



Bhumi's forte

Actor Bhumi Pednekar says she feels secure and liberated in front of the camera

LEISURE | P2



Major shake-up likely

Ukrainian Prez Volodymyr Zelenskyy says he is thinking about dismissing the country's top military officer as part of a broader leadership shake-up

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Bumper profit

State-owned oil marketing companies report profit totalling over ₹69,000 crore in first nine months of current fiscal

BUSINESS | P11



Colts face South Africa

India appear firm favourites in the ICC U-19 World Cup semifinals against South Africa today

SPORTS | P12

SHORT TAKES

King Charles III has cancer: Palace officials

London: King Charles III, 75, has been diagnosed with cancer, Buckingham Palace announced Monday here. "During the King's recent hospital procedure for benign prostate enlargement, a separate issue of concern was noted," the palace said in an emailed statement to the media. "Subsequent diagnostic tests have identified a form of cancer. His Majesty has today commenced a schedule of regular treatments, during which time he has been advised by doctors to postpone public-facing duties," the statement added. Buckingham Palace did not specify what form of cancer was diagnosed or at what stage it was found. The news comes a week after both Kate and King Charles were discharged from a private London clinic after medical procedures.

Champai passes floor test easily

Ranchi: Jharkhand's JMM-led coalition government headed by Chief Minister Champai Soren won the vote of confidence in the Assembly Monday. While 47 MLAs, including Hemant Soren voted in favour of the confidence motion, 29 legislators opposed it in the 81-member Assembly. Seventy-seven MLAs were present in the Assembly during the voting. The ruling alliance comprises the JMM, Congress and the RJD while it is supported from outside by the lone CPIM(L) legislator.

India restore parity with 106-run win

Visakhapatnam: India dismissed England for 292 runs in their second innings on day four to register a series-levelling 106-run win in the second Test here Monday. Ravichandran Ashwin and man of the match Jasprit Bumrah took three wickets each to hasten England's downfall. Earlier England resumed at their overnight score of 67 for one, reached 194 for six at lunch. By that time, the match was more or less in India's command with the top-order of England back in the hut. After lunch, England skipper Ben Stokes (11) was run out while Bumrah dismissed Ben Foakes (36) and Tom Hartley (36).

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



When I noticed it was only on TV and in newspapers but not on WhatsApp, I knew it was fake news



ENCOURAGING CREATIVE MINDS: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and 5T and Nabin Odisha Chairman Kartik Pandian pose with students who won awards in various competitions held during the First World Odia Language Conference at the Janata Maidan, Monday (More P3)

SIM card helps cops solve murder mystery

Prime accused suspected that her boyfriend was having an affair with another girl

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sonepur, Feb 5: Police arrested Monday three persons including a woman and her two accomplices for allegedly murdering the former's lover a few days back in Subarnapur district. The accused woman was identified as Kajal Mohapatra alias Jhili of Deogarh district while her two accomplices are Rita Nayak and Rajiv Kumar of Birmaharajpur area. The three accused were produced in court Monday which remanded them to judicial custody after their bail pleas were rejected. Subarnapur SP Yashpratap Shrimal said. He added that the accused were identified after examining the call records and SIM card of deceased Damburu Adhikari's phone.

The SP said that Kajal, the prime accused, was in a relationship with Damburu of Saleipadar village for the last five years. However, she recently found out that Damburu was cheating on her with another girl residing in Rourkela. To take revenge, she hatched a conspiracy with Rita and Rajiv to murder Damburu. Kajal also paid ₹40,000 to Rita and Rajiv to commit the crime. As per plan, Rita and Rajiv invited Damburu for a get-together and had hatched him to death, January 26. After police found Damburu's body, they started probing the matter. They identified Rita and Rajiv as prime suspects and called them for interrogation and they confessed about the involvement of Kajal.

Won't allow murder of democracy: CJI

Videos clearly show that the presiding officer was involved in smudging of ballot papers after the polls conducted January 30

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Feb 5: Appalled by the alleged 'defacing' of ballot papers in the Chandigarh mayoral polls, the Supreme Court said Monday this 'is a mockery of democracy' and ordered that the ballots and the video of the electoral proceedings be preserved. Taking note of a plea of an Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) councillor alleging wrongdoing in the polls, the apex court issued notices to the Chandigarh authorities, including civic body officials.

A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra expressed annoyance after watching the video of the electoral proceedings and said that, prima facie, the returning officer was 'defacing' the ballot papers. "This is a mockery of democracy. We are appalled by what has happened. We will not allow murder of democracy," the CJI stated during hearing.

One of the AAP councillors had moved the top court challenging a Punjab and Haryana High Court order that refused to grant any interim relief to the party seeking fresh mayoral



■ AAP has alleged 8 votes were declared invalid which helped BJP candidate to win

■ Court asks Registrar General to preserve records and videos of mayoral polls

polls in Chandigarh. The BJP swept the Chandigarh mayoral polls January 30 against the Congress-AAP alliance. Manoj Sonkar of the BJP had defeated AAP's Kuldeep Kumar for the mayor's post, polling 16 votes against his rival's 12. Eight votes were declared invalid.

The bench after ordering the Registrar General to secure all the records by 5.00pm Monday said it will hear the case again

February 12. AAP has alleged that the returning officer, Anil Masih, was caught on camera smudging the ballot papers.

Arvind Kejriwal's AAP - which lost the Mayoral election held last month to the BJP - has accused the presiding officer of rigging the election and demanded that he be arrested for 'tampering' with ballot papers.

AAP MP Raghav Chadha claimed that all eight votes declared 'invalid' by returning officer Masih had been for the alliance candidate. Had those votes counted, the AAP would have won, Chadha said. The Congress alleged that the BJP workers tore up the ballot papers and their agent was not allowed to see them.

Bill tabled to check exam malpractices

At present there is no specific substantive law to deal with unfair means adopted during public examinations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 5: The Centre introduced Monday a bill in the Lok Sabha to check malpractices in government recruitment exams such as paper leaks and fake websites, with strict penalties including a minimum jail term of three years and a fine up to ₹1 crore. At present, there is no specific substantive law to deal with unfair means adopted or offences committed by various entities involved in the conduct of public examinations by the central government and its agencies.

The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024, introduced by Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh, mentions 'leakage of question paper or answer key', 'directly or indirectly assisting the candidate in any manner unauthorisedly in the public examination' and 'tampering with the computer network or a computer resource or a computer system' as offences done by a person, group of persons or institutions.

Besides these, 'creation of fake website to cheat or for monetary gain', 'conduct of fake examination, issuance of fake admit cards or offer letters to

Tests bill will cover

- Union Public Service Commission (for civil service entrance exams)
- Staff Selection Commission (for posts in Union Ministries and subordinate offices)
- Railway Recruitment Boards (for certain kinds of jobs in the Indian Railways)
- Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (for all public sector banks, except State Bank of India)
- National Testing Agency (for entrance exams for admission to higher educational institutions)

cheat or for monetary gain' and 'manipulation in seating arrangements, allocation of dates and shifts for the candidates to facilitate adopting unfair means in examinations' are also among the offences punishable under the proposed law.

"Any person or persons resorting to unfair means and offences under this Act shall be punished with imprisonment for a term not less than three years but which may extend to five years and with fine up to 10 lakh rupees," the bill states.

A service provider, engaged by the public examination authority for conduct of examinations, shall also be liable to be punished with imposition of a fine up to ₹1 crore 'and proportionate cost of examination shall also be recovered' from it, according to the bill's provisions.

Indian show of 'Shakti' at Grammys

FIVE INDIANS BAG AWARDS IN DIFFERENT CATEGORIES WITH PERCUSSIONIST ZAKIR HUSSAIN TOPPING THE LIST WITH THREE

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Feb 5: India shone at the 2024 'Grammy Awards' with five Indian musicians, including tabla maestro Zakir Hussain and flautist Rakesh Chaurasia, picking up the coveted prize at a glittering ceremony in Los Angeles held Sunday evening.

While Hussain was India's big winner with three Grammys, Rakesh picked up two. Singer Shankar Mahadevan, violinist Ganesh Rajagopalan and percussionist Selvaganesh Vinayakram, Hussain's collaborators in the fusion group 'Shakti', won one Grammy each at the event held at the Crypto.com Arena.

'Shakti' won the 2024 Grammy Award for best global music album *This Moment*. The album

features the four Indians as well as its founding member, the legendary British guitarist John McLaughlin. *This Moment*, which released to critical acclaim in June 2023, is the group's first studio album in more than 45 years.

Hussain also won two other awards - the best global music performance for *Pashoto* and best contemporary instrumental album for *As We Speak*.

Rakesh, nephew of legendary flautist Hariprasad Chaurasia, won two Grammys as part of the ensemble of American banjo player Bela Fleck and American bassist Edgar Meyer for *Pashoto* and *As We Speak*.

"Without love and music we are nothing," Hussain said in his award acceptance speech for *Pashoto*. "Thanks to the Academy, thanks to all these great musicians for giving us this beauti-



ful (live) music today. Families are here and without them, we are nothing. Without love, music, harmony, we are nothing," the veteran percussionist said.

This is not the first win for Hussain at the awards organised by the US-based 'Recording Academy'. He earlier won Grammys, across categories and in solo capacity as well as

in collaborations, in 1991, 1996 and 2008.

Mahadevan, who took the stage alongside Rajagopalan and Selvaganesh, gave a shout-out to McLaughlin and Hussain. "We miss you John ji. Zakir Hussain, he just had another Grammy today (Sunday). God, family, friends and India. We are proud of you, India," Mahadevan said.

Governor praise for Odisha govt

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 5: Odisha Governor Raghuraj Das said Monday that the state has performed phenomenally well in several sectors as stability has provided an unrestrained space for growth and development. Addressing the Odisha Assembly on the opening day of its Budget session, the governor also congratulated the state government for organising the first-ever World Odia Language Conference in the state capital.

"It will play a significant role in further enriching the state language Odia which is spoken by over 84 per cent of Odisha's population," Das said.

However, Congress raised objections over the Governor's address and staged a walkout. It alleged that the state government is putting words in the mouth of the governor.

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	71731.42 ↓ 354.21
NIFTY	21771.70 ↓ 82.10
DOLLAR	83.11 ↑ ₹0.13
EURO	89.49 ↓ ₹0.88
GOLD	₹62,156 ↓ ₹406
SILVER	₹70,450 ↓ ₹758

WEATHER	
BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	32.9°C / 32.2°C
Min Temp	19.7°C / 19.2°C
Humidity	86% / 94%
Rainfall	Nil / Nil
FORECAST	
DRY WEATHER VERY LIKELY	

leisure



MATT SMITH IN NO RUSH TO MARRY

Actor Matt Smith has admitted he's in no rush to settle down and he's constantly fending off questions about his love life from his mum. *The House of the Dragon* star - who previously dated Cinderella actress Lily James - tries to keep his love life out of the spotlight.

POST-MOTHERHOOD HILTON SHUNS HER PARTY LIFESTYLE

Hotel heiress Paris Hilton has admitted she hates going out since becoming a mum to two children - admitting she's given up her party lifestyle and now prefers to stay at home with her family.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Your big ambitions may come to fruition today by the evening. Ganesh says that you will do your best not to make impulsive choices; whatever the expected results may be, you will take sensible decisions.

TAURUS
Ganesh sees you devoting the day in taking care of your personal affairs and relationships. You are likely to review the state of affairs, and identify problems and persons who need more time and attention. This naturally implies that you will be spending a lot of time with your friends and family members, sorting differences and misunderstanding, if any. Going out for dinner with your loved ones could be a great way to end the day.

GEMINI
Your heightened sensitivity could be the cause of many a problem today. You need to curb your emotions and keep your feelings in check. You will pay attention to your family and spend more time with them. An auspicious and progressive day awaits you, so make the most of it, says Ganesh.

CANCER
You will feel self-satisfaction. Your simplicity will impress people. You may visit a religious spot to set up rapport with God. A beautiful and inspiring day, says Ganesh.

LEO
You will not shy away from hard work to attain success in personal and professional endeavours. Your attitude will come in for praise from your superiors and you will be rewarded as well. Your responsibilities in the office will increase, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
Today you will serve to be an example of sincerity and punctuality. However, Ganesh warns that the operative word should be: Caution. Ganesh advises you to pay heed to even the smallest of details and read between the lines when it boils down to contracts. Precaution is better than regretting later.

LIBRA
Ganesh says that you will be able to meet with people sharing the same ideas and views as you do and this will enhance your knowledge too. You will have to shoulder new responsibilities. Those of you who are in the field of business may gain good benefits today. Ganesh says that you should take care of your health, which may deteriorate due to excessive work load at the office.

SCORPIO
It's time to live your dreams. You may just land up in your dream house or drive in a plush car, you once dreamt of. Evening time is spared for family and loved ones, says Ganesh. You may even go shopping to buy object de art for your new cosy corner.

SAGITTARIUS
Activities like aerobics and gymnastics are likely to take your energy level higher. You may experience a transition period during the noon. Ganesh foresees an average day at work for you. Try to balance your family and work, without neglecting any one of it.

CAPRICORN
It is your day today! You'll feel like everything is coming your way, without you making any effort whatsoever. Though sub-consciously, you will want to showcase your talents and achievements to impress people around. And, you will succeed at that, says Ganesh.

AQUARIUS
Today, you will pay attention to the smallest and the simplest things of life. You will learn to appreciate the beauty of life and imperfections of people, while showering your love upon your near and dear ones, says Ganesh. People around you will surely be pleased with your amicable approach.

PISCES
Today is a day filled with entertainment and leisure. However, you could be prone to savage mood swings today without any reason. Hence those around you will need to be on their toes. You might end up neglecting your work in your pursuit of pleasure, says Ganesh.

MAJOR HONOURS

- ALBUM OF THE YEAR** *Midnights* (Taylor Swift)
- RECORD OF THE YEAR** *Flowers* (Miley Cyrus)
- BEST NEW ARTIST** Victoria Monét
- SONG OF THE YEAR** *What Was I Made For?* (Billie Eilish and Finneas)
- BEST POP VOCAL ALBUM** *Midnights* (Taylor Swift)
- BEST POP SOLO PERFORMANCE** *Flowers* (Miley Cyrus)
- BEST COUNTRY ALBUM** *Bell Bottom Country* (Lainey Wilson)
- BEST R&B SONG** *Snooze* (SZA)
- BEST MUSIC FILM** *Moonage Daydream*
- BEST ALTERNATIVE MUSIC ALBUM** *The Record* (Boygenius)
- SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR, NON-CLASSICAL** Theron Thomas
- PRODUCER OF THE YEAR, NON-CLASSICAL** Jack Antonoff
- BEST R&B ALBUM** *Jaguar II* (Victoria Monét)
- BEST PROGRESSIVE R&B ALBUM** *SOS* (SZA)
- BEST REGGAE ALBUM** *Colors of Royal* (Julian Marley and Antaeus)
- BEST RAP ALBUM** *Michael* (Killer Mike)
- BEST RAP SONG** *Scientists & Engineers*, Killer Mike ft. André 3000, Future and Eryn Allen Kane
- BEST COUNTRY SONG** *White Horse* (Chris Stapleton)

- BEST FOLK ALBUM** *Joni Mitchell at Newport* (Live) (Joni Mitchell)
- BEST POP DANCE RECORDING** *Padam Padam* (Kylie Minogue)
- BEST ROCK ALBUM** *This Is Why* (Paramore)
- BEST ROCK PERFORMANCE** *Not Strong Enough* (Boygenius)
- BEST METAL PERFORMANCE** *72 Seasons* (Metallica)
- BEST JAZZ VOCAL ALBUM** *How Love Begins*, Nicole Zuraitis
- BEST COMEDY ALBUM** *What's in a Name?* (Dave Chappelle)
- BEST SONG WRITTEN FOR VISUAL MEDIA** *What Was I Made For?* Billie Eilish
- BEST SCORE SOUNDTRACK FOR VISUAL MEDIA** *Oppenheimer* (Ludwig Göransson)
- BEST MUSIC VIDEO** *I'm Only Sleeping* (The Beatles)

GRAMMYS 2024

Taylor Swift makes history



Los Angeles: The 66th annual Grammy Awards took place at Crypto.com Arena in downtown Los Angeles Sunday, where women reigned supreme on music's biggest night. Taylor Swift made history, taking home Album of the Year for *Midnights*, her

fourth win in the category. Miley Cyrus brought down the house with her performance of *Flowers*, two hours before winning Song of the Year. Victoria Monét was crowned Best New Artist while Billie Eilish and Finneas's *What Was I Made For*, from the *Barbie* soundtrack, won Record of the Year. This year's Grammy Awards brought out several private artists for memorable moments onstage. Tracy Chapman made a rare appearance with Luke Combs to perform *Fast Car*. At age 80, Joni Mitchell performed for the first time at the Grammys with an emotional rendition of *Both Sides Now*. Plus, Céline Dion's surprise appearance as she battles stiff-person syndrome brought the starry crowd to its feet.

On the other hand, Phoebe Bridgers had the most wins, with four trophies (three with her band, boygenius). SZA, boygenius, *Killer Mike*, Victoria Monét and songs from the *Barbie* soundtrack followed, with three wins apiece. Billie Eilish, Miley Cyrus and Taylor Swift had two, but Swift also broke a record, becoming the first artist to earn four album of the year prizes.

In highlights from the ceremony, Tracy Chapman took the stage to perform her hit *Fast Car* with Luke Combs, Swift announced a new album due in April and Joni Mitchell played on the Grammys for the first time.

SAIEE WANTED TO BE AN INVESTMENT BANKER



Mumbai: Actress Saiee M Manjrekar, who made her debut with Salman Khan-starrer *Dabangg 3*, has opened up on her holistic upbringing, revealing that she first wanted to be an

investment banker.

After making her acting debut in 2019 with the action-comedy *Dabangg 3*, the daughter of actor and filmmaker Mahesh Manjrekar, Saiee has done movies like *Ghani*, *Major*, and *Skanda*.

Sharing heartfelt insight into her family life and childhood, Saiee spoke about being shaped by the diverse values instilled by her parents.

"My mother (Medha Manjrekar) is a naturopathy doctor. Upbringing wise, she has given me a very simple and nice upbringing. And I'm so happy about it. For her, studies was everything. She wanted me to finish my studies, which I haven't done yet," she said.

Saiee further added: "And my father is completely artistic - do what you want, do what you love. And I wanted to be an investment banker at one point. So, I was always in school and tuition. And family values are very important to me."

Mumbai:

Mismatched actress Prajakta Koli has shared her encounters with public sexual abuse and eve-teasing.

In a candid revelation, Koli disclosed that she had kept silent about her traumatic experiences for years. Reflecting on one distressing incident, she recounted an unsettling encounter from her childhood. "I was 11 years old and I was traveling in a bus one time. My stop was just around the corner. I kept feeling this thing rub against my back. When I got down I noticed a bulge in his pants, but I never understood what that was. I never spoke to anyone about it. After a lot of years when I spoke about it with my sister, I realised that it was an erection I felt against my back."

The conversation delved further into another disturbing incident that occurred during a train journey. "Someone touched my face when I was sleeping on the train and I didn't realise who it was. It wasn't until the next morning that I saw a Babaji-type man looking at me and smiling," Koli revealed. She further added, "I never spoke about it openly because I was afraid my parents wouldn't let me travel alone."

Prajakta shares her sexual abuse experiences



Bhumi finds liberation in front of camera



Mumbai: Actress Bhumi Pednekar opened up about her insecurities and the transformative power of embracing imperfections.

In a conversation with an entertainment portal, Bhumi shared how external opinions and online criticism often contribute to her insecurities. The actress admits to choosing film roles that serve as a form of personal therapy, allowing her to confront and overcome these insecurities. Despite the internet's harshness, Bhumi acknowledges the fleeting moments of self-doubt but asserts her commitment to moving past those challenges.

Notably, Bhumi expresses that her freedom lies in front of the camera, describing it as a space where she feels secure and liberated. The actress believes that the act of portraying someone else on screen allows her to disconnect from societal expectations and embrace her true self.

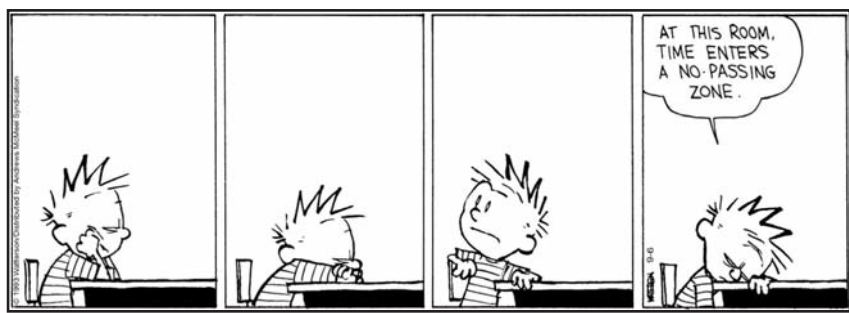
Addressing the importance of happiness, Bhumi emphasizes that self-contentment is vital for personal well-being. She encourages celebrating small victories in life as a means of navigating through the pressures of success and societal norms.

The acclaimed actress prepares for her upcoming venture, *Bhakhshak*, where she steps into the role of a courageous journalist.

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

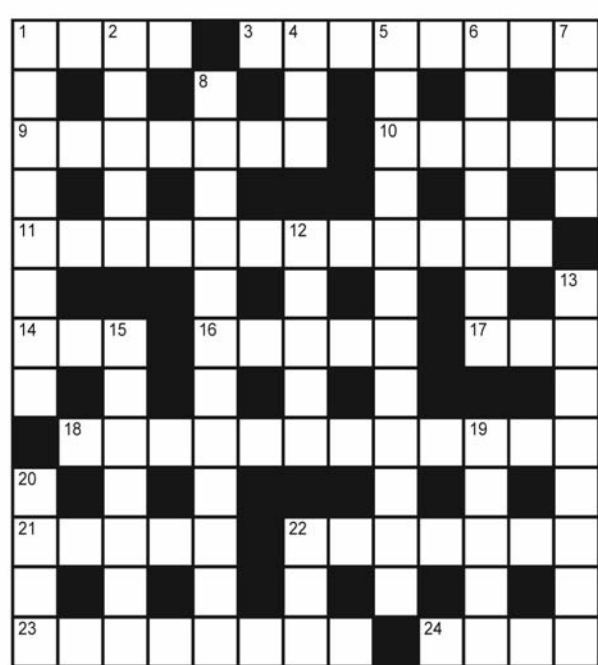


BREVITY



FUN post

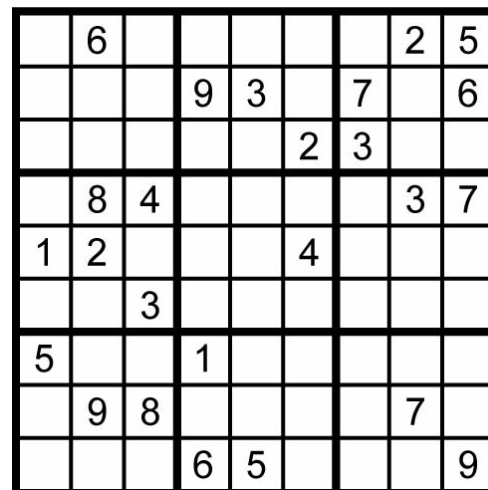
CROSSWORD



- Across
- 1 Large book
 - 3 Berate
 - 9 Spanish nobleman
 - 10 Gemstone
 - 11 Surpassing
 - 14 Fuss
 - 16 Calls for
 - 17 Embrace
 - 18 Dominican Republic capital (5,7)
 - 21 Phrase
 - 22 Venice transport
 - 23 Handrail
 - 24 ___ moss
 - 7 Pitcher
 - 8 Posted hours (7,5)
 - 12 Make improvements or corrections to
 - 13 Illiterate
 - 15 Applause
 - 19 Snare
 - 20 Tree branch
 - 22 Exclaim
- Down
- 1 Polynesian
 - 2 News ___
 - 4 In the past
 - 5 Wheedling
 - 6 Steadfast

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.

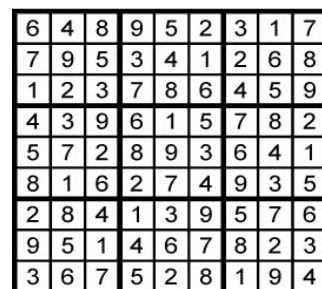


SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Odia Language Conference every 5 yrs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Feb 5: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday announced that the World Odia Language Conference will be organised every five years.

At the valedictory function of the three-day first World Odia Language Conference here, he said the event will be etched as a milestone in the history of the language.

He urged participants to come together once every five years to exchange ideas and take the language forward.

He thanked the students, writers, researchers, linguists and poets who par-



Participants in the conference and said that various aspects of the Odia language were discussed, and some good proposals have

also come up.

Patnaik said since the assembly is in session now, he will announce some decisions taken with regard to the Odia language in the House.

The chief minister appealed to everyone to take a pledge to create new words to strengthen the Odia dictionary.

Emphasising the impact of technology on language, he said that scientific inventions, technological advancement and computer language are the major challenges before the Odia language.

Therefore, there is a need to take steps for the integration of the Odia language

with these, he opined.

On the occasion, Patnaik launched three books: 'Shree Jagannatha: Lord of The Universe', 'Odia: Journey of a Language', and 'Magical Tales From Odisha'.

On the concluding day of the event, Speaker Pramila Mallik, ministers and MLAs visited the conference aboard a special bus from the assembly.

They visited the museum, exhibition and mobile libraries, and other displays set up at the venue, Janata Maidan.

The walk-through museum will remain open for visitors for another three days, Patnaik said.



Community role key to spreading state's rich culture

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 5: Language is their only identity and they want to invest time and energy in promoting their mother tongue, Odia, and the state's culture across the world, expat Odia community members on the third day of the First World Odia Language Conference here opined in unison, Monday.

Expressing their heartfelt thanks to the Odisha government for hosting the carnival, representatives of Odia societies based in UK, Saudi Arabia and the United States of America said this will go a long way in the promotion of Odia language and establish communication with those living abroad.

Though the NROs (Non-Resident Odias) have very proudly merged themselves into the life and culture of western countries, they said they all still feel a connection to their motherland.

Pratap Rath, a resident of USA said, "We take great pride in local language, heritage and tradition. We took many of the artistes from the state to the USA for performance in the last few years which helped in spreading the state's culture."

He said, "Although promotion of Odia culture is not one man's job, Odia community members can work together to spread the culture." He said that the key to continue the culture of Odisha is to continue to spread the language to the new generation who are living abroad.

Bhagyashree Singh, representing Odia Society of UK, said, "Odia language is one of the classical languages of the country and this conference is a good way to showcase our language and its history. It's a privilege for us to be here. The Odisha government deserves kudos for organising such an event."

"Language is our identity. It binds us together. The government should organise such event every year," he added.

Singh also said, "Odia culture is very rich. But many people of the world still have little idea. So, it's our responsibility to spread our rich culture."

ISBT TO BE NAMED AFTER AMBEDKAR

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Feb 5: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday announced that the newly constructed Inter-State Bus Terminal (ISBT) in City will be named after Babasaheb Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar.

A special digital gallery on Ambedkar, spreading over 900 square feet, will be built at the bus terminal to spread awareness about his ideology and his contribution to nation building, Patnaik said.

"Ambedkar was a visionary political leader and a dedicated social reformer. He was a beacon for the depressed and Dalits. He dedicated his life to building a fairer society," the chief minister said.

As per sources, the digital gallery will illustrate the life and achievements of Ambedkar. Besides, a copy of the Indian Constitution along with photographs of various items used by the leader will be displayed at the gallery.


Spanning over 15.5 acres of land, the newly constructed bus terminal at Baramunda can handle 30,000 passengers daily. The terminal is equipped with modern amenities for the passengers including a children's play area, a primary health clinic and pre-paid auto and taxi booths.

Last month, 5T Chairman Kartik Pandian had reviewed progress of work at the ISBT, directing officials in charge to ensure early operationalisation of the facility. During his visit, Pandian took stock of the infrastructure meant for commuters, including waiting areas, sanitation facilities, bus bays, lighting installations, and rest-room facilities.

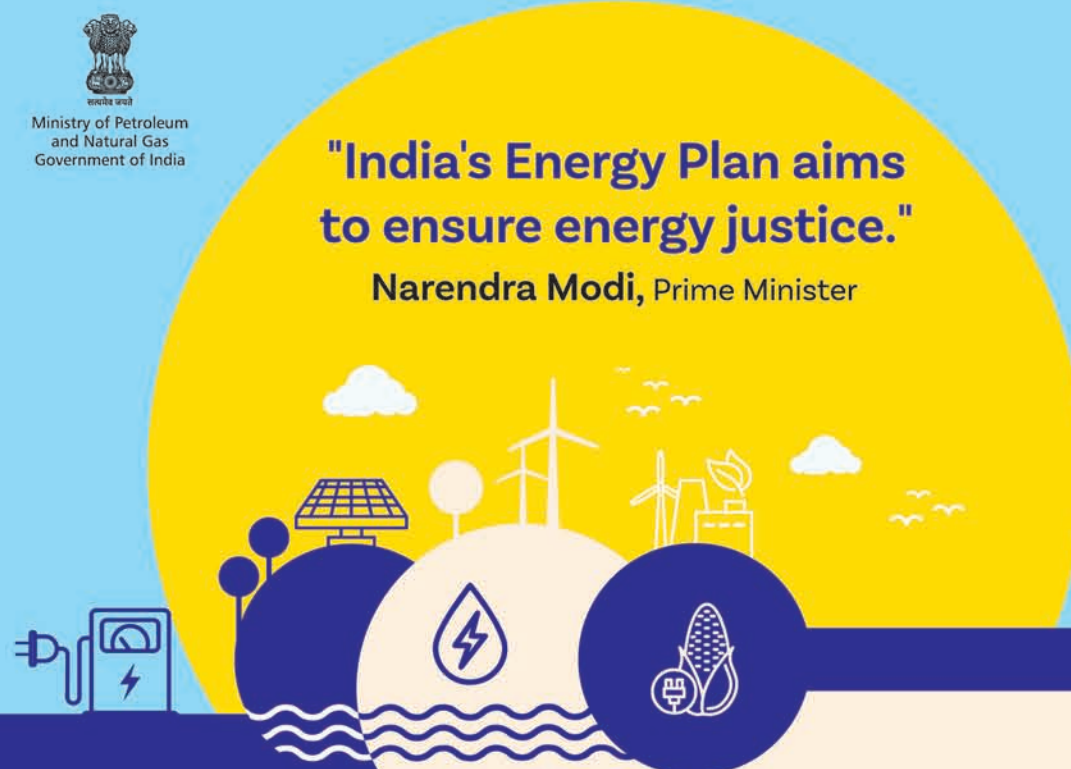

Pandian had directed the officials to make provisions for proper Odia signages and maps to make it easier for commuters to navigate the terminal. He had asked the Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) team to expedite the remaining work and get the facility ready for inauguration by mid February.

"The terminal is designed to cater to the needs of passengers and provide them a comfortable and convenient experience. Equipped with modern amenities, such as state-of-the-art Aahaar Centre, restaurants, multistoried car parking, pick-up/drop-off facility, solar panel system, and sewage treatment plant, the terminal also has provisions for police facilitation centre to ensure safety of passengers," said a BDA official.

Besides, there will be a children's play area, a primary healthcare facility, and additional parking for seasonal buses along with pre-paid auto and taxi facilities, informed the official.









"India's Energy Plan aims to ensure energy justice."
Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

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on

Tuesday, 6th February 2024 at 10:00 am. IPSHEM, ONGC, Goa

In the august presence of


Shri Pramod Sawant Chief Minister, Goa	Shri Hardeep Singh Puri Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas; Housing and Urban Affairs	Shri Rameswar Teli Union Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas; Labour and Employment
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Key energy initiatives under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi

- More than **10 Crore** people have got free LPG connection under **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana** and a refill subsidy of ₹300 each, ensuring a smoke-free kitchen.
- National Green Hydrogen Mission** to decarbonise the industrial, mobility and energy sectors, accelerating the deployment of Green Hydrogen as a clean energy fuel.
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- Global Biofuels Alliance** India taking a leadership role for a sustainable path to net-zero and reducing dependency on fossil fuels.
- Renewable Energy Installed Capacity** increased **136.27%** from **76 GW** in March 2014 to **179.57 GW** by Nov 2023. India is ranked 4th in installed renewable capacity, showcasing its commitment to net-zero.

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Stability provides space for growth: Guv



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Feb 5: Governor Raghuraj Das Monday said the state has performed phenomenally well in several sectors, as stability has provided an unrestrained space for growth and development.

Addressing the Assembly on the opening day of its budget session, the Governor also congratulated the state government for organising the first-ever World Odia Language Conference in Bhubaneswar and thanked the administration on the inauguration of the newly-built campus of Odia University at Satyabadi in Puri district.

"It will play a significant role in further enriching the state language Odia which is spoken by over 84 per cent of Odisha's

"My government is untiringly striving to eradicate poverty, reduce regional disparities and gender differences through various pro-people initiatives," Das said.

The Governor informed the House that the overall law and order situation in the state has remained by and large peaceful while the impact of Left Wing Extremism (LWE) has remarkably declined due to proactive operational and administrative response.

Noting that Odisha is one of the fastest-growing states in India, the Governor said that Odisha's post-Covid growth revival is quite exemplary in terms of economic growth as per Advanced Estimate 2022-23 of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP).

"As per the advance estimate, Odisha's economy has registered a growth rate of 7.8 per cent in 2022-23 (AE) at 2011-12 prices which is higher than the Indian economy projected to grow by 7.0 per cent in 2022-23 (AE)," Das said.

While praising the state over the implementation of the Srimandir Parikrama Prakalpa or Heritage Corridor project, the Governor said this now provides an opportunity to devotees, pilgrims and visitors to enhance their spiritual experience of the temple.

He also mentioned the state government's initiatives like the Shree Jagannath Express for

Former Guv, MLAs' death condoled

Bhubaneswar: Assembly Monday condoled the demise of former Governor of the state MM Rajendran and six former members of the house who have passed away during the intervening period between the last session and the current session of the house. The six former members who passed away were Rasanbada Sahu, Santosh Kumar Pradhan, Ramesh Jena, Nrushunghananda Brahma, Sushree Devi and Jayanarayan Mohanty. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, also the leader of the house, moved an obituary reference to condole the demise of the former Governor and former members of the house and requested the Speaker to convey the condolence to the members of the bereaved families. BJP Chief Whip Mohan Majhi, Congress party leader Nurshingha Mishra, CPI (M) leader Laxman Munda and Speaker Pramilla Mallik later joined the leader of the house to condole the demise of the former Governor and former members of the house. The Assembly observed one minute silence as a mark of respect to the departed souls. After the obituary reference, Speaker Pramilla Mallik adjourned the house till 10.30am Tuesday as a mark of respect to the departed souls.

seamless transportation to this 12th-century shrine in Puri and, the dedication of the redeveloped Samaleswari Temple in Sambalpur district.



STAY HYDRATED: With temperature witnessing a sudden rise, a commuter quenches thirst with coconut water in the Capital city, Monday
OP PHOTO

City IIT to launch 100-CUBE startup initiative February 11



The initiative aims to create 100 startups, each with a valuation of ₹100 crore, by the 100th anniversary of state's formation in 2036

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Feb 5: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar will launch its transformative 100-CUBE startup initiative February 11 at its research and Entrepreneurship Park, institute director Shreepad Karmalkar said here Monday.

This initiative aims to create 100 startups, each with a valuation of ₹100 crore, by the 100th anniversary of Odisha's formation in 2036, Karmalkar said.

He emphasised that the park would provide essential resources, mentorship, seed capital, and access to potential investors to achieve this goal.

With generous support from the ministry of education, the park will expand from 20,000 square feet to about 80,000 square feet over the next two years, he added.

This initiative aligns with the mandate of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, focusing on fostering entrepre-

neurship and supporting startup incubation, he said.

Karmalkar highlighted that the next 25 years will be driven by startups, building upon India's substantial improvement in the global innovation rank from 76 in 2014 to 40 in 2023.

The 100-CUBE Startup initiative aims to further enhance this rank by nurturing startups across gender, sector, and geography using a mind-to-market strategy, he added.

The event on February 11 will feature parallel technical workshops for faculty and startups, conducted by faculty heads of research parks of IITs, industrialists, and venture capitalists.

This will be followed by the signing of MoUs with nearly 20 industries, 30 startups, and 30 venture capitalists to build strategic collaborations for achieving the 100-CUBE objective, he added.

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan will officially open the 1500-seat auditorium hosting the event and lay the e-foundation for infrastructure projects worth ₹450 crore, officials said.

Overall, the initiative marks a significant milestone in IIT Bhubaneswar's journey towards establishing Odisha as a hub of entrepreneurship and nurturing the startup culture in the country, he added.

DRDO successfully conducts four flight trials of 'Abhyas'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 5: India successfully flight-tested the indigenously developed high-speed expendable aerial target, Abhyas, from the integrated test range in Chandipur off the Odisha coast, the Defence Ministry said, Monday.

Abhyas has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) as a target for the testing of missile systems.

"Four flight trials of high-speed expendable aerial target (HEAT) -- Abhyas were successfully carried out by Defence Research and Development Organisation from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur in Odisha during January 30 to February 2," the ministry said.

It said the trials were conducted with four different mission objectives in a 'revised robust configuration'.

"The objectives like safe release of booster, launcher clearance and attaining the required end of launch velocity were achieved," it said.

"During the flight trials, various parameters like required endurance, speed, manoeuvrability, altitude and range were successfully validated," the ministry said in a statement.

Designed by DRDO's Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Abhyas offers a realistic threat scenario for practice of weapons systems.

"It is designed for autonomous flying with the help of an auto pilot indigenously made by the ADE. It has a radar cross section, visual and infrared augmentation system required for weapon practice," the ministry said.

2 killed, 9 injured in separate road mishaps



AGENCIES

Bhawanipatna/Sambalpur, Feb 5: Two persons died and nine sustained severe injuries in two separate incidents of road mishaps in Bhawanipatna and Sambalpur Monday.

In Bhawanipatna of Kalahandi district, two persons died after their motorcycle collided with a truck, police said Monday. The accident took place near Dhepguda in Lanjigarh block when the speeding truck rammed into the bike from behind, they said.

The deceased were identified as Arun Dhangadamajhi and Padmalochan Patra, who were on their way to a nearby village for masonry work.

The driver of the truck is absconding and a search operation has been launched to trace him, a police officer said.

The bodies have been sent for post-mortem examination, he added.

In the second incident, nine passengers suffered critical injuries after the bus they were travelling in overturned on NH 55 near Charmal in Sambalpur district in the wee hours of Monday.

The mishap took place at Nuapada Chowk under Charmal police limits. The injured were rushed to Rairakhol hospital while some of them were later referred to Veer Surendra Sai Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR) in Burla after their condition deteriorated.

As per reports, a private bus named Subham was heading from Bhubaneswar to Hirakud with around 50 passengers on board when it overturned at Nuapada Chowk in Charmal.

It is suspected that the driver lost balance while negotiating a curve, leading to the mishap.

Informed, police reached the spot and started an investigation.

Rahul's 'Nyay Yatra' in Rourkela Feb 7

PNN & AGENCIES

Rourkela, Feb 5: Odisha Congress leaders are making final preparations for Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra', which will enter the state Tuesday.

Biramitrapur, a small industrial town in Sundergarh district through which the yatra will enter the state from Jharkhand, has been decked up with banners, cut-outs and hoardings of Gandhi.

Senior state Congress leaders have gathered in Rourkela steel city, around 35 km from Biramitrapur, and there is a palpable enthusiasm among the masses to have a glimpse of Rahul Gandhi, who is referred to as 'former PM Indira Gandhi's grandson' by locals, Sundergarh District Congress Committee president Rashmi Padhee said.

Although Biramitrapur assembly segment is now represented by the BJP, it had earlier elected Congress and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha candidates.

Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) president Sarat Pattnayak told reporters

that Gandhi is expected to reach Biramitrapur Tuesday afternoon.

After according a grand welcome to Gandhi, the OPCI will flag off the yatra in the state. The yatra will move for around 10 km before Gandhi's night halt in Bija Bahal area.

The next day, Gandhi will resume his yatra and undertake a 3.4-km-long padayatra from Uditnagar to Panposh Chhak in Rourkela city, a Congress statement said.

He is scheduled to address the public at Panposh Chhak, before taking a lunch break at Bisra Munda Ground at Ranibandh, it said.

According to his schedule, thereafter he will resume his yatra from Ranibandh and address a rally at Rajgangpur.

He will undertake another padayatra in Sundergarh town, following which he will address another public meeting, before retiring for the night at Amlipali Ground in Jharsuguda.

February 8, Gandhi will resume his yatra from Old Bus Stand in Jharsuguda and later address a rally.

Final Electoral Roll out

Bhubaneswar: The Final Electoral Roll-2024 with respect to January 1, 2024 as qualifying date was published Monday which is available with all the Booth Level Officers (BLO) and in the office of ERO-cum-Sub-Collector for inspection. Further, the copy of the electoral roll has been hosted on the website of Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Odisha (ceoodisha.nic.in). Voters can check their details accordingly. Eligible citizens can apply in Form-6 for fresh inclusion and Form-8 for migration through the portal (voters.eci.gov.in) or by downloading Voter Helpline App. Voters can also contact the BLO for the purpose. It is to be mentioned here that 1,07,751 advance applications have been received who are eligible to be enrolled with respect to 01.04.24, 01.07.24, 01.10.24 as qualifying date.

Man gets 20-yr RI

Baripada: A POCSO court in Mayurbhanj district Monday sentenced a man to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment (RI) for raping an 11-year-old girl in 2020. Special POCSO Court Judge Santosh Kumar Nayak pronounced the judgement after examining the statements of the victim, 23 witnesses as well as medical reports. The court also imposed a fine of ₹10,000 on the convict, 20-year-old Jitendra Dhir, said Special Public Prosecutor Monoranjan Pattnaik.

Self-taught portrait artist of Keonjhar defies odds

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Feb 5: In many interior villages of state, numerous hidden talents often go unnoticed due to lack of adequate promotion and recognition. Among these talented individuals is Laxmi Narayan Maharana, a young man in Keonjhar district who specialises in drawing portraits.

Painter Maharana, born in Baunsuli village under Patna block, has carved out a distinctive identity with his efforts. Despite lacking formal training in painting or guidance from any Guru, he has nurtured his interest in painting since childhood, eventually making a living by the age of 20.

As the only son of Sanjay Maharana and Babita Maharana, Laxmi Narayan embarked on his painting journey when he was in Class III at his village school. His father is a farmer and mother is a housewife, while his sister Rainisharani Maharana has been at home



While the money he earns from art isn't sufficient for his family, Laxmi Narayan awaits an opportunity to showcase his talent on a larger scale and live the rest of his life with dignity

after completing Plus II.

Without a teacher, Maharana learned from nature and initiated his painting endeavours. Presently, he can draw portraits of any person, showcasing a unique talent for replicating a person's likeness just by observing them or their photo.

Laxmi Narayan shared, "Initially, I used to draw on paper with a pencil. By Class IX, I began sculpting and painting.

Subsequently, I ventured into watercolor paintings on different walls to earn a livelihood."

After completing his studies at Dadhibam Higher Secondary School in 2021, Laxmi Narayan faced financial constraints that hindered his further education. He turned to utilising his artistic skills and talent, painting on various walls to meet the demands.

"I presented a painting on the



theme of Covid-19 to the then Collector of Keonjhar. He assured him assistance for higher education, but so far, I have not received any," he added.

"I also created portraits of brides and grooms outside their houses during weddings, earning praise and personal satisfaction. I participated in draw-

ing competitions in Class IX and X, securing the first position at the block level," he added.

Due to financial constraints, he struggles to advance his art. "If encouraged, he could have achieved a lot for himself and others, a retired government official Alekh Chandra Patra said. Laxmi Narayan has depicted various famous personalities such as movie actors, actresses, singers, politicians, and more in his art."

While the money he earns from art isn't sufficient for his family, Laxmi Narayan awaits an opportunity to showcase his talent on a larger scale and live the rest of his life with dignity. However, despite the government's search for and encouragement to artists and talents, many, like Laxmi Narayan, are still struggling to survive with art.

As a child, he used to make clay idols of Lord Hanuman. "I am able to draw pictures today with his blessings. I have been able to earn a living by creating my

own brand called Narayan Arts," he says, reminiscing about his childhood.

Unfortunately, there is no art school in the district for training and promotion of local artists. He expressed his desire for his paintings to be exhibited, believing it would garner more recognition and opportunities for future exhibitions.

Laxmi Narayan has painted portraits of India's President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, former Collector Ashish Thakur, former Chief Minister Biju Patnaik, cricketers Mahendra Singh Dhoni & Virat Kohli, singer Lata Mangeskar, Actor Mihir Das and Allu Arjun among others.

In the future, he aspires to become a good photographer and showcase his talent in different places. Therefore, providing incentives from the administration could foster the growth of many painters, ensuring the protection of art.

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GOPAL CHANDRA PRAHARAJ

Rethinking the lexicons of inclusivity

When did the first dictionary in Odia language come into being? Let's see... the best of our memories of an Odia dictionary halts at the utterance of the giant 'Purnachandra Odia Bhasakosha' (1931- 40). Factually speaking, it wasn't the first, though. It was, however, the first of its kind and still holds a thundering impact amongst scholars. While Kabi Samrat Upendra Bhanja's 'Gitabidhan'(1710) is treated by most as the pioneering work in the field of Odia lexicography, it is Gopal Chandra Praharaj's work of great penance that has earned the 'Purnachandra Odia Bhasakosha' its significant location in Odia literary history as well as practice. What sets it apart from the rest of the works in the field, irrespective of languages, is not the sheer volume of the work but rather the sagacious objective behind the making of it.

Being a practising lawyer under Utkala Gouraba Madhusudan Das, it is obvious that one would expect the similarity of nationalistic fervour in Gopal Chandra Praharaj as well. It is certain that he had drawn immense inspiration from Das's hunger for a united Odia identity and immersed himself in analysing the society at hand with a singular aspiration for meliorating it. Like Das and his contemporaries, Praharaj too was consumed by the idea of unification of Odia identity. Only he chose to accomplish it by providing a lexical spine to the expansive 'Odia' language-a step that would later provide a piece of evidence to his sophisticated approach towards the cause.

While the sensitivity towards Odia identity was being addressed via the production of Sahitya during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, Praharaj was resolved to approach it linguistically. It is astonishing to observe the clarity with which he addresses the technical aspects of language linkages and families with much ease for the populace.

A quick glance at the introduction of 'Purnachandra Odia Bhasakosha' brings to our notice that he believed in the implicit politics and socio-cultural complexities that remain converted within the rules of selection and scrutinisation of terms. Therefore, he clarified his stance even before indulging in the activity. He believed that Odia, much like any other language, evolved gradually by coming into contact with various other languages- Bangla, Hindustani, and Sanskrit... to name a few, but the act of segregating the terms on the basis of their age of being used was nonetheless a faulty act. He charts down a linear timeline of the pathway which the contemporary Odia language travelled through.

During an address to Utkal Sahitya Samaj in September 1929, a little while before the publication of the first volume, Praharaj lamented the fact that the Odia language that had once been praised for its independent status quo by Chinese Buddhist scholar Huen Tsang 1500 years ago, today struggles even to breathe. He asserts the reason behind the decline to that of non-identification with the language and the gen-



eral lack of inclusivity. Time and again, linguists have avouched that the vast land of Odisha is a melting pot of not just languages but also linguistic families. Recent surveys have affirmed that out of the four major language families present in India, Odisha boasts of housing three of them in significant proportions. This phenomenon not only renders a unique disposition to Odisha as a state but also forces us to go back to the claims of inclusivity that Praharaj had made in his address. To be inclusive is a primary strategy that Odia evolved through as a language, and dissecting vocabularies on the basis of their classical affinity with Sanskrit would only further sever the dilapidated state of the language-a concern that Praharaj invoked his addresses to ponder over constantly.

In context to Odia language, he was visibly discomforted by the confinement of specific terms under the problematic categories of 'dialect' and 'provincial'. He was probably the first of his time to openly challenge this isolating process, nonetheless a parasitic act of underestimating the worth of particular terms on the basis of their regionality. He suggested that, even though an ample usage of certain terms within a particular geographical location asserts them the technical position of being dialectic, it should, however, be reconsidered on the basis of the value they generate via interaction with the rest of words with similarity of meaning. Therefore, words must not be undermined for their provincialism and instead should be reconceived as 'synonyms'. This proposition delineates volumes about what Praharaj meant by inclusivity because he realised that the pulse of the unification of Odia identity can be captured only if we let ourselves be absorbed by an inclusive ap-

proach towards it rather than stand segregated, fighting for what is standardised and what is not.

During the fifteen years of research that he spent in the work of compilation, he was always pensive about the restrictive impacts of bifurcation of the Odia language into 'sadhu bhasa' and 'gharoi bhasa', i.e., loosely classical language and domestic language. He aimed to compile his work irrespective of this divide as only that would reflect the most authentic nature of being 'united', and guess what? It worked in the favour of Odia language. He created a reference for every term that had been singled out earlier due to a ridiculous attitude. His vision was not only pragmatic but also embracive on a philosophical level.

Praharaj was consumed by the righteous aspiration of gaining Odia language a spot right next to, if not above, other major languages like Marathi, Gujarati, Telugu, Malayalam, Bangla, etc, and he succeeded in doing so by leaving behind a ubiquitous point of reference for meanings that do not suffer from 'provincialism'. Throughout his very many addresses, he often bemoaned the lack of archives even in the early 1900s- something which languages like Bangla had effectively developed. This grief propelled him to embrace the arduous task of compilation.

His objective was clear as crystal. Keeping in mind the need of the hour, his only effort was towards enriching the language by adding vocabulary from every nook and corner of rural and urban Odisha without any discrepancy.

In addition to the above, the uniqueness of the 'Purnachandra Odia Bhasakosha' lies in the fact that it boasts its description in four languages, namely Odia, Hindi, Bangla and English. By taking up this mammoth job, Gopal Chandra Praharaj established himself as a far-sighted visionary who understood the depth of inclusivity. During the same address to Utkal Sahitya Samaj, he had indicated the problem of increasing interest in Western literature at the same time when there was a steep decline in the number of readers of Odia writers like Bhanja, Dinakrushna, Abhimanyu and Kabisurja, and as a response, he gave rise to the masterpiece that enabled the ease of access for scholars. He also provoked everyone reading his work to contest the very idea of 'old is gold' in the case of language and lexicon as it deprives the former of immediacy.

The edifice of Odia literature has been erected over the lifelong contributions made by honoured individuals like Gopal Chandra Praharaj, who revolutionised the way we conceive language and uncovered the sophisticated manners in which discrimination continued to push Odia language towards a detrimental state. 'Purnachandra Odia Bhasakosha' was, thus, precise one of a kind as every word in it is laced with the singular notion of inclusivity of absolute kind.

Soumyaa Nayak, Research Scholar, Centre for Comparative Literature, University of Hyderabad

ODIA TO GO GLOBAL THROUGH EMERGING TECH



has enabled numerous Odias staying outside Odisha and India stay connected with their roots.

Odia Virtual Academy

Odia Virtual Academy has been instrumental in digitising and preserving rare Odia books, lexicons, old magazines-journals, traditional music, literature on science and history, folk culture, tribal language and literature, history-oriented essays, speech of great personalities and Jagannath Culture. Its website offers Odia books, tribal dictionary, Odia blogs and Odisha Gazette. This is also among the numerous initiatives of the state government that has been helping Odias stay connected with their culture.

literature through it. There, robots will approach the visitors and execute their commands like taking selfie, searching Google and carryout eSignatures. It will not only entertain visitors, especially students, but will also encourage them to find ways on promoting Odia language and literature on a global platform.

Odia in Wikipedia

In this age of technology, articles and information on almost all topics are available in Wikipedia. However, the free online encyclopaedia is yet to have enough articles and information on the rich Odia culture. In order to ensure availability of more and more articles and information about

3 MILESTONES FOR ODISHA

- Odisha became a separate province on April 1, 1936
- Odia got classical language (Sashtriya Bhasha) status on February 20, 2014
- Odisha hosted First World Odia Language Conference from February 3 to 5

Success of Odia race in 21st century

- Formation of Odisha Bhasha Pratisthan
- Odia got classical language (Sashtriya Bhasha) status
- Formation of Odia Language, Literature and Culture department
- Creation of Directorate of Archaeology for preservation, protection, research and publicity of cultural heritage
- Implementation of Odisha Official Language (Amendment) Act, 2018
- Establishment of a museum with 15-foot statue of Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das at his birthplace at Suando village under Satyabadi tehsil of Puri district
- Installation of statues of at least 135 legendary leaders and sons of the soil of Odisha between 2000 and 2023
- Odia Virtual Academy for imparting education in English, Spanish, Japanese and Persian languages to the Odia diaspora
- Establishment of Sarala Chair at Jawaharlal Nehru University and pact for Biju Patnaik Chair
- Decision for conducting Odisha Public Service Commission examinations in Odia
- Byasakabi Fakir Mohan Senapati scholarship for Plus II (Class XII) and Plus III students
- Annual book fairs in all districts
- Publication of dictionary for 21 other local dialects of Odisha between 2000 and 2023

Selfie with robot

The state government has made adequate arrangements at the Digital Era Exhibition Hall of the conference to encourage the youth towards robotics - a boon for the mankind - and create awareness on Odia language and

Odisha's culture, tradition and heritage on the platform as well as create a social awareness about it, the state government has made adequate arrangements for the purpose at the Digital Era Exhibition Hall of the conference. Now, anyone can contribute to Wikipedia in Odia language.



'Mahaprabhu' font to enrich Odia writing

Odia lovers can write in 'Mahaprabhu' font - Madhav, Adima, Haladhar, Abatar, Pratham, Raghav, Achyuta, Balabhadra, Harihara and Utkal. Apart from Akruiti and Shree-Lipi, 10 new fonts developed by Odia Virtual Academy can be used to write in Odia. The Digital Era Exhibition Hall of the conference highlights this facility.

JAYADEV'S INFLUENCE ON ODISHA LITERATURE

Goswami Jayadev, generally assigned to 12th century AD, is known to have composed the great work - "The Gita Govinda".

The work consists of 12 cantos, but in bulk. It is so small that, when printed, it forms a booklet. Yet it is charming and so melodious that it has an immense appeal to scholars and general readers alike.

In Odisha, it is almost a household book and it was to be found in all collections of palm leaf manuscripts in ancient Odisha and it is now to be found in all collections of printed books in modern Odisha. There are innumerable palm leaf manuscripts of 'Gita Govinda' still to be traced in various parts of Odisha, and some of them are illustrated.

One such manuscript illustrates the whole work containing coloured pictures is now preserved in Odisha State Museum and, from its colophon, it is definitely known that it was written during the rule of Gajapati Harekrushnadev (AD 1715-1720) of Khurda. It has been exhibited in many art exhibitions of India and has evoked acclaim from all components and critics.

The great Vaishnava poet certainly did not complete his matchless lyrics in the Gita Govinda to please Lord Jagannath who is considered nothing but Krishna. Most probably his Gita Govinda was composed according to a plan for dancification of the sublime Krishnapadam before Lord Jagannath. The reincarnated Krishna and Jaydev's songs have become part of the daily rit-

uals of Jagannath temple.

The songs composed during British and pre-British period are nothing but the lovely offshoots in vernacular of those revive love and lyrics of Jayadev in Sanskrit.

Poet Jayadev's (Dasavatara stotram) is a magnum opus of his creation. This divinely bestowed poet is notable for his unfathomable reverence for Jagannath in the semblance of Lord Krishna or Sri Govinda. His crystalline purity and irresistible adoration of Lord Jagannath beckoned him as a world-class intellectual, erudite scholar and unique poet of word standing of his own style.

As an avid versifier, the poems of Jayadev are extraordinarily noteworthy for their straightforwardness, simplicity in expression, lucidity in appearance, eloquence in fluency, persuasiveness, poetical exuberance, high spirited cheerfulness and the quintessence of divine attribution.

The resonance of Sanskrit scripts through which he has masterfully shaped the lyrical point entitled 'The Gita Govinda' is insurmountably and inimitably cherished and memorable work of art which history can never create. Gita Govinda in one sense means song of the Govinda and in another sense Gita is Govinda. Gita Govinda means to worship Govinda or Lord Jagannath. The supreme Lord Krishna and Radha have been enshrined in earthly mould. In Gita Govinda, the poet describes quintessence of love between Radha and Krishna or human being with super



being.

The symphonic syntax set in rhymes and ragas fascinates each reader and listener with ecumenical predilection. The sensuous and melodious effects of this super piece of lyrical poem and classical music transcend all human heart, mind and soul.

In this classic creation, the poet's milieu has established relevance to present and future generations in different cultural contexts.

Jayadev has prescribed particular Ragas and Talas for each song, but he has not depicted the characteristic features of these Ragas and Talas. The Ragas used in the Gita Govinda

are Malav, Gurjari, Vasanta, Ramakeri, Malav Gouda, Gundakeri, Karnata, Desakhya, Desa Varadi, Vairaba, Bivasa and the talas are Rupaka, Nihisara, Jati, Ektali, Astatali, among others. These Ragas and Talas are suitable for romantic sentiment.

The timing of recital of Odissi Ragas synchronise with different seasonal festivals of Odisha. For example, it is enjoyed that Vasanta Raga be recited at any time between Sripanchami and Vishnu Sayana and Malabashree from Indra Puja to Durga Puja in 13th century.

Jayadev has composed illustrious Gita Govinda as per the specification

of Udrmagadhi, Prabruiti mentioned in Natya Sashtara of Bharat Muni. Lord Jagannath Himself filled in an incomplete line of Gita Govinda - 'Dehi pada pallava Mudaram'. Gita Govinda recital is integral part of Odissi music and indicates the uniqueness and classical quality. As Gita Govinda is being recited in many parts of the country and abroad, there is every possibility that original music may undergo a change. Jayadev's verses written in simple Sanskrit with an immense musical appeal attracted all Sanskrit scholars of Odisha and all other persons who have some knowledge in Sanskrit. Common people had access to this great popular work through numerous translations and commentaries of which a lot of manuscripts are still available.

Nilamoni Mishra curator of the manuscript section of the Odisha State Museum has mentioned about some Odia translators - Dharanidhar Das, Vrindavan Das, Vajari Das, Uddhava Das, Krishan Das, Chaitanya Das, Bhikari Das, Pindika-Srichandana and Shyamshundar Bhanja. The manuscript copies of their translations are still available, while the names of the prose translators still remain undiscovered.

The great Odia poet Sarala Das was the maker of Odia literature. His works include Vilanka Ramayan, The Mahabharat and the Chandipurana. The Gita Govinda had attained great popularity in Odisha. The 10 incarnations of Lord Vishnu as described by Jayadev influenced Sarala Das who

not only makes reference to them, but also speaks of the necklaces and rings used by women, the representations of 10 incarnations. The tenants of 'Sahajia' sect to which Jayadev subscribes in his love lyric, were not however followed by Sarala Das. It must be remembered that in Odisha during the time of Sarala Das Vaisnavism had its own pattern in this land. It was conceived with Lord Jagannath on one hand and Buddhist philosophy of 'Great Void' on the other with an admixture of the Krishna cult. The great Odia poet like Jagannath Das, Balaram Das, Ananta Das and Yasobanta Das who followed Sarala Das in quick succession and who expounded the Odishan form of Vaisnavism have nothing to do with the form of Vaisnavism described by Jayadev in his Gita Govinda. Jayadev's conception of Sri Krishna was revolting the orthodox Odia poets till the 16th century so that no influence of the Sahaji Sect is to be stressed in the vast Odia literature that was produced up till that time.

Sarala Das was a typical Hindu who was a devout worshipper and an upholder of the Sakta Cult, but yet was a tolerant of all other sects. The tenants of Sahajia Sect have been reflected in Gita Govinda wherein Sri Krishna has been represented as a freelance.

Excerpts from an article by Rabintra Kumar Behuria, Retd. Lecturer, Chandabali College, Bhradrak (Odisha Review)

FOCUS ECONOMY

WHITHER INCLUSIVE GROWTH



Unfortunately, the government of India does not recognise the role of unpaid work and social norms in women's subordination and in women's low participation and low status in the labour market

fuel efficient stoves for cooking in place of primitive stoves using fuel wood); by providing infrastructural support to reduce unpaid work (for example, providing water supply at door step); by shifting a part of unpaid work like child care, disabled care or care of the old to mainstream institutions. Part of the unpaid work can be provided by market institutions (that charge for child care and other care) or by civil society organisations. These steps will release women from the burden of unpaid work to a significant extent, reduce their time stress to enable them to acquire new skills or to participate in productive work. For bringing about gender equality in labour market however the government will also have to take a quantum jump for improving education and skill levels of women.

Unfortunately, the government of India does not recognise the role of unpaid work and social norms in women's subordination and in women's low participation and low status in the labour market. It has not formed any policy to address women's real constraints. The government must understand that burdening women belonging to weaker sections with more work in the labour market without reducing their unpaid work is likely to have an adverse impact on their empowerment.

As regards the strategy for moving our country to "Vikasit Bharat," continuation of the same growth path will not help in achieving inclusive and all-pervasive development in the country. "Sabka Saath" will happen only when one takes care of the large lagging and marginalised sections of our population.

The writer is a Professor of Economics at the Centre For Development Alternatives, Ahmedabad, and Associate, Levy Economics Institute of Bard College, New York. Views are personal.

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The Union Budget for 2024-25 was significant on two counts: (1) the government highlighted the achievements of this government in the past decade and (2) it presented a broad approach to India as a developed country in case the party is returned to power in the forthcoming elections. The Finance Minister started her speech with bombastic claims of a "profound positive transformation of the Indian economy in the last ten years," with "social inclusivity through coverage of all strata of society" and "geographical inclusivity through the development of all regions in the country." This too rosy a picture of our economy is factually incorrect in most ways: The claim of the Niti Aayog that Multi-Dimensional Poverty declined during the economic slowdown has been clearly refuted by many experts, who have shown that the poverty has in fact increased!

The decline in the headcount ratio of poverty claimed by the FM is also incorrect; as no consumption expenditure data is available since 2011-12 (you cannot compute the headcount poverty ratio without data on consumption expenditure). The claim that the increase in women's participation in the labour market reflects their empowerment is factually incorrect, as this increase is mainly in their self-employment and this means increased vulnerability of women in the economy. The pandemic was not at all handled satisfactorily by the government firstly, beginning with the sudden thoughtless lockdown that made thousands of poor helpless migrants walk hundreds of kilometres to reach their home, and many other missteps, including the severe shortage of oxygen cylinders when they were needed the most. Finally, the performance on the employment front also has not been good. A majority of the claims made by the government are thus contested.

The focus of the budget is on the poor, youth, women and the

farmer, which is desirable. However, the details of the budget do not reflect this focus. It is important to note that the overall GDP-centric strategy of the government will not help these four sectors automatically. The poor and youth particularly need employment-centric strategy that is strongly backed by education and skill formation. Generation of productive employment on a massive scale is the sure way of reaching inclusive growth. With our 79% literacy and about 30-35% population educated up to secondary level, the Indian workforce is just not capable of participating in the mainstream growth process.

Unless there is a quantum jump in expenditure on (quality) education and massive generation of productive employment, the youth and the poor will remain marginalised and excluded. Incidentally, free food grains to 80 crore people (almost 60% of population) is also charity, a freebie. Generation of productive employment is a far better alternative.

The concept of women's empowerment is rather complex to understand. The roots of women's disempowerment and their subordination lie in patriarchy. Women's overall low participation rate and their in-

ferior status in the labour market arises from the patriarchal division of labour under which women are responsible for unpaid domestic work and unpaid care of the child, the old, sick and disabled in the family. The division of labour at household level allots men the role of breadwinner for the family, and women are to be homemakers.

Consequently, women either do not enter the labour market or they enter it with domestic responsibility on their shoulders. That is, gender inequality in the labour market starts right at the entrance of the labour market. With lower human capital and restricted mobility in the labour market, thanks to patriarchal norms, their choice in the labour market is also gendered. That is, they prefer to work closer to home, prefer part time or flexible work, and a safe environment at work; and they are usually overcrowded in stereotyped low productivity jobs. In a traditional country like ours particularly, the woman's status is usually that of subordination.

If the government wants women to be empowered and also to enter the labour market, it will have to work first for reduction of unpaid work. This can be ensured by improving technology (providing



Indira Hirway

UNLESS THERE IS A QUANTUM JUMP IN EXPENDITURE ON (QUALITY) EDUCATION AND MASSIVE GENERATION OF PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT, THE YOUTH AND THE POOR WILL REMAIN MARGINALISED

India: The Market

The Bard famously wrote, "If music be the food of love, play on." Music, we were told, transcends geographical borders, narrowness and bigotry. At a time when fanaticism, anti poor ideologies and hatred are stoking passions and blinding people across the globe, the Grammy Awards announced 4 February sends across a powerful message that global collaboration can bring people together in a bond of enthralling music and love. It is a glorious tribute to India that its ace musicians, including tabla wizard Zakir Hussain and singer-composer Shankar Mahadevan share the greatest honours with musicians of international stature. The fusion band of Mahadevan and Zakir Hussain clinched the Grammy Award for Best Global Music Album for their latest release, "This Moment." The group also features guitarist John McLaughlin, percussionist V Selvaganesh and violinist Ganesh Rajagopalan. Zakir Hussain became the cynosure of all eyes when he also received the Best Global Music Performance Grammy for his contribution to "Pashto," where he collaborated with Bela Fleck and Edgar Meyer, featuring Rakesh Chaurasia. He was up against formidable competition, including a unique collaboration between Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Falu and Gaurav. The latter two had composed a music based on Modi's global campaign for consumption of millets.

"This Moment" features eight songs created by John McLaughlin, Zakir Hussain, Shankar Mahadevan, V Selvaganesh and Ganesh Rajagopalan. Zakir Hussain created history by winning three Grammys in one night, while flutist Rakesh Chaurasia won two. This is such an incredible feat that the music community had no hesitation in declaring that India is shining in every direction. Two-time Grammy winner Ricky Kej, who attended the awards ceremony, called 2024 "the year of India at the Grammys."

This reminds us of a time when many pretty Indian girls swept international beauty pageants at a time when global beauty brands were vying for the huge Indian market. Sushmita Sen & Aishwarya Rai grabbed international headlines by winning Miss Universe and Miss World respectively in the same year in 1994. Diana Hayden then won Miss World in 1997 followed by Yukta Mookhey in 1999. Then again, Lara Dutta, Priyanka Chopra & Dia Mirza created history by winning the titles of Miss Universe, Miss World & Miss Asia Pacific in the 2000 competitions. Most recently, Harnaaz Sandhu was crowned Miss Universe in 2021. It was not as if our girls had been ugly earlier and all of a sudden turned pretty to win those awards or that now they have again turned unattractive. Indian girls, like our musicians, were always deserving and beautiful. It was the global cosmetic companies at play earlier and now again India is being boosted for commercial exploitation by international companies. Just like the presence of an Indian actor or plotline in an international movie boosts viewership from India, similarly music collaborations with Indian musicians are expected to increase consumption from the Indian market. In fact, the highest subscribed channel on YouTube is Indian as well.

The beauty awards earlier and the music awards of present times seem to be simple and successful tools to reach the shores of the Indian market where much wealth can be garnered.

WISDOM CORNER

"A warrior is not a person that carries a gun. The biggest war you ever go through is right between your own ears. It's in your mind. We're all going through a war in our mind, and we have to callus our mind to fight that war and to win that war."

DAVID GOGGINS

"This life is not man's own show; if he becomes personally and emotionally involved in the very complicated cosmic drama, he reaps inevitable suffering for having distorted the divine 'plot.'"

PARAMAHANSA YOGANANDA

"If all misfortunes were laid in one common heap whence everyone must take an equal portion, most people would be contented to take their own and depart."

SOCRATES

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1840: Maori tribes of New Zealand signed the Treaty of Waitangi with Great Britain, a historic agreement purported to protect Maori rights that was the immediate basis of the British annexation of New Zealand. While the Treaty of Waitangi is generally celebrated as the country's founding document, many M ori claim they were deceived and unwittingly stripped of their right to govern the country.

1945: Jamaican singer-songwriter Bob Marley—who achieved stardom by blending early ska, rock steady, and reggae forms into an electrifying rock-influenced hybrid—was born.

1952: Elizabeth II becomes Queen of the United Kingdom. She succeeded her father, George VI, who died that day.

1959: The first microchip is patented. For his invention of the integrated circuit, Jack Kilby was awarded the 2000 Nobel Prize in Physics.

1993: American tennis player Arthur Ashe, who was the first black man to win a Grand Slam championship, died of AIDS-related pneumonia; he had likely contracted the virus through a tainted blood transfusion received during coronary bypass surgeries.

2012: Catalan artist Antoni Tàpies, who was credited with introducing contemporary abstract painting in Spain, died in Barcelona.

SPECTRUM POLLUTION

Dreaming to breathe clean air

There has been apparently no relief from the poor quality of air in the national capital despite the government's best efforts to contain the menace by putting various provisions in place under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP). The city is already under Stage 2 curf of GRAP that calls for various enforcement measures at construction and demolition sites as well as restriction on operations of DG sets to prevent emission of fine particles of dust and smoke. With the Air quality Index (AQI) reaching 500-mark on the Republic Day coming under the 'Severe' category level, stricter curbs under Stage 3 of GRAP action plan might be invoked. It would include a ban on non-essential construction works and a complete ban on diesel generators.

Last year, the pollution level became so dire that it prompted the Supreme Court to direct the Union and state governments to take 'imminent and emergency' measures to tackle the situation. AQI of a locality is generally measured by the presence of

Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM) in air. The average level of the deadliest particulate matter i.e. PM 2.5 in the National Capital Region (NCR) reached near 500-mark (over 7 times the safe limit) triggering a string of health hazards. These fine particles could choke the lungs posing potential risks for the onset of several respiratory tract related diseases like asthma and bronchitis where the airways become inflamed making it harder for oxygen to reach different organs and tissues. Inhaling this toxic air has been equated by doctors with smoking 50 cigarettes a day.

According to the goal set by National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in 2019, the levels of PM2.5 and PM10 particles in air in various cities in India should be brought down by 30% within 5 years time frame upto 2024. But during this period in Delhi, the reduction of PM2.5 and PM10 particles have been only 5.9% and 3.9% respectively which is far less than the target!

New Delhi battles chronic winter smog every year as a drop in the surface wind speeds

accounts for the lack of dispersal of deadly pollutants in the air mostly from coal-fired power plants outside the city, fumes from vehicles, construction activity and stubble burning from neighbouring states.

As per a study carried out by the World Health Organisation (WHO), among the 1600 cities of the world, Delhi is one of the worst cities in terms of air pollution and according to one estimate, air pollution alone accounts for the death of nearly 10,500 people in Delhi every year on an average. According to one study, Delhi citizens would live on average an extra nine years if the city met the WHO air quality standards. A Lancet report in 2020 said almost 17,500 people died in Delhi in 2019 alone because of air pollution. Rising air pollution level has significantly increased lung-related ailments among Delhi's children and women. That is why Delhi's air is often equated to Nazi Hitler's toxic gas chamber that suffocated thousands of innocent people to death during the second World War. The dense smog in Delhi during the winter

also results in major air and rail traffic disruptions every year due to poor visibility conditions.

Delhi's population continues to grow rapidly unabated as thousands of migrants arrive in the capital city each year in search of better livelihood opportunities. Dust-generating construction sites, industrial emissions as well as proliferation of coal-fired power plants contribute to the increasingly deteriorating air quality in Delhi. Car sales have also been soaring as income of people have been steadily rising with improvements. This is evident from the fact that nearly 10 million vehicles jostle for space on the roads of Delhi everyday while thousands of diesel guzzling trucks rumble across the capital every night bringing in essential commodities from neighboring states.

As a long term goal, Delhi must find ways to restrict the emissions from in-situ and ex-situ sources to realise the long cherished dreams of the Delhites to breathe clean air.

The writer is Education Officer, Regional Science Centre, Bhopal.



Nikunja Bihari Sahu

AIR POLLUTION ALONE ACCOUNTS FOR THE DEATH OF NEARLY 10,500 PEOPLE IN DELHI EVERY YEAR ON AN AVERAGE

Drawing equaliser

Sir, Cricket is a team game where performance is the name of the game. After losing the first Test by 28 runs, team India worked out the basics and played to a plan to achieve an incredible win in the second Test. If it was Yashasvi Jaiswal and Subhan Gill in batting, then in bowling it was Jasprit Bumrah and Ravichandran Aswin sharing the spoils with intelligent spells of bowling. And to add fielders clinging on to the catches came their way. The wickets of Dockrell, Pope and Root turned the tables and checked the high scoring rate on the fourth morning and paved the way for Indian victory.

A Jayantchi Ramani, Navi Mumbai

Wrong message

Sir, No right thinking person, who strongly believes in secular India, will ever agree with the decision to award the Bharat Ratna to the former Deputy Prime Minister LK Advani, as his legacy will always be remembered for the direction he gave to India through his polarising rath yatra that led to the demolition of Babri masjid. The razing down of the mosque sparked violence in UP and elsewhere, leading to the killing of around 2,000 people. Honestly, did not his rath yatra sow the seeds for communal politics to emerge strongly, dividing the country along the Hindu-Muslim lines than ever before? It is really unfortunate that the country's highest civilian honour has been reduced to an instrument to drive home political messaging, especially at a time when general elections are around the corner.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Conflict escalation

Sir, The deadly drone strike in Jordan, which claimed the lives of three American soldiers, is costing the Houthis dearly. Several countries, including the US, the UK, Australia, New Zealand, Bahrain, Canada, Denmark, and the Netherlands, joined forces to bomb 36 Houthi targets in Yemen. The strikes targeted various underground storage facilities, missile systems, sites for storing and operating UAVs, and other capabilities. However, the rebels refused to be cowed down and warned of regional conflict escalation.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

LOL



Who is the boss?

A retiring farmer in preparation for selling his land, needed to rid his farm of animals. So he went to every house in his town. To the houses where the man is the boss, he gave a horse. To the houses where the woman is the boss, a chicken was given. He got toward the end of the street and saw a couple outside gardening. "Who's the boss around here?" he asked.

"I am," said the man. "I have a black horse and a brown horse," the farmer said, "which one would you like?" The man thought for a minute and said, "The black one." "No, no, no, get the brown one," the man's wife said. "Here's your chicken," said the farmer.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Akhilesh raises questions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Feb 5: Raising questions on the Uttar Pradesh Budget, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav Monday asked the state government what is there in it for 90 per cent of the people, who are the PDA - the SP coinage for the backward sections of the society, Dalits and minorities.

"Whether the budget of UP is ₹7 lakh crore or ₹8 lakh crore... The question remains what is there in it for 90 per cent of the people, meaning the PDA," Yadav said in his post on 'X' while reacting to the ₹7.36 lakh crore Budget presented in the state assembly Monday.

PDA is a term coined by Yadav to refer to the "Picchde, Dalit and Alapsankhyak". Taking potshots at the Yogi Adityanath government, Yadav said, "Actually, the BJP's policy is anti-common people, it keeps 90 per cent of the budget for 10 per cent of the rich people and only a nominal 10 per cent of the Budget for the 90 per cent of the needy people."

The Samajwadi Party chief said the BJP government "should not get entangled in figures". "It should tell the simple fact that how much relief will this Budget provide from inflation? How many youths will get employment? How much will actually be spent on measures to reduce crime and corruption? And what are the provisions to promote business and shopkeeping which are

UTTAR PRADESH BUDGET



facing the brunt of recession and GST," he added.

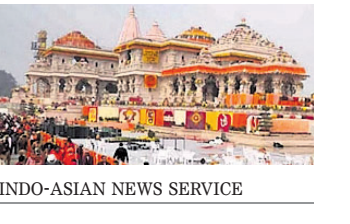
Escalating his attack on the ruling BJP, Yadav asked, "Whether theft of the farmer's bags will stop or not? Whether the right price for crops and farmers' income will be doubled or not? Will the labourers get the right price for his hard work or not?"

"Whether CCTVs will be installed at various places to control criminals to give freedom to women to go out of the house without fear? Will employees get their old pension or not? How much allocation has been made for good medicines and education? What is the nominal provision for the scheme of providing water to homes and running toilets smoothly?" the SP chief asked.

made in Gorakhpur for providing free training in boating and swimming to the people of Gorakhpur in the rainy season? How much Budget is there for new power plants? Leave aside new roads, just tell me whether there is any provision in the budget for filling potholes on roads or not?" he queried.

The Samajwadi Party (SP) chief further said, "Please keep a separate thick file of how much provision has been made by your BJP government for spreading of false claims before the public." The Uttar Pradesh government earlier in the day presented the Budget for financial year 2024-25 with an allocation of ₹7.36 lakh crore, prioritising infrastructure development as well as welfare of women, youths and farmers.

Face recognition cameras to be installed in Ayodhya



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ayodhya (UP), Feb 5: The temple trust and the Ayodhya administration are planning to install facial recognition cameras within the temple complex.

"As devotees coming to the temple complex must deposit their mobiles and electronic gadgets, facial recognition software and tools could be deployed at the pilgrimage facility centre check-in counters," said Ayodhya divisional commissioner Gaurav Dayal.

He said that later, devotees would get an option to download their photographs during their visit to the temple complex on their mobiles as per the unique code generated through the software.

"Facial recognition tools deployed at busy airports could be used at the Ram temple," said Dayal. However, execution of the concept would take some time as the temple trust is busy with arrangements for devotees who are thronging the temple complex.

Trust member Anil Mishra said: "Any new system such as face recognition software could be deployed once things start to stabilise to introduce new procedures. Presently, about one lakh devotees are visiting the temple daily. But we can implement and introduce such technology-based solutions in the future."

The trust will also start providing 'aarti' passes only after the rush of devotees stabilises. Mishra said a decision to issue aarti passes would be taken soon and would be announced through the Ram temple website.

IIT-Guwahati-led research develops cost-effective semiconductors

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Feb 5: A cost-effective method to grow a special semiconductor with the potential to significantly enhance the efficiency of power electronics used in high-power applications even at very high temperatures has been developed in a collaborative effort led by researchers of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati, a statement said Monday.

A team of IIT-Guwahati came together with researchers of IIT-Mandi and Institute of Sensor and Actuator Systems, Technical University Wien, to develop this special semiconductor which can be used in high-power applications like electric vehicles, high-voltage transmission, traction and industry automation.

The research team has developed an innovative and cost-effective technology to grow ultrawide bandgap semiconducting material named gallium oxide. This is achieved through a customised low-pressure chemical vapour deposition (LPCVD) system, the statement said.

Emphasising on the need of this research, Ankush Bag, assistant professor, Department of Electronics and Electrical Engineering and Centre for Nanotechnology, IIT-Guwahati, said, "Power semiconductor devices are the heart of every power electronic system and function primarily as efficient switches, toggling ON and OFF to condition incoming power from grid to be used by end-user. For emerging high-power applications, there is a demand for compound semiconductor materials with an ultrawide bandgap".

Power electronic systems play a vital role to manage and control the flow of electricity. They are crucial for converting electrical energy from both renewable including solar and wind, and non-renewable sources including thermal power plants, into a form compatible with end-user applications in terms of voltage, current and frequency.



However, there will always be some losses incurred when the electrical energy passes through a typical power electronic system. Researchers globally have been working on improving the efficiency of power electronic systems using materials like Gallium Nitride (GaN) and Silicon Carbide (SiC) but these have limitations, especially in terms of cost, for high-power applications.

"The main challenge was to make thin and smooth films out of the material. We have successfully developed a superior quality ultra-wide bandgap compound semiconductors and fabricated two terminal devices. The applications of this technology extend to electric vehicles, high voltage transmission, traction systems, and industrial automation," Bag added.

He said a key challenge was creating a Gallium oxide thin film on a sapphire substrate, deviating from the common use of Gallium oxide substrates.

This shift enhances cost-effectiveness and thermal performance, addressing issues related to the expense and poor thermal conductivity of Gallium oxide substrates, the assistant professor added.

The findings of the study have been published in multiple research papers in 'Journal of IEEE Transactions on Electron Devices' and 'Thin Solid Films'.

Besides Bag, the co-authors include Satinder K Sharma and Arnab Mondal from the School of Computing and Electrical Engineering, IIT Mandi, and Manoj K Yadav from Institute of Sensor and Actuator Systems, TU Wien, Vienna, Austria.

Flavours, packaging to attract tea drinkers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Feb 5: From 'fiery bhut jolokia' to pre-mixes, tea drinkers are being spoilt for choice in terms of flavours available for them, with value-addition and innovation going beyond just adding a few species to zing up the taste.

Packaging of tea in attractive bags and containers has also caught on with the industry as it tries to attract younger generations and also position itself as a preferred beverage among all sections.

"We are trying to provide an experience to the tea drinker where the taste will linger in their mouths. We curate and blend, and make an end product which people



will cherish to drink and will also contribute to their health," Ranjit Baruah, director of Aromica Tea, said.

Aromica Tea, which sources its tea leaves, spices and other ingredients mostly from small growers in Assam, innovates with the flavours added to the traditional tea. "We have our range of green tea and strong black tea as also those

infused with lemon grass, ginger, etc. Going a step further, we have introduced 'fiery bhut jolokia' flavoured tea where we have used the 'ghost chilli' as one of the added ingredients," Baruah said, offering sips of the latest innovation to participants at an international tea meet here recently.

He claimed that the health benefits of the value-added

tea, besides the flavour, are a major draw for the consumers, especially post-COVID pandemic. Echoing Baruah, Sujata Roychowdhury, an executive at Goodrick Tea said, "We are now trying to cater to niche markets of a different category. There are people with active lifestyles and those who engage in a lot of physical activities. We have come out with teas that have extra benefits for them."

As the younger generations mostly form this segment of consumers, pre-mixes introduced recently have been a major draw, she said, adding, "Premixes, which one needs to just add hot water to, are opening up wider range of teas for the younger generations to try."

EAST COAST RAILWAY
PUBLIC NOTICE FOR CLOSURE OF MANNED LEVEL CROSSING GATE BETWEEN THERUVALI - SINGAPUR ROAD STATIONS

THE FOLLOWING 'C' CLASS MANNED LEVEL CROSSING WILL BE CLOSED PERMANENTLY FOR ROAD USERS SINCE A ROAD UNDER BRIDGE (RUB) HAS BEEN CONSTRUCTED AT THIS LEVEL CROSSING.

ROAD USERS MAY PLEASE NOTE THIS NOTICE WITH EFFECT FROM 15.02.2024.

Route	Between Stations	LC No.	Railway Kilometer of LC	Manned / Unmanned
Titlagarh - Theruvali	Theruvali - Singapur Road	RV-242	327/1-2	Manned

Note : As per Collector & District Magistrate, Rayagada's Letter No.: 1254/XXII-01/2016 JUDL, Dtd. 07.10.2016.

Divisional Engineer (South) / Sambalpur

NOTICE TO THE RESPONDENT TO SHOW CAUSE [SCR, Order XXII] IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION PETITION FOR SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CRIMINAL) No. 7445 OF 2021

WITH I.A.No.125066/2021- APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION FROM FILLING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGEMENT

PAWAN KUMAR MUNDHRAPetitioner(s)
VERSUS THE STATE OF ODISHA AND ANOTHERRespondent(s)

To, 1 SHREE MINERALS THROUGH I THROUGH ITS PARTNER DASHARATHA BARIK OFFICE AT STATION ROAD, AT/PO/PS- BARBIL, DISTRICT-KEONJHAR, ODISHA-758035 PID 3485/2024 FOR R(2) IN SLP(CR)/NO. 7445/2021 (SEC II-B)

1 A. SHREE MINERALS THROUGH ITS PARTNER DASHARATHA BARIK, S/O. BANSHIDAR BARIK, R/O, PUNJABIPARA, BARBIL P.S/PS., BARBIL, DISTRICT-KEONJHAR, ODISHA-758035 PID:3486/2024 IN SLP (CR) NO.7445/2021 (SEC II-B)

Whereas the Petition for SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CRIMINAL) above-mentioned (copy enclosed) filed in the Registry by Ms. ANURADHA MUTATKAR, advocate on-record, on behalf of the Petitioner(s) above named, was listed for hearing before the Court on 20th October, 2021 and the Court was pleased to pass the following order:-

" Issue notice returnable within one week."

AND WHEREAS, the service of show cause notice could not be effected on unserved, Respondent No. 02 and the matter above-mentioned was listed before Ld. Registrar's Court on 03rd January, 2024, When the following order was passed:-

" Respondent No.1 is duly represented. As requested, fresh notice be issued for fresh paper publication in respect of respondent No.2. List again on 19.2.2024."

NOW, THEREFORE, TAKE NOTICE that the above matter(s) will be posted for hearing before the Court in due course when you may appear before this Court either in person or through an advocate-on-record of this Court duly appointed by you in that behalf within thirty days from the date of service of notice. You may thereafter show cause to the Court on the day that may subsequently be specified as to why special leave and interim relief, as prayed for, be not granted and the resultant appeal be not allowed.

You may file your affidavit in opposition to the petition as provided under Rule VI of Order XXII, SCR 2013, within thirty days from the date of receipt of notice or not later than two weeks before the date appointed for hearing, whichever be earlier, but shall do so only by setting out the grounds in opposition to the questions of law or grounds set out in the SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CRIMINAL) and may produce such pleadings and documents filed before the Court against whose order the SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CRIMINAL) is filed and shall also set out the grounds for not granting interim order or for vacating interim order if already granted.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if you fail to enter appearance, as aforesaid, no further notice shall be given to you even after the grant of special leave for hearing of the resultant appeal and the matter above mentioned shall be disposed of in your absence.

Dated : 06th January, 2024
Sd./- ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, MALKANGIRI
E-mail ID: midivmalkangiri@gmail.com
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. SEMIDMKG-05/2023-24

Letter No. 194 Dt.02.02.2024
No. A-1400: The Superintendent Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Malkangiri on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in Single Cover System through Online Mode. The bid documents consisting of work, estimated cost, cost of tender paper, time of completion, class of contractor, set of terms and conditions of the contract and other necessary documents can be seen in e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>.

- Name of the work : Improvement to MIPs in different Blocks of Malkangiri District
- Total Number of Works : 04 (Four) Nos.
- Estimated Cost : Approximately varies from Rs. 12.60 lakhs to Rs. 25.20 lakhs
- Period of Completion : 03 (Three) Calendar Months
- Class of Contractor : "D", "C" & "B" Class Contractor
- Date and time of availability of bid documents in the portal : From 10.00 A.M. of 09.02.2024 to 5.00 P.M. of 22.02.2024
- Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal : 5.00 P.M. on 22.02.2024
- Date of Opening of Bid : At 11.00 A.M. on 23.02.2024 in website (www.tendersorissa.gov.in)
- Submission of Bids : Online Mode
- Name of the Officer Inviting Bid : Superintending Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Malkangiri

11. Further details can be seen from the Government of Odisha Website: www.tendersorissa.gov.in

Sd./- Superintending Engineer
M.I. Division, Malkangiri

OIPR-32364/11/0006/2324

REGIONAL STRESSED ASSET RECOVERY BRANCH, CUTTACK
Plot No.: CM-2B, 1st Floor, Sector-7, Near Market Nagar
Police Station, CDA, Cuttack-753014, Odisha

POSSESSION NOTICE
(For Immovable Property/ies)

[As per Appendix-IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of the BANK OF BARODA under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice on the date mentioned below, calling upon the borrower(s)/guarantor(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(s)/guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken POSSESSION of the property/ies described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned below. The borrower(s)/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of the BANK OF BARODA for the amount stated herein below plus further interest thereon at contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment. The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name & Address of Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Description of the immovable property/ies	Demand/Possession Notice Date	Amount Outstanding
Borrower: M/s Sahara Roadways, Prop.: Mr. Amit Kumar Mishra / Guarantor: Mr. Dilip Kumar Mishra, Both are at Near I.T.I., At: Station Road, Barbil, Keonjhar-758035	Equitable mortgage of Land & Building situated at Khata No.: 130/33, Plot No.: 52, Village: Sundara, Station Road, PS: Barbil, Area: Ac.0.050 dec., in the name of Mr. Dilip Mishra (Guarantor).	06.11.2023 / 03.02.2024	₹ 1,08,85,482.05 as on 06.11.2023 plus further interest thereon at contractual rate plus costs, charges & expenses till date of payment

Date: 05.02.2024, Place: Cuttack
Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

UP to deploy local intelligence units

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Feb 5: The Uttar Pradesh government is implementing extensive and foolproof measures to ensure transparency and security at every stage in the secondary Board examinations.

The government will deploy the local intelligence unit (LIU) for meticulous monitoring of examination centres categorised as sensitive or highly sensitive. These centres, with a history of irregularities, are under constant vigilance, with patrolling by jurisdictional officers and officer-in-charge of the concerned police station to deter external cheating, said a government spokesman.

Uttar Pradesh Secondary Education Council secretary Divyakant Shukla emphasised that the government has involved armed forces in monitoring strong rooms. This stringent measure aims to pre-



vent any potential paper leaks or security breaches. A comprehensive strategy has been devised involving coordination with various departments to facilitate the smooth conduct of the examinations scheduled from February 22 to March 9.

The mammoth task involves catering to the needs of 55,25,290 students, encompassing both high school (29,47,325 examinees) and intermediate (25,77,965 examinees) levels, across 8,265 examination centres statewide, including 566 government, 3,479 funded, and 4,220 non-funded centres.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 51-SBP-TRD-OT-2023-24, Date : 30.01.2024

NAME OF WORK: OHE MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES IN THE JURISDICTION OF JUNIOR ENGINEER / TRD / RENGALI AND SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / TRD / BARGARH ROAD AND OTHER OHE RELATED WORKS OVER THE SAMBALPUR DIVISION FOR A PERIOD OF 02 YEARS.

Approximate Cost (₹) : 1,98,72,343.67, Cost of Tender Document (₹) : 5,900/-, EMD (₹) : 2,49,400.00, Completion Period : 24 Months.

Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1530 Hrs. on 21.02.2024.

No manual offers sent by Post / Courier / Fax or in person accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : <http://www.reps.gov.in>

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigendum issued for this tender.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), Sambalpur
PR-1050/OI/23-24

UCO BANK
C-2, Ashok Nagar, Unit-II, Bhubaneswar, PIN-751009, Ph.: 0674-2620423

POSSESSION NOTICE

(Under Section 13(4) of the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act., 2002 read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 for Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the UCO Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No. 04 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the borrowers, co-borrowers & guarantors to repay the amount as mentioned below within 60 days from the date of the said Notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers, co-borrowers & guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken POSSESSION of the property/ies described here-in below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the date mentioned below. The borrowers, co-borrowers & guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of the UCO Bank for the amount plus interest plus expenses- thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the secured assets.

BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Amount Outstanding as on Specified Date	Demand / Possession Notice Date	Description of the Immovable Property/ies
BANPUR BRANCH / Borrowers: 1) Mr. Prasanna Bhola, S/o- Kabiraj Bhola & 2) Mrs. Anusuya Bhola, W/o- Prasanna Bhola / Guarantor: Mrs. Sarojini Blola, W/o- Kabiraj Bhola, All are At: Nachhipur, PO: Panchugaon, PS: Banpur, Dist.: Khordha, Odisha, PIN-752035	₹ 3,26,493.48 as on 29.08.2023 + further interest & other charges thereon	06.10.2023 / 31.01.2024	All the part and parcels of Land and Building standing in the name of Mrs. Sarojini Blola, Khata No.: 101, Plot No.: 225/267/274, Area: Ac.0.137dec., Mouza: Nachhipur, PS: Banpur, Dist.: Khordha, Bounded by East: Purna Chandra Marthia, West: Jhalli Marthia, North: Road, South: Banchanidhi Baisarsingh.
GANGADHARPUR BRANCH / Borrower: Mr. Jayakrishna Behera, S/o- Mr. Dusanan Behera, At: Ghasadiha, Deogaon, PO: Gambharimunda, PS: Banpur, Dist.: Khordha, PIN-752034 / Guarantors: 1) Mr. Dusanan Behera, S/o- Mr. Bichitra Behera, At: Ghasadiha, Padmapur, PO: Gambharimunda, Dist.: Khordha, PIN-752034, 2) Mrs. Pramila Das, W/o- Mr. Dhiran Das, At: Raj Janikia, Mayur Jhulia, Ranpur, Dist.: Nayagarh, 3) Mr. Judhisthir Das, S/o- Mr. Harekrishna Das, 4) Mr. Bhimasen Das, S/o- Mr. Harekrishna Das, Both are At/PO: Sunakhala, Dist.: Khurda, PIN-752034	₹ 19,97,616.00 as on 24.04.2017 + further interest & other charges thereon	24.04.2017 / 31.01.2024	All the part and parcels of immovable properties situated at (a) Khata No.: 98, Plot No.: 632, Area: 100dec., Bounded by East: Sarbeswar Harichandran, West: Road, (b) Khata No.: 98, Plot No.: 417, Area: 74dec., Bounded by North: Nilakanthswar Das, South: Hema Biswal, Mouza: Sunakhala, SRO: Banpur, Dist.: Khordha, Property in the name of 1) Mr. Judhisthir Das & 2) Mr. Bimsen Das.

Date: 05.02.2024, Place: Bhubaneswar
Sd/- Authorised Officer, UCO Bank



Visitors at the Jaipur Literature Festival in Rajasthan. Litterateurs from 10 Indian and 7 international languages have also been included in this season of the festival



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with coal transporters during the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra to Ranchi, Jharkhand



Members of Uttarakhand Numainda Group protest against the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill during a special session of Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly in Dehradun



Cranes at the Keoladeo National Park, formerly known as Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary in Bharatpur, Rajasthan



Folk artists from Zambia during the Surajkund International Crafts Mela in Faridabad, Haryana



Tourists ride on horses after fresh snowfall, at Kufri near Shimla, Himachal Pradesh



A BMC worker fumigates an area for prevention from mosquito-borne diseases in Mumbai, Maharashtra



Search and rescue workers evacuate men from a homeless encampment that became surrounded by floodwater from the Guadalupe River, in San Jose, Calif

national

of the day quote

The CAA was passed by Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. Its implementation is due which will happen soon

I have cancelled my New Delhi trip. The state budget will be presented in the assembly February 8, and there are only two days to go. In this situation, I had to call off the visit

The current generation is fortunate to see Ram Lalla standing in his place. It has actually happened, not just because we all worked towards it but because we all did some good deeds and that is why God showered his blessings (upon us). It is the wish of God



Want to congratulate all alliance MLAs, (Champai) Soren ji as that they stopped the BJP-RSS conspiracy and protected the government of the poor

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

555 ASIATIC LIONS DIED IN FIVE YEARS

A total 555 Asiatic lions died in the last five years but there has been no increase in their mortality rate, the government told the Lok Sabha Monday



Champai govt wins trust vote



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Feb 5: Jharkhand's JMM-led coalition government headed by Chief Minister Champai Soren won the vote of confidence Monday after getting 47 votes in the 81-member assembly, following which the ruling alliance claimed that it was a "slap" on the face of BJP that tried to destabilise a democratically elected government.

legislator Saryu Roy abstained. Seventy-seven MLAs were present in the Assembly during the voting, in which arrested former Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren also participated. "Hemant hai to himmat hai (if Hemant is there, strength is there)," said Champai Soren in his address to the special session of the Assembly as he moved the confidence motion.

While 29 legislators voted against the motion, independent legislator Saryu Roy abstained. Seventy-seven MLAs were present in the Assembly during the voting, in which arrested former Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren also participated

administration. "Misuse of the ED and the CBI by the Centre is a threat to democracy. I urge all to save democracy by following the path of the Father of the constitution," Champai Soren said while referring to B R Ambedkar. After winning the trust vote, Champai Soren said, "We will work at full pace on the schemes started by Hemant Soren" and added that the cabinet expansion will take place in the next 2-3 days.

PAN-AADHAAR LINKING ₹600cr penalty collected from defaulters



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 5: The government has collected over ₹600 crore as penalty for delay in linking PAN with Aadhaar, and about 11.48 crore Permanent Account Numbers are still not linked with biometric identity, Parliament was informed Monday.

Chaudhary said in a written reply in the Lok Sabha. To a question regarding the details of government earning through late penalty of ₹1,000 from the persons who have not linked their PAN and Aadhaar after the last date of June 30, 2023, Chaudhary said "the total collection of fee from persons who have not linked their PAN with Aadhaar is ₹601.97 crore from July 1, 2023 to January 31, 2024".

SHORT TAKES

Four killed in road mishaps

Chhatrapur: At least four persons were killed in two separate road accidents involving a tractor trolley and a motorcycle in Madhya Pradesh's Chhatrapur district, police said Monday. A tractor trolley with 25 persons on board overturned near Raipur village Sunday night, leaving three persons dead and more than 10 others injured, said Chhatrapur Superintendent of Police Amit Sanghi. In another incident, a motorcycle carrying three persons rammied into a stationary truck under the Bada-Malhera police station limits, the police officer said.

Farmers to march Delhi February 13

Chandigarh: Farmers will march to Delhi February 13 to press the Centre for accepting several demands, including enactment of a law to guarantee MSP for crops, a top farm leader said Monday. Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal claimed more than 200 farmers' unions from across the country will participate in the "Delhi Chalo" march.

Simultaneous polls: WB CM skips meeting

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Monday said she would skip the meeting of the 'one nation one election' committee in New Delhi on Tuesday, citing engagements related to the upcoming state budget. The TMC supremo said she has communicated to the committee chief, former President Ramnath Kovind, about her inability to attend the meeting.

EC warns parties not to use children

New Delhi: Ahead of Lok Sabha polls, the Election Commission asked Monday political parties not to use children in campaigning "in any form whatsoever", including distribution of posters and pamphlets or sloganeering. In an advisory sent to parties, the poll panel conveyed its 'zero tolerance' towards use of children in any manner during the electoral process by parties and candidates. Separately, the commission has also directed all election officials and poll machinery to refrain from involving children in any capacity during election-related work or activities. District election officers and returning officers will 'bear personal responsibility' to ensure compliance with all relevant acts and laws pertaining to child labour.

Modi predicts 370 seats for BJP

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday predicted that the BJP will "definitely" get 370 seats and the ruling National Democratic Alliance will cross 400 seats in the Lok Sabha polls as he tore into the Congress, saying its "shop" is on the verge of closure. In his nearly 100-minute reply to the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's address in Lok Sabha, he said his government in its third term will take "very big" decisions and lay a strong foundation for the India of next 1,000 years while the opposition has made up its mind to remain in opposition with reduced numbers.

Court extends judicial custody of Sisodia

New Delhi: A court here Monday allowed senior AAP leader Manish Sisodia, arrested in a Delhi excise policy case, to visit his ailing wife once a week while in custody. Special judge M K Nagpal also extended the judicial custody of Sisodia till February 22 after he was produced before the court on the expiry of his remand granted earlier. The judge passed the order while adjourning his bail application in excise policy-related cases filed by the CBI and the ED. Sisodia had sought custody parole to visit his ailing wife twice a week.

HC upholds summons against Kejriwal

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Monday upheld summons issued to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal as an accused in a criminal defamation case for retweeting an allegedly defamatory video circulated by YouTube Dhruv Rathee in May 2018, saying that reposting alleged libelous content will attract defamation law. The high court said a sense of responsibility has to be attached while retweeting content about which one does not have knowledge and added that retweeting of defamatory content must invite penal, civil as well as tort action if the person retweeting it does not attach a disclaimer.

Liquor prices, court fee to cost more

Thiruvananthapuram: A cash-strapped Kerala government Monday increased court fees and excise duty on liquor and pitched for public-private funding in key areas to raise funds for the implementation of various developmental projects in the state budget for the fiscal 2024-25. Despite expectations, the government opted not to enhance social welfare pensions and also provided only a nominal increase of ₹10 in the minimum support price for rubber -- a major cash crop of the state -- enhancing it to ₹180 from ₹170 earlier. The state hopes to generate additional revenue of ₹224 crore through these measures, the FM said.

63 prisoners in Lucknow jail are HIV positive: Officials

Lucknow: As many as 63 prisoners lodged in the Lucknow district jail are patients of HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) and are being treated, officials said Monday. Speaking to PTI, Director General of Prisons S N Sabat Monday said, "No prisoner has died due to HIV infection in the District Jail Lucknow in the last five years." "We check HIV infected people from time to time in all the jails of Uttar Pradesh. Not a single person has become HIV infected after being admitted in the Lucknow jail. They were already infected. Most of the affected prisoners were infected due to drug abuse," Sabat said. Lucknow district jail authorities said as on January 1, 2023, a total of 47 prisoners detained in the jail were found to be HIV-infected. Due to non-availability of HIV testing kits from September, 2023, HIV testing was not held at the district jail for three months, the officials said. When the inmates were tested for HIV in a health camp held on December 3, as many as 36 of them were found to be HIV infected. A total of 20 infected prisoners were released meanwhile, they said.

'Hindu Kush biosphere on brink of collapse'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 5: Scientists Monday declared the Hindu Kush Himalaya region a biosphere on the brink of collapse and called for bold action and urgent finance to prevent nature loss in one of the most biodiverse areas on Earth at a key meeting of global biodiversity experts. The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) issued the call as more than 130 global experts convened in Kathmandu, Nepal, for the Third Lead Authors meeting of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) nexus assessment to examine the linkages between food and water security, health, biodiversity and climate change. The meeting got underway Monday and will continue until February 9, with a summary for policymakers scheduled for February 10-11. This is the first time an IPBES assessment meeting is being held in South Asia. Established in 2012 with 145 member-states, the IPBES functions similarly to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, with an aim to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services. The nexus assessment seeks to enhance understanding of the intricate

relationships between biodiversity, water, food and health in the context of climate change. The goal is to identify options for improved policies and foster collaboration across related sectors. Researchers at ICIMOD, which is hosting the meeting, describe the speed and scale of losses in nature and habitat in the Hindu Kush Himalaya region, which stretches 3,500 kilometres and spans eight countries -- Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan -- as catastrophic. "It is almost too late," ICIMOD Deputy Director General Izabella Koziell told delegates to the IPBES meeting. "Four of the world's 36 global biodiversity hotspots are in this region. Twelve of the global 200 ecoregions, 575 protected areas, 335 important bird areas -- those figures speak for themselves. Yet we are in an accelerating crisis, despite the efforts of everyone here and many in the international community. Seventy per cent of the original biodiversity has been lost over the last century," she said. Around 241 million people live in the Hindu Kush Himalaya region, of whom 31 per cent are food insecure. "This is a region that must be urgently prioritised for investment -- to fund the fight to reverse nature loss and species extinction. Worldwide we are seeing a huge uptick in investments in ecosystem restoration and a growing recognition of the role that nature plays in human survival. We must ensure that funding to the Hindu Kush Himalaya (region) rises at an exponential rate before these fragile and crucial ecosystems collapse," she said.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, GANJAM No.1, BERHAMPUR e-mail ID: eemi_gm1@yahoo.co.in Letter No.430, Dated 02.02.2024

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (AGRI.), DHENKANAL DIVISION, DHENKANAL No. 125 Date: 03.02.2024 INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) e-Procurement Notice

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. O-2433 O/O. THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION-II, CUTTACK Email ID: cuttackrw2nd@yahoo.co.in Telephone/Fax No.: (0671) 2445119

OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, KHARIAR AT/PO KHARIAR, Dist- NUAPADA, PIN-766107 e-mail: khariarn.hud@ori.nic.in, khariarnac@gmail.com Letter No. 334/NAC KHR Dated 02.02.2024

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, GUNUPUR e-procurement Notice Tender Reference No.GUN-MUN-66/2023-24 No. 235 dt.02.02.2024

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION, JAGATSINGHPUR No.1268, Dtd.03.02.2024 Office Order

international

of the day quote

It is important to achieve full membership for the State of Palestine in the United Nations through a decision of the Security Council and holding an international peace conference to ensure the withdrawal of Israelis from Palestine

MAHMOUD ABBAS | PALESTINIAN PRESIDENT

We want peace and stability through adherence to international resolutions

NAJIB MIKATI | LEBANESE PRIME MINISTER

There's a recognition that my government is committed to climate action and that we're playing a positive role, not just with our commitment to reduce our emissions by 43% by 2030 and to reach net zero by 2050, but that, importantly, we are playing a role in the region, and indeed, around the globe

ANTHONY ALBANESE | AUSTRALIAN PM

SHORT TAKES

10 policemen killed

Peshawar: At least 10 policemen were killed and six others injured as heavily armed terrorists attacked a police station in northwest Pakistan Monday, ahead of the February 8 general elections in the country. The incident took place at Chodwan police station in Daraban tehsil in Dera Ismail Khan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, a senior police official in Dera Ismail Khan division said. No outfit has yet claimed responsibility for the attack.

Two dead

Dhaka: At least two people were killed when mortar shells landed across the border in a Bangladesh village while 95 Burmese paramilitary border guards fled their posts and took refuge in this country in the past two days, officials said Monday. "One of the two slain people is a Bangladeshi woman while the other is a Rohingya man. They were killed on Sunday in the Japaitali area near the border," said Shah Mujahid Uddin, Bandarban Deputy Commissioner and Administrative Chief.

Samsung chief acquitted

Seoul: A South Korean court Monday acquitted Samsung Electronics Chairman Lee Jae-yong of financial crimes involving a contentious merger between Samsung affiliates in 2015 that tightened his grip over South Korea's biggest company. The ruling by the Seoul Central District Court could ease the legal troubles surrounding the Samsung heir less than two years after he was pardoned of a separate conviction of bribery in a corruption scandal that toppled a previous South Korean government. The court said the prosecution failed to sufficiently prove the merger between Samsung C&T and Cheil Industries was unlawfully conducted with an aim to strengthen Lee's control over Samsung Electronics.

Lanka arrests 23 Indian fishermen

Colombo: The Sri Lankan Navy has arrested 23 Indian fishermen and seized two trawlers for allegedly poaching in the island nation's waters, according to an official statement here. The fishermen were arrested, and their two trawlers were seized Saturday north of the Delft Island, Jaffna, the Sri Lanka Navy said in a press release Sunday.



Commitment to the citizens of the country is more important for the government than anything else
YOAV GALLANT | ISRAELI DEFENCE MINISTER

PUTIN TO VISIT TURKEY

Russian President Vladimir Putin will visit Turkey soon, the Turkish foreign minister said late Sunday. It would be Putin's first trip to a NATO country since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine two years ago



'Indian troops will leave Maldives by May 10'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Male, Feb 5: Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu Monday said the first group of Indian military personnel will be sent back from the island nation before March 10 and the remaining manning two aviation platforms will be withdrawn before May 10, as he articulated the need to bolster the Indian Ocean archipelagic nation's military capabilities.

In his maiden address to Parliament, Muizzu, widely seen as a pro-China leader, said the support of a large majority of the Maldivian citizens for his administration was for the "pledges to withdraw foreign military troops from the country."

Soon after taking oath as the President of Maldives on November 17, Muizzu formally requested India to withdraw 88 military personnel from his country by March 15, saying the Maldivian people have given him a "strong mandate" to make this request to New Delhi.

In the presidential runoff held in September last year, Muizzu, 45, defeated India-friendly incumbent Ibrahim Mohamed Solih. His government is also reviewing more than 100 bilateral agreements signed with India by the previous government.

The main opposition party, the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP)—which holds a majority



IN THE PRESIDENTIAL RUNOFF HELD IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR, MUIZZU, 45, DEFEATED INDIA-FRIENDLY INCUMBENT IBRAHIM MOHAMED SOLIH

HIS GOVERNMENT IS ALSO REVIEWING MORE THAN 100 BILATERAL AGREEMENTS SIGNED WITH INDIA BY THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT

in Parliament—Sunday announced that it would boycott Muizzu's address to Parliament, at this year's inaugural sitting.

He also said that his administration would recover the lost area of the Maldivian territory, and terminate any agreements made by the state that might undermine the country's sovereignty, according to a press release issued by the President's Office.

The President articulated the Maldives' need to augment its modern military capabilities for a comprehensive national de-

fence strategy encompassing terrestrial, aerial, and maritime domains, it said. Muizzu told Parliament that "diplomatic negotiations were underway for the withdrawal of Indian troops," the release said.

He detailed that, "as agreed in the latest negotiations, the military personnel on one of the three aviation platforms would be withdrawn before March 10, 2024, and the military personnel on the remaining two platforms would be withdrawn before May 10, 2024".

Zelensky hints at major shake-up



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyiv, Feb 5: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said he is thinking about dismissing the country's top military officer as part of a broader leadership shake-up, a possibility that has shocked the nation fighting a war to end Russia's invasion and also worried Ukraine's Western allies.

Meanwhile, four people were killed and at least one was injured in a Monday afternoon strike over the city of Kherson in southern Ukraine, the head of the local military administration said.

Zelensky confirmed in an interview with Italian broadcaster RAI TV released late Sunday that he was thinking about removing Gen. Valerii Zaluzhnyi, the popular commander-in-chief of Ukraine's armed forces. He said he was contemplating the move to ensure the country remains led by individuals who are "convinced of victory" against Russia.

"A reset, a new beginning is necessary," Zelensky said. The review is "not about a single person but about the direction of the country's leadership."

"I'm thinking about this replacement, but you can't say here we replaced a single person," Zelensky said. "When we talk about this, I mean a replacement of a series of state leaders, not just in a

single sector like the military. If we want to win, we must all push in the same direction, convinced of victory. We cannot be discouraged, let our arms fall. We must have the right positive energy."

Zelensky's comments were his first acknowledgement of Zaluzhnyi's possible firing. The potential ouster of the general already has caused uproar in Ukraine and delighted the Kremlin as the war approaches its second anniversary.

Zaluzhnyi is widely respected among Ukrainian service members and considered a national hero. He is credited with stalling Russia's full-scale invasion in the early days of the war and expertly pushing back Moscow's troops.

Kyiv Mayor Vitalii Klitschko criticized the possibility of Zaluzhnyi's firing, saying it was due to the general's leadership that "many Ukrainians truly trust the armed forces." "Today is a moment when politics might prevail over reason and country's interests," Klitschko said on social media. The mayor of Ukraine's capital city has been a vocal critic of Zelensky. The presidency in turn has accused Klitschko's office of inefficiencies.

It is unclear who might replace Zaluzhnyi and if his successor would command the same level of respect from Ukraine's troops and foreign defence leaders. His firing could risk degrading morale at a critical time in the war.

112 killed in Chile forest fires

Several neighbourhoods on the eastern edge of Viña del Mar were devoured by flames and smoke, trapping some people in their homes. Officials said 200 people were reported missing in Viña del Mar and the surrounding area



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Santiago (Chile), Feb 5: Firefighters wrestled Sunday with massive forest fires that broke out in central Chile two days earlier, as officials extended curfews in cities most heavily affected by the blazes and said at least 112 people had been killed. The fires burned with the highest intensity around the city of Viña del Mar, where a famous botanical garden founded in 1931 was destroyed by the flames Sunday. At least 1,600 people were left without homes.

Several neighbourhoods on the eastern edge of Viña del Mar were devoured by flames and smoke, trapping some people in their homes. Officials said 200 people were reported missing in Viña del Mar and the surrounding area. The city of 300,000 people is a popular beach resort and also hosts a well-known

music festival during the southern hemisphere's summer.

Sunday morning, Chilean President Gabriel Boric visited the town of Quilpe, which was also heavily affected by the fires and reported that 64 people had been killed. Late Sunday, Chile's Forensic Medicine Service updated the confirmed death toll to 112 people.

Boric said the death toll could rise as rescue workers search through homes that have collapsed. Some of those arriving in hospitals were also in critical condition. Rodrigo Mundaca, the governor of the Valparaiso region, where Viña del Mar and other affected cities are located, said Sunday he believed some of the fires could have been intentionally caused, echoing a theory that had also been mentioned Saturday by Boric.

"These fires began in four

points that lit up simultaneously," Mundaca said. "As authorities we will have to work rigorously to find who is responsible." The fires around Viña del Mar began in mountainous forested areas that are hard to reach. But they have moved into densely populated neighborhoods on the city's periphery despite efforts by Chilean authorities to slow down the flames.

Saturday, Boric said that unusually high temperatures, low humidity and high wind speeds were making it difficult to control the wildfires in central Chile, which have already burnt through 8,000 hectares (30 square miles) of forest and urban areas.

Boric flew over some of the areas burned by the fires Sunday and visited a school that has been turned into a shelter for the displaced.

El Salvador's Bukele re-elected as President

REUTERS

San Salvador, Feb 5: President Nayib Bukele Sunday secured a thumping victory in El Salvador's elections after voters cast aside concerns about erosion of democracy to reward him for a fierce gang crackdown that transformed security in the Central American country.

Thousands of Bukele's supporters clad in cyan blue and waving flags thronged San Salvador's central square to celebrate his re-election, which the 42-year-old leader termed a "referendum" on his government.

Bukele declared himself the winner before official results were announced, claiming to have attained more than 85% of the vote. Provisional results showed Bukele winning 83% support with 31% of the ballots counted.

His New Ideas party is expected to win almost all of the 60 seats in the legislative body, tightening its grip on the country and bestowing even more sway on Bukele, the most powerful leader in El Salvador's modern history.

"All together the opposition was pulverized," Bukele, standing with his wife on the balcony of the National Palace, told his supporters. "El Salvador went from being the most unsafe (country) to the safest. Now in these next five years, wait to see what we are going to do," Bukele added.

Espionage as part of statecraft

CHINA'S RISE AND RUSSIA'S REVANCHISM POSE DAUNTING GEOPOLITICAL CHALLENGES IN A WORLD OF INTENSE STRATEGIC COMPETITION IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES NO LONGER ENJOYS UNCONTESTED PRIMACY AND IN WHICH EXISTENTIAL CLIMATE THREATS ARE MOUNTING

Throughout history, nations have endeavoured to conceal certain information from each other, and concurrently made attempts to illicitly acquire it. Intelligence gathering has always been, and will continue to be, an inherent component of political diplomacy, consistently adapting to the changing times. During the American Revolution, the country's earliest intelligence agents relied on codes, secret dispatch systems, and invisible ink to communicate among themselves and their international allies. As World War II unfolded, the burgeoning area of signals intelligence became instrumental in revealing Japanese military strategies. In the nascent stages of the Cold War, the US significantly enhanced its intelligence gathering prowess, reaching new heights, quite literally. This elevation was due to the introduction of U-2 and various

other advanced high-altitude reconnaissance aircraft. These allowed the US to capture extraordinarily clear images of Soviet military facilities.

The simple stars etched on the memorial wall at the CIA's headquarters in Langley, Virginia, honour the 140 agency officers who gave their lives serving their country. The memorial offers an enduring reminder of countless acts of courage. Yet those instances of heroism and the CIA's many quiet successes remain far less well known to the American public than the mistakes that have sometimes marred the agency's history. The defining test for intelligence has always been to anticipate and help policymakers navigate profound shifts in the international landscape—the plastic moments that come along only a few times each century.



As President Joe Biden has reiterated, the United States faces one of those rare moments today, as consequential as the dawn of the Cold War or the post-9/11 period. China's rise and Russia's revanchism pose daunting geopolitical challenges in a world of intense strategic

age. From microchips to artificial intelligence to quantum computing, emerging technologies are transforming the world, including the profession of intelligence. In many ways, these developments make the CIA's job harder than ever.

And yet as much as the world is changing, espionage remains an interplay between humans and technology. There will continue to be secrets that only humans can collect and clandestine operations that only humans can conduct. Technological advances, particularly in signals intelligence, have not made such human operations irrelevant, as some have predicted, but have instead revolutionized their practice. To be an effective twenty-first-century intelligence service, the CIA must blend a mastery of emerging technologies with the people-to-people skills and individual

daring that have always been at the heart of our profession. That means equipping operations officers with the tools and tradecraft to conduct espionage in a world of constant technological surveillance—and equipping analysts with sophisticated artificial intelligence models that can digest mammoth amounts of open-source and clandestinely acquired information so that they can make their best human judgments.

This is a time of historic challenges for the CIA and the entire intelligence profession, with geopolitical and technological shifts posing as big a test as ever faced. Success will depend on blending traditional human intelligence with emerging technologies in creative ways. It will require, in other words, adapting to a world where the only safe prediction about change is that it will accelerate. AGENCIES

of the day quote

For the third quarter of financial year 2024, we reported a profit after tax of 30 billion rupees with a profit after tax margin of 15.4 per cent. With these five consecutive quarters of profit we continue to recover from the losses of Covid and have now become net worth positive again

The focus of the government is on increasing the domestic production of coal and to eliminate non-essential imports of coal in the country. Most of the requirements of coal in the country are met through indigenous production/supply

The government's unwavering emphasis on the building of world-class rail infrastructure in India makes us enthusiastic about higher and sustained growth in the upcoming quarters



It is our constant effort to provide more gas for domestic cooking purposes and for the transport sector and we are committed to making the green transition

HARDEEP PURI | OIL MINISTER

INDIAN TOY MAKERS GET ORDERS WORTH \$10MN

Indian toy makers, who have participated in the five-day international toy fair in Germany have received orders worth over \$10 million as they showcased high-quality products, according to exporters. The exporters said buyers from countries such as the US, the UK, South Africa, and Germany showed interest in their products and placed a good number of orders.



OMCs post bumper profit of ₹69k cr

The profit in the first nine months of the current fiscal far exceeded their annual earning in pre-oil crisis years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 5: State-owned oil marketing companies (OMCs) Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd reported bumper profit totalling over Rs 69,000 crore in the first nine months of the current fiscal which far exceeded their annual earning in pre-oil crisis years.

The combined net profit of IOC, BPCL and HPCL in April-December FY24 was better than their annual earning of Rs 39,356 crore in pre-oil crisis year, regulatory filings by them showed.

The retailers have resisted calls to revert to daily price revision and pass on softening in rates to consumers on grounds that prices continue to be extremely volatile - rising on one day and falling on the other - and that their past losses have not been fully recouped.

The three companies, which control roughly 90 per cent of India's fuel market, 'voluntarily' have not changed petrol, diesel and cooking gas (LPG) prices for almost two years now, resulting in losses when input cost was higher and profits when



raw material prices were lower. They posted a combined net loss of Rs 21,201.18 crore during April-September 2022 despite accounting for Rs 22,000 crore announced but not paid LPG subsidy for the previous two years.

Subsequent softening of international prices and government giving out LPG subsidy helped IOC and BPCL post annualised profit for 2022-23 (April 2022 to March 2023) but HPCL was in the red.

This fiscal year, things have

changed dramatically. The three firms posted record earnings in the first two quarters (April-June and July-September) when international oil prices - against which domestic rates are benchmarked - almost halved to USD 72 a barrel from a year ago.

International prices rose again in the subsequent quarter to USD 90, leading to moderation of their earnings. But, on a year as a whole they had rich profits. IOC in the first nine months of the current fiscal (April-December 2023) posted a stand-

alone net profit of Rs 34,781.15 crore, according to the company's regulatory filing.

This compared with Rs 8,241.82 crore annual net profit in 2022-23. While the company could argue that FY23 was impacted by the oil crisis, the 9-month earnings are higher than even the pre-crisis years - Rs 24,184 crore net profit in 2021-22 and Rs 21,836 crore in 2020-21.

BPCL posted a net profit of Rs 22,449.32 crore in the 9-month period of current fiscal as compared to a loss of Rs 4,607.64 crore in the same period last year.

This profit was higher than Rs 1,870.10 crore earning in 2022-23 and Rs 8,788.73 crore in FY22. HPCL's 9-month profit of Rs 11,851.08 crore compared with a Rs 8,974.03 crore loss in FY23 and a profit of Rs 6,382.63 crore in 2021-22.

The fuel price freeze that began on April 6, 2022, had a loss as high as Rs 17.4 a litre on petrol and Rs 27.7 per litre on diesel for the week ended June 24, 2022. However, subsequent softening led to losses being eliminated. The three firms had a margin of Rs 11 a litre on petrol and Rs 6 on diesel last month.

Hyundai India looks to raise \$3 billion via IPO

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Feb 5: South Korean automaker Hyundai is looking to raise at least USD 3 billion (around Rs 25,000 crore) through an initial public offering (IPO) later this year, sources said Monday.

Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMI), which is the second largest carmaker in India after Maruti Suzuki India, is likely to dilute 15-20 per cent stake to raise funds in the range of USD 3.3-5.6 billion, they said.

If the company goes ahead with the IPO, it will be the largest in India, beating LIC share sale worth Rs 21,000 crore.

When contacted over the issue, the company declined to comment.

HMI commenced operations in India in 1996 and currently

sells 13 models across segments. It has a network of 1,366 sales points and 1,549 service points across the country.

Hyundai Motor India is in early talks for an IPO and has held discussions with several banks, two people, who have been briefed on the matter, said on condition of anonymity as the discussions are not yet public.

Boosted by billions of dollars of domestic and foreign money, India's \$4 trillion stock market has emerged as a fast-growing alternative to China, recently overtaking Hong Kong as the fourth-largest in the world.

For its India IPO, Hyundai has held talks with investment banks J P Morgan, Morgan Stanley Citi and Bank of America though no formal appointments have been made, the two people said.



Q3 RESULTS CORNER

Airtel posts 54% rise in net profit

New Delhi: Bharti Airtel Monday posted a 54 per cent jump in consolidated net profit to Rs 2,442.2 crore in the December quarter, mainly on account of growth in high value customers. Airtel prepaid mobile customers are required to pay at least Rs 155 for about a month-long service as the company had raised rates by 56 per cent in January 2023. Bharti Airtel Managing Director Gopal Vittal has indicated a need for further increase in mobile services rates. Return on investment made by the company is still low at 9.4 per cent. The company had registered a profit of Rs 1,588.2 crore in the year-ago period, a regulatory filing said Monday.

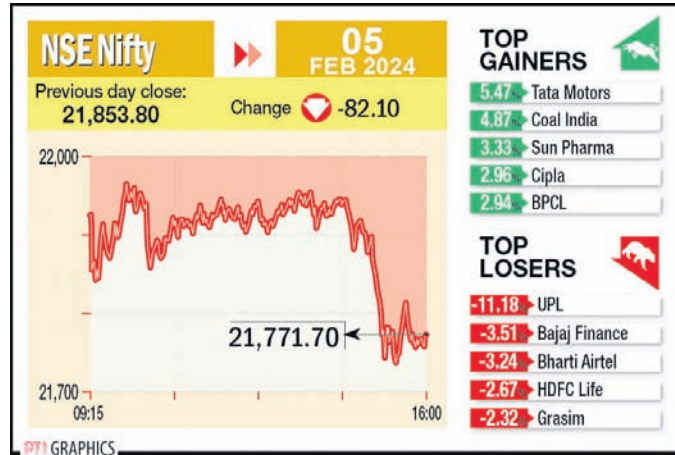
Kansai Nerolac net up 39.6%

New Delhi: Kansai Nerolac Paints Ltd Monday reported a 39.57 per cent increase in consolidated net profit to Rs 152.09 crore for the December quarter, helped by improvement in margins. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 108.97 crore in the October-December period a year ago, Kansai Nerolac said in a regulatory filing. Its revenue from operations was up 5 per cent to Rs 1,918.71 crore in the third quarter of the ongoing fiscal from Rs 1,826.81 crore in the year-ago period. Total expenses of Kansai Nerolac Paints were up 2.72 per cent to Rs 1,730.61 crore in the December quarter.

Varun Beverages profit rises 76%

New Delhi: Varun Beverages Ltd, PepsiCo's largest franchise bottler, Monday reported a 76.35 per cent increase in consolidated net profit to Rs 143.76 crore for the December quarter, driven by growth in revenue from operations and improved profit margins. The company, which follows the calendar year as its financial year, posted a net profit of Rs 81.52 crore during the October-December period a year ago, according to a regulatory filing from VBL. Its revenue from operations was up 21 per cent to Rs 2,730.98 crore during the quarter under review. It stood at Rs 2,257.20 in the corresponding quarter last fiscal. Revenue from operations was "driven by volume growth in both India and international markets," said VBL in an earnings statement.

Stock markets settle lower on fag-end selling



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Feb 5: Benchmark Sensex fell back by 354 points Monday due to selling in index major Reliance Industries, Bharti Airtel and Maruti amid weak trends from Asian and European markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined by 354.21 points or 0.49 per cent to settle at 71,731.42 on fag-end selling. During the day, it hit a high of 72,385.93 and a low of 71,602.14.

The Nifty fell by 82.10 points or 0.38 per cent to close at 21,771.70. Sensex and Nifty has gained around 0.7 per cent in the previous session.

After a flat opening, benchmark indices moved in a narrow range before a sharp fall in the final hour. FMCG, telecom, financials and IT shares were on the back while pharma, auto and energy shares advanced.

Among the Sensex firms, Bajaj Finance, Bharti Airtel, Maruti, Bajaj Finserv, HCL Technologies,

Titan, Hindustan Unilever, JSW Steel, UltraTech Cement, State Bank of India and Reliance Industries were the major laggards.

Tata Motors jumped nearly 6 per cent after the company Friday reported a two-fold jump in net profit at Rs 7,100 crore for the December quarter.

Sun Pharma, Power Grid, Mahindra and Mahindra, Tata Steel, NTPC and Tata Consultancy Services were the other gainers.

In Asian markets, Tokyo settled in the green while Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended lower.

European markets were quoting marginally lower. The US markets ended in positive territory Friday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.53 per cent to USD 76.92 a barrel.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 70.69 crore Friday, according to exchange data.

BoM leads PSU banks in Q3 deposit growth

Bhubaneswar: Bank of Maharashtra has recorded the highest growth rate in terms of deposit mobilisation among public sector lenders at a time when most lenders are facing difficulty in achieving double-digit growth. Out of 12 public sector banks, only Bank of Maharashtra and State Bank of India could log a double-digit growth in deposits in the third quarter ended December 2023. Bank of Maharashtra has reported a 17.89 growth in deposits followed by SBI at 12.84% during the quarter, according to quarterly numbers of the public sector banks. However, SBI's total deposits were about 18.5 times higher at Rs 45,67,927 crore, as compared to Rs 2,45,734 crore of BoM in absolute terms. Central Bank of India was the third by clocking a 9.53% growth in deposits while Punjab National Bank recorded a 9.10% increase.



Mega project of BMS Joint Ventures inaugurated

Bhubaneswar: A mega project of BMS Joint Ventures has been inaugurated at Kujibara in Choudwar, Cuttack. Niranjan Behera attended the ceremony as Chief Guest and inaugurated the programme. On this occasion, Managing Director Brajbandhu Satapathy, Managing Director Prasanna Kumar Parida and Managing Director Nirakar Behera were present and advised the prospective customers to purchase desirable plots at competitive prices and realise their future dreams. The MDs informed about some special discounts and offers available on purchasing the plots. SK Mohanty, P Sahu and R Mallick along with other senior officials were present during the programme. Vikram Kumar and Sanjay Kumar conducted the programme while S Das delivered vote of thanks. It is hoped that this new project can turn customer's dream into reality.



Jan services PMI hits 6-month high

STRONGEST UPTURN IN NEW BUSINESS SINCE MID-2023

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 5: The services sector growth in India rose to a six-month high in January as new business expanded at a faster pace amid buoyant demand from domestic and external clients, a monthly survey said Monday.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Services PMI Business Activity Index rose to 61.8 in January, up from 59 in December, pointing to the sharpest rate of expansion in six months.

In Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

The survey is compiled from responses to questionnaires sent to a panel of around 400 service sector companies.

"India's services PMI rose to a six-month high in January. New business expanded at a



faster pace and managers' expectation for future activity was strong. The new export business index accelerated, signalling that India's services exports remained robust," Ines Lam, Economist at HSBC, said.

New export sales rose at the fastest pace in three months. Monitored firms signalled gains from clients across the globe, including Afghanistan, Australia, Brazil, China, Europe, the UAE and the US. On the prices front, companies noted a further increase in their overall expenses at the start of the 2024 calendar

year, with food, labour and freight identified as the key sources of cost pressures.

However, with the vast majority of panellists opting to leave their charges unchanged and only 6 per cent hiking them, output prices rose to the least extent in 11 months. According to the survey, business confidence has strengthened further. Besides demand strength, firms expect investment and productivity gains to induce output growth in the year ahead.

Meanwhile, the HSBC India Composite PMI Output Index rose from 58.5 in December to 61.2, indicating the sharpest upturn since mid-2023.

Composite PMI indices are weighted averages of comparable manufacturing and services PMI indices. Weights reflect the relative size of the manufacturing and service sectors according to official GDP data.

CHINA MARKETS SLUMP TO 5-YEAR LOWS

THE MARKETS HAVE LANGUISHED ON HEAVY SELLING OF PROPERTY SHARES, WHICH ARE ENDURING A SLUMP IN THE REAL ESTATE MARKET

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bangkok, Feb 5: Chinese shares gyrated Monday, sinking to 5-year lows after market regulators sought to reassure jittery investors with a promise to crack down on stock price manipulation and "malicious short selling".

Shares in Shanghai and the smaller market in Shenzhen, near Hong Kong, swung between big losses and small gains throughout the day. The markets have languished on heavy selling of property shares, which are enduring a slump in the real estate market. The China Securities Regulatory Commission held a meeting Sunday focused on stabilising the markets, state-run Chinese media reported. A notice

on its website appeared designed to reassure individual investors who account for more than half of trading volume.

It vowed to crack down with harsh punishment for insider trading and other violations.

"We must sincerely listen to the voices of the broad numbers of investors, respond to their concerns and protect their rights as investors," the CSRC said in a notice. Those promises followed comments by various top officials on the need to restore market stability.

The head of the economic crimes unit of the Supreme People's Procuratorate, the country's top public prosecutor's office, said in an interview in the Securities Times, a publication



of the ruling Communist Party's People's daily. "Protecting the rights of investors is the top priority," said Zhang Xiaojin. "We will continue to increase the intensity of punishing financial crimes in key areas, and severely crack down on crimes that seriously disrupt the order of the capital market in accordance with the law." Market observers said there were signs Monday

that the authorities had, as is often the case, ordered big institutional investors to step up buying of state-owned banks and other heavyweights. Many of those shares saw strong gains.

The Industrial & Commercial Bank of China gained 2.3%, Bank of China rose 2.8% and the Agricultural Bank of China rose 2%. But overall, shares still mostly lost ground, and technology stocks were among the biggest decliners.

The Shenzhen Component index lost 1.1% after dipping as much as 4.4%. The Shanghai Composite index shed 1% to 2,702.19, having lost 3.5% earlier. "The situation in the Chinese equity market appears tumultuous, reflecting broader con-

cerns about regulatory uncertainty and government intervention," Stephen Innes of SPI Asset Management said in a report. "Despite attempts by state authorities to stabilize the market, investor sentiment remains fragile, reflecting deep-seated concerns about the reliability of government policies and the regulatory framework," Innes said.

Wilder swings were seen in the CSI 1000 index, an exchange-traded fund that fell as much as 8.7% on Monday before regaining some of the losses to close down 6.2%. The CSI 1000 often is used to track so-called "snowball derivatives," investment products that can pay big gains but also can result in exaggerated losses.

'Credit facility of ₹2.41L cr given for revival of MSMEs'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 5: The government has taken steps to revive MSMEs affected during the Covid-19 and provided Rs 2.41 lakh crore as credit guarantee assistance to the sector impacted by the pandemic, MSME Minister Narayan Rane told the Rajya Sabha.

He informed the house that the GST revenue is now rising by two per cent every year since COVID-19, and the industry is now growing normally again.

Responding to supplementaries during question hour, the MSME minister Narayan Rane said the MSME sector, which witnessed a decline and closure of many units due to COVID-19, has been on an upward trajectory due to government credit schemes.

He said exports have also grown by 45.83 per cent since the pandemic.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi started a credit guarantee scheme of Rs five lakh crore, of which Rs 2,41,000 crore spent on the MSMEs sector for providing credit to them. Our GST, which was Rs 5 lakh crore in 2019-20, reduced to 4.7 lakh crore in 2020-21 and has now touched 5.3 lakh crore in 2021-22 and is growing by 2 per cent every year," the minister said.

He said during corona times, several industries were shut down and workers also lost their jobs, but they are now again coming up and doing good.

Some accounts were also turned into NPAs, he said, adding that the Prime Minister gave Rs 5 lakh crore as an emergency credit loan facility, out of which Rs 2.41 lakh crore for industries to help provide credit to them.

"I feel all those industries have again revived, who suffered during corona times," he added.

PARITY RESTORED

India level 5-Test series against England after winning the second match by 106 runs



India colts favourites in WC semis against SA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Benoni, Feb 5: Red-hot India will be firm favourites to book a place in the summit clash of the ongoing U-19 World Cup when they take on hosts South Africa in the first semifinal here Tuesday.

Defending champions India have marched on into the semi-finals on the back of five consecutive wins in the tournament, with their exciting talent putting up a fine all-round show to ensure their dominance.

Across departments, it will be tough to point out a singular force behind India's juggernaut, particularly in last few games. If the batters have buried the opponents under a mountain of runs, the bowlers have delivered wins that have exceeded a minimum of 130 runs in terms of margins.

With two centuries and a fifty, the 18-year-old Musheer Khan has lit up the tournament as he sits atop the list of batters with most runs in this edition, amassing 334 runs in five outings at 83.50.

Hot on his heels is India skipper Uday Saharan, who has led by example to rake up 304 runs with two fifties and a ton while averaging 61.60. Sachin Dhas has also given a fine example of himself, hitting a 116 in India's last Super Six game against Nepal after his side was put in

a spot of bother at 62 for three.

Each of India's opponents have hitherto found it difficult to score runs off left-arm spinner Saumy Kumar Pandey, whose enviable economy rate of 2.17 have helped him snare 16 wickets with three four-fors, placing him third in the list of most successful bowlers in this World Cup. Pandey's accuracy has also aided the seamers, with Naman Tiwari (9 wickets) and Raj Limbani (4 wickets) thriving from the other end.

Besides India's winning run, their recent success against South Africa also makes them favourites to book a place in the final, which could witness a possible blockbuster India-Pakistan clash. Pakistan will take on Australia in the second semifinal here at the Willowmoore Park.

Before embarking on the World Cup campaign, India had crushed South Africa in two consecutive ODIs of the Tri Nation Series while chasing, something which will give the Saharan-led side confidence.

MATCHDAY

ICC Men's U-19 World Cup

Semifinal
India U-19 vs South Africa U-19

Time: 01:30 pm

Telecast: Star Sports Network

Stream: Disney+Hotstar



Karthik helps Puducherry steal a point against Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Feb 5: Skipper Arun Karthik led from front to help Puducherry deny Odisha a win and bag a point from their Ranji Trophy Elite Group D match after the game ended in a draw at the Barabati Stadium here, Monday.

The visiting Puducherry side successfully dealt with 56 overs while chasing 240 in the fourth innings despite losing their openers for naught inside opening two overs of their essay.

They too lost experienced Paras Dogra (23) as Puducherry were reduced to 55/3. However, Paras Ratnaparkhe (72, 138b, 11x4) and Karthik (58 n.o, 98b, 6x4) stitched 89 runs for the fourth wicket. They were going well until Sunil Raul (1/31) broke the

stand dismissing Ratnaparkhe to trigger a collapse.

From 144/4, the visitors were reduced to 171/8 in just over 10 overs of play. However, Karthik didn't lose his concentration and ensured Puducherry of a point as they finished on 175/8. Biplab Samantray (2/28) and Rajesh Mohanty (2/41) were the pick of the bowlers bagging two wickets each.

Earlier, resuming the play at 122/4, Odisha were bowled out for 201 in 28 overs of play in the final day of Govinda Poddar (46) was the top scorer for Odisha, while Aasirwad Swain (23) also made a handy contribution.

Sagar Udeshi (4/45) was excellent with the ball for Puducherry, while Gaurav Yadav (3/48) and Saurabh Yadav (2/48) aided him well.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Visakhapatnam, Feb 5: Indian bowlers won an engrossing battle against England's firebrand batting for a series-levelling 106-run victory in the second Test here on Monday, blunting 'Bazball' with their resilience in a roller-coaster contest.

England began day four at 67/1, chasing a record target of 399. They were bowled out for 292 in the extended afternoon session. The visiting team's no holds barred approach, which has largely been successful, did not work on this occasion as India picked up nine wickets over the course of two sessions to bounce back in the five-match series. The third Test will be played in Rajkot from February 15.

Only Zak Crawley's (73, 132b, 8x4, 1x6) strategy of mixing caution with aggression worked before the collective efforts of Jasprit Bumrah (3/46), R Ashwin (3/71), Axar Patel (1/75) and Kuldeep Yadav (1/60) yielded the desired results for the hosts who were under pressure going into day four.

Bumrah picked up the Player of the Match honours for his overall haul of nine wickets in the game, ahead of young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal, who scored a crucial 209-run knock in India's first innings. After James Anderson claimed that India were nervous while batting in the second innings and did not know a safe target to counter 'Bazball', England walked the talk on Monday and went ballistic.

His team would have been better served taking a cue from Crawley, who saw out an intense morning spell from Bumrah before going for his strokes.

Night-hawk Rehan Ahmed (23) wanted to smash his first ball of

the day out of the park while Hyderabad Test hero Ollie Pope (23) and Joe Root (16) were pushing their luck, frequently attempting sweeps and reverse sweeps on a pitch with variable bounce.

The visitors managed to make 127 runs in the opening session but the loss of five wickets effectively sealed their fate. When skipper Ben Stokes (11) got run out via a brilliant direct hit from Shreyas Iyer post lunch, there was no coming back for England.

But Ben Foakes (36) and Tom Hartley (36) frustrated the visitors with a 55-run partnership for the eighth wicket. Hartley could have been Ashwin's landmark 500th wicket but the TV umpire overturned the on-field decision of a catch as the ball had ballooned after hitting the batter's arm and not the glove.

However, Rohit and Co were not convinced with the DRS showing umpire's call for LBW. Since the appeal was only for a catch and not LBW, the umpire's call for the latter was not considered.

At stroke of lunch, Kuldeep dismissed Crawley while Bumrah trapped Jonny Bairstow (26) in front to deal a massive blow to England, who slipped to 194/6 at the break.

Crawley, by far the best batter on show, was adjudged LBW off Kuldeep with a close DRS call. On the sixth ball of his first over, Kuldeep got one to turn back in from middle stump. It seemed the ball was going down leg but DRS showed that it was hitting the leg-stump.

India's standout bowler in the game, Bumrah, bowled his heart out in the two-hour session. For someone who was operating in four-over spells, Bumrah bowled one extra in his opening burst before returning towards the end of the session to send back

Bairstow. He also cleaned up Hartley to end the game.

Root and Pope perished while going for their strokes. Root, in particular, would be disappointed with his effort as he danced down the track and went for a wild slog without getting to the pitch of the ball to be caught at short third man, giving Ashwin his 499th wicket.

While Axar Patel found Rehan's

pads with a straighter one, Pope offered a sharp catch to Rohit Sharma at first slip off Ashwin and the Indian skipper made no mistake in pouncing it.

Crawley's play in the first session stood out. He was patient enough to leave balls in Bumrah's opening spell and when the champion fast bowler did for a full ball, the England opener was quick to put it away with a

straight bat. His cover and straight drive off Bumrah were the standout strokes of his innings.

BRIEF SCORES

India 396 & 255 beat England 253 & 292 (Zak Crawley 73, Tom Hartley 36, Ben Foakes 36; Jasprit Bumrah 3/46, R Ashwin 3/72) by 106 runs.

What they have to say...



MOMENT OF RECKONING: Jasprit Bumrah and rest of Indian players begin celebration after the pacer disturbs Tom Hartley's stumps to wrap up the win, Monday

I am very proud of such a young squad, to come up against a team like that. Lot of the guys are quite young in terms of playing this form of the game. It'll take some time to be absolutely spot on. (I) want them to play freely without any pressure

The last couple of years, England have been playing good cricket. I knew it wasn't going to be an easy series. Three more to go. We'll keep our check on it and make sure we do most things right

- ROHIT SHARMA

We had full belief in ourselves that we could chase that

and I think that's fair to say

- BEN STOKES

Curators make the pitches. We don't ask for rank turners. Obviously tracks in India would spin. How much they'll spin, (well)... I'm not an expert, (so I don't know). I sometimes get told they'll turn on the third day, but they turn on the first day. So I'm sometimes as clueless as anybody else

- RAHUL DRAVID

India jump to 2nd

DUBAI: India jumped four places to second in the World Test Championships (WTC) standings after their win over England in the second Test Monday. India reclaimed the second position and closed down the gap with table-toppers Australia in the ICC WTC 2023-25 standings. A rare setback in the opening Test in Hyderabad had previously seen India slip from second to fifth place. The win pushed India's point percentage to 52.77, as against 55.00 of Australia. The top half of the table remains highly competitive, with five teams separated by a mere 5% in point percentage.

Real concede late against Atletico

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, Feb 5: Just a minute away from beating their city rivals for the second time in less than a month and taking a four-point lead of the Spanish league, Real Madrid couldn't hang on.

Madrid's improvised defense faltered at the end, and Atletico Madrid scored a stoppage-time equalizer in a 1-1 draw Sunday. Marcos Llorente scored with a header three minutes into added time after Brahim Diaz had put the hosts ahead in the first half at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

The late goal prevented Madrid from exploiting second-place Girona's 0-0 draw with Real Sociedad on Saturday. Madrid leads Girona by two points before the teams meet next week.

Anelotti had a depleted defense because of injuries and had to improvise right back Dani Carvajal as a central defender alongside Nacho Fernández.

The duo couldn't cope with a cross into the area with a minute to go, and Memphis Depay headed the ball toward the goal and Llorente came in to score the equalizer, with the ball hitting the crossbar before going in.

Atletico, who had won four games in a row in all competitions, stayed in fourth place, 10



Real Madrid players look dejected as Marcos Llorente celebrates after scoring the equalizer for Atletico Madrid, Sunday

points off the lead. Diego Simeone's team were two points behind Barcelona, who won 3-1 at Alaves Saturday.

Madrid extended their unbeaten streak to 26 matches across all tournaments, since a 3-1 league defeat at Atletico in September.

It was the third Madrid derby in less than a month, with Madrid winning the Spanish Super Cup semifinal in Saudi Arabia and Atletico winning in the round of 16 of the Copa del Rey.

Diaz, a late addition to the starting lineup after a minor injury to Vinicius Junior during

the pre-game warm-up, opened the scoring from close range in the 20th minute after Atletico midfielder Koke failed to fully clear a ball in front of the goal.

Atletico thought they had equalized with a header by Stefan Savic in the 48th but VAR determined that there was offside by Saul Niguez.

Eighth-place Real Betis couldn't manage more than a 1-1 draw against 10th-place Getafe at home. Both goals came from penalty kicks, with Mason Greenwood putting Getafe ahead in the eighth minute and Isco equalizing in the 35th.

Ladakh eves skate to historic gold in KIWG

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Leh, Feb 5: It was a mixed day for hosts Ladakh in the Khelo India Winter Games as they won a first-ever gold in the women's short track 1600m relay at the NDS sports complex here while the men's ice-hockey team went down 0-4 against a powerful ITBP in a semifinal match.

The second semifinal between favourites Army and Himachal Pradesh was a rather one-sided affair. Army won 10-2. Konchok Namgail (three) and Rigzin Norboo (two) were the main scorers for the winners.

Maharashtra added two more skating golds to take their total tally to three but Karnataka continue to lead the standings with four.

Maharashtra's gold medals Monday came in the men's short track (1600m) relay and the mixed short track relay over the same distance. Ladakh won the silver in the mixed team race.

Ladakh's historic gold in women's short track came like a breath of fresh air on another cold day. The quartet of Skarma Tsultim, Insha Fatima, Tasnia Shamim, Padma Angmo responded beautifully clocking 3:55.80 to relegate Maharashtra (4:17.12) to the second place by a decent margin.

Odisha FC move to top of table

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Feb 5: Odisha FC steamrolled past Hyderabad FC by 3-0 at the Gachibowli Stadium in Hyderabad Monday to bring up their fourth consecutive victory in the Indian Super League (ISL) 2023-24 season.

The Juggernauts' in-form striking duo Diego Mauricio and Roy Krishna were on the money as the visitors capped off a convincing win to move to the top of the points table, displacing Kerala Blasters FC.

Joao Victor is the sole foreigner starting matches for Hyderabad FC at the moment, and there is added responsibility in his shoulders to uplift both his performance as well as that of the entire team around him. Unfortunately for them, it was a misplaced pass by him that led to the opening goal.

Mauricio pounced upon the misplaced pass hitting the ball past Gurmeet Singh to break the deadlock in the 27th minute. Throughout the game, Odisha FC went about their business with an impeccable sense of assurance.

Isak Vanlalruatfela has been one of the most improved domestic stars in Odisha FC this season, and it was a moment of magic by him that helped them



Diego Mauricio was delighted after scoring his second goal for Odisha FC against Hyderabad FC, Monday

double the advantage before the halftime break.

Receiving the ball en route to his way inside the box, Isak demonstrated his quick feet and movement and some innate composure in the final third to find an unmarked Krishna on the right. The Fijian received the squared up pass, and had no hesitation in merely slotting the ball into the back of the net.

After Isak, it was Princeton Rebello's turn to show his prowess. Having spent time with

Sergio Lobera at FC Goa, Princeton moved to Odisha FC when his former head coach returned to the league.

Whilst chances haven't come across frequently so far, he gave a good account of the strengths that he possesses, dazzling ahead through the centre, charging towards the Hyderabad FC defence before splitting it wide open for an onrushing Mauricio to strike the ball in and get his second goal of the match in the 75th minute.