitch in the machine while withdrawing cash. Meanwhile, the fraudsters en-

tered the kiosk and tricked Bidyadhar into giving his password. They also swapped his card with the one they kept ready.

Following a police complaint by Bidyadhar, Nandankanan police arrested the duo and seized 18 ATM cards, one Honda Activa scooter, cash and other valuables.

As per reports, Manoj and Gobardhan are history-sheeters and have more than 25 cases with Ganjam, Nayagarh, Puri and Khurda police. They have more than 10 cases with Bhubaneswar Urban Police District, said a police official.

The local court convicted the accused under Section 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property), Section 379 (involvement in theft) and Section 34 (joint culpability in a crime).

# Land hurdle pushes ETP into uncertainty

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, Feb 3:** Delay in identifying land has further pushed the setting up of an Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) here into uncertainty. The proposed ETP would prevent the rampant contamination of three major rivers - Brahmani, Koel and Sankh - arising from the discharge of toxic effluents.

Water of the three rivers is reported to be heavily polluted owing to discharge of untreated effluents directly into the waterbodies. The state government had planned to make these rivers free of pollution, however the project has been hanging fire owing to inordinate delay in land identification.

Speaking on the issue, SPCB Regional Officer Anup Mallick said, "After Cuttack, it is Rourkela which has an ETP functioning at Balughat. But, we need more such plants." "Earlier it was pre-



sumed that all effluents are industrial, and here Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) has taken care of that. Meanwhile, they are also creating more such plants near their oxidation pond at Sector-14."

Tardy land identification for the plant has delayed the entire process. Six months back, a team of experts from SPCB had visited Rourkela. The team had stressed on setting up and also upgrading the ETP based on modern technology. Following this, a round-the-clock monitoring station

known as the Brahmani Monitoring Station (BMS) was set up.

Meanwhile, funds were allocated for the ETP at Koelnagar and RSP area. However, the ETP project is hanging in suspended animation as no land has been identified and handed over to RMC for the purpose.

Queried in this regard in the past, then deputy commissioner of RMC (now transferred) Sudhansu Bhoi, had said, "We are aware of it. For that we have written to the Revenue depart-

ment because the land has to be identified and handed over to us. We are ready to proceed after that because we have the fund with us for the project." Incidentally, the post of ADM and Commissioner RMC is held by the same person. The former incumbent was Dr Subhankar Mohapatra, who has been shifted to Jajpur as DM.

At present, one ETP is functional, though not fully, at Balughat which is treating 40 MLD of effluent daily. The plant is not functioning at its full capacity because only 20 per cent households have got connected to this plant despite best efforts by the sewerage board. A news article in this regard was published by OrissaPOST earlier.

Speaking about pollution of Koel river at Koelnagar, Mallick said, "We saw that the discharge has reduced considerably now, the reason of which is being ascertained."

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# LaccMI buses roll out in 9 dists

## Angul, Dhenkanal & Deogarh latest additions

**A**fter successful launch and operationalisation of Location Multi-modal Initiative (LaccMI) scheme in Malkangiri, Gajapati, Kalahandi, Rayagada, Nabarangpur and Koraput districts, the public transport scheme was launched in three more key districts – Angul, Dhenkanal and Deogarh. The inauguration ceremonies were presided over by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, representing a significant stride in the state's commitment to enhancing public transportation infrastructure.

LaccMI marks its initiation in Angul district to benefit from this transformative programme. The network aims to enhance connectivity across 225 gram panchayats and eight blocks, operationalising a fleet of 28 non-AC buses for block connectivity and six AC buses for district

- Altogether 117 buses to run in Angul, Dhenkanal and Deogarh districts
- Better public transport services covering 507 panchayats connecting 28 lakh citizens
- Promoting gender inclusiveness and women empowerment through women self-help groups (SHGs)
- Boost to tourism and logistics
- Generation of local employment
- 415 buses have been launched in 9 districts in record time



connectivity, benefiting more than 12 lakh citizens. In addition to this, Dhenkanal district also joins the list of districts benefitting from LaccMI. In Angul's Pallahara block, four buses, in Dhenkanal nine and in Deogarh's Barkote block six buses will be made operational showcasing a commitment to inclusivity and women empowerment. This initiative highlights the broader goal of LaccMI in improving access to markets, healthcare, education and economic centres in rural areas. "With this launch, as of date 415 buses have been augmented in 9 districts within a record time. Furthermore, the bene-

fits of LaccMI, including improved connectivity, enhanced access to essential services, and boosted economic development, will soon be extended to more areas and towns throughout Odisha," said Water Resources, Commerce and Transport Minister Tukuni Sahu. The launch in Dhenkanal focuses on improving communication between 1,237 villages and 212 gram panchayats. The fleet comprising 55 non-AC buses for block connectivity and seven AC buses for district connectivity services is set to significantly increase local access to almost 13 lakh citizens. Further, Deogarh

district which has been one of the major centres of tourism in Odisha has also witnessed the official commencement of LaccMI operations. The district LaccMI network aims to provide connectivity among 70 gram panchayats through 17 non-AC for block connectivity and four AC buses for district connectivity, designed to improve transportation accessibility for locals, covering nearly 3 lakh citizens. In all the three districts, LaccMI has embraced a model of community involvement and women empowerment. Women-led self-help groups (SHGs) will oversee routes in designated blocks.

**With this launch, as of date 415 buses have been augmented in 9 districts within a record time. Furthermore, the benefits of LaccMI, including improved connectivity, enhanced access to essential services, and boosted economic development, will soon be extended to more areas and towns throughout Odisha**  
**TUKUNI SAHU | Minister, Water Resources, Commerce and Transport**





The mind of an ordinary man is truly near the heart.  
SRI AUROBINDO



## All Cast Aside

On its website, the BJP says, "The philosophy of Integral Humanism looks at the individual not merely as a material object but one who has a spiritual dimension. It talks of integral approach to economic development that has individual at its core that is linked to the family, the society and the nation."

What do these words mean? What does a government and political party have to do with the spiritual dimension and even if this is possible how can this spiritual dimension be tapped into with the usual levers available to the state? How are these words reflected in the BJP's manifesto or in the BJP's budgets through actionable policies? If they are, in what way are they missing from the policies of other parties?

Let us have a look at the manifestoes of the BJP/Jana Sangh, which were published by the party a few years ago. It may surprise readers to know that there is little or no continuity in the way that the party thinks and on critical issues it has reversed its position with no explanation for why.

In its 1954 manifesto, and again in 1971, the Jana Sangh resolved to limit the maximum income of all Indian citizens to ₹2,000 per month and the minimum to ₹100, maintaining a 20:1 ratio. It would continue working on reducing this gap till it reached 10:1 which was the ideal gap and all Indians could only have incomes inside this range based on their position. Additional income earned by individuals over this limit would be appropriated by the State for development needs "through contribution, taxation, compulsory loans and investment." The party would also limit the size of residential houses in cities and not allow plots of more than 1000 square yards (someone should tell the Ambanis and Adanis this).

In 1954 it said that "tractors will be used only to break virgin soil. Their use for normal ploughing purposes will be discouraged." This was of course because it was trying to protect the bull and the ox from slaughter. In 1951, prohibition of cow slaughter was explained as something needed "to make the cow an economic unit of agricultural life." In 1954, the text was more religious and called cow protection a "pious duty."

Though it says it is today a champion of a uniform civil code, the party consistently opposed divorce and nuclear families. Its manifestoes (1957 and 1958) say that "joint family and indissoluble marriage have been the basis of Hindu society. Laws that alter this basis will ultimately lead to the disintegration of society. Jana Sangh will therefore repeal the Hindu Marriage and Hindu Succession Acts."

The Jana Sangh's 1973 analysis of caste violence "reveals that in most cases the conflict is not between Harijans and caste Hindus as such, but it is between Harijans and a set of people who are in power and who also happen to belong to upper castes." Meaning that caste itself was not the source of the conflict.

Culturally, the party stood firmly against alcohol and sought nationwide prohibition. And it wanted English to be replaced in all spheres by local languages and especially, Hindi.

Most interestingly, the Jana Sangh said it would also repeal preventive detention laws like UAPA which it said were absolutely in contradiction to individual liberty. This promise was made repeatedly in the 1950s. However by 1967 it began to qualify the demand and said that "care will be taken to ensure that fifth columnists and disruptionist elements are not allowed to exploit fundamental rights." In time, the Sangh and the BJP became the most enthusiastic champions of preventive detention.

In 1954, the party said it would repeal the first amendment to the Constitution that curbed freedom of speech by imposing "reasonable restrictions." This amendment essentially took away freedom of expression because the list of what is seen as a reasonable restriction was far too wide and broad. The Jana Sangh sensed that it was not something that could be allowed to go unchallenged. However, after 1954, this demand that the first amendment be repealed and freedom of speech, association and assembly be restored to Indians disappeared from the Jana Sangh manifestos without explanation.

Integral Humanism is according to the BJP constitution, the party's "basic philosophy." It opposes the idea of linguistic states by saying (in Lecture 3, April 24, 1965): "the first para of the Constitution 'India that is Bharat will be a Federation of States,' i.e. Bihar Mata, Banga Mata, Punjab Mata, Kannada Mata, Tamil Mata, are all put together to make Bharatmata. This is ridiculous. We have thought of the provinces as limbs of Bharatmata and not as individual mothers. Therefore, our Constitution should be Unitary instead of Federal." When was the last time we heard the BJP push for this?

The Jana Sangh was unable to express its majoritarianism as clearly and in as full-throated a fashion as the BJP was later able to. This was because it lacked a specific programme on the back of which to mobilise anti-Muslim sentiment, such as the campaign against the Babri Masjid. Even though the idols were smuggled into the mosque a few months before the Jana Sangh was formed, there was no reference to Ayodhya or a Ram temple there in any of the Jana Sangh manifestos from 1951 to 1980.

Once power was secured, all the things that the Jana Sangh claimed it stood for over the decades, including its manifestoes and its 'basic philosophy', have been cast aside.



Aakar Patel

The Jana Sangh was unable to express its majoritarianism as clearly and in as full-throated a fashion as the BJP was later able to



Nina L. Khrushcheva

IT SHOULD BE NO SURPRISE THAT AS PUTIN WAGES WAR ON UKRAINE, RUSSIAN CHILDREN BULLY THEIR CLASSMATES; TEENAGERS FILM THEMSELVES ATTACKING LOCAL RESIDENTS; AND ADULTS GET INTO PUBLIC BRAWLS

# PERMANENT WAR

FOCUS RUSSIA

In the late eighteenth century, Catherine the Great planned a tour of Crimea, which her court favourite, Count Grigory Potemkin, had conquered a few years earlier. But while Potemkin had managed to seize the agriculturally rich peninsula from the Ottoman Empire, he had failed to achieve the promised colonisation. To save face, Potemkin ordered the construction of a row of painted pasteboard façades beside the river along which the empress would travel, and brought in cheerful villagers and herds of healthy livestock to complete the illusion. There was no prosperity, but it sure looked like there was.

Versions of "Potemkin villages" have been a staple of Russian history ever since. During Soviet times, the image that communism improved life for all obscured systemic violence and repression. And today, the Kremlin works tirelessly to create the impression that Russia is a beacon of stability and strength, and that a grateful people is fervently devoted to their leader, Vladimir Putin; but behind the façade, one finds disillusion, despair, fear, and rage. You see this truth in contemporary Russian films and television, because popular culture finds it hard to lie completely about the state of politics. In the Russian crime drama *The Boy's World: Blood on the Asphalt*, violent and chaotic politics translate into violent and chaotic streets. When leaders insist that enemies lurk everywhere and that the best defence is to strike first, paranoia, intolerance, and aggression grow.

It should be no surprise, then, that as Putin wages war on Ukraine, Russian children bully their classmates; teenagers film themselves attacking local residents; and adults get into public brawls. Today's Russia is nothing like the citadel of stability and satisfaction nor the bastion of prosperity that the Kremlin claims it to be. Though Russian GDP grew by more than 3% in 2023, despite Western



Today, the Kremlin works tirelessly to create the impression that Russia is a beacon of stability and strength, and that a grateful people is fervently devoted to their leader, Vladimir Putin; but behind the façade, one finds disillusion, despair, fear, and rage

sanctions, this hardly reflects genuine, let alone sustainable, economic dynamism.

Instead, it reflects the fact that the state has poured massive resources into the military-industrial complex. But those resources had to be reallocated from somewhere, and a series of catastrophes – including infrastructure disasters, energy-supply breakdowns, and fires at factories and warehouses – offer clues about where.

Moreover, the Ukraine war triggered a mass exodus of Russians, including many with valuable skills, such that 85% of businesses are now reporting a shortage of qualified manpower. Some estimate that, by 2030, Russia will be short up to four million capable workers, which would shave about two percentage points from GDP growth.

As in any dictatorship, the more problems Putin's regime has, the louder the propaganda. This explains why last November – on National Unity Day – a massive "forum and exhibition" simply called "Russia" opened in Moscow. The six-month event, timed to end after the presidential election in March, is intended to be a "large-scale projection of the country," with 131 expositions showcasing Russia's "main achievements," from

"breakthrough discoveries" to Russian "victories" in "industry, culture, and sports."

The Russia that the exhibition presents might be as glorious as Putin claims, but like Potemkin's villages, it is a blatant attempt to obscure a dark truth with appealing lies. Moreover, it is being used to bolster Putin's cult of personality. In this sense, the choice of venue for the event could not be more appropriate: the Exhibition of Achievements of the National Economy (VDNKh) was built at the height of Stalin's purges.

Putin's image and avatar preside over the proceedings, talking to workers, meeting with doctors, and praying with clergy on giant screens positioned in the venue's pavilions. Meanwhile, the exhibition's gift shop sells merchandise plastered with quotes from the president. "The Russian flag can't bother anyone," declares a t-shirt. "It's equally honorable to be our friends and our enemies," adds a sweatshirt.

For Russians who can't make it to the VDNKh gift shop, similar quotes were featured on giant outdoor screens across the country during the first two weeks of this year. "The golden reserve of the nation is its people," Russians were reminded as they walked down the street. "We can

do anything when our road is lit with love for the fatherland."

This is the language learned in Soviet Dictator 101. No one can forget the posters of Stalin in a cream-coloured military-style jacket handing out ice cream to happy children, looming over tilled fields and crowds of peasants, or simply looking proudly into the distance. Images of him were ubiquitous during his rule, plastered onto the sides of buildings, carried as banners in parades, even woven into carpets. Others, from Lenin to Brezhnev, also produced posters touting their simultaneously grand and bland pronouncements.

The goal of current Kremlin propaganda is not to convince people that life in Russia is safe and prosperous. It might have started out that way, but as the Ukraine war drags on, Putin has had to adapt. Now, echoing Stalin's narrative that progress toward socialism brings more challenges, requiring intensification of the class struggle, Putin is using propaganda to prepare Russians for more war.

The effort is hardly covert. On January 14, a Ministry of Defense pavilion titled "Army for children. City of professions. Future of the country" was opened at the VDNKh exhibition. On the same day, another Moscow exhibition – "The Trial. Franz Kafka and 20th-Century Art," held at the Jewish Museum (also known as the Tolerance Center) – was closed.

What Russia needs today are precisely the messages the Kafka exhibition delivered: the Soviet system was absurd, but capable of ruthless efficiency in crushing innocent individuals. Instead, the messages Russians are now receiving are becoming more militarised and less tolerant by the day – a façade behind which lie sham elections, a weakening economy, and proliferating violence. Potemkin would be proud.

The writer is Professor of International Affairs at The New School.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

## SPECTRUM PEST CONTROL

# Solar insect trap for sustainable farming

India is primarily an agrarian economy. Around 70% of rural people are engaged in agriculture. As per the economic survey of India, agriculture contributed 20% to the country's GDP. Every year farmers face pest problems which damage crops. Several methods, such as mechanical, physical, biological, and chemical are used for prevention and extermination of pests. It is a fact that pesticides and chemicals are frequently applied by farmers for pest control. Also, with time pests are known for developing resistant capability toward chemicals, which forces farmers to spray higher quantities of pesticides than prescribed. Spraying of harmful pesticides and chemicals in a liberal manner on crops, leads to killing of crop-friendly insect species, including pollinators like bees, and destroys the ecosystem. Often wind and rain water carry these dangerous chemicals beyond farming regions, negatively impacting nearby areas. Furthermore, these chemicals also contaminate ground water.

According to a UN report, around 200,000 people die every year due to the toxic effects of pesticides on edible products. As per experts, the toxicity of pesticides in food products can cause cancer, hormone disruption, and birth defects. In this context, demand for pesticide free and non-chemical foodstuffs is growing. Thus, there is an urgent need to reduce usage of pesticides in farming. A move towards sustainable farming without chemicals and pesticides will substantially address health concerns of farmers as well as consumers.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an effective and environmentally sensitive practice which deals with monitoring and control of pests at an early stage. As stated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), USA an important criterion for IPM is to manage pests with least hazard to people, property, and environment. Also, it should not harm benign insects. Trap application is one of such ways to manage pests which fall within the realm of IPM. For instance, introduction of solar insect traps can obviate the need for pesticides and it follows the principles of IPM.

Solar insect trap is a solar powered device used for trapping insects and flies which harms crops, spices, and other

agro-products. There are several types of solar insect traps available and these can be designed as per the needs of farmers. Typically, the equipment is fitted with a solar panel, a battery for storing power, and a bulb which is connected with the battery. The bulb glows for a few hours after sunset. The harmful insects and flies present in the farm get attracted towards the bright light. These insects fall in a funnel kept below the light source and get collected into a well placed collection chamber. Also, in some cases insects perish while coming in contact with an electrified fence knitted around the light source. Generally, during the warm hours harmful insects invade the farm. The self-operating solar powered light switches off in five to six hours after sunset. The benign insects flying in farms after midnight are not affected; whereas, harmful pests such as stem borers, bark borers, fruit flies, mango hoppers and sucking pests get captured by the trap.

Logically speaking, a trap breaks the life cycle of harmful pests and prevents future generations from spreading quickly. According to estimation, one trap

can be used for around 2-3 acres of crops. Initial study reveals that there is 94% reduction in use of chemicals and pesticides in field per season when a farmer chooses to use solar insect traps. The trap is becoming popular among farmers because of ease of operation and cost-effectiveness.

Consumers all over the world are becoming health conscious and are concerned about the quality of their food. Additionally, presence of pests in agro-products affects its quality and cannot be sold as per market value leading to financial loss of farmers. In this regard, the government should support innovative and sustainable technologies to prevent pests rather than using pesticides. In Odisha, solar insect traps should be explored in the adequately irrigated Hirakud command area, where high application of pesticides in agricultural fields is being reported. A small solar based technical intervention in agriculture sector will not only improve pest management; but also bring in a visible change among farmers about environment, sustainability, and health.

The writer is a scientist.

Abhijit Roy, JAMSHEDPUR

## WISDOM CORNER

The greatest error of a man is to think that he is weak by nature, evil by nature. Every man is divine and strong in his real nature. What are weak and evil are his habits, his desires and thoughts, but not himself.  
RAMANA MAHARSHI

All you need in this life is ignorance and confidence, and then success is sure.  
MARK TWAIN

Many of us have been running all our lives. Practice stopping.  
THICH NHAT HANH

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1789: George Washington was elected to serve as the first U.S. president by a unanimous vote in the first electoral college.
- 1948: Ceylon (Sri Lanka) proclaims independence within the British Commonwealth. Since the 16th century, the island had been colonized by Portugal, the Netherlands, and Great Britain.
- 2003: Yugoslavia officially changed its name to Serbia and Montenegro.
- 2004: Facebook was launched (as TheFacebook.com); later it would become the largest social network in the world.

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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

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B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

## Green initiatives

Sir, In the interim Budget, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman elaborated about the Suryodaya scheme that was mooted by the Prime Minister after the Ram temple consecration at Ayodhya. Under this scheme, the Central government aims to install rooftop solar panels in one crore households. The beneficiaries of this scheme will get free electricity of up to 300 units per month. Due to this, the households will be able to save up to ₹15,000 to ₹18,000 in a year. This scheme will not only help lower middle-class people get cheaper electricity but also help the nation to produce more green energy. It is important for India to transfer its energy dependency to renewables from non-renewables in order to meet its net-zero emissions target by 2070. Due to climate change and its impact on the Global South, it's important for developing India to produce more green energy. This step will be a major leap towards an eco-friendly and sustainable India. The Union government also introduced the blending of fuels in a phased manner and electric bus services for public transport in the Budget. These steps are the need of the hour as increasing dependency on non-renewables can lead to serious climate hazards.

Deba Prasad Nayak, DHENKANAL

## Task cut out

Sir, Champai Soren, a senior leader of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, was sworn in as Jharkhand's 12th Chief Minister, filling the vacancy left by Hemant Soren's resignation. Although Hemant resigned late on Wednesday night, before the end of Thursday, Champai received the invitation to form the government and was sworn in during the day Friday. The Governor explained that the delay in inviting him to form the government was due to his need to seek legal guidance before proceeding. All of this instability has occurred as Lok Sabha elections are approaching. Champai will face the election test against the backdrop of major charges of corruption, which forced Hemant to resign. Although he is an experienced leader who played a significant role in the Jharkhand struggle, the task of heading the party and the government has landed on him unexpectedly during this period of turmoil.

Abhijit Roy, JAMSHEDPUR



# 1ST WORLD ODISIA LANGUAGE CONFERENCE



## FAKIR MOHAN SENAPATI

# The lion who redefined Odia identity

Born in the Balasore region of 19th century Odisha, there is no doubt that Fakir Mohan Senapati had experienced the exploitative expanse of then-prevalent Bangla elitism first-hand. In his autobiography, 'Mo Atma jibana Charita', Senapati reiterates the same sentiments while justifying his position as a teacher who was treated as a minority due to Odia identity. Odisha, as we view it today was yet to be united in the era when young Senapati took upon his pen the responsibility of revival Odia language.



Bangla was omnipresent and was racing fast to occupy a higher status when a young Fakir Mohan Senapati realised its paralysing effects on the Odia populace. Since Bangla had been introduced in schools in Odisha as the primary medium of education, it strengthened its claims to opulence as compared to Odia, relegating it to secondary status. In addition to this, claims of not being eligible as an independent language only worsened the already severed hierarchy between the two languages. Visionary as he was, Senapati was quick to realise the fracture that could only be healed with responsible production of literature.

Senapati knew that he had to channel his angst for revival through literature, and in him, we see the rightful embodiment of Chinua Achebe's insightful quote, "Until the lion have their own historians, the history of the hunt will always glorify the hunter", and thus was born the "Byasa Kabi" who slashed supremacy of plural kind with the strokes of his pen. As a lion, he roared against elitism and stripped them naked of their hollow arrogance. In 'Dakamunshi', Fakir Mohan Senapati exhibits the obnoxious arrogance of the English-edu-

ated Gobinda Babu when he ill-treats his father Hari Singh. In Gobinda's portrayal, one can witness even the brutal criticism of the Babu culture that goats over others' misery to rise to blinding power. Byasakabi, in 'Rebati', presents a criticism of the strictness of traditionalism, which further amputated the female counterpart of the society from progressing. Although a large expanse of the story portrays how the little girl gets blamed for a cholera epidemic, it is still astounding to notice

that the grandmother's blindness serves the story as a metaphor for the rigidity that was then prevalent.

Through 'Rebati' Fakir Mohan Senapati did not only endorse the need for women's education but also put forth a picture of the irrationality that would spread in the absence of it.

The lion that had awakened in Senapati devoured the societal rigidity in every capacity as it was indeed more paralysing than being exploited by other languages. In this scenario, one must take notice of the strategic writer that Senapati was. He exhibited a far greater sense of rationality and awareness when he chose to write in the dialect of more pragmatic value. He utilised the spoken Odia in his writings which breathed new life in the language since it made understanding easier and more accessible even to those who got familiarised with his contents by simply hearing it. His idea was clear- if one has to revive the language, then it must be kept simple and closer to heart. This strategy then served as the success behind his longer writings the novels: 'Chha Mana Aatha Guntha', 'Mamun', 'Lachchama', and 'Prayashchita'. This sort of employment of language for pragmatic purposes gave the new learners a spectacle of life that their very own. They could see it happening and hear it pro-

gressing in word that even they could conceive within their domestic settings. It made the minute details of the content shine with great relativity and made Senapati not just a household name but also a beacon of the Odia revival.

Byasakabi's oeuvre is embellished with flavours typical of rural Odisha. Be it Ramachandra Mangaraj's soring patriarchal portrayal or the Hari Singh description of frailty, Senapati's diction served as the subtle departure from traditional writing to a more modernist approach. In his lifetime, he has been an owner of many firsts but achieved each one of them with a single purpose of serving 'Sahitya'. He wished for Odia Sahitya to live an endless and flamboyant life and persistently worked towards enriching it. In his writings, one would witness a hunger for development in the most humanistic sense and resistance against irrational stubbornness for social hierarchies. His words reverberated with an urge towards a revolution that inspired even his contemporaries but the lion roared the loudest for the establishment of Odia dignity within, Odias foremost and dedicated his entire life to writing with the same fervour. He not only attempted to overcome the hunter that was the overarching exploitation of the British Raj, Bangla language and Maratha influence but also succeeded in doing so by publishing in the tongue that most of the Odia population would identify and relate with.

In times like that of today, one is then tempted to ask the question- when we have eternalised Fakir Mohan Senapati by incessantly researching his life and oeuvre, have we made the slightest effort towards immortalising the spirit of revolution and the pride for Odia language? Or are we just reproducing innumerable individuals like that of the character Gobinda who would fret before acknowledging Odia language in public? Once again, we have arrived at a juncture where Odia as language is getting overshadowed by, if nothing else then at least, our own ignorant attitude towards it and hence the roars of the lion need to be remembered in not just the spirit but also the fervour. Byasakabi is not only to be commemorated as an iconography of Odia identity but also as the Odia who made education, circulation and imagination in the Odia language his mission.

**Soumya Nayak,**  
Research Scholar,  
Centre for Comparative  
Literature,  
University of Hyderabad

## Rise & role of Odia printing press

Odia printing press and papers played a key role in the socio-religious and political firmament in Odisha in the second half of the 19th century even if it faced severe attacks from some Englishmen and non-Odias. The 19th century Odia press and journalism suffered from serious drawbacks like improper management, financial difficulties, inefficient editorship, lack of able and responsible writers, and lack of subscribers. Yet the press, being the main medium of communication, served as the major agency of socio-political awakening.

Soon after the British conquest of Odisha, the Christian missionaries started their activities in the province. Their primary purpose was to preach Christianity in the province, yet they turned out to be the pioneers of westernisation and modernisation. They established schools for imparting knowledge of Christianity through the vernacular language. In 1837, they established a press, the Cuttack Mission Press. It was the first press in the province, and earliest journals in Odia were also published by them. They were also pioneers in the field of vernacular journalism. They brought out the earliest journals of Odisha like Jnanaruna (1849), Probodh Chandrika (1856), and Arunodaya (1861). After long 30 years, in 1866, the second press was established by the initiative of the people of the province. It was known as the Cuttack Printing Press.

The third such press was established at Balasore in 1868 by the untiring efforts of Fakir Mohan Senapati with the help of a few local men and zamindars. After five years, the fourth press was also established in Balasore by a local zamindar. Other important presses include Utkal Hitabadi Press, Cuttack, 1873; Victoria Press, Cuttack, 1885; Bamanda Press, 1885; Ganjam Nisha Nesedhini Samaj Press, 1875; Puri Printing Corporation Press, 1890; Arundoya Press, 1893; Roy Press, Cuttack, 1894; Darpanraj Press, Cuttack, 1899; Binod Press, Balasore, 1899 and Utkal Sahitya Press, Cuttack.

Other presses established in the 19th century include Cuttack Printing Company, Cuttack, 1866 started by Gauri Sankar Ray; PM Company and Co., Balasore, 1868 started by Fakir Mohan Senapati; Dey Press, Balasore, 1873 by zamindar Baikuntha Nath Dey; Utkal Hitabadi Press, Cuttack, 1873 by zamindar Kalipad Banerji; Victoria Press, Cuttack, 1885 by Jagannath Rao,

Bamanda Press, Cuttack borrowed by Sri Chaturbhujia Pattanayak from Maharaja of Bamanda; Sudhal Deb and installed at Cuttack in 1885; Bhakti Pradayini Press, Puri, 1874 by Gopal Chandra Chatterji; Mayurbhanja Press, founded in 1879 and Roy Press, founded in 1894 by Sitanath Roy.

The establishment of printing presses served primarily three purposes—printing of journals, preparation of text books and development of literature.

The missionaries first published a periodical named Jnanaruna in 1849 to propagate their religious ideas. Prabodha Chandrika and Arundaya were two other short-lived early Odia periodicals circulated by the missionaries. The most important journal of Odisha in the

second half of the 19th century, which moulded public opinion and ventilated their feelings on all matters, was Utkal Dipika edited by Gauri Sankar Ray, the pioneer of journalism in modern Odisha.

On August 4, 1866, the first issue of Utkal Dipika came out of the press as a weekly journal. Of all the journals, Utkal Dipika, which was a weekly journal, lasted for the longest period. Its publication continued upto 1936. Gauri Sankar Ray was its editor from its inception till his death in 1917. Under his able editorship, Utkal Dipika became the beacon light of the social, cultural and intellectual life of Odisha. He may be regarded as the father of journalism in Odia language. Gauri Sankar Ray took the initiative in establishing the Cuttack Printing Press, patron-

ised by the Commissioner, TE Ravenshaw, and subscribed by the kings of Talcher, Badamba, Nayagarh, Dhenkanal, Athagarh and Narsingpur: Gauri Sankar Ray and his friends, Bichitrnanda Das and Jagamohan Ray established the Cuttack Printing Company and brought a lithograph press.

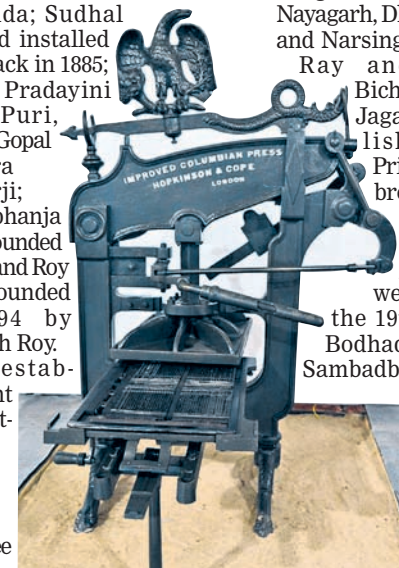
The other Odia journals which were brought out in the 19th century called Bodhadayini O Balasore Sambadbahika, 1969; Utkal Putra, 1873; Utkal Darpan, 1873; Sevak, 1883; Sanskaraka, 1883; Sambalpur Hitaisini, 1889; Utkal Prabha, 1891; and Utkal Sahitya, 1893; Cuttack Argu, 1869; Cuttack Star, 1869; Utkal Hitaisini, 1869; Cuttack Standard, 1869; Purushottama Chandrika, Puri, 1874; Swadeshi, Berhampur, 1876; Utkal Madhupa, 1878; Kohinur, Cuttack, 1880; Prajabandhu, Balasore, 1882; Odia O Navasambad, Balasore, 1886; Odisha Patriot, Cuttack, 1886 and Ganjam News, Berhampur, 1896.

With the growth of education, establishment of printing presses and development of journalism, several socio-political, religious and educational organisations were founded in Odisha.

The first such organisation was the Mutual Improvement Society at Cuttack established in 1859. After the famine of 1866-67, the number of organisations in different parts of Odisha increased rapidly. Some prominent organisations include Cuttack Debating Club, Cuttack, 1869; Cuttack Young Men's Association, 1869; Utkal Brahma Samaj, Cuttack, 1869; Puri Society, Puri, 1870; Ganjam Utkal Hitabadi Sabha, Berhampur, 1872; Utkal Bhasa Uddipani Sabha, Cuttack, 1873; Bhadrak Desh Hitaisini Sabha, 1874; Utkal Nisha Nishadhini Sabha, 1875; Odisha Islam Association 1875; Balasore National Society, 1878; Madak Seban Nibarini Sabha, 1879; Siskha Bidhyini Sabha, 1881; Utkal Sabha, 1882; Odisha People's Association, 1882; Anti-Corruption and Prohibition Sabha, Cuttack, 1884; Odisha Graduate and Under-Graduate Association, 1888; B. Dey's Social Club, Balasore 1895; Odisha Christian Association, 1896 and Utkal Hitaisini Sabha, Parlakhemundi.

All such organisations fostered a sense of unity in the minds of the Odia-speaking people against British rule.

**Dr. Janmejay Choudhury,**  
Lecturer in History,  
Sri Jagannath College,  
Kaipada, Khurda  
(Odisha Review)



### First World Odia Language Conference: Day II (Feb 4)

HALL-1: (PLENARY HALL) ADIKABI SARALA DAS HALL
Utkal Gaurab Madhusudan Das Sradha Utsav (10:00-11:00am)
1936: Emergence of modern Odisha (11:30am-2:00pm)
Odia language and women empowerment (3:00-5:30pm)
HALL-2: ATIBADI JAGANNATH DAS HALL
Archaeology of Odisha (11:30am-2:00pm)
Modern Odia literature (3:00-5:30pm)
HALL-3: KABI SAMRAT UPENDRA BHANJA HALL
Maritime & trade relationship of Odisha (11:30am-2:00pm)
Folklores of Odisha (3:00-5:30pm)
HALL-4: BYASAKABI FAKIR MOHAN SENAPATI HALL
Odia grammar and linguistics (11:30am-2:00pm)
Linguistic diversity of Odisha (3:00-5:30pm)
HALL-5: PRAKRUTI KABI GANGADHAR MEHER HALL
Felicitation programme (10:30am-12:30pm) (1:00-2:00pm)

# PALM LEAF INSCRIPTIONS AND ANCIENT ODISIA HERITAGE

Major motifs are drawn from the rich legends, myths and folklore of the state. The various gods and goddesses from Hindu pantheon are represented either individually or in groups, with more prominent of these being Radha and Krishna, Durga, Ganesa and Saraswati. The figures are highly stylised and embody the traditional concept of beauty. The figures usually have a sharp pointed nose, long eyes and well proportioned bodies. The figures are usually represented in profile.

Odishan painting traditions It would be appropriate to give a brief idea at this juncture about traditions of Odishan paintings vis-a-vis the illustrated palm-leaf manuscripts which is the subject of the present collection. The ancient name for Orissa is Utkala - the land of excellence of art. In every field of art be it sculpture, architecture, textiles, handicrafts, music, dance or painting, Odisha has a rich heritage continuing since the very ancient times which is vibrant and living even today. As for painting, Odisha is one of the few states in the country where pre-historic cave murals have been found in places like

Ulpargarh and Bikramkhola in Sambalpur, Manikmada and Ushakothi in Sundargarh and Gudahandi and Jogimath in Kalahandi. At least one major painting of the Gupta period still remains on the ceilings of a cave at Sitabinji in Keonjhar district and this is the only known painting of this period in



eastern India comparable in its excellence with the more famous paintings of Ajanta in western India. The traditions have continued and flourished in shape of murals in the public buildings like temples, maths and palaces, in patta paintings, palm-leaf

etchings and illustrations of manuscripts. The ravages of time have destroyed evidence of continued traditions over centuries and after the Sitabinji paintings, records are available only from 6th/7th century onwards. Wall murals played a very important role in Odishan painting traditions. Mural paint-

ings of the famous Biranchi Narayan temple at Buguda depicting the various episodes in the life of Rama and Krishna as well as the 10 incarnations of Vishnu are a feast for the eyes. These paintings are a shining example of the very best in the styles, colour

combination and motifs of traditional Odishan painting. The paintings in Jagamohana of Lakshmi temple in Puri Srimandir is another group of paintings distinguished for its subject and styles. The depiction of Nrusingha, Panchamukha Ganesa (five-headed Ganesa), Ramanuja with the halo of serpent heads, Hanumana and the small panel depicting Buddha Vijaya or the victory of Brahminism over Buddhism are a living record of the rich heritage of Odishan painting. Although these are being periodically repainted their antiquity is unquestioned and finds mention also in such famous works as the Antiquities of Orissa by RL Mitra.

Another such group of paintings is found in Jagamohana of Vimala temple depicting the Dasa-Mahavidya or the 10 aspects of Goddess Durga. Yet another very important painting in the Puri Srimandir precincts is the representation of dvarapalas (gate-keepers) at the entrance point of the sanctum sanctorum. These two paintings have a distinctive style as the robust and strong figures primarily represent the heroic element and are similar to the repre-



sentation of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra in the patta paintings during the annual convalescence

of the deities. It is to be mentioned that in these patta paintings, otherwise known as 'Anasara Patti', the three deities

are represented in their Bhairava aspects and are totally different from the shape in which they are worshipped daily.

Traditions of these mural paintings are found in the mutts of Puri and in south Odisha in general. Patta painting is another typical Odishan artform in which artisans using natural, vegetable and mineral colours, paint on cloth stiffened with tamarind starch and chalk and finish with a coat of lacquer. Using a totally free-hand style the painters rely on our rich myths, legends and folklore for their motifs. It needs to be mentioned that as for most other artforms in Odisha, the Srimandir has played a dominant role in the efflorescence of Odishan painting and particularly the preparations of small and inexpensive patta paintings representing the three deities for sale to the pilgrim visitors, popularly known as 'Yatri Patti', was responsible for taking the Odishan painting to the farthest nooks and corners of the country.

(Excerpts from an article by Dr Bhagyalipi Malla, former Superintendent, Odisha State Archives, Bhubaneswar, in the Odisha Review)



# Hindu side announces five 'aartis' in Gyanvapi

# Fresh snowfall blankets Kashmir

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Srinagar, Feb 3:** Several parts of Kashmir, including Srinagar city, witnessed fresh snowfall Saturday as the MeT department has forecast moderate to heavy snowfall in the valley over the next 48 hours.

While it started snowing early in the morning in the higher reaches of Kashmir, the plains of the valley also witnessed snowfall as the day progressed, officials said.

They said the day temperatures are likely to stay between zero and three degrees Celsius at most places in Kashmir.

Authorities have issued avalanche warnings in hilly and mountainous areas of Kashmir while motorists have been advised to drive carefully in view of slippery roads, the officials said.

Meanwhile, there was respite from intense cold conditions Friday night but the minimum temperature stayed several degrees below the normal for this time of the year.

Gulmarg skiing resort in north Kashmir recorded a low of minus 10.6 degrees Celsius, up by 1.4 degrees from the previous night's minus 12.0 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

Pahalgam tourist resort in south Kashmir, which serves as the base camp for the annual Amarnath yatra, recorded a low of minus 8.3 degrees Celsius, up from minus 11.9 degrees Celsius the previous night.

Kokernag and Qazigund towns in south Kashmir both recorded



**'Chilla-i-Khurd'**  
Although 'Chilla-i-Kalan' -- the 40-day harshest winter period -- ended earlier this week, the cold wave has continued in Kashmir

The valley is currently going through a 20-day-long 'Chilla-i-Khurd' (small cold) which shall be followed by a 10-day 'Chilla-i-Bachha' (baby cold)

a low of minus 5.4 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 1.7 degrees Celsius.

Friday, the mercury had nosedived across Kashmir with unofficial data suggesting that Larnoo town in south Kashmir Anantnag district had recorded minus 17.1 degrees Celsius followed by Sonamarg resort on the Srinagar-Leh highway which recorded a low of minus 15.1 degrees Celsius.

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INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Varanasi, Feb 3:** Even as the legal battle over the Hindu religious ceremonies being performed at the Gyanvapi mosque-Shringar Gauri complex after a Varanasi court allowed worship at the disputed site intensifies, the Hindu side has announced a schedule of five 'aartis' that will be held on a daily basis in the basement.

Advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain, who represents the Hindu side, has said that aarti will be performed five times daily inside the 'Vyas Ka Tekhana' inside the complex.

In a post on X, Jain listed the timings for the five-time aarti.

He wrote: "Daily five aarti: Mangla-3:30 a.m., Bhog-12 p.m., Apranh-4 p.m., Sanykaal-7 p.m., Shayan aarti-10:30 p.m."

Wednesday, a Varanasi court allowed the Hindu devotees to worship inside the sealed basement of the Gyanvapi mosque. As per the court order, Hindu devotees can now offer prayers at 'Vyas Ka Tekhana', a restricted area inside Varanasi's Gyanvapi mosque.

The court, during its hearing earlier Thursday, also directed the district administration to



make the necessary arrangements for the 'puja' to be performed by the devotees and asked the Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple Trust to nominate a pujaari for the puja.

Thursday midnight, the Gyanvapi complex was opened for worship by the Hindu side.

The idols that were found during the Gyanvapi premises survey were placed, and a prayer was conducted, followed by the offerings of the prasad. A statue of Vishnu, a Ganesh idol, two statues of Hanuman, and a stone

with Ram written on it have been kept there.

The Muslim side Thursday filed a petition in the Allahabad High Court seeking stay on religious activities in the complex while the Hindu side also filed a caveat in the case. The Hindu side supporters also pasted 'Mandir' over a signage that said Gyanvapi Masjid in Varanasi.

Meanwhile, the Uttar Pradesh Police is on alert as the authorities were asked to conduct patrolling to avoid any untoward incidents.

# One of Kashmir's oldest schools faces closure



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Srinagar, Feb 3:** St. Joseph Higher Secondary School, established in 1903 in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla town, will have to close down due to non-renewal of its land lease agreement.

The Board of School Examinations has refused to register the school's students for examination this year.

St. Joseph is one of the oldest Christian missionary schools in Kashmir.

The school management said that the land lease agreement of the school expired in 2018 and it had applied for renewal of the lease to the authorities.

"The file is pending in the office of the divisional commissioner (Kashmir) since 2022, and we have also approached the office of the Lt Governor in this regard," management of the school said. It must be mentioned that the authorities had decided in 2023 not to register any private school for examinations which was illegally functioning on state land.

Meanwhile, association for private schools has said that if the government continued with its policy of not renewing leases of lands on which educational institutions are functioning, scores of such institutions would face closure, thereby throwing into jeopardy the future of thousands of students.

# Right wing body moves court against annual 'Urs' at Taj Mahal

Petitioner contends that as per an RTI reply neither the Mughals, nor the British allowed 'Urs' to take place inside the 17th century monument

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Agra, Feb 3:** A right wing organisation has filed a petition in an Agra court seeking prohibitory injunction against the observation of the 'Urs' at the Taj Mahal.

The petitioner, Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha, has also challenged the free entry for 'Urs' inside the Taj Mahal.

The court accepted the petition and fixed March 4 as the date of hearing.

The three-day 'Urs' event will take place this year from February 6 to February 8.

The period is observed to mark the death of Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan, who got the Taj Mahal constructed in 1653 on the banks of the Yamuna river.

Petitioner's counsel Anil Kumar Tiwari said, "Friday, the petitioner ABHM through its divisional head Meena Diwakar and district president Saurabh Sharma filed a pe-



tion in the Court of IV Additional Civil Judge (Junior Division) Room No 4 at Civil Court premises in Agra."

"They have sought for a permanent prohibitory injunction against the committee celebrating the 'Urs.' The petitioner has also objected to having free entry for the 'Urs' at the Taj Mahal."

ABHM spokesperson Sanjay Jat contended that the body had filed the petition on the basis of an RTI which revealed that neither the

Mughals, nor the British allowed 'Urs' to take place inside the Taj.

"The petition has been filed on the basis of an RTI filed by a Raj Kishore Raje, an historian of Agra city. In the RTI, he asked ASI who permitted 'Urs' celebration and 'Namaz' on Taj Mahal premises. The ASI replied that neither Mughals, nor the British government or the Government of India have allowed 'Urs' celebration in the Taj Mahal," Sanjay Jat told PTI.

"So, on that basis we have filed a petition seeking the prohibitory injunction, stopping the organisers of Shahjahan 'Urs' Celebration Committee, headed by Saiyyad Ibrahim Zaidi, from celebrating the 'Urs' at the Taj Mahal."

The three-day 'Urs' sees the rituals of 'chadar poshi', 'sandal', 'gusul', 'kul' among other events.

On the last day of the 'Urs', a 'chadar', measuring 1,880 metre or more, is offered.

# Open expanse of Dal Lake increased to 20.3 sq km in 2 yrs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jammu, Feb 3:** Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir said one-third of Dal Lake in Srinagar has been rejuvenated and its open expanse has been increased for the first time to more than 20.3 square kilometres.

The information was given at a meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo here to review the measures taken so far for the beautification and cleansing of the famous Dal and Nigeen lakes, an official spokesman said.

The Chief Secretary took note of the implementation of ₹273 crore Dal Lake conservation plan which includes works like dredging, catchment area management, development of sewerage network, eco-parks, viewing decks, jetties and ghats and other conservation works.

In the last two years, the spokesman said the meeting was informed, one-third of the Dal Lake has been rejuvenated, 6.5 sq km has been cleared off lily and the open expanse has been increased for the first time to more than 20.3 sq km.

The lake area has not decreased as compared to the earliest possible available records, the meeting noted, adding, the area is almost the same as per a survey carried out in 2009 and satellite imagery. Moreover, the authority delin-



eated the lake boundary for the first time, besides carrying out drone surveys in 2020 and 2023.

The meeting was also informed that a bathymetric survey for a scientific de-weeding and dredging has been done and plantation of 1.60 lakh plants for treatment of catchment area has also been completed.

As far as the waste and sewage

management is concerned, a load of 48 million litre per day, or MLD, has been calculated out of which 36 MLD is catered by five STPs to which all the houseboats have been connected.

About dredging of the lake, it was revealed that 20 navigation channels 10 km in length were retrieved. About 150,000 cubic metre of silt has been dredged

out from the settling basin during the last two years.

The meeting was told that the programmable aerators-cum-fountains at seven clusters with more than 760 nozzle or fountains are going to be made functional soon, while the concerned authority is in a process of installing a high super jet fountain of 85 metre tall inside Dal

Lake, the spokesman said.

He said the bio-methanation of the weed had also been taken up in collaboration with National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED).

For beautification of the lake, it was said creation of green spaces, children parks, eating joints, food-courts, toilet blocks and parking area are being developed.

For the purpose of monitoring of lake quality parameters, an Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring System is being deployed at STPs, the spokesman said, adding, 48 CCTV cameras have been installed around the lake to keep a vigil on illegal transportation of construction material in the prohibited areas of the lake.

Addressing the meeting, the Chief Secretary asked the officers to enhance the enforcement mechanism and ensure that no illegal structures are raised in the lake area.

He called for 'zero tolerance' towards any unlawful activity deemed detrimental to the health of the lake.

He called on stakeholders to make concerted efforts to remove the weeds and lily pads from the water surface.

The Chief Secretary also suggested exploring the possibility of the setting up a 'Ferris Wheel' inside the lake area.

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**RURAL WORKS DIVISION, DEOGARH**  
E-mail Id- eerw\_deogarh@yahoo.co.in  
No.O-2331 **E-Procurement Notice**  
**BID IDENTIFICATION NO. SERWDGH-Online-13/2023-24**

- No. of building works: (25 Nos.)
- Estimated cost: Rs.32.29 Lakhs and Rs.36.86 Lakhs
- Mode of submission of tender: Tender shall be submitted online in [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in)
- Availability of tender for online bidding: 05.02.2024, 10.00 A.M. to 14.02.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.
- Date and time of opening of tender: 15.02.2024, 11.00 A.M.
- Other details can be seen from the website [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in)
- Corrigendum / addendum if any shall only be published in the above website.

**Sd./- Superintending Engineer**  
**R.W. Division, Deogarh**  
OIPR-25087/11/0024/2324

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** No. A-1360  
**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER**  
**MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, SAMBALPUR**  
Phone No.: (0663) 2412791 (Off), E-mail: [eeemisbp@yahoo.co.in](mailto:eeemisbp@yahoo.co.in)  
Date: 30.01.2024  
**e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE**  
**BID REF NO.: SE, MID, SBP/15/2023-24**

Name of Work	: Civil Construction Works
No. of Works	: 14 (Fourteen) Nos.
Estimated Cost	: Varies from approximately Rs.3.97 lakh to Rs.58.14 lakh for 14 Nos. of works (Rs.160.58 lakh)
Tender Paper Cost	: Referred to DTCN
Period of Completion	: Referred to DTCN
Availability of Bid through online	: From Dt.06.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M. to Dt.15.02.2024 upto 05.30 P.M. in website ( <a href="http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in">www.tendersodisha.gov.in</a> )
Period of receipt of bid through online	: From Dt.06.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M. to Dt.15.02.2024 upto 05.30 P.M. through online
Date of opening of bid documents	: On Dt.16.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M. onwards
Digital Signature Certificate of Bidder	: The bidder must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III

The detail tender call notice can also be seen in the DOWR website: <http://www.dowr.orissa.gov.in>

Name and Address of the OIT : Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division, Sambalpur, At: Moljharan, P.O.: B.S.S. Nagar, Dist.: Sambalpur, PIN - 768001, Ph: 0663-2412791  
E-mail ID : [eeemisbp@yahoo.co.in](mailto:eeemisbp@yahoo.co.in)  
Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement market place : <http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>

**Sd./- Superintending Engineer**  
**M.I. Division, Sambalpur**  
OIPR-32036/11/0022/2324

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**  
Office of the Suprintending Engineer  
Bhanjanagar Irrigation Division, Bhanjanagar  
Phone No. 06821-291004, e-mail ID: [bnjirrigation2010@gmail.com](mailto:bnjirrigation2010@gmail.com)  
**e-Procurement Notice No. e-BNID-12/2023-24**

No.A-1382- Bid documents consisting of Work, Estimated cost , Cost of tender paper, Time of completion, Class of contractor, the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in e-procurement portal [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in).

1	Name of the work	: Flood Bank & Canal works
2	No. of works	: 40 (Forty) No. of works
3	Class of contractor	: Varies from 'D' Class to 'B' Class
4	Bid Identification No.	: BNID - 404/2023-24 to 443/2023-24
5	Estimated cost put to tender	: Rs.7.13 Lakh to 33.47 Lakh
6	Period of completion	: 04 (Four months)
7	Date & time of availability of bid documents in the portal	: 12.02.2024 to 19.02.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.
8	Last date / time for receipt of bids in the portal	: 19.02.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.
9	Date of opening of bid	: 20.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M. in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Bhanjanagar Irrigation Division, Bhanjanagar
10	Date of lottery	: 26.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M. in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Bhanjanagar Irrigation Division, Bhanjanagar (If situation arises)
11	Submission of affidavit	: The bidder should mention his / her full present Postal Address, e-Mail ID, Valid Mobile Number in his Original Affidavit for each work during upload of tender
12	Submission of original licence (For Engineering Contractor) at the time of verification of documents.	

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in)  
**Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Bhanjanagar Irrigation Division, Bhanjanagar**  
OIPR-32010/11/0015/2324





**Former Deputy Prime Minister Lal Krishna Advani is being presented the Bharat Ratna so that the saffron party's votes do not get scattered**  
AKHILESH YADAV | SP CHIEF

**MANIPUR CM MEETS AMIT SHAH**

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh Saturday said the Centre is set to take 'some important decisions' in the interests of the people of the state. He said this after meeting Union Home Minister Amit Shah where he discussed 'matters of paramount importance' concerning Manipur



# Sena man shot by BJP MLA critical

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Thane/Mumbai, Feb 3:** A local Shiv Sena leader was in critical condition Saturday after a BJP MLA shot him inside a police station in Thane district, prompting the opposition to demand Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's resignation over the deteriorating law and order situation.



Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde visits a hospital where injured Shiv Sena leader Mahesh Gaikwad is being treated after he was allegedly shot at by BJP MLA Ganpat Gaikwad, in Thane

Ganpat Gaikwad (56), MLA of Kalyan in Thane district, admitted to opening fire, telling a news channel that he was provoked as his son was being beaten up in the presence of police during the incident that took place Friday night.

He was treated Saturday evening and remanded in police custody for 14 days. While CM Shinde said the incident was "very unfortunate",

Deputy CM and Home Minister Devendra Fadnis ordered a high-level probe.

The BJP MLA opened fire on Mahesh Gaikwad (40), Kalyan unit chief of the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena, inside the chamber of the senior inspector of Hill Line police station in Ulhasnagar around 10:30 pm Friday, said Additional Commissioner of Police Dattatraya Shinde.

Talking to Marathi news channel Zee24taas over phone before his arrest, Ganpat Gaikwad claimed he fired from his pistol as his son was being beaten up. Chief Minister Eknath Shinde was trying to establish a "kingdom of criminals" in Maharashtra, he alleged.

Ulhasnagar, 45 km from Mumbai, falls in the Kalyan parliamentary constituency represented by CM Shinde's son Shrikant Shinde. BJP and the Shinde-led Sena are part of the ruling coalition in Maharashtra, but there is also a rivalry between local leaders of the two parties in Thane district.

Mahesh Gaikwad was shifted to a private hospital in Thane city. He underwent an emergency life-saving surgery and was on a ventilator, said the hospital in a statement Saturday, adding that his condition was "currently critical" and the doctors were monitoring his vital signs. CM Shinde visited the hospital during the day.

Additional CP Shinde said that

Ganpat Gaikwad's son went to the police station Friday evening to lodge a complaint in connection with a land dispute when Mahesh Gaikwad arrived there with his men. Ganpat Gaikwad also reached the police station.

An altercation broke out between the MLA and the Sena leader, and Ganpat Gaikwad fired shots at Mahesh Gaikwad inside the senior inspector's chamber, injuring him and Mahesh's associate Rahul Patil, the official said.

"Yes, I shot (him) myself. I have no regrets. If my son is being beaten up in front of police inside a police station, what will I do," said Ganpat Gaikwad while talking to the news channel.

# KEJRIWAL GETS CRIME BRANCH NOTICE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Feb 3:** After a five-hour drama, Crime Branch officials of the Delhi Police Saturday served a notice on Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, asking him to reply within three days in a probe into his claims that the BJP attempted to poach seven AAP MLAs.

A Delhi Police officer said, "We have served the notice on him (Kejriwal). He can give the reply in three days in a written form."

The Crime Branch has asked Kejriwal to reveal the names of AAP MLAs who were claimed to have been approached by the BJP.

Earlier, a drama unfolded at Kejriwal's residence in Civil Lines as a Crime Branch team arrived again Saturday to serve him a notice in connection with the probe.

Last week, Kejriwal, in a post on X, had alleged that the BJP offered Rs 25 crore each to seven AAP MLAs to quit the party in order to topple his government.

**SHORT TAKES**

**ED moves court against Kejriwal**

**New Delhi:** The Enforcement Directorate Saturday filed a complaint against Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in a court here for not appearing before it in a money laundering case linked to the alleged excise policy scam. The complaint was filed before Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Divya Malhotra, who put up the matter for further hearing February 7.

**Apurva appointed Health Secretary**

**New Delhi:** Information and Broadcasting Secretary Apurva Chandra was appointed the Health Secretary as part of a top-level bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the Centre Saturday. Chandra is a 1988-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Maharashtra cadre. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved Chandra's appointment as the Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare, an order issued by the Personnel Ministry said. Senior bureaucrat Sanjay Jaju has been appointed as the new Information and Broadcasting Secretary in place of Chandra.

**BHUBANESWAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
**E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE**  
E-Mail Id: ee2@bmc.gov.in

No. C-2977:-

1. Bid Reference No. : BMC-EED-II-26/2023-24 Dt.02.02.24
2. Tender Call Notice No. : No.5363 Dt. 02.02.2024
3. No. of Work : 04 Nos.
4. Bid Value : Rs.12,47,593.00 to Rs.16,20,820.00
5. Period of Completion : 60 Days

**Date and Time Schedule**

Start	End	Opening
11.00 A.M. of 03.02.2024	5 P.M. of 12.02.2024	11.00 A.M. of 13.02.2024

6. Tender details: Can be seen from the procurement portal: <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>. BMC website <https://www.bmc.gov.in>

Sd./- Executive Engineer, Div-II  
Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation  
OIPR-13002/11/0257/2324

**Government of Odisha** No. O-2395  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER**  
**RURAL WORKS DIVISION, JHARSUGUDA**  
Email: eerw\_jharsuguda@yahoo.co.in, Tel: 06645-271643  
Bid Identification No. Online - SEJSG - 27 of 2023-24  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR ROAD WORK IN ODISHA**  
**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement**

1. Name of the Work : Road works as per DTCN available in the [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in)
2. Total No. of Work : 08 (Eight) Nos.
3. Estimated Cost : Rs.5.81 Lakhs to Rs.18.49 lakhs
4. Period of Completion : 01 (One) to 02 (Two) Calendar Months
5. Period and time of availability of bid document in the portal : Dt.05.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M. to 13.02.2024 upto 05.00 P.M. for bidding
6. Date and time of bid opening : Dt.15.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M.
7. Name and address of the : S.E., R.W. Division, Jharsuguda Officer Inviting Bid

1) Other details can be seen from detailed notice inviting tenders, available in website [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in).  
2) Corrigendum if any shall only be published in the above website.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer  
R.W. Division, Jharsuguda  
OIPR-25104/11/0037/2324

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**KEONJHAR IRRIGATION DIVISION, KEONJHAR**  
No.A-1389 **Notice Invitation of Tenders**  
**e-Procurement Notice No.-04/2023-24 on dated 31.01.2024**  
E-mail Id: eekjrirrdv@gmail.com

1	Nature of the work	: Boundary Wall Works
2	No. of works	: 1(One) No.
3	Value of works	: Rs.33.88 Lakhs
4	Tender paper cost	: Refer to DTCN
5	EMD / Bid Security	: Refer to DTCN
6	Period of completion	: Refer to DTCN
7	Class of contractors	: Refer to DTCN
8	Procurement officer	: Executive Engineer, Keonjhar Irrigation Division, Keonjhar
9	Bid Identification No.	: KIDN-17 / 2023-24
10	Availability of tender for Online bidding	: From 10 A.M. Dt. 03.02.2024 to 5.30 P.M. Dt.12.02.2024
11	Date and time for tender opening	: Dt.13.02.2024 @ 11 A.M. onwards in O/o the Executive Engineer, Keonjhar Irrigation Division, Keonjhar
12	Date and time for lottery (if required)	: Dt.15.02.2024 @ 11 A.M. onwards in O/o the Executive Engineer, Keonjhar Irrigation Division, Keonjhar

The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal: [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in). Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tenders can be seen from the above portal.

Sd./- Executive Engineer  
Keonjhar Irrigation Division, Keonjhar  
OIPR-32476/11/0007/2324

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** No. O-2423  
**"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE**  
**Bid Identification No. Online-AGL-32 of 2023-2024**

1. Name of the Work : Road Work
2. Estimated Cost : Rs.5.62 Lakhs to 41.27 Lakhs
3. Period of Completion : 04 (Four) Calendar Months
4. Date & time of availability : From 05.02.2024 to 17.00 hours of Dt.15.02.24
5. Last date/time for receipt of bid document in the Portal : 12.02.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.
6. Name & Address of the : Executive Engineer, Rural OIT Works Division, Angul

Further details can be seen from the Govt. website [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in).  
Sd./- Executive Engineer  
R.W. Division, Angul  
OIPR-25096/11/0027/2324

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** No. O-2424  
**"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE**  
**Bid Identification No. Online-AGL-31 of 2023-2024**

1. Name of the Work : Building Work
2. Estimated Cost : Rs.14.80 Lakhs to 34.14 Lakhs
3. Period of Completion : 04 (Four) Calendar Months
4. Date & time of availability : From 07.02.2024 to 15.02.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.
5. Last date/time for receipt of Bids in the Portal : 15.02.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.
6. Name & Address of the : Executive Engineer, Rural OIT Works Division, Angul

Further details can be seen from the Govt. website [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in).  
Sd./- Executive Engineer  
R.W. Division, Angul  
OIPR-25096/11/0028/2324

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,**  
**MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, JHARSUGUDA**  
E-mail: eemijharsuguda@gmail.com  
Letter No. 262/Date 31.01.2024  
**e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE**  
No.A-1417  
**1ST CORRIGENDUM TO BID REFERENCE NO: SE MID JSD 06/2023-24**  
Due to unavoidable circumstances as well as technical deficiencies the following changes are made to bid Ref. No. SE MID JSD 06/2023-24

- 1) The date and time of availability of bid document in the portal from dt.06.02.2024 during office hour to dt.15.02.2024 during office hour instead of from dt.31.01.2024 during office hour to dt.15.02.2024 during office hour.
- 2) Sl. No. 01 to Sl. No.13- Revised estimated cost as mentioned in DTCN which is to be uploaded in website and as also mentioned in corrigendum notice.
- 3) Sl. No. 10 and Sl. No.12- Change in class of contractor as it mentioned in DTCN which is to be uploaded in website and as also mentioned in corrigendum notice.
- 4) Sl. No. 1- Change of bid cost as it mentioned in DTCN which is to be uploaded in website and as also mentioned in corrigendum notice.

All other terms and conditions remains unaltered.  
Sd./- Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division, Jharsuguda  
OIPR-32291/11/0011/2324

**Government of Odisha** No. O-2417  
**e-Procurement Notice**  
E-Mail: rw\_boudh@yahoo.co.in  
Bid Identification No. Online Tender/16/E.E.R.W. BOUDH/2023-24  
**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement**

1. Estimated Cost : Rs.5.04 lakhs to 41.27 (Approximately)
2. Period of Completion : 1 to 6 Calendar Months
3. Date & time of availability of Bid documents in the portal : From 05.02.2024, 10.00 A.M. to 12.02.2024, 5.00 P.M.
4. Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal : 12.02.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.
5. Last date/time for seeking of Tender/clarification : 09.02.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.
6. Date & Time of Opening of Tender/Bid : 13.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M.
7. Name & address of the : Executive Engineer, R.W. Division, Boudh Officer Inviting Bid

Further details, Corrigendum(s) etc. can be seen from the e-Procurement portal "<https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in>".  
Sd./- Executive Engineer  
R.W. Division, Boudh  
OIPR-25061/11/0018/2324

**OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL PLANNING AUTHORITY, BHADRAK**  
**TENDER CALL NOTICE**  
(Through E-Procurement)  
Tender Reference No. SPA-BDK-02-2023-24  
Tender Call Notice No. 76/SPA Dt.03.02.2024

**Tender ID No.**

1. Name of the work : Individual Civil Construction works as per DTCN published in the website
2. No. of Works put to tender : Two Nos. Civil Construction works
3. Estimated Cost : As per DTCN
4. Period of Completion : As per DTCN
5. Date and time of availability of bid document in the portal : From 10.00 hours of Dt.07.02.24 to 17.00 hours of Dt.15.02.24
6. Mode of deposit towards cost of Bid document & EMD : Online
7. Date and time of opening of bid : 11.00 hours and onwards of Dt.16.02.2024
8. Name and address of the : Special Planning Authority, Bhadrak Officer Inviting Bid

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "<https://tendersorissa.gov.in>" or "<http://tenders.ori.nic.in/nicgep/app>".  
Sd./- Special Planning Authority, Bhadrak  
OIPR-13071/11/0002/2324

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** No. A-1413  
**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, DEO CANAL DIVISION, KARANJA**  
At/P.O.: Karanja, Dist.: Mayurbhanj - 757037, Tel.: 06796-220124, E-mail: eedcd2016@gmail.com  
**"e" Procurement Notice**  
Bid Identification No. 05/SEDCD of 2023-24 (Online)

Name of Work	: As per Detailed Tender Call Notice
Total No. of Packages	: 01 (One)
Estimated Cost of Package	: 25.42 Lakh
Period of Completion	: 3 Months
Class of Contractor	: "C & B"
Other Details	

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender Online for Bidding	
		From	To
Superintending Engineer, Deo Canal Division, Karanja	05/SEDCD of 2023-24 (Online)	05.02.2024 at 10.00 A.M.	15.02.2024 upto 05.00 P.M.

Further details can be seen from the Govt. website [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in).  
Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.  
OIPR-32380/11/0007/2324  
Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Deo Canal Division, Karanja

**Government of Odisha** No. O-2390  
**Office of the Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division-I, Nabarangpur**  
e-mail- eerwngp@rediffmail.com  
**e-Procurement Notice** Date: 01.02.2024  
Letter No. 770

**Name of the work:- Road & Building Works; Total No. of works :- 18 (Eighteen) Nos.; Approx. Estimated Cost :- Rs.1.61 lakhs to Rs.42.00 Lakhs; Class of Contractor :- "B", "C" & "D" Class Contractor; Period of Completion :- 01 (One) Calendar Month & 6 (Six) Calendar Months.**

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	No. of Works	Availability of tender online for bidding		Date & Time of Opening of Tender	
			From	To	Technical	Financial
Rural Works Division-I, Nabarangpur	EERWNGP-Online-13/2023-24	18 (Eighteen) Nos.	05.02.2024 at 10.00 AM	12.02.2024 upto 03.00 PM	13.02.2024 at 11.00 AM	

For details can be seen from the Government website: [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in)  
OIPR-25092/11/0013/2324  
Sd./- Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division-I, Nabarangpur

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** No. C-2994  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION, RAYAGADA**  
e-mail: eephd.rgda.od@nic.in, eephdrgda@gmail.com  
**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement**  
**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) NO. EEPHDRAYAGADA-56/2023-24 DT.02.02.2024**

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Bid Identification No.	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lakh)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion	Availability of Bid Document for Online Bidding
1	Laying of Infiltration Gallery in the Bed of Fiver Bansadhara for Water Supply to Gunupur Municipality under State Plan 2023-24	EEPHDRAYAGADA 56/2023-24 Dt.02.02.2024	42.05	"B" Class	2 (Two Months)	12.02.24 to 22.02.24

Name & Address of Officer Inviting Bid : Executive Engineer, P.H. Division, Rayagada, Email: eephd.rgda.od@nic.in, eephdrgda@gmail.com.  
Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal "<https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in>".  
All amendments, time extension, clarifications etc. will be uploaded in the website only. Bidders should regularly visit the above website to keep themselves updated.  
OIPR-13052/11/0017/2324  
Sd./- Executive Engineer, P.H. Division, Rayagada

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** No. C-2983  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION, RAYAGADA**  
e-mail: eephd.rgda.od@nic.in, eephdrgda@gmail.com  
**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement**  
**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) NO. EEPHDRAYAGADA-52/2023-24 DT.24.01.2024**

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Bid Identification No.	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lakh)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion	Availability of Bid Document for Online Bidding
1	Procurement of D.I. K-7 & K-9 Pipe for the work "Augmentation of Water Supply to Parlakhemundi Municipality".	EEPHDRAYAGADA 52/2023-24 Dt.24.01.2024	33.36	Reputed Manufacturer	1 (One Month)	05.02.24 to 15.02.24

Name & Address of Officer Inviting Bid : Executive Engineer, P.H. Division, Rayagada, Email: eephd.rgda.od@nic.in, eephdrgda@gmail.com.  
Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal "<https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in>".  
All amendments, time extension, clarifications etc. will be uploaded in the website only. Bidders should regularly visit the above website to keep themselves updated.  
OIPR-13052/11/0015/2324  
Sd./- Executive Engineer, P.H. Division, Rayagada

**GOVT. OF ODISHA** No. O-2419  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER**  
**RURAL WORKS DIVISION, PATNAGARH**  
E-mail: eerw\_ptng@yahoo.in, Phone No.: 06658-222121  
**e-Procurement Notice**  
IFB IDENTIFICATION NO. EEPTNG-Online-15/2023-24

1. Name of Work	: Special Repair of Roads & Building works
2. Total No. of Work	: 03 (Three) Nos. Road & 02 (Two) Nos. Building
3. Time for Completion	: 01 (One) Calendar Month
4. Approximate Estimated Cost	: 4.24 lakh to 26.47 lakh
5. Mode of Submission of Tender	: Tender should be submitted online in <a href="http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in">www.tendersorissa.gov.in</a> .
6. Other details are as follow	

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender Online for Bidding		Last date and time of seeking tender clarification	Date & time of opening of tender
		From	To		
Executive Engineer, R.W. Divn., Patnagarh	EEPTNG-Online-15/2023-24	05.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M.	12.02.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.	09.02.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.	13.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the website: [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in).  
Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above e-tender website only.  
Sd./- Executive Engineer  
R.W. Division, Patnagarh  
OIPR-25154/11/0022/2324

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** E-mail: eerwkesinga@yahoo.com  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION, KESINGA**  
**e-Procurement Notice**  
No. O-2420:  
**BID IDENTIFICATION NO. SERWKSNG-Online-10/2023-24**

1. Name of Works : Road & Building Works (As per Annexure)
2. Total No. of Work : 8 Nos.
3. Estimated Cost : Rs.5.04 lakh to Rs.20.14 lakhs (Approximately)
4. E.M.D. : Please refer DTCN
5. Cost of Tender Document : As per annexure
6. Class of Contractor : "D & C" Class
7. Period of Completion : As per annexure
8. Other details : As per DTCN

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender Online for Bidding		Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender
		From	To		
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Kesinga	SERWKSNG - Online - 10/2023-24	06.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M.	12.02.2024 Upto 15.00 P.M.	09.02.2024 upto 11.00 A.M.	12.02.2024 at 16.00 P.M.

Further details can be seen from the website i.e. [www.tenderodisha.gov.in](http://www.tenderodisha.gov.in).  
OIPR-25153/11/0019/2324  
Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Kesinga

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** No. O-2386  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION, BOLANGIR**  
E-Mail: eerw\_bigr@yahoo.co.in  
**e-Procurement Notice**  
IFB IDENTIFICATION NO. EEBLGR-Online-20/2023-24

1. Name of Work	: Road Works
2. Total No. of Works	: 07 (Seven) Nos.
3. Approximate Estimated Cost	: Rs.7.69 Lakh to 41.71 Lakh
4. Time for Completion	: 1 (One) Calendar Month
5. Mode of Submission of tender	: Tender should be submitted online in <a href="http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in">www.tendersodisha.gov.in</a> .
6. Other details are as follow	: As per TCN No. EEBLGR-Online-20/2023-24

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender Online for Bidding		Last date and time of seeking tender clarification	Date & time of opening of tender
		From	To		
Executive Engineer, R.W. Division, Bolangir	EEBLGR-Online-20/2023-24	06.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M.	13.02.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.	12.02.2024 upto 1.00 P.M.	15.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the website: [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in).  
Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above e-tender website only.  
OIPR-25068/11/0031/2324  
Sd./- Executive Engineer, R.W. Division, Bolangir



# international

## of the day quote

Iran presents a constant threat to the United States — trying to murder Americans right here within our borders, conducting a cyber-attack on a children's hospital, supporting terrorists around the world, and more

CHRISTOPHER WRAY | DIRECTOR, FBI

Life-saving assistance is not reaching those who need it the most, and we are already receiving reports of people dying of starvation

EDDIE ROWE | WFP'S DIRECTOR FOR SUDAN

Full security arrangements have been made at the polling stations, and the government will ensure peaceful and transparent elections on February 8

MURTAZA SOLANGI | INFORMATION MINISTER, PAKISTAN

## SHORT TAKES

### INS Karanj in Lanka

Colombo: INS Karanj, an Indian Navy submarine, arrived in the port of Colombo Thursday, ahead of Sri Lanka's 76th Independence Day celebrations Sunday. On a two-day visit, the submarine was welcomed by the Sri Lanka Navy. INS Karanj is 67.5 metres long with a crew of 53 under the command of Commander Arunabh, the Sri Lanka Navy said. INS 'Karanj' will depart the island nation February 5, symbolising the strengthened maritime relations between India and Sri Lanka, LankaNewsWeb.Net, a news portal said, adding, "The diplomatic and cultural exchange during this visit contributes to the broader cooperation between the two nations in the maritime domain."

### Paris knife attack

Paris: A man injured three people Saturday in a stabbing attack at the major Gare de Lyon train station in Paris, another nerve-rattling security incident in the Olympic host city before the Summer Games open in six months. Paris police said officers quickly detained the attacker who used a sharp weapon in the assault at around 8 am. One of the people injured was in a serious condition; the other two were more lightly hurt. Police had no other immediate details. Security in Paris is being ramped up as it prepares to welcome 10,500 Olympians and millions of visitors for the first Olympic Games in a century in the French capital.

### China launches Jielong-3 rocket

Beijing: A small but powerful Chinese rocket capable of sending payloads at competitive costs delivered nine satellites into orbit Saturday, Chinese state media reported, in what is gearing up to be another busy year for Chinese commercial launches. The Jielong-3, or Smart Dragon-3, blasted off from a floating barge off the coast of Yangjiang in southern Guangdong province. It was the third launch of the rocket, developed by China Rocket Co, a commercial offshoot of a state-owned launch vehicle manufacturer, since December 2022. President Xi Jinping has called for the expansion of strategic industries including the commercial space sector, deemed key to building constellations of satellites for communications, remote sensing and navigation.



South Carolina, you are the first primary in the nation and President Biden and I are counting on you  
KAMALA HARRIS | VP, US

## BRITISH INDIANS IN LABOUR FOCUS

UK's Opposition Labour Party is overhauling its outreach efforts to British Indians, amid concern that the party's support among the country's largest ethnic minority has slumped in recent years, according to a media report



# US' deadly retaliation

US hits over 85 targets with over 125 bombs in retaliation to a deadly drone strike targeting an American base in Jordan last Sunday, resulting in the loss of three soldiers



REUTERS



Washington, Feb 3: The United States launched airstrikes in Iraq and Syria against more than 85 targets linked to Iran's Revolutionary Guard (IRGC) and the militias it backs, reportedly killing more than 30 people, in retaliation for a deadly attack on US troops.

The strikes, which included the use of long-range B-1 bombers flown from the United States, were the first in a multi-tiered response by President Joe Biden's administration to the attack last weekend by Iran-backed militants.

More US military operations were expected in the coming days.

The strikes intensified a conflict that has spread into the region since war erupted between Israel and Hamas after the militant Palestinian group's deadly assault on Israel October 7.

Iran's foreign ministry spokesperson Nasser Kanaani said in a statement the US attacks represented "another adventurous and strategic mistake by the United States that will result only in increased tension and instability in the region".

Iraq also condemned the US at-

US troops have been attacked over 160 times in Iraq, Syria and Jordan since October 7, usually with a mix of rockets and one-way attack drones, prompting the United States to mount several retaliatory attacks even before the latest strikes

tacks, saying they had killed 16 people including civilians. In Syria, the strikes killed 23 people who had been guarding the targeted locations, said Rami Abdulrahman, director of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an organisation that reports on war in Syria.

US Lieutenant General Douglas Sims, the director of the Joint Staff, said the attacks appeared to be successful, triggering large secondary explosions as the bombs hit militant weaponry. He said the strikes were undertaken knowing that there would likely be casualties among those in the facilities.

Iran, a backer of Hamas, has sought to stay out of the regional conflict itself even as it supports groups that have entered the fray from Lebanon, Yemen, Iraq and Syria - the so-called "Axis of Resistance" that is hostile to Israeli and US interests.

"WE DO NOT SEEK CONFLICT" US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said after the strikes that Biden had directed additional action against the IRGC and those linked to it. "This is the start of our response," Austin said.

"We do not seek conflict in the Middle East or anywhere else, but the president and I will not tolerate attacks on American forces," Austin said.

The White House said the United States had informed Iraq ahead of strikes. Baghdad later accused the United States of deception, saying a US claim of coordination with the Iraqi authorities was "unfounded".

Iraq's shadowy Kataib Hezbollah, which is blamed by the US for the Jordan attack, said Tuesday it would pause attacks on US forces. But another Iran-backed Iraqi group, Nujaba, said it would continue launching attacks on US

NEARLY 40 REPORTED KILLED IN IRAQ, SYRIA  
85 TARGETS HIT WITH OVER 125 BOMBS  
US ATTACKS WILL INCREASE TENSIONS: IRAN

Our response began today. It will continue at times and places of our choosing  
JOE BIDEN | PRESIDENT, US

We will not start a war, but we will respond strongly to anyone who bullies us  
EBRAHIM RAISI | PRESIDENT, IRAN

These airstrikes constitute a violation of Iraqi sovereignty  
YAHYA RASOOL | MILITARY SPOKESMAN, IRAQ  
Washington is pouring oil on the fire  
HAMAS COMMANDER

forces in the region until the Gaza war ends and US forces exit Iraq.

# Historic political shift in Northern Ireland

In a first, an Irish nationalist is chosen to lead Northern Ireland's government

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Feb 3: An Irish nationalist made history Saturday by becoming Northern Ireland's first minister as the government returned to work after a two-year boycott by unionists. Sinn Fein Vice President Michelle O'Neill was nominated as first minister in the government that under the terms of the 1998 Good Friday peace accord shares power between Northern Ireland's two main communities — British unionists who want to stay in the UK, and Irish nationalists who seek to unite with Ireland. Northern Ireland was established as a unionist, Protestant-majority part of the UK in 1921, following independence for the Republic of Ireland.

One side can't govern without agreement from the other. Government business ground to a halt over the past two years after the Democratic Unionist Party walked out to protest trade issues related to Brexit.

O'Neill will share power with deputy first minister Emma Little-Pengelly from the DUP.

This is a historic day. As a first minister for all, I am determined to lead positive change for everyone, and to work together with others to progress our society in a spirit of respect, co-operation, and equality  
MICHELLE O'NEILL | FIRST MINISTER, NORTHERN IRELAND

The two will be equals, but O'Neill, whose party captured more seats in the Northern Ireland Assembly in the 2022 elections, will hold the more prestigious title.

Former DUP leader Edwin Poots was elected as speaker of the chamber.

She will share power with a deputy first minister from the DUP. The two will be equals, but O'Neill, whose party captured more seats in the Northern Ireland Assembly in the 2022 elections, will hold the more prestigious title.

O'Neill, 47, was elected to the Stormont Assembly in 2007 and comes from a family of Irish republicans. Her party, Sinn Fein, was affiliated with the militant Irish Republican Army during the Troubles, a period of about 30 years of violent conflict over the future of Northern Ireland which ended with the Good Friday Agreement.



Participants hold a banner with the slogan "Kiel is colorful" at a demonstration against right-wing extremism in Kiel, Germany  
PTI PHOTO

# 30% OF GAZA RAZED

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Geneva, Feb 3: Satellite imagery analysed by the United Nations Satellite Centre shows that 30% of the Gaza Strip's buildings have been destroyed or damaged in the Israel offensive in the densely populated Palestinian enclave.

Israel's assault, launched in response to attacks by Hamas operatives in southern Israel October 7, has killed more than 27,000 Palestinians, according to health authorities in the Hamas-run territory.

Air strikes, shelling and demolitions have razed entire city districts, including much civilian infrastructure.

"In total, a staggering 69,147 structures, equivalent to approximately 30% of the Gaza Strip's total structures, are affected," the United Nations Satellite Centre, UNOSAT, said.



## UNLAWFUL MARRIAGE

### Pak ex-PM Khan, wife get 7 years

REUTERS

Islamabad, Feb 3: Pakistan former Prime Minister Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Khan were sentenced to seven years in prison and fined Saturday by a court that ruled their 2018 marriage violated the law, his party said.

It was the third adverse ruling against the embattled former prime minister this week and comes ahead of national elections Thursday that he is barred from contesting.

The jailed Khan, 71, has in recent days been sentenced to 10 years for leaking state secrets and 14 years along with this wife for illegally selling state gifts.

"After hours of rushed hearings at court, no cross examination of witnesses, and no due process - a mockery of the law," Khan's party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), said in a statement. "With the way these trials are being conducted, there will be a huge question mark on the February 8th elections. This is a test case for Pakistan's higher judiciary."

The two were each fined Rs 500,000 (\$1,800), ARY News reported.

Bushra was accused of not completing the waiting period mandated by Islam, called "Iddat", after divorcing her previous husband and marrying Khan.

The Khans signed their marriage contract, called a "Nikkah", in January 2018 in a secret ceremony seven months before the charismatic former cricket superstar became prime minister for the first time.

Khan has been fighting dozens of cases since he was ousted from power in a parliamentary vote of no-confidence in 2022. He is in prison in the garrison city of Rawalpindi, while his wife had been allowed to serve her sentence at their hilltop mansion in Islamabad. He already faces a 10-year disqualification from holding public office. It was not immediately clear if the sentences would run concurrently or sequentially.

# Minority Hindus in Pak feel left out of polls

LEADERS AND MEMBERS OF THE HINDU COMMUNITY RUE THE FACT THAT THEY ARE NOT GIVEN PROPER REPRESENTATION AND MANY ARE NOT EVEN REGISTERED AS VOTERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Karachi, Feb 3: Ahead of the February 8 general elections in Pakistan, members of the minority Hindu community feel they are mostly left out of the poll process despite having a notable presence, especially in the southern Sindh province.

Under Pakistan's Constitution, 10 seats are reserved for members of minority communities in the National Assembly and 24 seats in the provinces.

Ramesh Kumar Vankwani, the Patron-in-Chief of the Pakistan Hindu Council, noted that the Hindu community, especially those belonging to the lower economic sector or those living in remote villages in Sindh feel left out of the election process.

"In the national census carried out before the elections, the Hindus were not counted fully and we don't agree with the population tally finalised by the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) and with the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) where you have to register as a voter," he said.

According to the law, a citizen must be registered with the state and then must register with the ECP as a voter before they can exercise their right to



franchise. However, members of the lower caste Hindus, the largest minority community living in Sindh, claim that compared to their population, few people are registered as voters due to issues in their identification documents.

"The count of the Hindu population is not correct and because many live in remote areas and are not educated their identification documents carry discrepancies which means they are not registered as voters," said Shiva Kaachi, a local Hindu community leader from Mirpurkhas.

When the last general elections were held in 2018 approximately 105.9 million voters had exercised their right to vote and some 3.626 million voters were from minority communities.

Kaachi said in reality Hindus make up the largest minority community in Pakistan, especially in Sindh, numbering around 4.77 million but officially only 1.777 million are registered as voters.

The Christian community is second with 1.639 million voters. Ahmadis had 165,369 votes, while the Sikhs had 8,833 voters.

From 2.77 million in 2013 to 3.626 million in 2018, minority voters in Pakistan have increased by more than a million to 4.43 million in 2023 but Hindus from lower castes are still not given voting rights, another community leader, Mukesh Meghwar said.

"This means their impact and representation in the election process is not as it should

be," he added.

He did admit that because of the class and caste differences in the Hindu community, those at the lower rung feel left out.

Kaachi agrees and points out that in different areas of Sindh many times the authorities differentiate between Hindus and Dalits even when using the official box of religion in government documents.

"Because of this, Dalits and other lower caste people feel segregated from the Hindu community - a religious minority to which they ascribe," he said.

He said that Hindus in Sindh despite speaking several languages including Sindh, Saraiki, Dhatki, Gera, Gwariya, Gargula, Jandwara, Kobutra, Koli, Luwarki, Marwari, Sansi, Wagharia and Gujarati are still not getting proper representation either as voters or to contest elections.

Shahnaz Sheikh, a journalist and social worker in Sindh's Hyderabad city, says that Hindus who are rich businessmen, traders, landlords or professionally qualified are mainly picked by political parties and given tickets for elections.

Hindus account for just 2.14% of the total population in Muslim-majority Pakistan



## of the day quote

To foster innovation and investment, Ministry has signed Memorandum of Understandings with various global Indian technology and research names. These agreements aim to enhance India's standing and talent in the emerging technology domain

**RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR** | MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND IT

Tier II and III towns in the southern market remained strong in the first nine months of the year and continued to drive our disbursements growth

**LAKSHMINARAYANAN DURAISWAMY** | MD, SUNDARAM HOME FINANCE

At ONDC, we believe in embracing innovation. As Chennai Metro joins the Open Network, it is not just a milestone but rather a bold stride towards revolutionising mass transit. From multimodal integration to a seamless blend of ancillary services, ONDC is all set to redefine mobility

**T KOSHY** | MD AND CEO, ONDC

## Q3 RESULTS

### SBI profit drops

**New Delhi:** The country's largest lender SBI Saturday reported a 35 per cent fall in standalone net profit to ₹9,164 crore for the December quarter. State Bank of India (SBI) had earned a net profit of ₹14,205 crore in the year-to-date period. The bank's total income rose to ₹1,18,193 crore in the third quarter of the ongoing fiscal as against ₹98,084 crore in the same period a year ago, the bank said. During the quarter, the bank earned interest income of ₹1,06,734 crore as against ₹86,616 crore in the same period a year ago.

### UPL posts net loss

**Mumbai:** Sustainable agriculture products and solutions provider UPL Friday reported a consolidated loss of ₹1,217 crore during the December 2023 quarter. The company's net profit stood at ₹1,087 crores during the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year, the company said. Its revenue from operations declined 27.72 per cent to ₹9,887 crore in the quarter under review from ₹13,679 crore a year ago.

### Reliance Power net loss widens

**New Delhi:** Reliance Power Ltd Saturday reported widening of its consolidated net loss to ₹1,136.75 crore during the quarter ended December 2023, due to increased expenses. It had posted a net loss of ₹291.54 crore during the October-December period of preceding 2022-23 financial year, the company said. The company's total income increased marginally to ₹2,001.54 crore in the reporting quarter compared to ₹1,936.29 crore in the year-to-date quarter. The company's expenses surged to ₹3,179.08 crore in the quarter from ₹2,126.33 crore a year ago.

### Goodluck India profit jumps 72%

**New Delhi:** Steel products maker Goodluck India Ltd Saturday posted a 72 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit at ₹31.75 crore during the quarter ended December 2023, aided by higher income. It had clocked a net profit of ₹18.40 crore during the October-December period of preceding 2022-23 financial year, the company said in a statement. The company's income also rose 24 per cent to ₹78.27 crore from ₹705.95 crore year on year.



**“The PLI scheme is only meant to give you that little bit of a boost to kickstart your effort and please look at it as a kickstart, an initial support (because) ultimately competition will prevail. We will ultimately have to compete with each other and with the world”**

**PIYUSH GOYAL** | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

## NADELLA'S DECADE IN MICROSOFT

Satya Nadella marks his tenth year as Microsoft CEO Sunday, capping a decade of stunning growth as he pivoted the slow-moving software giant into a laser focus on cloud computing and artificial intelligence. Microsoft's stock has soared by more than 1,000% since Nadella took the helm in 2014. It now has a market value of \$3 trillion – more than any US Publicly traded firm, including its longtime rival Apple



# Money laundering, KYC non-compliance led to ban of PPBL

*In a major action against Paytm Payments Bank Ltd, RBI earlier this week directed the lender to stop accepting deposits or top-ups in customer accounts, wallets, FASTags and other instruments after Feb 29*

**“If there are any fresh charges of money laundering against Paytm by RBI, those will be investigated by Directorate of Enforcement as per the law of the land”**

**SANJAY MALHOTRA** | REVENUE SECRETARY



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**P**aytm Payments Bank has about 35 crore e-wallets. Of this, about 31 crore are dormant while only about 4 crore would be operative with either no balance or a small balance. An unusually high number of dormant accounts are prone to have been used as mule accounts. So, there were major irregularities in KYC, which exposed the customers, depositors and wallet holders to serious risk.

**New Delhi, Feb 3:** Money laundering concerns and questionable dealings of hundreds of crores of rupees between popular wallet Paytm and its lesser-known banking arm had led Reserve Bank of India to clamp down on tech poster boy Vijay Sekhar Sharma-run entities, sources said.

The central bank has ordered Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) to halt most of its business including taking further deposits, conducting credit transactions and carrying out top-ups on any customer accounts, prepaid instruments, wallets, and cards for paying road tolls after February 29.

This means customers can access their existing deposits and pay for services with money stored in their wallets till February 29. And in case, RBI does not relent, top-up for Paytm wallet will stop and transactions through it would no longer be carried.

In a major action against PPBL, the Reserve Bank earlier this week directed the lender to stop accepting deposits or top-ups in customer accounts, wallets, FASTags and other instruments after February 29. The PPBL, sources said, had lakhs of non-KYC (Know Your Customer) compliant accounts and in thousands of cases single PANs were used for opening multiple accounts. There were instances where

the total value of transactions running into crores of rupees, much beyond regulatory limits in minimum KYC pre-paid instruments raising money laundering concerns, sources said.

Sources said the RBI in 2021 detected serious KYC Anti Money Laundering violations and the bank was directed to address these deficiencies. However, they continued to persist.

The compliances submitted by the bank were found to be incomplete and false on many occasions, sources said.

Accordingly, in March 2022, RBI imposed supervisory restriction on PPBL to stop onboarding new customers with immediate effect and to appoint an external audit firm to conduct a comprehensive system audit.

There are several cases where the accounts and wallets have been frozen by various law enforcement agencies across the country as such accounts were used for committing digital frauds.

## Paytm tanks 20%; trading limit cut

**F**ollowing the RBI's direction, shares of One97 Communications Ltd, which owns Paytm brand, slumped 40 per cent in the last two days. The stock tanked 20 per cent to ₹487.05, its lowest trading permissible limit for the day, on the BSE Friday. In two days, the company's market capitalisation (mcap) eroded by ₹17,378.41 crore to ₹30,931.59 crore. Stock exchanges have also cut the daily share trading limits for Paytm to 10%, from 20%, after a \$2 billion rout in the stock following a regulatory crackdown on the company's banking unit. The new 10% limits will be applicable from Monday, the Bombay Stock Exchange and the National Stock Exchange said on their websites.

# ‘India can survive Red Sea crisis’

*■ Due to the rerouting of a voyage through the Cape of Good Hope instead of going through the Suez Canal and the Red Sea, shipments from India to the US will take an additional 10-14 days, while shipments from Europe/the Mediterranean will take 20-25 days*



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Feb 3:** The Red Sea crisis, which has forced shipping vessels to take a longer detour to avoid being hit by missiles, will not cause any inflationary impact or drastic shortage of goods in India, head of a US-India body said, emphasising that the Asia's third-largest economy can survive the crisis.

Shipping vessels are avoiding the Red Sea route for transit between US/Europe and Asia after Yemen-based Houthi militants targeted them in solidarity with the Palestinian state. Ships are now rerouting around the south-

ern tip of Africa, increasing the voyage time. This has impacted the availability of ships and increased freight and insurance costs.

US India Strategic Partnership (USISP) Forum, however, said the Red Sea crisis is not going to have any major impact.

“India can survive that,” USISP president and CEO Mukesh Aghi said in an interview with PTI. “The Red Sea moves around 15 per cent of the global trade, and when one is not using the Red Sea route, time doubles, and capital and containers are stuck for another 3 weeks. India's exports of rice to Europe and India's

import of energy are being impacted,” he said.

“The crisis does have an inflationary impact on the economy, but it is not something that is going to cause high inflation, or a drastic shortage of goods, and India can survive through it,” Aghi said.

On whether Biden's recent ban on LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) exports will impact India, Aghi said that India has options to buy energy from the Middle East, Russia, and Latin America. In the mid to long term, since both India and the US are strategically aligned, it makes sense for the US to ensure that India has

**“The crisis does have an inflationary impact on the economy, but it is not something that is going to cause high inflation, or a drastic shortage of goods, and India can survive through it”**

**MUKESH AGHI** | PRESIDENT & CEO, USISP

energy security, he said.

**CAPITAL COST ISSUE**  
Talking on issues that seek immediate attention by the government, he said, “I understand that our capital cost is high because we need to control inflation, but if Indian companies are going to compete on a global basis, they have to compete not only on quality but also on cost. The cost of capital is one of the biggest cost factors”.

“The cost of logistics for Indian goods is roughly around 12 per cent of the GDP, which is very high, we need to unplug the logistics processes, from trains to customs,” he added.

Aghi also suggested the government to focus on making the labour class more productive and competent, by increasing capital spending on technology and equipment.

## FOURTH TIME IN A ROW

# Reliance wins IFR Asia's ‘Issuer of the Year’ award

**RELIANCE IS NOW THE ONLY ENTITY IN ASIA TO HAVE WON THIS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD FOUR TIMES -- 2006, 2015, 2018, AND 2023**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



**Financing deals in 2023 that enabled Reliance win the award were raising of \$7.5bn in syndicated loans**

**New Delhi, Feb 3:** Reliance Industries Ltd has been conferred on IFR Asia's ‘Issuer of the Year’ Award for 2023 for achieving most optimal pricing for super-sized funding deals while overcoming multiple market challenges.

International Financing Review (IFR) is the pre-eminent financial publication globally for fixed income, capital markets, and investment banking news, analysis and commentary.

In a two-page commentary on Reliance that was titled ‘Blockbuster Producer’, IFR said “the Indian blue chip firm balanced onshore and offshore funding to achieve optimal pricing results from super-sized deals”. In a tumultuous year for debt markets, it found increased demand from lenders as it reshaped its business to seize future opportunities.

The financing deals in 2023 that enabled Reliance win the award were raising of \$7.5 billion in syndicated loans -- this was the largest amount raised by any corporate in Asia Pacific and the syndication was achieved with largest-ever group of 55 banks.

This also happened to be the most-widely syndicated Indian deal ever.

Reliance Jio Infocomm raised its first-ever syndicated loan on the strength of its standalone financials without a guarantee from parent Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL).

And even then, the pricing differential between RIL and Jio on the syndicated loans was only 10 bps, indicating the coming of

age for Jio in the international financial markets.

\$5 billion was raised from some of the world's largest export credit agencies (ECAs), including from Sweden, Finland, Canada, and Korea.

RIL's ₹20,000 crore 10-year rupee bond issue was the largest ever by a non-financial corporate and was significantly oversubscribed.

It achieved RIL's lowest coupon, and the tightest spread for a rupee bond -- just 40 bp over the Indian government 10-year security, and better than many state government bonds.

In June, RIL signed a \$2.45 billion refinancing comprising a \$2.105 billion 4.25-year tranche and a Yen 49.682 billion (\$351 million) 5.25-year tranche.

As well as finding demand from a diverse group of 34 lenders, Reliance also managed to reduce its all-in cost.

The IFR Asia article explains the challenging scenario for corporate fundraising in 2023 that Reliance navigated successfully.

Additionally, India raised the withholding tax on external commercial borrowings from 5 per cent to 20 per cent in July 2023, effectively raising the cost of borrowing for corporates.

# Windfall tax on crude oil hiked

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Feb 3:** The government has hiked windfall tax on domestically produced crude oil to ₹3,200 per tonne from ₹1,700 per tonne with effect from Saturday.

The tax is levied in the form of Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED).

According to an official notification, SAED on export of diesel, petrol, and jet fuel or ATF, has been retained at nil.

The new rates are effective from February 3.

India first imposed windfall profit taxes July 1, 2022, joining a host of nations that tax super-normal profits of energy companies.

## ₹18K-cr fake ITC cases detected in April-Dec

**NEW DELHI:** GST intelligence officers have detected fake Input Tax Credit (ITC) cases worth Rs 18,000 crore from April to December in the current fiscal and arrested 98 people, the finance ministry said Saturday. In the current financial year, the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) has laid special emphasis to identify and apprehend the masterminds of fake Input Tax Credit (ITC) and disrupting syndicates, operating across the country. In the current financial year (up to December 2023), 1,700 fake ITC cases involving Rs 18,000 crore have been detected and 98 fraudsters/masterminds have been apprehended, a statement said.

# EVs, RE, semiconductors: Triple engine to India's power shift

**THE ₹1L-CR CORPUS, TO PROVIDE LONG-TERM, INTEREST-FREE FINANCING FOR THE TECH-SAVVY YOUTH IS A POSITIVE MEASURE AS ACCESS TO CAPITAL IS A CRITICAL FACTOR TO SUPPORT INNOVATION AND GROWTH IN SUNRISE INDUSTRIES**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Feb 3:** As India aspires to become a \$5 trillion economy by 2025, sunrise sectors like Electric Vehicles (EVs), renewable energy (RE), semiconductors, electronics manufacturing and more – which have the potential to transform the country's economic landscape – have been given a renewed focus by the government.

Presenting the Interim Budget in the Lok Sabha last week, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that this corpus will provide “long-term low or nil interest rates so that the youth can innovate at scale.”

“For our tech-savvy youth, this will be a golden era. A corpus of ₹1 lakh crore will be established with a 50-year interest-free loan. The corpus will provide long-term financing or refinancing with long tenors and low or nil interest rates,” said the Finance Minister.

This will encourage the private sector to scale up research and innovation significantly in sunrise domains. “We need to have programmes that combine the

powers of our youth and technology,” she said.

Lieutenant-General Dr SP Kochhar, Director General, Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), said that the long-term, interest-free or low interest rate loans and focus on deep technology will “further encourage the private sector to scale up research and innovation.”

Ankur Bansal, Co-Founder and Director, BlackSoil Capital, said the move will encourage entrepreneurship.

“In addition, such initiatives will attract investment from the private sector and foreign investors, driving growth and propelling India towards self-reliance,” said Bansal.

The Finance Minister said that a new scheme will be launched to strengthen the deep-tech sector for Defence purposes. Peeyush Vaish, Partner and TMT Industry Leader, Deloitte India, said that the large interest-free outlay will further boost our tech start-up ecosystem in emerging areas around 5G, generative AI, agritech and healthtech.

“The ₹1 lakh crore corpus that will be made available with 50-



year interest-free (long-term financing or refinancing) to encourage the private sector to scale up R&D in Sunrise domain is a welcome move for the sector. This will push India to the forefront of innovation and skill enhancement,” said Vaish.

Such initiatives will attract investment from the private sector and foreign investors, driving growth and propelling India towards self-reliance

of being a \$5 trillion economy. The government will also expand and strengthen the EV ecosystem by supporting manufacturing and charging infrastructure.

and biofoundry is a welcome step towards promoting sustainable and green manufacturing practices.

“It augurs well for both large and MSME units and should enable fast adoption of green manufacturing practices in the manufacturing process,” he said.

India is making progress in building its EV charging infrastructure in order to phase out diesel vehicles in a stipulated time-frame but there is still a long way to go.

Currently, the ratio of EVs to charging stations is nearly 9:1, while the ideal ratio should be 4:1, meaning four cars per one charging point. India is likely to have 10,000 public charging stations by the end of 2025.

Additionally, government initiatives like the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles (FAME) scheme further incentivise EV adoption.

Another sunrise sector is clean energy, which promises a golden opportunity for companies to develop cutting-edge solutions to innovate further solar panels, wind turbines, and energy stor-

age systems.

The industry hailed the government's latest push towards “green growth” with a new scheme of bio-manufacturing and bio-foundry that will foster sustainable mobility.

The Government said that such steps will provide environment-friendly alternatives such as biodegradable polymers, bio-plastics, bio-pharmaceuticals and bio-agri-inputs.

“This scheme will also help in transforming today's consumptive manufacturing paradigm to the one based on regenerative principles,” said Sitharaman.

According to Neeraj Bansal the emphasis on green energy, announcement of rooftop solarisation and the fostering of the EV ecosystem underline the government's priority on sustainability.

In order to achieve the target of net zero carbon emissions by 2070, there has been an emphasis on a green economy with focus on expansion of solar energy, bio fuels and charging infrastructure which will raise the need for green skills.



Pacer's six-wicket haul was complemented by Kuldeep's tweaks as India secure 143-run first innings lead in 2nd Test after Jaiswal's maiden double ton takes the hosts to 396

# BUMRAH SHOW sinks England



rating with the odd ball keeping low or bouncing extra.

On either side of the afternoon and evening session, watching Bumrah go about his business was a sight to behold. Everytime there was a partnership developing, Rohit Sharma turned to Bumrah and he did

cial, a fast reversing yorker to which the England No.3 had no answer to. It was a 'banana indipper' that tailed from the fifth stump at a fair clip and England's first Test hero failed to bring his bat down in time.

Bumrah accounted for Bairstow, Stokes, Tom Hartley



Ollie Pope's stumps were rattled off a Jasprit Bumrah yorker

not disappoint his skipper. He removing Root and Pope in a searing spell gave India much needed momentum after Crawley attacked the home team spinners to ensure England reached 155/4 at tea.

Bumrah put Root in his two minds by mixing the in and away swinger, leading to his downfall. Root was protecting his pads expecting an inswinger but Bumrah got the ball to move away from the fourth stump, inducing an outside edge.

The lead India pacer's ball to dismiss Pope was even more spe-

cial, a fast reversing yorker to which the England No.3 had no answer to. It was a 'banana indipper' that tailed from the fifth stump at a fair clip and England's first Test hero failed to bring his bat down in time.

Bumrah accounted for Bairstow, Stokes, Tom Hartley and James Anderson in the final session. His ball to Bairstow was similar to Root's and outcome was another catch to Shubman Gill at first slip.

Hartley (21) and Stokes frustrated the Indians with a 47-run stand for the eighth wicket until Bumrah breached the England skipper's defense. For the second game in a row, Stokes was left shell-shocked by Bumrah's magic.

Kuldeep too played his part well and had Ben Duckett (21) caught at silly point shortly after the lunch break. In the initial part of

the second session, Crawley displayed brute force to put pressure on the opposition, but the opener mistimed one aerial shot to be caught by Shreyas Iyer, who took a brilliant catch running backwards from backward point.

In the morning, India added 60 runs to their total before getting all out with little over 30 minutes left for lunch. As was the case on day one, India had to rely on Jaiswal to get the majority of the runs. No other Indian batter even crossed 40.

The celebrations were euphoric for a dedicated cricketer

who slept in tents at Azad Maidan in Mumbai in his growing up days, having come to the metropolis from a nondescript village in Uttar Pradesh.

Besides Jaiswal, the star of the session was 41-year-old James Anderson (3/47) who produced another masterclass in seam bowling on a flat surface.

## BRIEF SCORES

India 396 (Yashasvi Jaiswal 209; James Anderson 3/47) & 28/0; England 253 (Zak Crawley 76, Ben Stokes 47; Jasprit Bumrah 6/45, Kuldeep Yadav 3/71). Match to continue.



## Eves go down to China in Hockey Pro League

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Feb 3: Indian women's hockey team's jinx against China continued with the home team going down 1-2 in their Hockey Pro League match here Saturday.

Vandana Katariya (15th minute) scored the opening goal of the match but Wen Dan (40 min) and Bingfeng Gu (52nd min) completed a comeback win for China.

The Chinese had thrashed India 5-1 in the opening game of the Hangzhou Asian Games last year and again beat them in the semifinals of the continental showpiece event 4-0.

India tried to dictate the tempo in the initial phase with quick passes but failed to create any significant goal threats. China got the first opportunity to score in the opening quarter following a miscued clearance from India goalkeeper Savita, but the visitors failed to capitalise.

China's Hua Liu was presented with an opportunity towards the end of the first quarter but her reverse shot flew wide of the post. As the game progressed, Vandana dove to deflect Lalremisiami's cross from the right wing to give the hosts the lead in the final minute of the first quarter.

China earned a penalty corner

early in the second quarter but Bichu Devi Kharibam and Ishika Chaudhary were alert and defused the threat to their goal. China began to dictate terms as the second quarter progressed but India rebuffed the visitors' advances and attempted to hurt them on the occasional counterattack.

However, both teams failed to create any significant openings and the first half ended in India's favour. Sangita Kumari initiated a dangerous run across the baseline but she couldn't find a teammate in the shooting circle and the chance went begging.

With five minutes to go in the third quarter, China's Jiaqi Zhong dodged past a couple of Indian defenders and passed the ball to Wen Dan who dinked it over Savita to bring China back on level terms.

China shifted up a gear in the last quarter, pegging India back into their defensive half and eventually earning a penalty corner. After four re-awards, Bingfeng Gu pounced on a rebound and slapped the ball into the goal to give China the lead in the match.

India tried to restore parity but were unable to make inroads. As the game drew to a close China were awarded a series of penalty corners but Savita stood firm in the goal and the match ended 2-1 in China's favour.

## RAMKUMAR, BALAJI DELIVER IN HIGH-PRESSURE DAVIS CUP CONTEST Advantage India against Pak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Feb 3: India blunted Pakistan's challenge on the opening day to take a 2-0 lead in the Davis Cup World Group I play-off tie with Ramkumar Ramanathan and N Sriram Balaji rising to the occasion in the high-pressure contest, here Saturday.

A fired-up Aisam-ul-haq Qureshi gave his all in a tight opening singles but the intensity of the match and tough conditions took a toll on him as he suffered a hamstring injury in the third set, which prevented a close finish to a hard-fought contest.

Ramkumar served extremely well in the match and also returned better in the second set to prevail 6-7(3-7), 7-6(7-4), 6-0 while 43-year-old Aisam served 10 double faults in the match.

Ramkumar's strong serving and percentage tennis was key to the outcome of the match. He served nine games at love, keeping the points short and crisp.

Down by a set, Ramkumar wriggled out of a tough situation when he was down 15-40 in game eight of the second set and never looked back in the match in which he fired 20 aces.

Balaji, a doubles specialist, was challenged by Aqeel Khan, but the Indian defeated the veteran Pakistani player 7-5, 6-3 in the rain-hit second singles. Balaji had a grip over the match. He broke Aqeel once in both the sets. His movement, strong serve, use of drop shots all came together for a comfortable win in the end.

India are now a win away from advancing to the World Group I. Yuki Bhambri and Saketh Myneni will now look to seal the tie Sunday when they take on Muzammil Murtaza and Barkat Ullah in the third match Sunday.

The freezing cold made the conditions challenging for the players. Ramkumar quickly overcame the initial jitters to serve out the opening game at love



Ramkumar Ramanathan plays a shot during his match against Aisam-ul-haq Qureshi in Islamabad, Saturday

with an ace. Points were long when Aisam served but when the home favourite hit a backhand service return winner on Ramkumar's serve in the third game, it was clear that the match was on.

Ramkumar, though, served extremely well. He had fired five aces in his first three service games, closing the fifth for a hold with his third ace of the game. Aisam charged the net often and also used drop shots very effectively.

The Pakistani had served three double faults but he came back strongly in following points to stay unhurt. Ramkumar served five games at love in the opening set which was eventually settled in tie-breaker, in which Aisam raced to a 3-0 lead with a break of serve on the first point when Ramkumar hit a forehand wide.

Asiam held his serves on the following points. A forehand lob from Ramkumar that went long

gave Aisam his first set-point and he converted that with an ace and let out a roar.

Ramkumar got the kind of start he needed in the second set. He reeled off eight straight points to go a break up as Aisam dropped serve at love. The Indian, though, squandered the opportunity to further build pressure by dropping his serve in game four. Egged on by his family and home fans, Asiam held a 3-2 lead.

In a repeat of the first set, it all boiled down to tie-breaker and this time it was the Indian who got the break on the first point by hitting a service return winner. In no time, Ramkumar zoomed to a 4-0 lead and soon had five set points. Aisam saved the first four but Ramkumar nailed it on the fifth with an ace.

Ramkumar drew the first blood in the third set. Aisam was struggling and took a medical time out to treat his groin and hamstring. Ramkumar just ran away with the match after that.

## Ganguly questions need of turning tracks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Visakhapatnam, Feb 3: Jasprit Bumrah's pulsating afternoon spell on the second day of the second Test against England here left former skipper Sourav Ganguly wondering as to why India prepares turning tracks for home engagements when the side has the bowling attack to snare 20 wickets on any surface.

Bumrah homed in on Ollie Pope's stumps with a laser-guided yorker to dismiss the England batter, earning it a separate fan base altogether. It wasn't entirely surprising then to see Ganguly, a lifelong supporter of pace bowling and sporting tracks, airing his views in favour of decks that keep bowlers of all genres in the game, rather than just spinners.

"When I see Bumrah, Shami,



Siraj, Mukesh bowl, I wonder why do we need to prepare turning tracks in India...my conviction of playing on good wickets keeps getting stronger every game. They will get 20 wickets on any surface with Ashwin,



Jadeja, Kuldeep and Axar (for support)," Ganguly wrote on his X (formerly Twitter) account.

The former BCCI chief had also expressed a similar view during India's home series against Australia early last year,

particularly after the Indore pitch earned "poor" rating from the ICC.

"Great to see Ashwin bowl so well on a good pitch... class will always show... Hopefully, this will be a good Test match... a good opportunity for Indian batsmen after some tuff wickets to bat on, in this series," Ganguly had tweeted during the Ahmedabad Test after senior spinner Ravichandran Ashwin bagged six wickets.

Here too, Ganguly hinted that the overall batting quality in the last few years because of preparing pitches with quick results in mind. "Batting quality dropping because of pitches in last 6 to 7 years at home...good wickets are a must...India will still win over 5 days," said Ganguly.

## Odisha take control against Puducherry

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Feb 3: Bowlers put Odisha in a strong position in their Ranji Trophy Elite Group D encounter against Puducherry at the Barabati Stadium here, Saturday. Puducherry were 127/4 at stumps on Day 2, still 195 runs behind Odisha's first innings total of 322.

Rajesh Mohanty (2/35) and Debabrata Pradhan (1/16) reduced the visitors to 8/3 in 6.1 overs. Skipper Arun Karthik (77 batting) and Jay Pande (10) steadied the ship but a miscommunication led to Pande's run out as Puducherry were reduced to 56/4. Later, Karthik found an able ally in Fabid Ahmed (31 batting) as the duo ensured no further hiccups on the day adding 71 runs for the unbroken fifth wicket.

Earlier, overnight batter Biplab Samantray (82) and Aasirwad Swain (40) stitched 71 runs for the sixth wicket before Odisha lost their last five wickets for just 21 runs to be bowled out for 322. Gaurav Yadav (5/69) and Saurabh Yadav (4/81) shared nine wickets between them.

## Branthwaite's late header rescues a point for Everton



REUTERS

Liverpool, Feb 3: Jarrad Branthwaite scored a 94th minute equaliser as relegation-threatened Everton rescued a point against Tottenham Hotspur with a 2-2 home draw Saturday to move out of the bottom three in the Premier League table.

Richardson, once the darling of Goodison Park, scored a brace of goals in the first half and looked to have won the game for the visitors, but Branthwaite headed in at the back post after



Everton had troubled Spurs all game with their set-pieces.

Jack Harrison also scored for Everton and after Spurs failed to kill the game in the second half, the battling Merseyside club always had hope they could take something from the match.

Spurs are in fourth in the table on 44 points from 23 games, missing the chance to move level on points with second-placed Manchester City though they have played two games more. Everton provisionally moved up to 17th with 19 points from their 23 games.

## Ashmita loses in Thailand Masters semis to Supanida

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangkok, Feb 3: Talented Indian shuttler Ashmita Chaliha's impressive run came to an end, losing in straight games to local player Supanida Katethong in the women's singles semifinals at the Thailand Masters Super 300 tournament here Saturday.

The 24-year-old from Guwahati suffered a 13-21, 12-21 loss to World No.17 Supanida in a 35-minute clash.

The battle between the two left-handed shuttlers turned out to be a lopsided affair as Supanida moved to a comfortable 8-3 lead and kept charging ahead to take the opening game.

The second game was a similar story as Ashmita could manage 6-7 before falling apart as Supanida reeled off nine of the next 10 points to take the match beyond the Indian's reach.