



DSPL-639



Odisha

The rising IT powerhouse of Eastern India welcomes



Cognizant joins global giants like Deloitte, IBM, EY, PWC, and Concentrix in setting steps in Odisha

- Thousands of job opportunities will be generated in the next two years.
- This move solidifies Bhubaneswar's premier IT hub in Eastern India status & generates jobs for youths.
- The policies of the Odisha Government are strengthening the technology-driven economy.



Bhubaneswar is emerging as India's fastest-growing IT city in the East and Northeast, marking a significant milestone in the nation's technological advancement.

Odisha Technology Centre, Acharya Vihar, Bhubaneswar

E & I.T. Department, Government of Odisha



OZZY OSBOURNE CRITICISES KANYE WEST AS 'ANTISEMITE'

Singer Ozzy Osbourne has called out rapper Kanye West as an 'antisemite' for using a sample of his music without permission. Osbourne revealed on Instagram that he declined West's request to use a segment of a 1983 live version of the song 'War Pigs,' yet West reportedly used it at a listening event regardless.

DAKOTA SHARES WORST TIME OF HER LIFE

Actress Dakota Johnson has revealed that she didn't enjoy shooting her cameo appearance on *The Office*. The 34 year old actress, who appeared on the hit TV show back in 2013 didn't enjoy the experience at all. She said on *Late Night With Seth Meyers*, "That was honestly the worst time of my life."



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
You may have a wide circle of casual friends, but today, these associations will prove to be beneficial. Your friends will help you chase away the blues. That way, you will also understand the deeper role of friendship, says Ganesh.

TAURUS
Today, passionate and possessive are the two words that will define your relationship with the people you love, predicts Ganesh. You may choose to take pains for the sake of others, which seems to be highly fulfilling. Your good spirit will sky-rocket by evening. Make sure to change your disadvantage into your advantage, says Ganesh.

GEMINI
If you are embroiled in a legal dispute, an out-of-court settlement is likely, predicts Ganesh. You are a courageous person and you'll need a lot of it today. Don't back down from your decisions. You may have to be stern with a few people. Your resilience will pay off.

CANCER
Today, you will put your heart and soul into whatever task you take up. But the results may not be too forthcoming. However, that should not be a reason for you to get dejected or anxious. You will get your due sooner or later. Also, spending some time with your loved ones will be quite gratifying emotionally.

LEO
Sometimes, it takes courage to be honest and admit to your failures. Doing so only goes a long way in establishing your credentials as a real person, feels Ganesh. So understand that, while it is only human to make mistakes, it takes more than that to accept them. Also, today is a good day to reconnect with old contacts.

VIRGO
A renewed zest for life will bring in a transformation in you. It is a good time to let people know how important and intelligent - yes, you can be both - are. Your eminence will be obvious as you show how things are meant to be done.

LIBRA
Good news! You will be a people's person today. Close friends, relatives and family - you seem to want to spend your time with all of them today, says Ganesh. Better news? Your romantic brilliance will be at its peak today as your fancy takes wings and creativity flows freely in manners that seem irresistible.

SCORPIO
A cascade of let-downs will dent your confidence and shake your determination, says Ganesh. But don't let these failures affect you as they are temporary. At work, your subordinates may force you to take drastic measures.

SAGITTARIUS
A day full of cheer and joy is in store. You will probably enrol in a part-time course and sharpen your skills. But for those in police and legal professions, you will be the lions of the jungle! Roar and stamp your authority, says Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
You may not get as popular as Romeo did, but your exceedingly romantic nature will earn you quite a reputation, not to forget the hypnotic effect it will have on your sweetheart, says Ganesh. On the flip side, troubles will chase you everywhere; you are likely to face problems with your business rivals and health condition, but your mind will be on guard always, giving you an edge over your opponents.

AQUARIUS
Today is an important day in the larger scheme of things. You may finally decide to buy a home, change your job, or marry! Sudden and unexpected profits are on the cards too. Reputation and rewards are all yours today. This acknowledgement helps you remain committed, says Ganesh.

PISCES
You are human enough to make mistakes, and humble enough to admit them, and it is this honesty that people admire in you. Your affectionate nature will see you excel at tending to the needs of your family members today, says Ganesh.

Mouni's candid confession

Mumbai: Actress Mouni Roy, who is known for her beauty and fashion sense, has opened up about her personal struggle with body image and self-worth. In a candid revelation, she shared her journey of self-acceptance and shed light on the challenges she faced while dealing with societal standards of beauty.

In her recent interview with a media agency, the *Gold* actress confessed that she doesn't consider her self-con-

ventionally pretty or attractive-looking. She revealed that she grappled with these thoughts for the longest time. She added that she has been the harshest critic or judge of how she looked and this has been one of the biggest truths of her life.

However, Roy confronted her insecurities openly and attributed her transformation to a spiritual journey and the practice of meditation. "Meditation helped me with self-acceptance and self-love, and that's something that has really helped me," she revealed.

On the work front, Mouni has Karan Johar's *Showtime* in the pipeline. AGENCIES



Wamiqa aims to beat her own record

Mumbai: Actress Wamiqa Gabbi gears up to surpass her 2023 accomplishments as she immerses herself in Atlee's action-packed *Baby John* alongside Varun Dhawan.

The past year marked a turning point in Gabbi's career, as she featured in six noteworthy projects, including *Jubilee* and *Khushiya*. While these roles propelled her into larger projects, she remains focused on savouring the joy of her craft. Reflecting on her journey, she emphasises that acting is her passion, and the past year has reaffirmed the hard work she has invested since her debut on set.

From the actress' perspective, destiny unfolds on

its own timeline, and she embraces the philosophy that good things will come when they are meant to. Looking ahead, she aspires to continue collaborating with talented individuals, recognising that 2024 will surpass the achievements of 2023 in terms of her artistic delivery.

Further, she acknowledges this transformation and emphasises how the industry now regards her with a newfound seriousness. Sharing insights from her meeting with director Atlee, she appreciates the opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals who share a profound passion for the craft.

On the work front, Wamiqa will be seen next in *Shiddat 2*, opposite Sunny Kaushal. AGENCIES



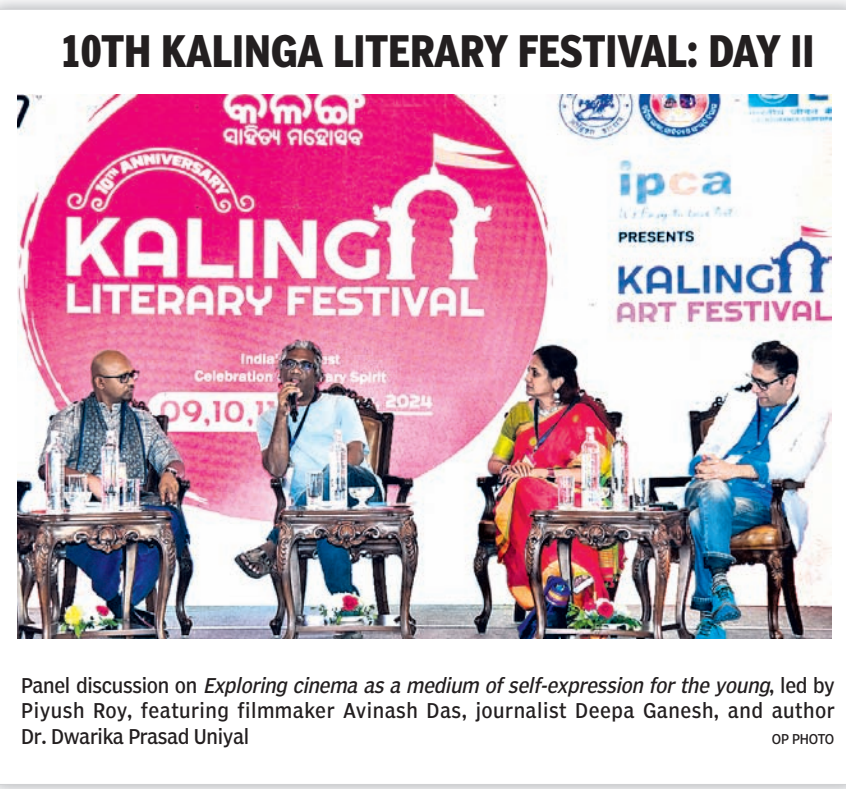
RAKUL TO PLAY SHURPANAKHA!

Mumbai: Filmmaker Nitesh Tiwari's epic project, *Ramayana*, continues to expand its star-studded cast, with reports indicating that actress Rakul Preet Singh is in discussions to portray the piv-

otal character of Shurpanakha. With every passing day, the film is getting bigger and better. It already has Ranbir Kapoor, Janhvi Kapoor, Yash, Sunny Deol, and Lara Dutta on board to play Lord Ram, Sita, Raavan, Lord Hanuman, and Kaikeyi, respectively.

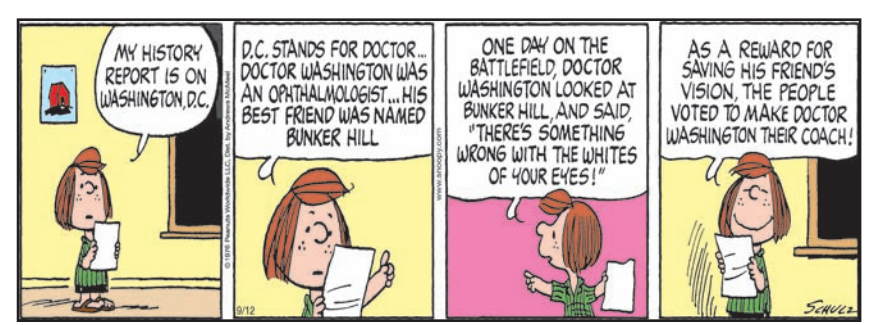
Tiwari is in touch with Rakul to play Raavan's sister Shurpanakha in *Ramayana*, reports an entertainment agency. It is Shurpanakha's character that changes the course of the *Ramayana* and brings Lord Ram and Raavan face-to-face. The report also suggests that Rakul has done the look test for the film, and if all goes as planned, then *Ramayana* will be the first film Rakul will shoot after her wedding with Jacky Bhagnani in Goa.

Ramayana begins filming in March 2024, with Ranbir Kapoor and Janhvi. Sunny Deol is slated to commence shooting for his role in May, with Yash joining the cast in July. The team aims to wrap up the *Ramayana* shoot after the completion of Yash's scenes, targeting a Diwali 2025 release that is planned to be a three-part series. AGENCIES



Panel discussion on *Exploring cinema as a medium of self-expression for the young*, led by Piyush Roy, featuring filmmaker Avinash Das, journalist Deepa Ganesh, and author Dr. Dwarika Prasad Uniyal. OP PHOTO

PEANUTS



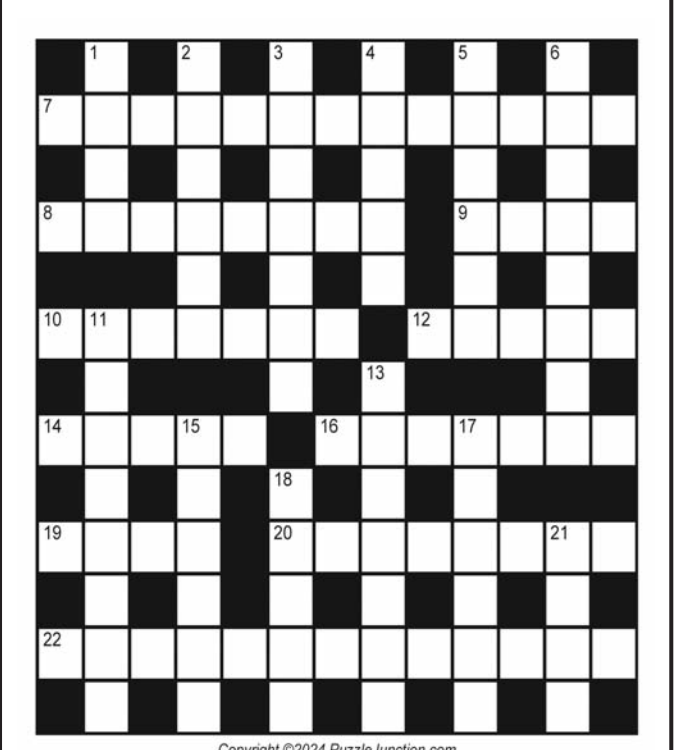
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post CROSSWORD



- Across**
7 Head of state (5,8)
8 Stocky
9 "Beowulf," e.g.
10 Make more attractive
12 Examine
14 Slavic language
16 Shipyard part
19 Prudish
- Down**
20 Safety harness (4,4)
22 Ocean crossing
1 Gratis
2 Low-budget film (Hyph. wd.) (1-5)
3 Broke in pieces
4 Agreement
- Across**
5 Facet
6 On a regular basis
11 Magician's forte
13 Cross section
15 Building material
17 Expose
18 Traction aid
21 Hideout

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

A	E	P	M	T	L
E	L	I	X	I	R
M	A	G	I	O	R
M	A	G	I	C	A
B	E	H	F	W	
O	F	F	I	C	E
I	T	D	P	C	L
B	R	A	I	D	S
E	O	H	R	I	
S	W	A	N	S	O
O	I	T	O	H	S
M	O	S	E	L	A
D	R	T	E	L	A

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Magisterial probe
A magisterial probe has been ordered into the February 8 riots that followed demolition of an 'illegal' madrasa in Haldwani

NATIONAL | P7

Pak's Game of Thrones
Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf asks the election commission to announce complete results by midnight, or face protests

INTERNATIONAL | P8

S&P 500's new feat
The S&P 500 closes above the 5,000 level Friday for the first time as bullish sentiment spreads across Wall Street

BUSINESS | P9

Title on the line
Defending champions India, led by Uday Saharan, lock horns with Australia in the ICC U-19 Men's World Cup final today

SPORTS | BACK PAGE

SHORT TAKES

Hike in EPFO interest

NEW DELHI: Ahead of general elections, the interest rate paid on employee provident fund was Saturday hiked to 8.25 per cent for fiscal year ending March 31, the highest in three years. The central board of trustees of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) recommended to the Finance Ministry for raising the interest rate for nearly eight crore contributing subscribers, the Labour Ministry said in a statement.

P9

MBPY aid up ₹500

BHUBANESWAR: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday announced enhancement of assistance under Madhu Babu Pension Yojana (MBPY) by ₹500 per month. As many as 36.75 lakh beneficiaries would receive the revised amount from February. Under the scheme, beneficiaries up to 79 years of age were so far eligible for a monthly pension of ₹500, while those beyond 80 years ₹700 per month.

P2

Odia actor joins Cong

BHUBANESWAR: Popular actor Manoj Mishra Saturday joined the Congress party in the presence of Ajay Kumar, party in-charge for Odisha, Sarat Patnaik, OPCC President, and senior Congress leader Narasingha Mishra. "Manoj hasn't joined Congress with any expectation. However, the party will treat him respectfully and make sure that he serves the people."



IMPRESSIVE OUTING: India's Manpreet Singh goes for a powerful shot during their FIH Pro League match, which they won 4-1, against Spain at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Saturday (Report on back page)

PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

JSW, Odisha ink pact for ₹40K-cr EV unit

NEW DELHI, Feb 10: JSW Group has signed an agreement with the Odisha government to set up an integrated EV manufacturing facility in the state entailing an investment of ₹40,000 crore. Once completed, the project will mark JSW's foray into the automobile space. As per its homepage, the USD 23 billion group is into core sectors like steel, energy, cement, infrastructure, paints, ventures, and sports. In a statement, the conglomerate said, "We plan to establish an integrated EV manufacturing facility in Odisha, and has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Odisha for the establishment of an integrated Electric Vehicle (EV) and EV battery manufacturing project at Cuttack and Paradip." The project will help create over 11,000 jobs, marking a significant growth in employment generation in the state, the group said. JSW Group Chairman Sajjan Jindal said, "Our long-standing relationship with Odisha and its people forms the foundation of our new venture. This project is a milestone in our journey reflecting our commitment to the state's development and prosperity."

CAA before polls: Shah

There were massive protests in some parts of the country after the Act was passed by Parliament in Dec 2019

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 10: The rules for implementing the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) will be issued before the coming Lok Sabha polls and the process to grant Indian nationality to the beneficiaries will start soon after, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said here Saturday.

Under the CAA, the Modi government wants to grant Indian nationality to persecuted non-Muslim migrants - Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis and Christians - from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan who had come to India till December 31, 2014.

"The CAA is a law of the country and its notification will definitely be issued. It will be issued before the polls. The CAA will be implemented before the elections. No one should have any confusion about it," Shah said at the ET NOW Global Business Summit 2024.

He said granting Indian citizenship to persecuted minorities of the neighbouring countries was a promise of the Congress leadership too.

"When the Partition happened - Hindus, Buddhists, Christians - all wanted to come to India after facing religious persecution there. They (Congress leaders) had promised to give citizenship to these people saying all of you are welcome. But the (Congress) leaders went back on their word," Shah said.

The Home Minister added that he wanted to make it clear that the CAA is not a law to snatch anyone's citizenship.

"Our Muslim brothers are being instigated on the issue of CAA. It can't snatch anyone's citizenship as the law does not have that provision. CAA has been enacted to give citizenship to those people who have come from Bangladesh and Pakistan after facing religious persecution. No one should oppose this law," he said.

"I WANT TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE CAA IS NOT A LAW TO SNATCH ANYONE'S CITIZENSHIP"

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

There were massive protests in some parts of the country after the CAA was passed by Parliament in December 2019 and got the Presidential assent.

Delayed by over four years, rules for the CAA are a must for its implementation. Officials said rules are ready and the online portal is also in place as the entire process will be online.

The applicants will have to declare the year when they entered India without travel documents. No document will be sought from the applicants.

According to the law, the benefits under the CAA will be given to the undocumented minorities from the three countries. The promise of implementing the controversial CAA was a major poll plank of the BJP in the last Lok Sabha and Assembly polls in West Bengal.

The saffron party's leaders consider it a plausible factor that led to the rise of the BJP in Bengal.

According to the Manual on Parliamentary Work, the rules for any legislation should have been framed within six months of presidential assent or seek an extension from the Committees on Subordinate Legislation in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

Since 2020, the Home Ministry has been taking extensions at regular intervals from the parliamentary committee for framing the rules.

Over a hundred people lost their lives during the protests or in police action after the parliament passed CAA. **MORE P7**

3 choked to death in Dhenkanal brick kiln

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, Feb 10: Three members of a family were choked to death at a brick kiln in Kamalanga village under Kantabania police limits here late Friday night, police said Saturday.

The deceased were identified as Meghanad Bhoi, 50, his wife Nira Bhoi, 45, and their seven-year-old son Jitu Bhoi of Badatenari village under Sagra police limits in Mahasamund district of Chhattisgarh.

Their other son, who was also critical, has been undergoing treatment at Talcher Thermal Hospital, according to an official.

Hindol Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Dipak Jena said brick kiln owner Binay Sahoo had engaged 15 migrant labourers, including the Bhois, from Chhattisgarh about two weeks ago.

The family was sleeping atop the kiln to get respite from the



biting cold, and smoke billowing from it is suspected to have caused the deaths late Friday night, added Jena.

The incident came to the fore when a few others working at the kiln found the four in an unconscious state Saturday morning.

Later, they were rushed to a nearby healthcare facility, where doctors declared three of them dead. The couple's other son was shifted to Talcher Thermal Hospital.

"An unnatural death case has been registered and further investigation is underway," the SDPO added.

Assistant Labour Officer Haladhar Baral said that action will be taken as per norms.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Kindly grant us 5 more years, as we were occupied drafting a White Paper on your condition over the past decade

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	30.0°C	29.6°C
Min Temp	15.0°C	14.2°C
Humidity	44%	56%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

FORECAST
CLEAR SKY MAINLY

10-time MLA Sugyan Deo passes away at 87

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Feb 10: Veteran BJD leader and 10-time Odisha MLA V Sugyan Kumari Deo died while undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Chennai Saturday, officials said. She was 87.

Deo breathed her last at about 1 am after Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and other senior party leaders met her at the hospital Friday night, they said. She belonged to the royal family of Khallikote.

Governor Raghubar Das, the CM, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and many other dignitaries expressed their condolence on the demise.

"Saddened to know about the demise of V Sugyan Kumari Deo. She was a very senior leader of BJD and she made a lot of contributions towards the party. She has left her mark in the pub-



lic service by representing both Khallikote and Kabisuryanagar. It is an irreparable loss. May her soul rest in peace and my deepest condolence to the bereaved family," Patnaik said in a post on X.

The veteran legislator never became a minister as she spurned repeated offers, reiterating that 'a queen never becomes a minister.'

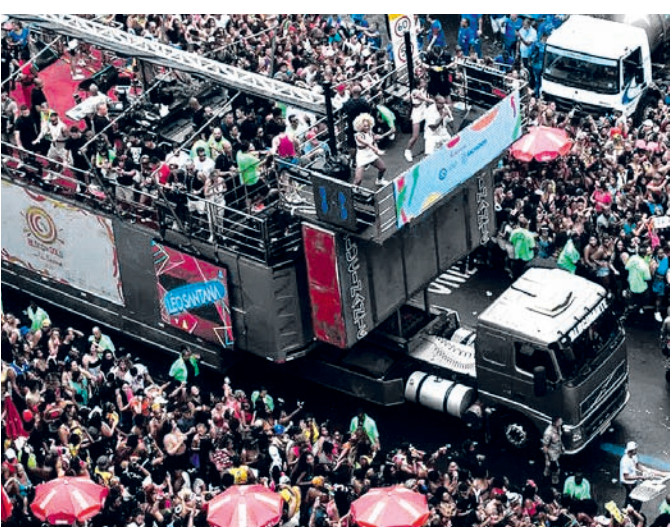
A run-down Ford that swept Brazil's Carnival

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rio de Janeiro, Feb 10: Sound begins blasting ear drums and rattling bones even before the speakers — hauled by big rigs creeping their way through Brazil's thronging Carnival crowds — draw near.

The behemoth sound trucks known as electric trios are a Brazilian innovation that amplified music and effectively did away with front-row seats — making Carnival more accessible. In the seven decades since the first one hit Brazil's streets, they have become a fixture of the country's annual pre-Lenten festivities and draw millions to the streets. Singer Caetano Veloso's ode to the earth-shaking vehicles proclaimed that the only people not following them must already be dead.

From Salvador, on Brazil's northeast coast, trios spread throughout the country and found more disciples; an



Instagram account that posts seemingly banal videos of the nation's rigs has about 150,000 followers, with fans praising each trio's merits. They've grown ever more sophisticated and ever larger — with lights, LED screens, dressing rooms

and VIP areas.

Their appeal has never been just the novelty of amplification. Their steady, constant advance meant anyone, rich or poor, could get close enough to the music to feel it throb through their body, said Isaac Edington,

who coordinates Salvador's festivities as president of its tourism agency.

Helen Salgado, a 31-year-old actress, traveled to Salvador from Rio to immerse herself in the oceans of people churning around trios in celebrations ahead of the official start of Carnival Saturday. She said she was driven to ecstasy without consuming so much as a drop of alcohol.

But long before these walls of sound took Brazil by storm, there was a Ford. It was a 1929 Model A — the Model T's lesser-known successor — imported from the US to Salvador. For years, metalworker Osmar Macedo used the convertible to haul iron.

In 1950, Osmar, as he is universally known, and his friend Dodó, a radio technician and fellow amateur musician, outfitted the Ford with two speakers and connected their guitar and cavaquinho to the car's battery, Aroldo Macedo, Osmar's

son, told Associated Press. They drove the car, with its dented fender and chipping maroon paint, through the streets playing music and delighting Carnival revelers who jumped and jived in their wake, said Macedo, 65.

The duo repeated the stunt the next year, this time with a third musician, and so called themselves the Trio Elétrico. The term stuck, and was applied to all mobile stages that rolled across Salvador, the capital of Bahia state. Soon enough, trios were the centerpiece of the city's Carnival.

They started featuring Bahia's top artists, like Veloso, who clambered aboard one built specially for him in 1972 that resembled a spaceship. They became launchpads for the careers of musicians, including Daniela Mercury, Ivete Sangalo and Margaret Menezes, Brazil's current culture minister, who called the trio "one of Brazil's great inventions."

CM announces ₹500 hike in Madhu Babu pension

AS MANY AS 36.75 LAKH BENEFICIARIES WOULD RECEIVE THE REVISED AMOUNT FROM THIS MONTH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Feb 10: In a relief for the distressed people covered under various social security schemes, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday announced a hike of ₹500 each in their monthly pension. As many as 36.75 lakh beneficiaries would receive the revised amount from February. Each of them will receive the minimum enhanced amount between February 20 and 25, a release issued by the CMO said. The beneficiaries include elderly, widows, persons with disabilities, unmarried women, AIDS patients, transgenders, orphan children and widows of Covid victims.



The beneficiaries include elderly, widows, persons with disabilities, unmarried women, AIDS patients, transgenders, orphan children and widows of Covid victims. Beneficiaries with 60% or more disability and above 80 years of age will now get ₹1,000, ₹1,200 and ₹1,400 per month, respectively.

In 2008, the state government introduced the Madhu Babu Pension Yojana (MBPY) after merging two old schemes of the 1980s. Under the MBPY scheme, beneficiaries up to 79 years of age were eligible for a monthly pension of ₹500, while those beyond 80 years ₹700 per month. Similarly, beneficiaries with 60 per cent or more disability and above 80 years of age were

eligible for a monthly pension of ₹900. They will now get ₹1,000, ₹1,200 and ₹1,400 per month, respectively, the release said. The state will now spend ₹3,683 crore towards payment of pension under social security schemes, it said. The amount was ₹ 2,685 crore till January. Similarly, ahead of the 2019 general elections for the Lok Sabha and Odisha Assembly, the state government had raised the pension amount by ₹200 various social security schemes.

ILS HOSTS 1ST ALUMNI MEET

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb10: The Institute of Life Science, Bhubaneswar (ILS) held its first-ever alumni meet Saturday welcoming back graduates from across the globe for a day of reflection, connection and celebration. The meet, themed 'Rekindling Connections, embracing future together', was inaugurated by chief guest Trilochan Mohapatra, former DG, ICAR, and Debasis Dash, Director, Institute of Life Science in presence of guests and dignitaries. Expressing his gratitude to all the alumni, Dash, said, "ILS is dedicated to advancing knowledge in the field of life sciences through cutting-edge research, training, and academic programmes. We are happy to host first ever alumni meet this year." Alumni from various batches and fields of study reminisced about their time at the institute and sharing stories of their professional journeys since graduation. A panel discussion was held to discuss the way forward and the strategies to take the alumni association forward.

The state will now spend ₹3,683 crore towards payment of pension under social security schemes, it said. The amount was ₹ 2,685 crore till January. Similarly, ahead of the 2019 general elections for the Lok Sabha and Odisha Assembly, the state government had raised the pension amount by ₹200 various social security schemes.

proven a proposal for recruitment of Hindi teachers November 18, 2020. However, BED was not mentioned as one of the eligibility criteria for applying for the posts. Four months later, December 13, 2023 the board came out with a fresh notification inviting applications for trained graduate teachers (TGTs) in government and aided-government schools. Consequently, Bagh and others questioned the government's move repeatedly and sought a clarification as to why BED was added to the eligibility criteria. When the government reportedly remained non-responsive, they moved the High Court seeking withdrawal of BED qualification for recruitment of Hindi teachers. Advocate Kunal Kumar Swain appeared for the petitioners.



OUT OF THE BLUE: An ancient Shiv Ling was discovered during construction work on the premises of Gopabandhu Park in Buxi Bazar area of Cuttack, Saturday. OP PHOTO

HC stay on Hindi teacher recruitment

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Feb 10: The Orissa High Court has imposed an interim stay on the appointment of Hindi teachers in government and government-aided schools in the state. Hearing a petition filed by Netrananda Bagh and others objecting to the procedure followed in the recruitments, a single-judge bench of Justice Biraja Prasanna Satpathy barred the State Selection Board (SSB) from publishing the final merit list of candidates without the court's order. The HC has also issued notices to the state government and the SSB seeking replies by February 26. According to the petitioners, the School and Mass Education department had ap-



proved a proposal for recruitment of Hindi teachers November 18, 2020. However, BED was not mentioned as one of the eligibility criteria for applying for the posts. Four months later, December 13, 2023 the board came out with a fresh notification inviting applications for trained graduate teachers (TGTs) in government and aided-government schools. Consequently, Bagh and others questioned the government's move repeatedly and sought a clarification as to why BED was added to the eligibility criteria. When the government reportedly remained non-responsive, they moved the High Court seeking withdrawal of BED qualification for recruitment of Hindi teachers. Advocate Kunal Kumar Swain appeared for the petitioners.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Kamala Muruni, DOB 01.07.1966 Spouse of No.-6917912W, Rank : Nk(TS) Name : Kedar Chandra Muruni resident of Vill.: Chakrapada, Post - Namaro, P.S.- Astarang, Tahsil- Astarang, Dist.- Puri, State-Odisha, PIN-752109 have changed my name from Kamala Devi to Kamala Muruni vide affidavit dated 08.02.2024 before the Executive Magistrate, Astarang, Govt. of Odisha. Kamala Muruni

I, Sunil Muruni, DOB 06.07.1995, S/o Kedar Chandra Muruni, Resident of Vill.- Chakrapada, P.O.- Namaro, P.S.- Astarang, Tahsil- Astarang, Dist.- Puri, State-Odisha, Pin-752109 have changed my name from SUNIL KUMAR MURUNI to SUNIL MURUNI vide affidavit dated 08.02.2024 before the Executive Magistrate, Astarang, Govt. of Odisha. SUNIL MURUNI

By virtue of an affidavit No.4824 dated 21.12.2023, sworn before Executive Magistrate, Dhamnagar, I, Irsad Khan (22), S/o- Rasid Khan, Vill.- Hosenpur, P.O.- Khosalpur, P.S.- Mangalpur, Dist.- Jajpur, Pin-755006 hereby declare that my father's name has recorded Rasid Khan in my Aadhaar card bearing No.-xxxx xxxx 7622. But in my HSC bearing Roll No.-297AD0012 my father's name has recorded Abdul Rasik Khan. Rasid Khan & Abdul Rasik Khan same and one person.

By the virtue of an affidavit dt 01.12.2023 before Executive Magistrate, Bhubaneswar, my name has changed from Sairaj to Reyann. Henceforth I shall be known as Reyann for all purposes.

LOST
I, Jharashri Pattanaik stated that my land Kabala- 491, Volume -554 lost. Anybody misutilize this, I will be not responsible.



SCINTILLATING SHOW: Artistes perform during the second day of 20th Dhauli-Kalinga Mahotsav jointly organised by Odia Language, Literature & Culture department and Orissa Dance Academy in association with Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi & Art Vision on the foothills of the historic Dhauli in Bhubaneswar, Saturday. OP PHOTO

'100 startups with ₹100 cr turnover in state by 2036'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Feb 10: Odisha aims to have 100 startups with a turnover of ₹100 crore each by 2036, the state's centenary year, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said Saturday. Pradhan was speaking at a fireside chat in a prelude event to the inauguration of the 100 Cube Startup Conclave at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar here. He said the youth of Odisha will significantly contribute to the development of India as it completes 100 years of Independence in 2047, and asserted IIT Bhubaneswar will play a critical role in anchoring the state's talent. "Our target is to mint 100 startups with 100 crore-plus turnover by 2036. The 100 Cube event by IIT Bhubaneswar is envisioned for this purpose. Together we will create a culture of entrepreneurship in India," Pradhan said. In the 10 years of the Narendra Modi government, the start-up ecosystem in the country has boomed tremendously with tech talent stemming from all quarters, especially economically backward states. "Since 2014 there has been a paradigm shift in the startup ecosystem in India. In the last 10 years, the number of startups has increased from three-four thousands to over one lakh," he said. India's talent pool resides in areas where hunger for resolution is the most, he said, adding the academia, startups and the industry are working together to fill the skill gap in the country. Pradhan also asserted that the consecration ceremony at the Ram temple in Ayodhya was a unifying force for the country.

is envisioned for this purpose. Together we will create a culture of entrepreneurship in India," Pradhan said. In the 10 years of the Narendra Modi government, the start-up ecosystem in the country has boomed tremendously with tech talent stemming from all quarters, especially economically backward states. "Since 2014 there has been a paradigm shift in the startup ecosystem in India. In the last 10 years, the number of startups has increased from three-four thousands to over one lakh," he said. India's talent pool resides in areas where hunger for resolution is the most, he said, adding the academia, startups and the industry are working together to fill the skill gap in the country. Pradhan also asserted that the consecration ceremony at the Ram temple in Ayodhya was a unifying force for the country.

MDA launched to eliminate filariasis



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Feb 10: Health and Family Welfare Minister of State SP Singh Baghel launched a Mass Drug Administration (MDA) campaign across 11 states, including Odisha, virtually Saturday to help eliminate the crippling disease lymphatic filariasis (LF) from the population. Under the National Filariasis Elimination Programme (NFEP), the state Health and Family welfare department began its Mass Drug Administration campaign February 10, to continue till February 19, for elimination of lymphatic filariasis in seven endemic districts of the state: Bolangir, Kalahandi, Rayagada, Cuttack, Kandhamal, Khurda and Nayagarh. On the occasion, Public Health director Niranjan Misra said, "During the MDA, it will be ensured that everyone except children below 2 years of age, pregnant women and seriously ill people consume the prescribed dosage in presence of trained volunteers or health workers." Similarly, Shubhashisha Mohanty, joint director of health services said, "The condition affects livelihoods, opportunities and working capacity of those suffering, often making them victims to social stigma. The Mass Drug Administration (MDA) is key to addressing the disabling disease, where anti-filaria drugs are administered to eligible populations by trained volunteers and health workers." Notably, during this MDA, health workers will reach around 46 lakh people through booth and house-to-house visits.

17th Lok Sabha Younger, more educated, better gender ratio

BJD's Keonjhar MP Chandrani Murmu was the youngest member of the House, getting elected at the age of 25 years, 11 months in 2019

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 10: As the 17th Lok Sabha held its last sitting Saturday, data showed it was a younger House with better education profile and an improved gender ratio, though it still remains lower than many other countries. Also, the number of first-time MPs was below the half-way mark at 260 and the number of re-elected members was higher than the previous Lok Sabha. When Lok Sabha was constituted in 2019, BJP had 303 members as the single largest party, though it came down to 290 by the last sitting, largely due to resignations of some MPs after the recent Assembly polls that they fought and won. Altogether 397 MPs were elected from national parties in 2019, including 52 from Congress, which now has 48 MPs. Trinamool Congress' (TMC)'s tally remains at 22, though it is



now classified as a regional party. Among the state parties, DMK's tally is 24, up from 23 at the beginning of the 17th Lok Sabha while YSRCP has maintained its number at 22. The 17th Lok Sabha saw fewer MPs over 70 years and more under 40 years, while its average age was around 54 years. The proportion of MPs below 40 years was steadily declining from 26 per cent in the first Lok Sabha to eight per cent in the 16th. But the 17th Lok Sabha bucked this longer-term trend with an increase to nearly 12 per cent when it was constituted. Representation of women MPs in Lok Sabha has increased to nearly 14% with a steady but slow rise from 5% in the first Lok Sabha, though it still remains lower than many countries including Rwanda (61%), South Africa (43%), UK (32%), USA (24%) and Bangladesh (21%). BJD's Chandrani Murmu from Keonjhar LS constituency was the youngest member of the House, getting elected at the age of 25 years, 11 months in 2019 and Shafiqur Rahman Barq of SP from Sambhal constituency was the oldest MP, getting elected at the age of 89 years. On an average, women MPs were younger compared to their

male counterparts in the 17th Lok Sabha. This Lok Sabha also had nearly 400 graduate MPs, while the proportion of those having studied at least till Class XII has gone up. As many as 716 women candidates contested the 2019 general election, of which 78 were elected to 17th Lok Sabha. It now stands at 77. In 2014, 62 women MPs were elected. Representation of women MPs in Lok Sabha has increased to nearly 14 per cent with a steady but slow rise since five per cent in the first Lok Sabha. It still remains lower than many countries which include Rwanda (61 per cent), South Africa (43 per cent), UK (32 per cent), USA (24 per cent) and Bangladesh (21 per cent). Most MPs had declared political and social work as their occupation (39 per cent), while nearly 38 per cent listed agriculture and 23 per cent were businessmen. Many had declared more than one occupation.

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India should be 'atmanirbhar' in all aspects: Principal Secy to PM



Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been articulating the vision to make eastern India a powerful driver of the nation's growth

Sambalpur, Feb 10: Stating that India should go beyond achieving the desired level of per capita income and be 'atmanirbhar' in all aspects as per Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 2047 vision for the country, Principal Secretary to the PM, PK Mishra said women will be leading India's development story and corruption, casteism and communalism will have no place in national life.

Addressing the 56th Annual Conference of Odisha Economic Association here Saturday, Mishra, while stressing on India's journey to become a developed nation by the year 2047, underlined the significance of attaining sustainable growth while achieving high growth trajectory. "High growth that is not sustainable will not be meaningful," he said.

The Principal Secretary highlighted the significance of the theme of the conference 'Pathways for Sustainable Growth in an Uncertain World' citing unprecedented turbulence and uncertainty in the global economy in recent years.

new concepts for a sustainable and better future.

The concept of LIFE (Lifestyle for Environment) and global initiatives such as the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) and the International Solar Alliance (ISA) are significant landmarks in India's efforts to address climate change, he said.

At the 14th Foundation Day ceremony of the Sambalpur University Institute of Information Technology (SUIIT), Mishra laid emphasis on prioritising research and development, forging partnerships with industry leaders and providing students with hands-on experience through internships and industry projects.

The prime minister believes that technology in general, and cutting edge and emerging technologies in particular, will have to be harnessed to fuel the growth that we aspire to achieve, he said.

MAN DIES IN ROAD MISHAP

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, Feb 10: A man died and his wife was critically injured after the scooter they were riding met with an accident at Putabagada Chowk under Chamakhandi police limits in Ganjam district, Friday evening.

The deceased was identified as Sushil Sahoo, 44, and his injured wife as Sushila Sahoo, both residents of Bhatakumarada village. According to sources, Sushil was travelling along with his wife towards Purusottampur on a scooter when a pick-up van hit them from behind near Putabagada Chowk. Locals rescued both Sushil and his wife in a critical condition and rushed them to MKCG Medical College and Hospital at Berhampur.

As the condition of Sushil deteriorated, he was forwarded to Vishakhapatnam for better treatment. However, Sushil died on the way. His wife Sushila is still undergoing treatment. On being informed, Jagannathpur beat house police reached the spot and seized both the scooter and pick-up van from the spot.

Man arrested for duping job aspirants of ₹25 lakh

PNN & AGENCIES

Jajpur, Feb 10: Police arrested a man in Jajpur district for allegedly cheating six job aspirants of at least ₹25 lakh by promising them state government jobs. The accused, arrested Friday, has been identified as Surya Badanayak, a resident of Malkangiri.

The kingpin of the scam, identified as Ramachandra Darua, is on the run, police said, adding that an SUV, purchased with the ill-gotten money, was also seized.

Police said, Darua, a resident of Malkangiri, has been working as an assistant teacher in Palatpur Upgraded Middle English (UGME) School under Bari block in Jajpur district. He has been staying in a rented house in Palatpur village for the last ten years.

During his stay in Palatpur area, Darua befriended the job seekers and promised them state government jobs, police said



based on the preliminary investigation.

Last year, Darua called the six job seekers, four from Bari in Jajpur and two from neighbouring Kendrapara district and promised them Panchayat Executive Officer (PEO) jobs in the state government. The job aspirants applied for the same accordingly.

He then asked the job aspirants to give him ₹5 lakh each for the job. The six aspirants deposited ₹25 lakh in the account of Darua in three phases from June to August last year.

The result of the PEO examination was published December 8 last year. When the job aspirants could not find their names in the selected lists, they asked Darua to refund their money.

At first, he kept talking about returning the money, but later he disappeared.

The crime came to the fore when one Bibhuti Bhusan Jena from Palatpur filed a complaint with Bari police that he was cheated of ₹4.5 lakh by Darua Monday. Thereafter, five more complaints were lodged against Darua on similar charges at Bari police station.

Based on the complaints an investigation was launched and police arrested one of the accused.

"During investigation, we found the money which was deposited in the account of Darua was subsequently transferred to the account of Badanayak. We collected account details of Badanayak and arrested him," said Prakash Chandra Sahoo, Inspector-in-Charge of Bari police station, adding the kingpin of the racket is on the run.

CUO girl student commits suicide

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, Feb 10: A girl student has allegedly committed suicide in a hostel room of the Central University of Odisha (CUO) at Sunabeda in Koraput district.

The body of the deceased girl student identified as Sandhyarani Das was Saturday found hanging from the ceiling fan of her hostel room.

According to reports, Sandhyarani, who hailed from Kendrapara district was a student of the Mathematics department of the university and was studying in the first year.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION, MOHANA
E-mail: rwdmohana@gmail.com
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Identification No. Online Tender 17/MOHANA/2023-24

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	No. of Works	Availability of Tender online for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender
			From	To		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Mohana	Online Tender 17/MOHANA/2023-24	3 (Three) Nos.	13.02.2024 from 11.00 AM	22.02.2024 upto 5.00 PM	19.02.2024 upto 5.00 PM	23.02.2024 at 11.00 AM

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION-I, MALKANGIRI
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Identification No. Online Tender 16/RWD-1, MKG/2023-24 dt. 08.02.2024

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	No. of Works	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of Tender (Double Cover)
			From	To		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division-I, Malkangiri	Online Tender/ 16/RWD-1, MKG/2023-24	Total 2 Nos	15.02.2024 from 11.00 AM	22.02.2024 upto 5.00 PM	21.02.2024 up to 5.00 P.M.	Bid Opening- 23.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M.

BANK OF MAHARASHTRA ZONAL OFFICE : BHUBANESWAR
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[Rule - 8(1)]

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Contact: 7606868967, Email id: sjmedicalcollege@gmail.com, Website: sjmch.odisha.gov.in

Department	No. of Post	Category
Anatomy	02	ST-1 UR-1
Microbiology	01	SEBC-1 UR-1
FMT	01	SC-1 UR-1
Community Medicine	01	W (UR)-1

Ram temple replica in India Book of Records

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Feb 10: Suryanarayan Maharana, a sand artist from Berhampur district, has garnered praise and a place in the 'India Book of Records' for carving the smallest Ram temple out of wood.

Maharana, during the Ram temple consecration ceremony in Ayodhya, had carved the 2-cm tall and 5-mm wide temple and claiming his work to be the smallest Ram temple, he had applied for a place in the 'India Book of Records' January 23.



He received the confirmation from the India Book of Records authorities via an email Thursday, in which the authorities praised his artwork and informed that it has been selected to be placed in the record book. "In the coming days, this artwork will achieve many other records," Suryanarayan said exuding hope.

Nat'l conference on Advances in Physics and Ballistics begins

Balasure: Odisha Physical Society's 40th Annual Conference and a two-day National Conference on 'Recent Advances in Physics and Ballistics' organised by the department of Physics at Fakir Mohan University has been inaugurated.

REGIONAL OFFICE (SAMBALPUR REGION),
1st Floor, At: Christian Para, G.M. College Chowk, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha, PIN - 768001, Mob.: 7752050804

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 6(2) and 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to be held on 05.03.2024 from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Sl. No.	BRANCH/ Name & Address of Borrowers / Guarantors & Legal Heirs	Description of the Properties & the Owner	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increase Amount	Total Dues (Type of Possession)
1.	RAYAGADA BRANCH/ Borrower: M/s Sagar Tour and Travels, Prop.: Mr. Manyan Venkat Chowdhary, At: Sai Mandir Road, New Colony, Dist.: Rayagada, PIN-765001 / Guarantor & Mortgagor: Mrs. Manyam Meena Chowdhary, Borrower & Mortgagor: Mr. Manyam Venkata Chowdhary, Both are At: Sai Mandir Road, New Colony, Dist.: Rayagada, PIN-765001	Equitable Mortgage over Khata No: 59/3108, Plot No.: 208/3881, Area: 0.137 cents, Situated at Back Side of Bharti College Mouza: Komtalpeta, P.S: Chandil, Tahasil: Rayagada: 358, Dist.: Rayagada, Kissam: Gharbari, Property in the name of Mrs Manyam Meena Chowdhary, W/o: Mr Manyam Venkat Chowdhary, Gandhi Nagar Rayagada, Bounded by North: Proposed Road for Plotting Area, South: Proposed Road for Plotting Area, East: Layout Plot No.: 16 & 25 of the vendors of this layout, West: Layout Plot No.: 19 & 22 of the vendors of this layout	₹10,30,000/- ₹1,03,000/- ₹20,000/-	₹ 17,33,134/- plus further interest and charges, legal expenses thereon as on 07.02.2024 till full payment (Physical)
2.	DEOGARH BRANCH Borrower: Mr.Chudendu Kerketa, S/o.: Nirakar Kerketa, At: Khadia Sahi, Deogarh - 768108, Odisha, / Guarantor: Mrs. Premashila Kerketa, W/o.: Nirakar Kerketa, At: Ward No.: 6, Deogarh - 768108, Odisha North: Kasi Mistri, South: Road, East: Road, West: Kasi Mistri	Equitable Mortgage of Land under Plot No.: 340/2253, Area: Ac.0.10 Dec., Hal Khata No.: 375/772 of Mouza: Deogarh Town, Unit No.: 3, P.S./Tahasil: Deogarh, Dist: Deogarh recorded in the name of Mrs. Premashila Kerketa, W/o.: Nirakar Kerketa, Bounded by North: Kasi Mistri, South: Road, East: Road, West: Kasi Mistri	₹19,80,000.00 ₹1,98,000.00 ₹20,000/-	₹ 16,22,663/- plus further interest and charges, legal expenses thereon from 07.02.2024 till full payment (Physical)

FOCUS CHARITY

BENEFITS OF DOING GOOD



Many companies believe that donating a tiny percentage of their profits to charities or promoting efforts to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions is good for the bottom line. In fact, giving away 100% of a company's profits can be even better for business

substantial tax benefits from their huge donation.

Wonderful as it is that Patagonia's profits will always support the protection of the environment, the company's success does not prove that doing the most good provides a business with a competitive advantage. After all, although Patagonia is notable for many beneficial policies, including donating 1% of its total sales to environmental organisations and promoting the repair, exchange, and recycling of its clothing, these innovations largely came after the company was successful. Its initial success reflected, to a significant degree, the desirability of the goods it was selling.

Now that it is clear that all of Patagonia's profits will go toward protecting the environment, will the company do even better? Vincent van der Holst, an online marketer, believes that it will. He argues that companies that donate their profits to good causes "grow faster, live longer, and are more profitable." Accordingly, he has created BOAS, a platform for selling vintage jeans that has pledged to donate 90% of its

profits to effective charities saving the lives of children dying from preventable diseases in low-income countries. (Disclosure: I have invested 500, or \$537, in BOAS, with the expectation that the most significant return on my investment will be the knowledge that it has helped to save lives.)

BOAS is not yet earning enough to be cited as an example of a successful company that was founded for no other reason than to earn money for good causes. Humanitix, a ticketing agency founded by two Australians, Adam McCurdie and Joshua Ross, in 2016, is a better example of a business gaining a competitive edge by donating 100% of its profits to highly effective charities.

McCurdie and Ross went on a hiking trip through Sri Lanka shortly after the end of that country's tragic civil war in 2009. The poverty and hardship they witnessed made them resolve to work together to help children who had been less fortunate than they had been.

McCurdie was an engineer, and Ross a financial analyst. How might they work together to do the most good? The unex-

pected answer was to start a ticketing agency. Like most people who buy tickets for events online, they disliked seeing the price of their tickets go up when the ticketing agency added its fee, aware that their purchases were increasing the profits for a faceless group of owners. Yet the convenience of booking tickets online means that for most event organisers, there is no feasible alternative to using an agency, and no basis for choosing one agency rather than another.

But what if there were a ticketing agency that did not make profits for its (presumably rich) owners, but was wholly owned by a charitable foundation, so that, by law, all its profits would go to a cause that almost everyone would endorse, like helping children in extreme poverty? Ticket purchasers would feel more positive about that agency than they do about other agencies, and some of their positive feelings would flow toward the event itself, and its organisers, who would have a reason to prefer that ticket agency over others.

That was McCurdie and Ross' theory, anyway. With support from the Adlassian Foundation and the government of New South Wales, they were able to test it. Humanitix has become the fastest-growing ticketing platform in Australia and New Zealand, and is now establishing itself in the United States. Despite the need to reinvest much of its profits to ensure future growth, Humanitix has already donated \$4 million to effective charities assisting children and is on track to donate an additional \$5 million in 2024.

The theory works for ticketing agencies. Doing the most good does provide a competitive edge. Further applications are waiting to be discovered.

The writer, Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University, is Founder of the organization The Life You Can Save.
©PROJECT SYNDICATE



Peter Singer

DOING THE MOST GOOD DOES PROVIDE A COMPETITIVE EDGE

It seems counterintuitive, but in a capitalist economy, doing the most good can provide a competitive edge. I am not referring to businesses that donate a tiny percentage of their profits to charities or tell you that they are reducing greenhouse-gas emissions. I am talking about businesses that donate 100% of their profits – or close to it – to effective charities that do a lot of good.

Newman's Own, the American food company founded in 1982 by the actor Paul Newman and author AE Hotchner (both now deceased), is an early example of a business donating 100% of its profits to charity. The profits go to the Newman's Own Foundation, which to date has distributed over \$600 million to charities working for disadvantaged children. Hugh Jackman cites Newman's Own as an inspiration for his own charitable foundation, Laughing Man Coffee.

Perhaps the most prominent company operating along these lines today is Patagonia, the American outdoor-clothing company founded by Yvon Chouinard in 1973. Nearly 50 years later, when the company was valued at around \$3 billion, Chouinard gave it to a non-profit organisation, ensuring that all its profits will be used to protect the environment and fight climate change.

The arrangement commenced in September 2022. So far, profits amounting to \$71 million have been allocated for environmental initiatives that include stopping a proposed mine in Alaska and conserving land in South America, as well as for helping to elect pro-environment Democrats in the United States.

Chouinard's decision, supported by his wife and two adult children, to give away his company, is especially laudable because, to enable the non-profit organisation to have the option of supporting political candidates, the family had to forego



THE MOTHER

We find in others what is in us. If we always find mud around us, it proves that there is mud somewhere in us.

Perpetual Violence

Demolitions in Uttarakhand this month, after which six were killed in violence, follows a pattern we can see in BJP states. The pattern is of course that the government is used to go after citizens, especially Muslims. The demolitions are carried out as a form of extra-judicial punishment by municipal authorities and police, whether following episodes of communal violence or protests against discrimination. The pattern has been documented in reports like 'Routes of wrath: Weaponising religious processions' (April 2022). This text was by the Citizens and Lawyers Initiative. In his foreword, former Supreme Court justice Rohinton Nariman writes that "the report corroborates the findings (of decline in Indian democratic values)" and that "it finds that in nine States of this Country, during Ram Navami and Hanuman Jayanti celebrations in April 2022, there were widespread acts of hooliganism and violence." After this the JCBs came out.

A report by Amnesty International, of which I am India chair, has found similar patterns of people rendered homeless and deprived of their livelihoods. These individuals were subjected to forced evictions, intimidation and unlawful force by the police and collective and arbitrary punishment, which undermined their rights to non-discrimination, adequate housing, and a fair trial.

Muslim-concentrated localities were either chosen or Muslim-owned properties were selectively targeted in diverse areas for demolitions. Adjacent or nearby Hindu-owned properties that also allegedly encroached on public lands particularly in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, were left untouched.

The Indian State's rationalisation of carrying out arbitrary demolitions to remove illegal encroachment sits in contrast to the reality of the country where the implementation of building laws is fraught with a lack of enforcement, which has resulted in a lot of construction taking place without the requisite permissions. In 2017, a report submitted by a panel formed by the Delhi High Court to document "illegal constructions" in the capital region found that "90% [of the buildings] carry one kind of violation of the extant building bylaws or another."

The emblematic case here is that of Sainik Farm in Delhi, a tiny enclave that is totally illegal and that has not seen JCBs come and demolish the bungalows of our wealthy. The headline of a news report from May 2023 illustrates this perfectly: "Expedite call on Delhi's Sainik Farms' bid for regularisation: High Court". Of course, the poor and especially the Muslim poor are given no such leeway. They're subjected to forced eviction, which is the permanent or temporary removal of people against their will from the homes or land they occupy, without legal protections and other safeguards. Forced evictions are a violation of human rights, including but not limited to the right to adequate housing.

Under international human rights law, states must ensure that evictions only occur in exceptional circumstances, require full justification and the provision of adequate legal safeguards. None of that here in New India, of course.

In fact, India's bulldozer demolitions are often instigated at the highest levels of government, with many state officials directly or indirectly calling for the use of bulldozers against Muslims. There is credible evidence to believe that these demolitions are discriminatory and targeted as part of a hate campaign against Muslims in India. Rather than prevent discrimination towards Muslims, senior political leaders and government officials have actively encouraged it.

During the April 2022 demolitions in Delhi, BJP spokesman GVL Narasimha defined JCB as "Jihadi Control Board," in a now-deleted tweet. The discrimination shows elsewhere also. A year-and-a-half since the demolitions that Amnesty documented, in spite of the financial hardships created by the loss of their homes and businesses, victims continue to wait for justice with legal cases pending in courts. To date, the courts have failed to address punitive demolitions with the scale and urgency required by the prevailing situation, enabling the Indian authorities to continue tearing down people's homes and businesses in other areas with widespread impunity.

This must also be viewed in conjunction with the creation of quasi-judicial tribunals in the states of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh which have provided prompt relief to Hindus who suffered losses due to the preceding violence while Muslim victims of the violence and following demolitions continue to struggle for justice.

The Routes of Wrath report concludes that while there have been earlier phases of communal violence in India, which entrenched cycles of violence, segregation and generated lasting barriers to socio-economic mobility for Indian Muslims in particular, they did not undermine State control over society or its authority over institutions in the manner that is being seen today.

Coordination between Hindutva outfits, and the police and district administration, means combining an extreme ideological entity with the civil service. What can be observed is that the relationship between them has become institutionalised in many parts, sustaining a violently undemocratic model of governance that is anathema to the rule of law.

In a letter to the Prime Minister in April 2022, more than 100 retired senior civil servants stated that the administration of law has become the means by which the minorities, particularly the Muslim community, can be kept in a state of perpetual fear. They said facilitation and support for communal frenzy was being provided at all levels of the administration – from local police and administrative officials to the highest political levels in state and Central governments. "While the actual commission of violence may be outsourced to fringe groups, there is little doubt as to how the ground for their operations is made fertile, how each of them follows a master script and shares a common 'tool kit' and how the propaganda machinery of a party as well as the state is made available to them to defend their actions," the retired bureaucrats wrote.

Finally, the Citizens and Lawyers Initiative report concludes "the available evidence corroborates statements by civil society groups, lawyers, academics and activists, that India has reached a stage of perpetual violence."



Aakar Patel

In fact, India's bulldozer demolitions are often instigated at the highest levels of government, with many state officials directly or indirectly calling for the use of bulldozers against Muslims

SPECTRUM SOCIETY

Just honour to a rare reformer



Satya Narayan Misra

FOR ALL HIS WARTS AND MOLES, RAO WAS AN INTELLECTUAL COLOSSUS LIKE NEHRU, POLITICALLY ASTUTE LIKE INDIRA, WHO TRUSTED HIM

By honouring PV Narasimha Rao with the Bharat Ratna, PM Modi has struck a rare combination -- of recognising his economic paradigm shift of Nehruvian socialism and his political sagacity of not allowing paramilitary forces from intervening during the demolition of Babri masjid. Dr MD Godbole, who was the Home Secretary at that time, writes in his book 'Unfinished Innings' (1996) how he repeatedly tried to contact the PM to exercise the Centre's power under Article 355, unsuccessfully, prompting him to resign prematurely. This momentous passivity and indecision, many believe, led to the successful campaign for a Ram mandir at the Babri masjid site by LK Advani, a recipient of Bharat Ratna now and Modi finally building the Ram temple. Quite clearly it cost the Congress dearly in terms of Muslim votes in UP, led to the rise of Mulayam Singh Yadav as savior of the minority community and Modi-Adityanath duo cementing the shrill cry of Hindu majoritarianism. Rao is ironically the unconscious hand of history that promoted and cemented Hindu

fundamentalism at the cost of upholding secularism as the basic structure of the Constitution. This dubious distinction, however, does not obliterate the pioneering role he played for ushering economic reforms in India in 1991, a process being carried forward by the BJP during the last decade of Modi's governance.

It is often debated as to whether it was Rao or Dr Manmohan Singh who was the real architect of the reforms of 1991. During a book release function in Delhi a few years after he stepped down as PM, Rao said: "Without the PM's backing the FM will be a zero. It is the PM's backing that puts a one before the zero making it a 10." It could not have been put more neatly. Rao deserves full credit for choosing Singh as FM because of his acknowledged expertise to manage the economy as Secretary in MoF and later as Governor of RBI. Rao was once asked by a journalist how he had managed to make a 180 degree turn on Nehruvian socialist policies. He replied cleverly: "I have not turned at all. I am facing the same direction. It is the world that

has turned 180 degrees under me." He was alluding to the fall of the Berlin wall in 1989, abandoning the statist policies in East Europe and disintegration of USSR by December 1991.

Rao's was clearly a strategy by stealth. You point in a broad direction without committing any particular pace of change and then take step forward whenever it is politically opportune to do so. Singh was a gradualist, who conceptualised a complex and multidimensional structure of reform. Rao did not want to hog the limelight as the architect of reforms. Neither did Singh go overboard about it; earning encomiums globally. They were like the famed jugalbandi of Bharat Ratna sitarist Pandit Ravishankar with tabla legend Ustad Allah Rakha. Rao and Singh connected India to the headwinds of globalisation and the prosperity that flows out of freeing markets out of asphyxiating state controls.

Modi spares no effort to decry the legacy of Congress and Nehru in particular. The recent budget went a step further to show how the decade under BJP was far better governed and inclusive than

the decade under Singh. Little realising that they are carrying on the economic pragmatism of Singh under the astute political leadership of Rao was PM. Modi had typically chosen Pranab Mukherjee earlier for Bharat Ratna as he had broken away from the Congress earlier and knew which side of the bread is to be buttered when there is change in political leadership. Rao was not a turncoat, but did not give in to the dictates of the political dynasty under Sonia, the way Singh gave in during his second term as PM. History as Marx said, repeats itself as tragedy first, then as farce. Political opportunism best demonstrates this adage. For all his warts and moles, Rao was an intellectual colossus like Nehru, politically astute like Indira, who trusted him. He could read both the political and economic currents wafting through the country, tad better than most, at the cost of sacrificing secularism, albeit inadvertently.

The writer teaches Macro Economics. Views are personal

WISDOM CORNER

Half the world is composed of people who have something to say and can't, and the other half who have nothing to say and keep on saying it. ROBERT FROST

All our knowledge begins with the senses, proceeds then to the understanding, and ends with reason. There is nothing higher than reason. IMMANUEL KANT

Life lived for tomorrow will always be just a day away from being realized. LEO BUSCAGLIA

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
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Effusive praise

Sir, On the occasion of his retirement from the Rajya Sabha, former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh was praised effusively by his successor Prime Minister Narendra Modi who recalled how Singh had come to vote during the no trust motion against the government disregarding his age. It may also be recalled that the meeting between the two leaders in 2015, soon after PM Modi completed one year in office, had turned heads. People had then speculated what a financial expert and an astute politician could have discussed. The soft spoken Singh measures each word before he speaks, but every word of his is worth its weight in gold. The renowned economist's silence is construed as weakness by his detractors who forget that though Singh speaks little, when he speaks the authority behind the words are unmissable. Prime Minister Modi's respect towards the former Prime Minister stems from the latter's high learning, absolute integrity and one hundred per cent incorruptibility.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Infrastructure failure

Sir, The Pragati Maidan tunnel in Delhi is a total infrastructure failure. The project that was inaugurated with much fanfare by Prime Minister Narendra Modi ahead of the G20 Summit in June 2022 is now grappling with serious issues. Recent pictures and videos circulating on social media platforms depict water seepage, considerable cracks in the cement, and poor drainage within the tunnel. The lack of proper waterproofing measures during the construction must have led to the water leakage, causing cracks and compromising the structure's integrity. The tunnel, once envisioned as a symbol of improved transit, has now been reduced to an awkward and worthless underside. The tunnel in its present form is not at all safe for commuters. The condition is such that it cannot be repaired without a major revamp. Needless to say that it is one of the immediate and topmost priorities of the ruling BJP to set things right, ensuring commuter safety and restoring the functionality of this important transit corridor, which reportedly cost a whopping Rs 777 crore involving public money.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

UDF MP's lunch with PM triggers row

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Feb 10: UDF MP NK Premachandran's lunch with Prime Minister Narendra Modi has triggered a political row in Kerala with the ruling CPI(M) taking a dig at him pointing out his 'closeness' with the PM.

The Kollam MP was among the parliamentarians, selected from different parties, with whom PM Modi had lunch at the Parliament canteen Friday.

While Premachandran justified his accepting the invitation from the PMO saying it was a friendly meeting beyond politics, senior CPI(M) leader and Finance Minister KN Balagopal made fun of him saying that he might have gone as he was so close to the PM.

Senior Marxist party leader and Rajya Sabha MP Elamaram Kareem and LDF Convenor EP Jayarajan also slammed Premachandran's gesture.

However, Premachandran told the media that it was a sheer



'friendly meeting' and a 'new and happy experience in life.'

"It was an unexpected invitation from the PMO. It was just a friendly and casual talk...No political matter ever came up for discussion," he said.

Hailing Modi's friendly be-

haviour during the meeting, the UDF MP said he spoke in a way that did not give the impression that it was the PM who was speaking.

During the meeting, Modi shared his life experiences, about his daily routine, the days dur-

ing the tenure as Gujarat Chief Minister and so on, Premachandran further said.

"Beyond politics, it was a personal meeting...And a new experience in life," he added.

When reporters sought his reaction over the matter, Balagopal said in a lighter vein that Premachandran was invited by the PM for lunch as Modi has confidence in him.

Certain people were invited and things were discussed, the state finance minister said, pointing out to the invitation extended to select MPs. "What should I say about the meeting for lunch? It was because of the trust (between the duo)," he said with a smile. Balagopal also accused the UDF MPs including Premachandran of raising questions in Parliament in a way that strengthens the arguments by the Centre against the state government.

Modi had lunch with some MPs belonging to different parties at the Parliament canteen Friday.

Assam, Mizoram agree to resolve border dispute

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Aizawl, Feb 10: Mizoram and Assam Friday agreed to make joint efforts to resolve the long pending inter-state border dispute, an official statement said.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswas Sarma Friday invited his Mizoram counterpart Lalduhoma, who is currently in Guwahati, over a meal and both leaders discussed the border issue. During the meeting, Lalduhoma and Sarma agreed to make collective efforts to resolve the border dispute between the two northeastern states, it said.

Both leaders also agreed to maintain peace along the borders as long as the two neighbouring states hold border talks, it said. Sarma told Lalduhoma that he will send the minister in charge of border to Mizoram when the ongoing budget ses-

The border dispute between Mizoram and Assam had taken an ugly turn in July 2021 when police forces of the two states exchanged fire at the inter-state boundary, leading to the death of six policemen and a civilian from Assam

ional demarcations.

Mizoram claims that 509 square miles area of the inner line reserved forest, notified in 1875 under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation (BEFR) 1873, falls within its territory. Assam, on the other hand, regarded the border shown in a map prepared by the Survey of India in 1933 as its constitutional boundary.

Vast areas within the inner line reserved forest now fall under Assam. Similarly a certain extent of the area, as per the 1933 demarcation, is now on the Mizoram side. There is no ground demarcation of boundaries between the two states.

The border dispute between Mizoram and Assam had taken an ugly turn in July 2021 when police forces of the two states exchanged fire at the inter-state boundary, leading to the death of six policemen and a civilian from Assam.

Assam Cabinet to discuss UCC Bill

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Guwahati, Feb 10: Assam government will soon come up with a bill to introduce Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the state and a Cabinet meeting in this regard was called Saturday to discuss the matter.

State Irrigation Minister Jayanta Malla Baruah told reporters here Saturday that the Assam government has been planning to introduce the UCC in the state. The Cabinet meeting was called to have an in-depth discussion about the different perspectives of the UCC.

According to sources, the Assam government may come up with a Bill to implement the UCC in the ongoing budget session of the Assembly.

The Minister also hinted that there may be some relaxations in the UCC for the tribal people of the state.

Meanwhile, he also said that once Narendra Modi becomes



the Prime Minister for the third consecutive term, some big decisions will be taken in the best interest of the country.

Notably, Uttarakhand Assembly recently passed a Bill to implement UCC in the state.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had earlier said, "We are also keen on introducing UCC in Assam; however, we first want to see the Uttarakhand government's UCC bill."



Rhinoceros graze inside the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary in Morigaon district, Saturday.

PTI PHOTO

Tourist footfall, revenue increase at Kaziranga

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Guwahati, Feb 10: The Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNPTR) in Assam has registered around 4 per cent rise in tourist arrival and 2.2 per cent revenue increase during the current season, as compared to the same period of the previous year, officials said.

Officials at the KNPTR said that as many as 1,79,573 tourists, including foreigners, visited the park from October last year to January this year, while ₹4,58,776.39 was earned during this period. In comparison, 1,72,903 tourists visited the park and ₹4,48,75,100 was earned as revenue between October 2022 and January 2023.

Officials said the tourist flow was affected during the Covid-19 pandemic years (2020-2021). In the entire 2021-22, around 2,55,676 visitors had visited the park and the revenue generated stood at ₹5,49,78,055, while in 2022-23, around 3,26,924 visitors had visited the park while the estimated revenue earned was ₹7,76,07,566.

Officials said Kaziranga, nestled in the heart of Assam, continues to captivate travellers and wildlife enthusiasts, experiencing a significant upsurge in

tourism, particularly during holidays.

Renowned for its landscapes, rich biodiversity and inhabitants like the one-horned rhinoceros, Kaziranga has emerged as a top-choice destination for families and wildlife aficionados, a senior KNPTR official said.

He also said that tea tourism would be introduced in Kaziranga next month, which will offer visitors an opportunity to explore the region's tea culture. This new initiative aims to showcase the beauty of Kaziranga while providing an immersive experience in the art of tea production.

Kaziranga is experiencing a boost in tourism, thanks to the recent success of innovative initiatives like Kazir Ronghangpi Tales, cycling in Kohora, Panpur jeep safari and boat safari in the Biswanath Wildlife Division.

Local businesses have also benefited from the increased tourist influx, with hotels, restaurants and shops reporting a surge in activity. The success of these events has created new opportunities for collaboration between the public and private sectors, further contributing to the overall economic growth of the area.



Rise in HIV cases in Assam due to injecting of drugs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Feb 10: Assam Health Minister Keshab Mahanta Friday said that the state has registered an increase in the number of HIV-AIDS cases, with injecting of drugs being the main cause.

He affirmed in the Assembly that the government, with help from NGOs, has been working with HIV-positive persons.

However, the details were not disclosed to maintain the anonymity of the patients.

Congress MLA Sibamoni Bora

raised the matter of the prevalence of HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) patients in the state during Question Hour, claiming that there has been a spike in fresh infections.

She claimed that around 50 per cent of the drug peddlers are themselves infected.

Bora alleged that the government has been less focused on spreading awareness of HIV since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mahanta, in his reply, said that 31,729 HIV-AIDS cases were detected in the state from 89,84,519

tests conducted between 2002 and 2023. "In 2023, till December, 9,90,372 tests were conducted, of which 5,791 were found positive. Yes, there has been an increase and we are working to check it," he added.

The Minister said the government was working in close coordination with NGOs also, especially in providing care to infected people, and creating awareness among vulnerable sections.

"But we cannot specify the work being done, we can only give you figures," he added, in-

dicating the need to maintain confidentiality in dealing with HIV-AIDS cases.

He said transmission of the virus through injecting drugs accounts for the highest number of new cases currently.

"The state government has already launched a drive against illegal drugs. But we have more to achieve to stop it altogether," he said.

Mahanta maintained that the state's position as a transit point for the rest of the northeast also makes its populace more vulnerable, while treatment of pa-

tients from other states in Assam further leads to an increase in the state's overall tally.

He said the state government has been providing all facilities for testing, counselling and treatment at different government-run and other health centres as well as in vulnerable places such as prisons.

BJP legislator Rupak Sharma, also participating in the discussion, maintained that the number of HIV-AIDS cases in the state could record a further increase if more tests are conducted.

Kerala beach figures among world's 100 best

PAPANASHAM BEACH IS A FAVOURITE TOURIST DESTINATION DUE TO ITS SILVERY STRETCHES OF SAND AND SERENE AMBIENCE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, Feb 10: In an endorsement of Kerala's lively beach tourism, the stunning seaside getaway of Papanasham Beach in Thiruvananthapuram has been featured among the 100 best beaches in the world by the prestigious Lonely Planet.

A favourite tourist destination due to its silvery stretches of sand and the serene ambience, Papanasham Beach, also known as Varkala Beach and about 40 kms from the state capital on the Arabian Sea, has been featured in Lonely Planet's "Best Beaches: 100 of the World's Most Incredible Beaches" guide book.

Fringed by coconut palms, blessed with an unending stretch of blue waters, and endowed with an idyllic serenity, the beach has earned the reputation of a

traveller's paradise and rejuvenation point dotted with spas with therapeutic effect gushing out from the surrounding laterite cliff.

Besides being a tourist hotspot, Papanasham beach is also a revered pilgrim site. The belief is that a ritualistic dip in the waters here washes away all the sins (papam) and hence, its name.

The ashes collected from the cremation grounds are immersed at the sea here, in the belief that it will wash away the sins of the deceased and the soul will achieve moksha (eternal salvation).

Another highlight of the beach is that it is the only place in southern Kerala where cliffs are found adjacent to the Arabian Sea. This has been recorded as a geological monument by the Geological Survey of India (GSI).

Kerala Tourism Minister PA Mohamed Riyas said featuring



into the list of best beaches in the world is a remarkable recognition for Varkala Beach.

"Lonely Planet travel book has a global readership among travel

enthusiasts, and the recognition accorded by it will further reinforce the reputation of the beach as an attractive destination," he said, adding that the government

will also fast-track the destination development project for Varkala to turn the core site and the adjoining areas into a world-class tourism destination.

The project includes protection of the Varkala cliff, a distinguishing feature of the panoramic site, exploring possibilities of using buggies and electric autos to gain access to the cliff, enhancing infrastructure and safety measures, and sharply reducing the use of plastic and other polluting material.

As the first step of taking it to greater heights, a floating bridge and a host of other adventure tourism activities at this beach were recently launched. Spanning 100 metres in length and three meters in width, it provides a spacious viewing platform that can accommodate more than 100 visitors at a time.

Kerala Tourism will be organising the International Surfing Festival at Varkala from March 29 to 31. Surfing athletes from overseas and also India's east and west coastal cities are expected to compete in various categories during the event.



Houthi supporters attend a rally against the US-led airstrikes on Yemen and in support of the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip in Sanaa, Yemen



People visit Kalaigarr centenary live plants show at Semmozhi Poonga, in Chennai



Tourists pose with a horse-cart sculpture made out of snow at Sonamarg in Ganderbal district



People participate in the International Kite Festival at the Tannirbhavi Beach, in Mangaluru, Karnataka



Tibetan monks during a traditional prayer on the first day of 'Losar', the Tibetan New Year, at the Dorje Drak Monastery in Shimla



Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar interacts with Indian veterans and community leaders at Sallani Avenue, in Perth



People shop ahead of Valentine's Day in Thiruvananthapuram



Security personnel outside the Bihar Legislative Assembly building ahead of Budget session in Patna

national



Certain persons, including some in constitutional posts, are trying to turn the country from a secular nation into a religious one by giving priority to 'concocted stories' instead of intellectual thought
PINARAYI VIJAYAN | KERALA CM

NMC WARNS MEDICAL COLLEGES

The National Medical Commission (NMC) has warned medical colleges and institutions against compelling post-graduate students to stay in the hostels offered by them and charging hefty amounts for the same



CAA: A BRIEF HISTORY

NIA carries out raids at 15 locations in J&K

With Union Home Minister Amit Shah Saturday making it clear that the contentious Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), that triggered wide spread protests across the country following its passage in the Parliament in 2019, will be notified and implemented before the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

It may be recalled that protests had broken out across the country soon after the promulgation of the Act, with thousands of agitators, including students, taking to the streets with demonstrations at campuses of Jamia Millia Islamia, Aligarh Muslim University and Delhi University. Protests snowballed into a major flashpoint in West Bengal with highways and railway lines blocked and incidents of arson and loot reported from many places and chief minister Mamata Banerjee declaring that CAA and NRC could be enforced in the state only on her 'dead body'.

The CPI(M)-led LDF and Opposition Congress headed UDF in Kerala held a joint protest against the amended Citizenship Act, with chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan slamming the move as an attempt to 'curb freedom', as per a report in the Times of India on December 17, 2019.

Protests

Shaheen Bagh
Soon after passage of the CAA, protesters gathered at Shaheen Bagh road in Delhi December 15, 2019 to oppose the Act, National Register of Citizen and National Population Register (NPR) calling them "anti-Muslim". The protesters also opposed the Delhi Police action against students of Jamia Millia Islamia. The protest began on a key stretch — Kalindi Kunj Road that links the densely populated Shaheen Bagh with the satellite township of Noida. Led mostly by women, the agitation drew as many as 1,00,000 protesters. The Shaheen Bagh protest became one of the longest protests of its magnitude in modern India. Carried out by women, the 'leaderless' Shaheen Bagh sit-in is often referred to by the supporters of the protest as a site of modern-day Satyagraha. The protest ended March 24, 2020 amid nationwide lockdown over Covid-19 pandemic, as per a report in the Indian Express on March 24, 2020.



CAA is anti-Constitution. It is a law which has been made on the basis of religion. CAA must be read with and understood with NPR-NRC which lay down conditions to prove your citizenship of this country. And if that happens, it will be a grave injustice, especially to the Muslims, to the Dalits and poor people of India, irrespective of the caste or religion they belong to
ASADUDDIN OWAIISI | AIMIM PRESIDENT

With elections approaching, the BJP has again raked up the CAA issue to reap political benefits. But let me make it very clear that as long as I am alive, I will not allow its implementation in West Bengal
MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

The BJP-led Centre wants to notify CAA rules just before the Lok Sabha elections to use this as a political weapon to gain in the elections through sharpening 'communal polarisation'
SITARAM YECHURY | CPI-M LEADER



NRC link to CAA

The NRC, which identified illegal immigrants from Assam, had been a longstanding demand in Assam. But ever since its implementation, there has been a growing demand for its nationwide implementation. After the updated final NRC in Assam was released August 31 2019, it excluded the names of over 19 lakh applicants, including Hindus (TOI report, December 17, 2019).

(Compiled by Vaishali Dey, Debashish Panigrahi, Ratan Kumar Pradhan)

TIMELINE

- Dec 11, 2019:** Parliament passed the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2019
- Dec 13, 2019:** President Ram Nath Kovind gave his nod to the Bill, constituting it an Act.
- Dec 15, 2019:** Women of Shaheen Bagh and other nearby localities in north-east Delhi assembled at the intersection of Shaheen Bagh and began an indefinite sit-in protest in contention with the Act. The day also witnessed horrifying attacks on the students by the police of Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, and Jamia Millia Islamia University, Delhi
- Dec 16, 2019:** FIR was registered by Delhi Police naming seven students as instigators
- Jan 5, 2020:** Over 50 "masked goons", allegedly from ABVP armed with sticks and rods, entered the JNU premises and injured over 39 people
- Jan 30, 2020:** A minor opened fire with a pistol at a group of hundreds of anti-CAA protesters outside Jamia Millia Islamia, injuring a student before walking away while waving the firearm over his head and shouting "Yeh lo Aazadi"
- Feb 23, 2020:** New Delhi witnessed a communally charged violence in northeast Delhi that lasted up to several days and killed over 53 people, mostly Muslims
- March 22, 2020:** PM Modi announced a one-day "Janata Curfew" across the country
- March 24, 2020:** The Centre imposed a nationwide lockdown to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus

Who will benefit from CAA?
The Citizenship (Amendment) Act grants citizenship to Hindus, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhist, Jains and Parsis - from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh who had arrived in India before December 31, 2014. The legislation applies to those who were 'forced or compelled to seek shelter in India due to persecution on the ground of religion'. It aims to protect such people from proceedings of illegal migration from the neighbouring countries.

The requirement to stay in India for those belonging to any of these six religions for at least 11 years before applying for Indian citizenship has been reduced to five years.

Indian citizenship, under the present law, is given either to those born in India or if they have resided in the country for a minimum of 11 years, as per a report in the Times of India on December 17, 2019.

Why the agitation?
There are two distinct rallying points of protests against the Act. In the northeast, the protest is against the Act's implementation in their areas. Most of them fear that, if implemented, the Act will cause a rush of immigrants that may alter their demographic, linguistic and cultural uniqueness. In the rest of India, like in Kerala, West Bengal and in Delhi, people protested against the exclusion of Muslims, alleging it to be against the ethos of the Constitution, as per a report in the Times of India on December 17, 2019.

Not included
The CAA does not apply to tribal areas of Tripura, Mizoram, Assam and Meghalaya because of being included in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. Also, areas that fall under the Inner Limit notified under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873, will also be outside the Act's purview. This keeps almost entire Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur and Nagaland out of the ambit of the Act, the Times of India reported on December 17, 2019.

Patanjali training programme kicks off

Haridwar, Feb 10: A five-day training programme on bakery products and industry promotion started at Samriddh Gram (Patanjali Training Centre) in collaboration with Uttarakhand Livelihood Mission, Saturday.

Charanjit Singh, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India and Anand Swaroop, CEO, UKSRLM, lighted the ceremonial lamp to inaugurate the programme.

Addressing the trainees, Charanjit Singh said that the Prime Minister, in each of his addresses, emphasises on the overall uplift-



ment and livelihood enhancement of self-help group women members. He greatly appreciated the efforts made by Patanjali in this direction and described it as an ideal model for business promotion and livelihood improvement.

It is noteworthy that in this training programme, along with techniques in making biscuits, bread, cakes etc, the trainees are

also taught in BPOS ERP, including their branding, packaging, labelling and marketing.

Earlier, at a high level meeting, Dr. Acharya Balkrishna, co-founder of Patanjali Group, emphasized on holistic training for village upliftment, and business growth. On this occasion, Anand Swaroop thanked Patanjali for hosting the training programme. The entire team visited the Patanjali Gramodyog, Food Park and Patanjali Research Institute. Apart from the team of UKSRLM, scientists of Patanjali Research Institute were also present on the occasion.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (AGRI.) KORAPUT DIVISION, JEYPORE
Email: ee-agril.korapat@gmail.com

INVITATIONS FOR BIDS THROUGH e-Procurement Date: 9.2.24

Bid Identification No/e - Procurement Notice No.-E.E (Agril), Korapat Division, Jeypore - 08/2023-24
No. L-225- The Executive Engineer (Agril.), Korapat Division, Jeypore on behalf of Government of Odisha invites Percentage Rate Bids in Single cover system for the works as detailed in table below.

Sl. No.	Nos of the work/ nature of work	Estimated Cost (Rs. In lakh)	Cost of Bid Documents (in Rs.)	EMD	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
01	4 (Four) Nos of Civil Works	Rs. 10.00 lakhs to Rs. 27.00 lakhs	Rs. 6000/-	1% On Estimated Cost	B, C & D	90 days to 120 Days

a) The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. b) The web-site for "ONLINE BIDDING" is <http://tendersorissa.gov.in>. c) Bid documents will be available in above Website from date. 15.02.2024 at 10.00 AM to Date. 21.02.2024 up to 5.30 P.M for "ONLINE BIDDING". d) Date of original bid documents submission from dt. 15.02.2024 at 10.00 AM to Date. 22.02.2024 upto 5.30 P.M. e) Bids shall be opened at 11:00AM on Dt. 23.02.2024. f) The Tender Paper Cost will be deposited in shape of Bank Draft in favour of Executive Engineer (Agril), Korapat Division, Jeypore payable at Jeypore. g) The EMD amount will be deposited in shape of Bank TDR duly pledged with Executive Engineer (Agril), Korapat Division, Jeypore by the awarded contractor only. h) Henceforth all the correspondence will be made to the contractor / bidder through e-mail only (please quote your email with the tender paper). The bidder must possess matching class compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC). Further details and other terms and conditions can be seen from DTCN in the e-Procurement web site www.tendersorissa.gov.in
N.B.: Subsequent corrigendum / addendum if required shall be available in the website as indicated.
OIPR-01472/11/0009/2324

Sd./ Executive Engineer (Agril.), Korapat Division, Jeypore

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPALITY, PATTAMUNDAI

Expression of Interest (EOI) for Management of Public Toilets and Community Toilets by Mission Shakti SHG

No. 461 Date 7.02.24
No. C-3047:- Pattamundai Municipality, invites Expression of Interest in sealed cover from interested Mission Shakti SHGs to be engaged for managing Public Toilets and Community Toilets of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) for a period of 3 years. The sealed Expression of Interest should be submitted to the address of respective ULBs on or before 5 PM of 17.02.2024, by registered/speed post/ or deposited physically. The Technical Bid will be opened on date 19.02.2024 at 11 A.M. in the Council Hall of Municipality. The sealed envelope should be superscripted with "EOI for Management of Public Toilet and Community Toilets by Mission Shakti SHGs". The detailed terms and conditions of the Expression of Interest is available in website: <http://www.kendrapara.nic.in>.
Sd./ Executive Officer, Pattamundai Municipality
OIPR-13220/11/0016/2324

OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL KHARIAR ROAD

At/Po- Khariar Road, Dist.- Nuapada (Odisha), Pin-766104
Email: nackhrd@rediffmail.com Executive Officer-9937130262
No. 241 Date: 08.02.24

Corrigendum-02

No.C-3053:- The Tender ID No. 170/KHRD/2023-24][2024_ORULB_100367_7] Published in 31.01.2024. The work name is "Construction of Boundary Wall at MCC MRF site at Dumerdhee, Ward No. 16" 01 (one) no. of work is published has been Cancelled due to unavoidable circumundane.
Sd./ Executive Officer, Khariar Road NAC
OIPR-13136/11/0018/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. O-2488

"e" Procurement Notice

e-mail ID: rw_sambalpur@yahoo.co.in, Phone No.: 0663-2401850
No. 1082 Date: 08.02.24
Bid Identification No. TENDER ONLINE SBPR - 20 of 2023-24

- Name of the Work : Road & Building Works as per DTCN available in the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in
- Total No. of Work : 06 (Six) Nos.
- Estimated Cost : Varies from Rs.5.04 lakhs to Rs.37.21 lakhs
- Period of Completion : 01 (One) to 06 (Six) Calendar Months
- Period and time of availability of bid document in the portal for bidding : 12.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M. to 19.02.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.
- Date and time of opening of Tender : 20.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M.
- Name and address of the Tenderer : S.E.R.W. Divn., Sambalpur
Other details can be seen from detailed notice inviting tenders, available in website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
(2) Corrigendum if any shall only be published in the website: www.tenderodisha.gov.in.

Sd./ Superintending Engineer Rural Works Division, Sambalpur
OIPR-25076/11/0029/2324

OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, BALUGAON, KHORDHA

E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

BID IDENTIFICATION NO-Balugaon.05/2023-24
No.: 355/Date: 08.02.2024

No. C-3050:- The Executive officer on behalf of NAC, Balugaon invites percentage Bid through e-procurement in double cover system according to norm of e-procurement.

- Type of Works : Civil construction works as in the D.T.C.N.
- Total No. of works : 01 No.
- Tender Amount Cost : Rs.16,93,743.00
- Period of Completion : 60 days
- Date and time of availability of Bid Documents in the Portal : From 10.00 A.M. of Dt.12.02.2024 upto 5.00 P.M. of Dt.22.02.2024
- Original Bid documents : Dt.23.02.2024 from 10.00 A.M. to submission in Tender box 1.00 P.M.
- Date & Time of Opening of Tender : Dt.23.02.2024 at 3.30 P.M.

Further, the details of e-tender documents can be had from the E-Procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Corrigendum if any shall only be published in the above website.
Sd./ Executive Officer, N.A.C., Balugaon
OIPR-13148/11/0022/2324

international

of the day quote

I am sort of pretty confidently predict that the relevance of the Quad would grow and it would become a bigger factor in the larger regional and beyond the region politics and policy



S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER, INDIA

Every day, Iranian proxies are shooting at our troops that are in Iraq and Syria. They haven't been effective at all because (of) two reasons: Number one, they're not very good at what they do



LOYD AUSTIN | DEFENSE SECRETARY, US

I want to raise India... we know about a plot to assassinate... on US soil and Canadian soil. I'd like to hear your commitment to how you would get engaged in those types of efforts to make sure that type of conduct does not take place



BEN CARDIN | SENATOR, US

SHORT TAKES

NK cyberattacks

United Nations: UN experts say they are investigating 58 suspected North Korean cyberattacks between 2017 and 2023 valued at approximately \$3 billion, with the money reportedly being used to help fund its development of weapons of mass destruction. And the high volume of cyberattacks by North Korean hacking groups who report to the Reconnaissance General Bureau, North Korea's primary foreign intelligence organization, is reportedly continuing, the panel of experts said in the executive summary of a new report to the UN Security Council obtained Friday by The Associated Press. The report covering the period from July 2023 to January 2024 and reflecting contributions from unidentified UN member nations and other sources, was sent to the 15-member council as North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has raised tensions in the region. He is threatening to annihilate South Korea if provoked and escalating weapons demonstrations. In response, the United States, South Korea and Japan have strengthened their combined military exercises.

Chinese balloons

Taipei: A record eight Chinese balloons have been detected around Taiwan, with two directly flying over the island, Taipei's defence ministry said Saturday. The ministry said the balloons were spotted Friday, the day before the start of the Lunar New Year holiday, at an altitude of 15,000 feet (4,572 metres) to 38,000 feet. It was the highest number detected since the ministry started regularly releasing data on balloon sightings in December.

Indian jailed

Singapore: A 47-year-old Indian-origin man was on Friday sentenced to five months in jail for having forced another man to strip and perform several exercises for not paying his inflated debt of about S\$6,000. A similar charge and a charge of voluntarily causing hurt were also taken into consideration for sentencing Nadeson Pillai Sockalingam Pillai. He also made the man dress up, head to a barber and shave his beard and head. The convict's two Indian-origin friends, Jay Shawn Fernandez and Jude Prabu Davies Pathy, have also been charged with criminal intimidation. One of Pillai's friends recorded the humiliating acts against the man, reported TODAY newspaper Friday.



The United States has never been in a stronger position in the Indo-Pacific. We have expanded our partnership with India in unprecedented ways

ADRIENNE WATSON | SPOKESPERSON FOR THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, WHITE HOUSE

INDONESIA GOES TO ELECTION

The three candidates in Indonesia's presidential election held their final campaign events in front of tens of thousands of people Saturday, four days before more than 200 million citizens cast their votes in the world's third-largest democracy



PAKISTAN POLLS

Khan craze sinks Sharif

Springing a surprise, independents backed by jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's party won the lion's share in the National Assembly election

REUTERS

Islamabad, Feb 10: Candidates backed by the party of jailed Pakistani opposition leader Imran Khan plan to form a government, a senior aide to the former prime minister said Saturday, urging supporters to peacefully protest if final election results are not released.

The South Asian nation of 241 million people voted Thursday in a general election, as the country struggles to recover from an economic crisis and battles militant violence in a deeply polarised political environment.

Both Khan and his main rival, three-time former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, declared victory Friday, increasing uncertainty over who will form the next government at a time when swift policy action is needed to address multiple challenges.

Gohar Khan, the chairman of Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-Insaf (PTI) party who also acts as the former prime minister's lawyer, called on "all institutions" in Pakistan to respect his party's mandate.

At a press conference, he said if complete results of the polls were not released by Saturday night, the party would hold peaceful protests Sunday outside government offices returning election results around the country. Sharif said Friday his party had emerged as the single largest group and would talk to other groups to form a coalition government.

By 5 pm Saturday, results were



Whoever has got the mandate, whether independents or parties, we respect the mandate they have got. We invite them to sit with us and help this wounded nation get back on its feet

NAWAZ SHARIF | PML-N CANDIDATE

My fellow countrymen, you all have set a date for the restoration of democracy in Pakistan. We are winning the 2024 elections with a two-thirds majority

IMRAN KHAN | PTI FOUNDER

The nation needs stable hands and a healing touch to move on from the politics of anarchy and polarisation, which does not suit a progressive country of 250 million people

SYED ASIM MUNIR | ARMY CHIEF

still not in for 10 of the 265 seats contested in the election - 48 hours since the polls closed.

The latest tally, posted on the election commission's website, showed independent candidates had won 100 seats, with Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) taking 72 seats.

At least 90 of the victorious independent candidates were backed by Khan and his party, a Reuters analysis showed - putting

them well ahead of Sharif's party. Khan's supporters were running as independents because they had been barred from the polls by the election commission for not complying with electoral laws.

Imran Khan's close aide and media adviser, Zulfi Bukhari, said the party would announce within the next day the party banner they will ask independents to join. In Pak, independent

- Khan rival Sharif had said would form coalition government
- Khan-backed independents won most seats in national election
- Khan's candidates win 100 seats, while Sharif's PML-N bag 72
- Elections marred by violence, delays in release of results

candidates cannot form a government on their own and need to join a party.

Beside Khan and Sharif, the Pakistan Peoples Party of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the son of assassinated premier Benazir Bhutto, remains a major player with at least 53 seats.

The rest were won by small parties and other independents. This sets up a period of intense political negotiations over the next few days before a parliamentary vote to elect a new prime minister and government can take place.

RIGGING CHARGES

The victory of PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif and his daughter Maryam Nawaz in Lahore's National Assembly seats was challenged in the Lahore High Court Saturday alleging that the top poll body did not follow the correct procedure.

Challenging the victory of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) candidates in the Lahore High Court (LHC), several losing PTI-backed candidates claimed that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) declared them winners on "bogus" result Form-47 instead of Form-45.

Form 45, commonly referred to as the 'Result of the Count' form, is a crucial record in the Pakistani electoral process which is intended to uphold openness and accountability by documenting and disclosing the outcomes of the voting procedure at a particular polling station.

WEST DEMANDS INVESTIGATION

Islamabad: The United States, Britain and the European Union Friday separately expressed concerns about Pakistan's electoral process in the wake of a vote Thursday and urged a probe into reported irregularities. The US and the EU both mentioned allegations of interference, including arrests of activists, and added that claims of irregularities, interference and fraud should be fully investigated. The EU statement noted a "lack of a level playing field", attributing that to "the inability of some political actors to contest the elections" and to restrictions to freedom of assembly, freedom of expression and internet access. The US State Department said there were "undue restrictions" on freedoms of expressions and assembly while noting violence and attacks on media workers. The EU, the US and Britain said they would work with the next government and did not congratulate any candidate or party. British foreign minister David Cameron's statement noted "serious concerns raised about the fairness and lack of inclusivity of the elections."

NO PLACE TO RUN

44 Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes in Rafah

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rafah, Feb 10: Israeli airstrikes killed at least 44 Palestinians in Rafah early Saturday, hours after Israel's prime minister said he asked the military to plan for the evacuation of hundreds of thousands of people from the southern Gaza city ahead of a ground invasion.

Benjamin Netanyahu did not provide details or a timeline, but the announcement set off widespread panic. More than half of Gaza's 2.3 million people are packed into Rafah, many after being uprooted repeatedly by Israeli evacuation orders that now cover two-thirds of Gaza's territory. It's not clear where they could run next.

Word of the invasion plans capped a week of increasingly public friction between Netanyahu and the Biden administration. US officials have said an invasion of Rafah without a plan for the civilian population would lead to disaster.



Israel has carried out airstrikes in Rafah almost daily, even after telling civilians in recent weeks to seek shelter there from ground combat in the city of Khan Younis, just to the north.

Angry Birds: First AI use

Israel's army has deployed some AI-enabled military technology in combat for the first time in Gaza, raising fears about the use of autonomous weapons in modern warfare.

The army has hinted at what the new tech is being used for, with spokesman Daniel Hagari saying last month that Israel's forces were operating "above and underground simultaneously".

In a first, the army has used an AI-enabled optic sight, made by Israeli startup Smart Shooter, which is attached to weapons such as rifles and machine guns.

"It helps our soldiers to intercept drones because Hamas uses a lot of drones," said a senior defence official. "It makes every regular soldier - even a blind soldier - a sniper."

Another system to neutralise drones involves deploying a friendly drone with a net that it can throw around the enemy craft to neutralise it. "It's drone versus drone - we call it Angry Birds," the official said.



YEAR OF THE DRAGON: Visitors tour underneath a giant dragon lantern reflected on the frozen Houhai Lake in Beijing. Chinese celebrated Lunar New Year February 10 this year which marks the Year of the dragon on the Chinese zodiac

Russian drone strike on Kharkiv kills 7

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kyiv, Feb 10: A Russian drone strike on Kharkiv, Ukraine's second largest city, killed at least seven people overnight, including three children, Kharkiv region governor Oleh Syniehubov reported Saturday.

He said the Iranian-made Shahed drone hit civilian infrastructure in the Nemyshlyan district on the city, causing a

massive fire that burned down 15 private houses.

Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko said more than 50 people had been evacuated and that emergency workers had contained the blaze by Saturday morning.

The Ukrainian air force said air defense systems destroyed 23 out of 31 Iranian Shahed drones launched by Russia overnight. The drones prima-



rily targeted the northeastern Kharkiv region and the southern province of Odesa, the statement said.

The attacks came in three waves, he said. The first targeted the regional capital - the port city of Odesa. All nine drones were shot down, but the debris damaged port infrastructure and injured one person.

The second and the third waves targeted port infrastructure in the Danube river area, Kiper said. A total of 12 drones were shot down and three people were injured.

India will surely get UNSC seat but not easily: Jaishankar

INDIA HAS BEEN AT THE FOREFRONT OF YEARS-LONG EFFORTS TO REFORM THE SECURITY COUNCIL, SAYING IT RIGHTLY DESERVES A PLACE AS A PERMANENT MEMBER AT THE UN HIGH TABLE, WHICH IN ITS CURRENT FORM DOES NOT REPRESENT THE GEO-POLITICAL REALITIES OF THE 21ST CENTURY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Perth, Feb 10: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said Saturday that he was 100 per cent confident that India will get a permanent seat at the United Nations Security Council but it won't be easy as there are a lot of countries who want to "block us".

Jaishankar, who is here to attend the two-day Indian Ocean Conference, said he sees the change as to how differently the world looks at India now as he goes around the world.

"We will get there. I am 100 per cent certain we will get there. But I will also tell you that honestly, we will not get it easily because the world is full of competition," he said in response to a question at an interaction with the Indian community here.

"Some will try to block us, will make that passage difficult or put some kind of obstacles, some kind of argument in the way," he said, without naming any country. But I'm confident we will get there and I'm more confident today than I was five years ago or 10 years ago," the ex-



ternal affairs minister said.

"As I go around the world, often I hear this from people that 'look, you can say things we can't say. We trust you to say this as we have our constraints'," he said, highlighting how India has already just naturally put across a position which is a col-

lective position for all of them. He said that there were many issues where the interests of many were involved but the global debate was dominated by a few.

"It could be about the energy crisis, a lot of countries have a debt situation today. It could be about culture and heritage as everybody doesn't want to be overwhelmed by others' cultures. In a sense, today India is trusted and well-regarded. There are a lot of countries who want to see us there," Jaishankar said.

He said that in the many elections held in the different bod-

Currently, the UNSC has five permanent members - China, France, Russia, the UK and the US. Only a permanent member has the power to veto any substantive resolution

ies of the United Nations, India constantly does well in these elections.

"We often do better in those elections than the five who are

already in the Security Council," the minister said.

"We enjoy, in that sense, the trust and confidence of the world. But again, as I said, look, we have this period, this 25 years is a very vital period for us. We have laid the foundation for the take-off in these 25 years and that 25 years will of course be years of transformation in India, but it will also change India's position in the world."

He said India will be a much bigger economy and will wield a much bigger influence in the world.

of the day quote

We are planning to open zonal offices in all territories. In all, we plan to add 100 more branches during the current quarters



ASHEESH PANDEY | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BANK OF MAHARASHTRA

As we extend our footprint across diverse regions of India, the presence in 28 states reflects GroMo's commitment to integrating communities in remote areas of India into the formal financial framework



DARPAN KHURANA | CO-FOUNDER, GROMO'S

With the rising relevance of key trends such as pilgrimage tourism, airport and complementary developments, and infrastructural upgrades, we are witnessing an increased interest from hotel developers and investors who wish to participate in this growth story



JAIDEEP DANG | MD, HOTELS AND HOSPITALITY GROUP, INDIA, ILL

Q3 RESULTS

LIC net shines 49%

New Delhi: State-owned insurer LIC Thursday reported a 49 per cent jump in net profit at ₹9,444 crore for the third quarter ended December 2023, helped by higher net premium. The country's biggest insurer had a net profit of ₹6,334 crore in the year-ago period, LIC said in a regulatory filing. Its net premium income rose to ₹1,17,017 crore in the third quarter of the current fiscal from ₹1,11,788 crore in the same period a year ago. LIC's total income increased to ₹2,12,447 crore in the latest December quarter compared to ₹1,96,891 crore in the year-ago period, it said.

NSE profit up 8%

New Delhi: The National Stock Exchange (NSE) Saturday reported an 8 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to ₹1,975 crore for three months ended December 2023. The consolidated income from operations stood at ₹3,517 crore for the October-December quarter of the current financial year (2023-24), a surge of 25 per cent year-on-year, NSE said in a statement. Apart from trading, the total revenue was also supported by other revenue lines, including listing, index services, data services and co-location facility, the exchange added. During the first nine months of FY24, NSE contributed ₹28,131 crore to the exchequer, which comprised STT (Securities Transaction Tax) of ₹23,137 crore, Income tax (Rs 1,490 crore), Stamp duty (Rs 1,456 crore), GST (Rs 1,257 crore) and Sebi charges (Rs 791 crore).

Matrimony.Com net remains flat

Chennai: Matrimony services provider Matrimony.Com has reported a consolidated profit for the October-December 2023 quarter at ₹11.10 crore. The city-headquartered company had registered a consolidated profit at ₹11.60 crore, during the corresponding quarter of last year. For the nine month period ending December 31, 2023 the consolidated profit grew to ₹37.80 crore, as against ₹35.26 crore registered year ago. Total consolidated income for the quarter under review grew to ₹123.54 crore, from ₹120.35 crore registered in the same period of last year.



There is no reason for us to be complacent about technology adoption in banking

T RABI SANKAR | DEPUTY GOVERNOR, RBI

NO INDIA MFG PLANS: INTEL

Computer chip maker Intel has no plans to set up a semiconductor plant or any type of manufacturing unit in the country at present, the company's India business head Santhosh Viswanathan said



EPFO hikes interest rates

Employee provident fund interest hiked to 3-year high of 8.25%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 10: Ahead of general elections, the interest rate paid on employee provident fund was Saturday hiked to 8.25 per cent for fiscal year ending March 31, the highest in three years.

The central board of trustees of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) recommended to the finance ministry for raising the interest rate for nearly 8 crore contributing subscribers, the labour ministry said in a statement.

This will be the highest rate of interest for EPF subscribers in the last three years. The previous high was in 2019-20 when 8.5 per cent interest was paid. The rate of payout was maintained at the same level in 2020-21 but in the following year it was cut to 8.1 per cent, the lowest in four decades. (EPF interest rate was 8 per cent in 1977-78).

The interest rate was marginally hiked to 8.15 per cent in 2022-23 (April 2022 to March 2023).

The recommendation for 2023-24 fiscal will now go to the finance ministry and once it agrees to it, the EPFO will credit the rate of interest to the EPF subscribers.

India will go to the polls in April-May to elect a new government.

According to the labour ministry statement, the decision to hike interest rate for 2023-24 was taken at the 235th meeting of the Central Board of Trustees (CBT) of EPFO Saturday, under the chairmanship of Union Labour & Employment Minister Bhupendra Yadav.

"The CBT recommended an annual rate of interest of 8.25 per



cent to be credited on EPF accumulations in members' accounts for 2023-24. This interest rate will be officially notified in the government gazette after approval by the Ministry of Finance. Subsequently, EPFO will credit the approved rate of interest into its subscribers' accounts," it stated.

For FY24, the board recommended distribution of ₹1,07,000 crore to EPF members' accounts on a total principal amount of ₹13 lakh crore, which was ₹91,151.66 crore and ₹11.02 lakh crore, respectively in 2022-23.

Total income recommended for distribution is the highest on record, it said.

Compared with the previous financial year, there has been a significant growth, the statement said, adding that the income grew by more than 17.39 per cent, while the principal amount increased by 17.97 per cent.

This suggests a healthy financial performance and potentially strong returns for the members, it stated.

EPFO has a strong track record of distributing higher income to its members over the years with

prudence.

The interest rate offered by EPFO tends to be higher compared to other investment avenues available to subscribers, it stated.

This indicates confidence in the credit profile of EPFO's investments, as well as its ability to provide attractive returns to its members, it stated.

In March 2020, EPFO had lowered the interest rate on provident fund deposits to a seven-year low of 8.5 per cent for 2019-20, from 8.65 per cent provided for 2018-19.

EPF INTEREST RATES SINCE 2010

2010-11 : 9.50%	2017-18 : 8.55%
2011-12 : 8.25%	2018-19 : 8.65%
2012-13 : 8.50%	2019-20 : 8.5%
2013-14 : 8.75%	2020-21 : 8.5%
2014-15 : 8.75%	2021-22 : 8.1%
2015-16 : 8.80%	2022-23 : 8.15%
2016-17 : 8.65%	2023-24 : 8.25%

EPFO had provided 8.65 per cent interest rate to its subscribers in 2016-17 and 8.55 per cent in 2017-18. The rate of interest was slightly higher at 8.8 per cent in 2015-16.

The retirement fund body had given 8.75 per cent rate of interest in 2013-14 as well as 2014-15, higher than 8.5 per cent for 2012-13. The rate of interest was 8.25 per cent in 2011-12.

"CBT-EPFO decided to increase the rate of interest on the request of the employees representatives in the Board, pensioners' SEWA app and launch of industry geo tagging etc, it is a historic decision taken by the newly-constructed CBT-EPFO board," said S P Tiwari, National General Secretary, TUCC & Member, CBT-EPFO.

ESIC extends medical benefits

The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) Saturday decided to extend medical benefits to superannuated insured persons with relaxed norms. The decision was taken at the 193rd meeting of ESIC under the chairmanship of Union Minister Bhupendra Yadav, a labour ministry statement said. The ESIC approved a proposal to provide medical benefits to the insured superannuating workers who went out of the ESIC Scheme coverage due to exceeding the wage ceiling, if the worker was under insurable employment for at least 5 years before superannuation/voluntary retirement, it stated. The persons who were in the insurable employment for at least 5 years after April 1, 2012 and superannuated/voluntarily retired on or after April 1, 2017 with wages up to ₹30,000 per month will be benefitted under the new scheme.

ONGC in talks to restart Libya ops, expand in Venezuela

REUTERS

Quito, Feb 10: India's Oil and Natural Gas Corp is in talks to restart its operations in Libya and to increase production in Venezuela, a company executive said Friday.

"Once it gets started for Oil India, same applies to us. We are also in the same pact with National Oil Corporation of Libya," Sushma Rawat, director of exploration with ONGC said.

Earlier this week, Reuters reported that Oil India is talks with stakeholders to restart drilling in Libya, 13 years after the company exited the country due to political instability.

ONGC and Oil India both pulled staff out of Libya in 2011. ONGC is also in talks to increase production in Venezuela, Rawat told reporters on the sidelines of India Energy Week event in Goa.

Oil India, too, is in talks with operators to ramp up oil production in the South American nation, Reuters had reported



this week.

The United States had granted sanctions relief for OPEC member Venezuela in October last year in recognition of a deal for elections this year.

However, January 29 the country began reinstating sanctions on Venezuela.

Rawat also said the company will start drilling in Andaman Islands by the end of the year and Cauvery Delta in South India by this month or March.

S&P 500 CLOSES ABOVE 5K LEVEL

BULLISH SENTIMENT SPREADS ACROSS WALL STREET

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New York, Feb 10: The S&P 500 closed above the 5,000 level Friday for the first time as bullish sentiment spreads across Wall Street and investors cheered fresh data showing progress on inflation, media reported.

The landmark moment comes during a period of strong economic growth, the artificial intelligence revolution, a better-than-expected earnings season, and anticipation of a pivot from the Federal Reserve to start cutting rates, CNN reported.

The S&P 500 briefly topped 5,000 for the first time intraday Thursday.

It took almost 41 years for the S&P 500 to reach its first major milestone of 1,000, which it hit February 2, 1998, according to Howard Silverblatt, senior index analyst at S&P Dow Jones Indices.

The index reached its previous major milestone of 4,000 April 1, 2021, after the Fed slashed rates to almost zero, the government pumped stimulus funds into the economy and the Covid-19 vaccine fueled optimism of post-pandemic economic growth.

On January 19, the benchmark index hit a new record for the first time in two years, closing at and besting its previous high of 4,796.56, reached January 3, 2022. The index went on to set six new highs in January alone, CNN reported.

IN A FIRST

S&P 500 CLOSES ABOVE 5K LEVEL



Microsoft most valuable firm ever

Microsoft ended the week with a market capitalisation of \$3.125 trillion, the highest for any company ever, Barron's reported. The company's market value topped the previous record set by Apple, which reached \$3.09 trillion in July. Apple ended Friday with a market cap of \$2.916 trillion. Microsoft is also the first US company to close with a market cap greater than \$3.1 trillion, Barron's reported. Microsoft stock closed the week at \$420.55. Over the past 12 months, its shares have soared 60 per cent, largely thanks to the enthusiasm about its artificial intelligence software.

The S&P 500 is up about 5.4% so far this year. The index jumped 24% in 2023, with stocks rallying powerfully at year-end as optimism grew that the Fed could achieve a soft landing, or tamp down inflation without triggering an economic downturn.

The advance to new heights has been exceedingly narrow -- most of the S&P 500's gains come from the so-called "Magnificent Seven" - Nvidia, Microsoft, Meta Platforms, Amazon, Apple, Alphabet and Tesla, CNN reported.

Despite downturn, India-Canada trade sees growth in 2023

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 10: India-Canada trade in goods was \$8.2 billion in the first 10 months of 2023 as against \$6.9 billion in 2022, registering a growth of 18.84 per cent, as per government data provided in Lok Sabha Friday.

India's exports to Canada in 2023 (January to October) was \$4.1 billion as against \$3.76 billion in 2022 and the growth was estimated at 9.04 per cent, showed the data furnished by Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan.

The statistics came amid a severe downturn in ties between the two countries.

India-Canada relations came under severe strain following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations in September last year of a "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar outside a gurdwara in Surrey city.

New Delhi rejected Trudeau's allegations as "absurd" and "motivated" and accused Canada of giving space to Khalistani extremists targeting India.

Explore more insurance options for your new two-wheeler

While buying a new two-wheeler, how many websites, YouTube videos, and people would you take a review from about your options, spending the better side of hours to make a final choice? You undertake detailed research and exploration to make the right decision confidently. For many of us, owning a two-wheeler symbolises independence and freedom; it is also a testament to our hard work and dedication. Hence, we rightly consider many aspects of the vehicle's make, model, and features before finalising. However, the same level of attention is rarely given to choosing the right insurance coverage for this much-valued asset. It's common for individuals to settle for the first insurance option presented to them without exploring the diverse array of choices available. Contrary to this common

practice, selecting insurance for your two-wheeler requires deliberate attention and thorough research. It's more than just a legal requirement; it's a shield that protects your vehicle and provides you with a financial safety net. Now, let us look at how you can assess insurers and the policies you can avail of.

Explore policy add-ons: Take some time to evaluate your requirements and choose covers that best suit you. Apart from the base policy, you must also explore add-ons that can be used to tailor your policy depending on your specific requirements. For

example, a consumables add-on cover provides coverage for various consumable items such as grease, oil filter, fuel filter, screw, nuts and bolts, lubricants, brake oil, etc. These parts are typically not covered in a standard policy, but you may find this a helpful cover. Similarly, for each claim-free year, you earn a No-claim bonus (NCB) starting from 20% for the first claim-free year; which gradually increases. NCB gets you a reduction in premium. However, NCB gets terminated when you file a claim. You can opt for an NCB protection add-on, which will help keep your NCB active even if you file a claim. These examples highlight that it is necessary to understand what coverage is being offered to you and how you can further enhance the protection.

Evaluate your prospective insurer: As you read about the company from which you are buying your two-wheeler, it is equally important to read about the insurer from whom you are purchasing the cover for this prized possession. Claim is the most essential part of your insurance journey; you can assess the claims-paying capability of

an insurer by checking their Claims Settlement Ratio (CSR). CSR is represented as a percentage and is determined by comparing the total number of settled claims to the overall number of claims received. Look for an insurer that provides digital, hassle-free claims experience. Today, a few insurers offer the facility of on-the-spot claims settlement for a claim amount up to a certain point. All you have to do is upload pictures of the damaged parts on the insurer's app, and the claim will be settled in a few minutes. You should also check the solvency ratio of the insurer, which shows the company's cash inflow against its liabilities. This ratio serves as an indicator of the company's capacity to meet its financial obligations. A company with a higher solvency ratio would likely have a better claim-paying ability.

Do not hesitate to seek advice: Since you have already invested a lot of time in narrowing down the vehicle, doing deep research about the correct insurance policy may sound overwhelming. To begin with, you can do your base research online and then reach out to the insurance representative or insurance agent to get a good idea about various covers. These experts can help you shortlist the right cover.

Remember, insurance is not an obligation but an investment for your peace of mind. By dedicating time to exploring various insurance plans, you gain a comprehensive understanding of the coverage, exclusions, and multiple benefits offered by different insurers, enabling you to make an informed decision. Always opt for an insurer that supports you in time of need and settles claims swiftly.



TA RAMALINGAM
Chief Technical Officer,
Bajaj Allianz General Insurance

INDIA'S FORMIDABLE YOUNG
TURKS GEAR UP FOR
AUSTRALIA CHALLENGE IN THE
ICC U-19 WORLD CUP FINAL

COLTS
EYE
GLORY



Kohli, Iyer out; Akash in

INDIA SQUAD ANNOUNCED FOR REMAINING TESTS AGAINST ENGLAND

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 10: Star batter Virat Kohli has pulled out of the remainder of the Test series against England for personal reasons, the BCCI confirmed Saturday, ending speculation around premier player's availability for the high-profile contest.

Kohli had missed the first two Tests and that he could be unavailable for the remaining three matches was reported by PTI February 3. "Virat Kohli will remain unavailable for selection for the remainder of the series due to personal reasons. The Board fully respects and supports Mr. Kohli's decision," the BCCI said in a release. Kohli is currently abroad for pressing personal family matter.

The series is locked 1-1 with India bouncing back with win in the second Test in Vizag after the visitors took the series-opener in Hyderabad. The third match is scheduled to start from February 15 in Rajkot.

Rahul, Jadeja rejoin
The national selection committee included senior players Ravindra Jadeja and KL Rahul in the squad but their inclusion will be subject to clearance by the

BCCI's medical team.

Jadeja had injured his hamstring during the opening Test while Rahul had a right quadriceps niggle. "Rahul is already fit and ready to come back in the playing eleven. In case of Jadeja, it is a strain and he is getting better. There are still five days to go before the game and if he shapes up well, nothing like it," the source said.

If both Rahul and Jadeja return to the playing eleven, then Rajat Patidar, who made his debut in Vizag, will have to make way for one of them as Shreyas Iyer has already been dropped.

Shreyas axed
Senior batter Iyer, who complained of groin and lower back stiffness has not been picked. However his medical update has not been provided by the BCCI. It is believed that Iyer would have been dropped in any case and his injury made the decision easier for selectors.

Iyer has not scored a fifty for

the longest time and his mode of dismissals on batting friendly Indian tracks is a cause of concern. It is understood that Iyer might not be considered for the longer version of the game in near future as he has always been susceptible against short ball, a weakness.

India have one more big Test series in the current WTC cycle - five games against Australia Down Under at the end of the year and Iyer, with his technique, unlikely to get the selectors' nod for games on tracks offering steep bounce.

Akash's maiden call up
The only new face in the 17-man squad is Bengal speedster Akash Deep, who has been rewarded for his consistent show in first-class cricket and in recent India A vs England Lions Test series.

Left-arm spinner Saurabh Kumar has been released with Jadeja coming back while Mohammed Siraj is back in the squad in place of Avesh Khan.

Akash is also a handy batter and bowls at least 10 yards quicker than his Bengal teammate Mukesh Kumar, who is lucky to retain his place. Akash is however unlikely to make his debut in Rajkot.

THE SQUAD

Rohit Sharma (C), Jasprit Bumrah (vc), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, KL Rahul, Rajat Patidar, Sarfaraz Khan, Dhruv Jurel (wk), KS Bharat (wk), R Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Siraj, Mukesh Kumar and Akash Deep.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Benoni (South Africa), Feb 10: Few careers will get wings to soar while some will fade into oblivion but on Sunday, all those sprightly 18 and 19-year-old Indian boys will leave no stone unturned to win a record sixth ICC U-19 World Cup when they face Australia in the summit clash here.

November 19 last year, an Australian team left Rohit Sharma and his band teary-eyed on a global stage and for the Uday Saharans, Sachin Dhas, Musheer Khans and Saumy Kumar Pandey, beating an Aussie team would certainly be very sweet.

The Aussies have a quartet which could spell trouble for India and they are skipper Hugh Weibgen, opener Harry Dixon, seamers Tom Straker and Callum Vidler, the consistent performers during this edition.

India U-19 had beaten Australia in the 2012 and 2018 finals, and will again start favourites during this edition's title match.

The Indian team have always been an age-group powerhouse, thanks to the talent the country produces in hundreds and

MATCHDAY

India vs Australia
ICC U-19 World Cup final

Time: 1:30 pm

Telecast: Star Sports Network
Stream: Disney+Hotstar

their ninth global final is a testimony to the system that has been put in place for the last two decades.

From 2016, India U-19s have played all the finals, winning the 2018 and 2022 editions while losing in 2016 and 2020. Since Virat Kohli's side won the trophy in 2008, U-19 World Cup has gained a lot of traction and the curiosity value does increase due to live TV coverage and streaming.

The U-19 World Cup has presented stars like Yuvraj Singh, Mohammed Kaif, Suresh Raina, Shikhar Dhawan, Rohit Sharma, Kohli, Ravindra Jadeja, KL Rahul, Rishabh Pant, Shubman Gill and Yashasvi Jaiswal to name a few, who have risen through the ranks.

But cold facts will tell us that the list of those who have failed to make it to the top grade after

instant stardom is way bigger. From Reetinder Singh Sodhis and Gaurav Dhimans, back in early 2000s, to Unmukt Chand, Harmeet Singh, Vijay Zol, Sandeep Sharma, Ajitesh Argal, Kamal Passi, Siddharth Kaul, Smit Patel, Ravikant Singh and Kamlesh Nagarkoti, the list goes on.

People do tend to forget that senior domestic cricket is a huge test up from the U-19s where bossing the age-group players from other nations, although praiseworthy, isn't a big deal.

The quick walk to stardom does create a false sense of vanity and people fail to replicate that in their senior years. Someone like Prithvi Shaw lost the grip on his career and is trying to regain the foothold, and a few like Yash Dhill are finding it extremely difficult to cope with the standards of senior level cricket.

Truth be told, the current team led by Saharan, didn't initially look like a great outfit as it even failed to enter the final of the U-19 Asia Cup a couple of months back. But here all pieces of the puzzle has fallen in place.

Led by Saharan, who is leading the batting charts with 389

runs, the team's performance got better with each match and the only time it has been pushed to a corner in the tournament is the semifinal where it pipped hosts South Africa by a solitary wicket.

The jury is still out on how many of them can actually make it big but if there have been two stand-out players, who looked cut out for bigger things, one is young Maharashtra batter Dhas, who has revelled in the role of a finisher, and left-arm spinner Saumy Pandey, who has so far taken 17 wickets.

Dhas didn't get an IPL contract as he had not yet played any senior level game, hence ineligible for the auction. However, he is one batter who has shown temperament, a pre-requisite for the highest level.

Saharan is more of an accumulator while Sarfaraz Khan's younger brother Musheer, who is the second highest run-getter, is also a handy left-arm spinner. Right-arm pacer Raj Limbani and left-arm seamer Naman Tiwari have been effective but are far from ready for the next level. But Sunday, their best will be more than enough for this level.

Gukesh stuns Carlsen,
Liren; lies joint second



D Gukesh (L) during his match against Ding Liren

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Wangels (Germany), Feb 10: Grandmaster D Gukesh threw one salvo after another to beat World No.1 Magnus Carlsen of Norway, Levon Aronian of Armenia and eventually reigning World Champion Ding Liren of China on the first day of the Weissenhaus Chess Challenge that got underway here.

After a rather sedate start that cost him a full point in the opener against Alireza Firouzja of France, Gukesh was in full swing and ended the day with three points in all out of a possible four and is in joint second place in the rapid section behind Vincent Keymer of Germany who notched up 3.5 points.

Nodirbek Abdusattorov also matched Gukesh on points after remaining unbeaten on the opening day while the trio of biggies Carlsen, Firouzja and Fabiano Caruana of the United States are in joint fourth spot with two points apiece in the USD 200,000 prize-money tournament. Levon Aronian of the United States, with a lone draw, is sole seventh while surprisingly Liren is at the bottom after losing all four games.

The rapid format has been designed to pick up the pairings for the knockout stage between the same eight players. Whoever finishes first will play against the person finishing last as is the norm in the knockouts.

For Gukesh, the highlight of the day was his victory over Carlsen. The middle games arising out of chess 960 or freestyle chess are always almost unknown and, showcasing his skills, Gukesh took his chances in a complicated endgame.

Carlsen was not able to concentrate at his best as he made a few inaccuracies to let Gukesh come on top and a further error cost the world number one a piece. The rest was child's play.

In the third round, Gukesh was tested by Aronian's Bishop sacrifice as early as on move eight but, ignoring the same, Gukesh went for his counter-play in the centre. Aronian lost a piece eventually and it was all over in just 39 moves.

Against Liren, Gukesh was at his technical best as he unleashed a rook sacrifice for a minor piece early and Liren found his position to be crumbling soon afterwards. In the complications that ensued, Liren was outdone by Gukesh's precise calculation. The game lasted 37 moves.

With three rounds to come in the rapid, it remains to be seen who will play whom in the quarterfinals. Interestingly the quarters, semis and finale will be played under standard time control rules with 90 minutes to each player for forty moves and 30 minutes to finish the game with an increment of 30 seconds per move from move one.

Harmanpreet brace helps India thrash Spain

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Feb 10: Skipper Harmanpreet Singh slammed a brace as the Indian men's hockey team outplayed Spain 4-1 in a FIH Pro League match here Saturday.

Harmanpreet converted a penalty corner in the seventh minute before scoring from the spot in the 20th minute. Jugraj Singh also converted a penalty corner in the 24th minute while Lalit Kumar Upadhyay scored a field goal in the 50th minute to register the easy win for India. Spain's lone goal came from a penalty-stroke conversion by Marc Miralles in the 34th minute.

Spain started on a positive note, enjoying ball possession in the first five minutes but failed to create any clear-cut chance. Soon Hardik Singh earned India's first penalty corner and in his 199th match, Harmanpreet scored his 150th penalty-corner goal. It was a perfect penalty corner, strong and low, which beat Spain goalkeeper Luis Calzado all ends up. The home team was solid in defence in the first quarter as it didn't let Spain hit the target despite enjoying possession.

At the start of the second quarter, Spain secured a penalty corner but veteran India custodian PR Sreejesh stuck his left foot out to deny the visitors. India then secured back-to-back penalty corners and from the second chance, the hosts were awarded



Harmanpreet Singh (2nd from L) was congratulated by teammates after a goal against Spain, Saturday

a penalty stroke for illegal clearance of the ball.

Harmanpreet stepped up and converted the chance to put India 2-0 up and register his 171st goal for the country. India secured two more penalty corners in the second quarter, and after missing from the first chance, Jugraj converted the next with a powerful grounded flick through the legs of the Spanish goalkeeper.

Spain then secured a penalty corner against the run of play but Sreejesh made a double save to deny the opponents. Four minutes after the change of ends, Spain reduced the margin through Miralles, who scored from the spot following a bad tackle by Gurjant Singh inside the circle.

India earned another penalty corner in the third quarter but

Jugraj was off-target. Five minutes into the final quarter, Lalit found himself at the right place, at the right time to score a stunning field goal with a powerful tomahawk.

The Indians then held on to the three-goal advantage with some solid defending to register the convincing win. India will take on the Netherlands in their next match here Sunday.

ODISHA BATTERS
FALTER, U'KHAND
TAKE COMMAND

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Feb 10: Odisha batters disappointed on the second day of their Ranji Trophy Elite Group D encounter against Uttarakhand at the Barabati Stadium here, Saturday.

In reply to the visitors' first innings total of 342, Odisha were struggling on 123/6 at stumps. They were 219 runs behind and are facing the threat of follow-on.

Four batters - skipper Shantanu Mishra (5), Subhranshu Senapati (4), Biplab Samantray (9) and Debabrata Pradhan (9) - were dismissed with single digit scores to their names. However, Wicketkeeper-batter Aasirwad Swain (54, 109b, 10x4), who opened the innings in place of Sandeep Pattnaik, scored a fighting half century.

Sandeep is yet to come to bat. Swain, on the other hand, had some support from experienced Govinda Poddar (32) as the duo stitched 58 runs for the third wicket. Abhay Negi (2/33) and Deepak Dhapola (2/42) shared four wickets between them.

Earlier, Uttarakhand were bowled out for 342 after resuming the day from their overnight score of 232/3. Akhil Rawat (50, 74b, 6x4, 1x6) scored a wonderful half century. Harshit Rathod (3/60) and Sunil Raul (3/73) bagged three wickets each for Odisha.

HAALAND BRACE GUIDES CITY PAST EVERTON

REUTERS

Manchester, Feb 10: Erling Haaland netted a brace with his first goals since his return from injury to lift Manchester City to a 2-0 home victory over relegation-threatened Everton Saturday and provisionally into top spot in the Premier League table.

Pep Guardiola's team have 52 points after 23 games, while Liverpool have 51 points. Everton are in the relegation zone in 18th. Haaland, who recently missed almost two months with a broken bone in his foot, netted his 15th and 16th of the season to go clear at the



top of the Premier League scorers' list. The Norwegian broke the deadlock in the 71st minute when he fired home a blistering shot

after a corner kick. He completed the brace when he ran onto a pass from Kevin De Bruyne and coolly slotting it past Jordan Pickford.

Six Indian pugilists in final

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sofia (Bulgaria), Feb 10: Dominant efforts by Nikhat Zareen and Amit Panghal headlined Indian boxers' march into six finals at the Strandja Memorial Tournament here Saturday.

Nikhat (50kg) defeated home girl Zlatislava Chukanova. She will face Uzbekistan's Sabina Bobokulova for the gold Sunday.

Panghal (men's 51kg) won his third consecutive match with a unanimous 5-0 decision, this time against Turkey's Gumus Samet. Amit will take on the Kazakhstan's

Sanzhar Tashkenbay.

Later, Arundhati Choudhary (66kg) made light work of Jessica Triebelova of Slovakia to secure a 5-0 win. She will face China's Yang Liu. Barun Singh Shagolsheem (48kg) continued India's dominance with an identical 5-0 unanimous decision win over Khenoussi Kamel of Algeria. He will take on Khodzhiyev Anvarzhan of Kyrgyzstan. Sachin (57kg) defeated Ukraine's Abduraimov Aider and he will go up against Uzbekistan's Shakhzod Muzafarov in the summit clash Sunday. Rajat (67kg) also entered the final.