



GLOBAL SUMMIT ON GROWTH & EMPLOYMENT

19th-20th February 2024

Mayfair Convention, Bhubaneswar



100+ Eminent Industry Leaders



500+ Delegates



10+ Riveting Panel Discussions

Exploring The Pathways



Journey from Campus to Career:
• Guiding Emerging Talent into the Professional Sphere



Laying the Groundwork for Success:
• Strategies for Sustained Professional Development



Industry Perspectives:
• Navigating Logistics and Supply Chain Dynamics
• The Pivotal Role of the IT Industry in Odisha's Future



Voices of Experience:
• Intimate Conversations with Odisha's Inspirational Leaders



Embracing Change:
• Adapting to Transformative Work Environments
• Unveiling the Power of Digital Transformation



Industry Evolution and Employment Trends:
• Tracing the Evolution of Industries
• Foreseeing Potential Technological Demands



Empowerment and Diversity:
• Fostering Women's Empowerment and Inclusivity in the Workforce

NUA ODISHA: Nutana Unnata Abhilasha

The Government of Odisha's Flagship scheme, NUA Odisha, is empowering Skilled In Odisha. With a mission to foster new-age skilling initiatives and decentralized programs across 30 districts, we are shaping Odisha's skilled workforce for a dynamic global economy.



leisure



COLD BATHS HELP ME STAY FOCUSED: COOPER

Actor Bradley Cooper meditates in freezing temperatures as soon as he wakes up as it helps him stay focused. "James Nachtwey (a photographer) asked me if there are any rituals I do to prepare for a role. I mentioned that I do cold plunge every morning when I get up," Cooper told *The New York Times*.

MIRREN: NO POINT GETTING UPSET OVER AWARDS SNUBS

Veteran actress Helen Mirren said that there is no point in being 'upset' at a lack of awards nominations. The actress found it disheartening when Margot Robbie and Greta Gerwig failed to be recognised in the Academy Awards shortlists for their work on *Barbie*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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

ARIES

Today, you will crave total freedom in whatever you are doing, says Ganesh. And sheer entertainment is on the cards for teenyboppers, like mall-hopping or going for a film. The kids will demand a Jumbo Berry ice cone. All in all, it will be a family day for you.

TAURUS

Your unflinching punctuality, your insistence on following time schedules is due to be noticed and appreciated today. Your colleagues and superiors will be singing praises as soon as you arrive for work. If you are in an artistic or a creative profession, such as designing, journalism, multi media, you have a remarkably eventful and gratifying day ahead.

GEMINI

You will find yourself caught in two minds repeatedly, owing to your unpredictable mood swings. This will be the cause of a lot of mental stress. You can reduce your anxiety by talking out your issues with family members and experts. You need to take care of your health today, says Ganesh.

CANCER

A day to indulge in fantasy. Your ideas will be fantastic. Your status and prestige go up. People will praise your efforts. (Your efforts will be appreciated). A day of creativity and success, with Ganesh's blessings in tow.

LEO

You will relentlessly try to find means to progress at the workplace today. You will remain steadfast in your resolutions. You will not allow those working under you to slack. You will need to let go of your inhibitions and fears to be happy in life. You will receive the benediction of highly placed superiors, says Ganesh.

VIRGO

Confidently take on the challenges that in all likelihood will test your business abilities, especially the ones that are related to your investments and monetary matters. You will most probably come up with novel ideas to solve long-pending issues, and Ganesh says that this will be very effective.

LIBRA

Ganesh says that you will be busy in your work field today and will be able to attain your goals in your work field today. Your level of enthusiasm will be at its peak. Today you may be able to meet with a person from the opposite sex who will be your future partner. Ganesh showers you with his blessings always.

SCORPIO

You are a visionary and today you work towards building a successful future. But, expecting an instant result would be unfair. You need to have patience to bring in those dynamic changes in your life. Wait and watch, the patience would reap sweet fruits!

SAGITTARIUS

The cloud of worries is likely to keep you gloomy today. Try to burst that cloud, and take a decision that would help you to solve your troubles. There may be some delay, if you want the situation to get back to normal. However, as Ganesh says, you would be the one who would benefit at the end of the day!

CAPRICORN

You want to enhance your knowledge by exploring foreign shores, but luck hasn't favoured you yet. Ganesh predicts today to be a favourable day for you to try again for higher studies. If associated with the Stock Market or speculation, you are likely to make profits. You will come across many opportunities, but you need to identify and explore them to the fullest.

AQUARIUS

Are you facing a roadblock in your path? Make a minor change in your route, you will find a smooth and clear road once again, advises Ganesh. The efforts you have made in the past will come to fruition, today. Don't get satisfied with your current achievements, you still have a long way to keep working hard.

PISCES

Do not commit yourself to any large investments today. It is best to avoid speculative activities. For those who have a job, the cooperation of your colleagues will help you progress, says Ganesh.

Huma bats for pay parity



Mumbai: Actress Huma Qureshi recently shed light on the persistent issue of pay disparity in the industry, emphasising the need for systemic change. The *Maharani* actress expressed her desire for equal pay and discussed the prevalent biases that hinder female actors from receiving their due in the industry. In an interview, Huma, who showcased her dance prowess in *Gangubai Kathiawadi*, reflected on the conventional pay structure in showbiz, where male actors often receive a larger share of earnings despite shorter screen time. Addressing the inequality, she stated

that unfortunately, despite the same level of stardom, women in the industry are not paid as much as men. According to her, one of the reasons behind the same is that people believe movies generally revolve around the protagonist, so the male star must be paid more. The actor-producer, who has graced the silver screen with impactful performances in films like *Gangs of Wasseypur* and *Badlapur*, emphasised the need for a deeper transformation at the corporate and studio levels. Even as a producer, she acknowledged the systemic bias that allocates a bigger budget to male stars, perpetuating the gender pay gap. Beyond pay, Qureshi highlighted the disparities in infrastructure provided to female actors, from rooms to vanity vans, revealing the pervasive gender-based discrepancies. She also voiced her concerns about the industry's perception of women as replaceable, contributing to the prevailing pay and treatment disparities.

Taapsee longs for glamorous role

Mumbai: Known for her intense, rooted characters on screen, actress Taapsee Pannu recently drew a lot of attention on social media after she posted a video of her in a swimsuit and had netizens talking about her never-seen-before avatar.

Talking about it, she flaunt every-thing blatantly. My approach isn't just about wearing revealing outfits and striking poses. There's always a playful aspect to my style. In the mentioned video, I sport a black swimsuit with a funky orange jacket, showcasing my fun side. My appeal isn't solely about attire, it's about the charisma I exude. Confidence ensures tasteful, not sleazy, imagery." Ask her if she wants to explore a glamorous role on screen, and she says, "I would love to explore glamorous roles. But it depends on a director who has a vision that goes beyond the conventional. I always thank David Sir (David Dhawan), who entrusted me with diverse roles. He had launched me in *Chashme Baddoor*, where he didn't make me look glam. While my past may not scream glamour, he envisioned my potential in *Judwa 2*. It took a director in him to visualise that I could pull it off. I await a director's innovative casting for a refreshing on-screen transformation."



DANGAL FAME SUHANI PASSES AWAY AT 19

Mumbai: Actress Suhani Bhatnagar, known for her role in *Dangal* as the young version of Babita Phogat, tragically passed away at the age of 19 Saturday morning. It's been stated that the young actress had been battling illness for some time and was undergoing treatment at the All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS), New Delhi. Her final rites are scheduled to take place at the Ajronada crematorium in Sector 15, Faridabad. According to media sources, she was admitted to the hospital due to a reaction caused by medication. She had been receiving treatment for fluid accumulation in her body for a considerable period of time.



55 Years in Cinema: Big B's AI Tribute

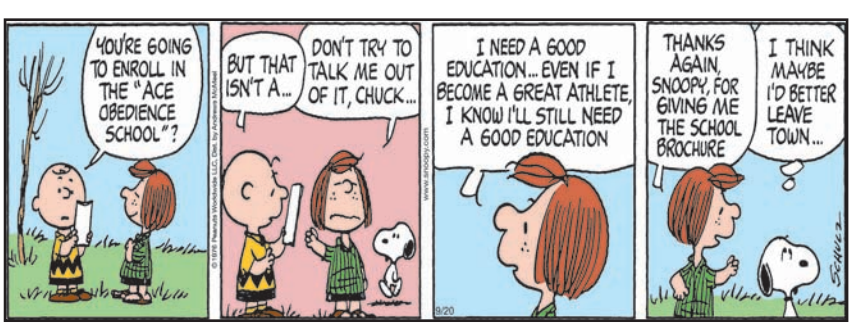
Amitabh gained the spotlight with films such as *Anand*, *Zanjeer*, *Roti Kapada Aur Makaan*, *Deewaar* and *Sholay* and was even given the tag of the 'angry young man'



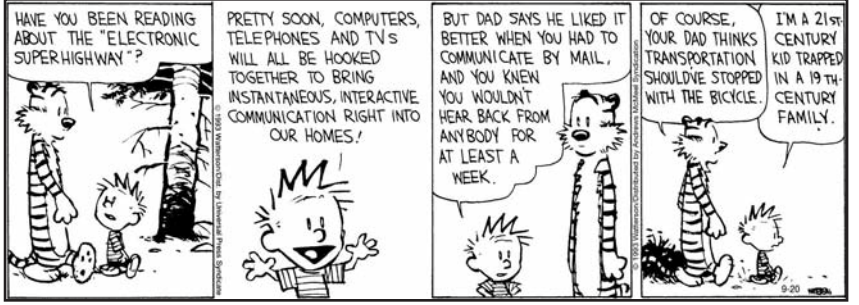
Mumbai: Megastar Amitabh Bachchan has completed a 'wondrous' 55 years in the world of Hindi cinema and to celebrate, he has given himself an AI spin. It was in 1969, when the cine icon stepped into the world of showbiz with *Saat Hindustani* and since then he has captivated the audience with his impeccable performances on screen. Amitabh took to X (formerly Twitter), where he dropped two AI images of himself. The first picture has a camera lens in place of his spectacle lens. The second photo has a colourful camera reel like streamers with faces and eyes made on it. "T

4924 - 55 years in the wondrous world of Cinema... and AI gives me its interpretation... a presentation by Ef B... self made," he wrote on Twitter. Even though he started his acting career with *Saat Hindustani*, he had first began his journey as a voice narrator in *Bhuvan Shome* starring Utpal Dutt in 1969 by Mrinal Sen. The octogenarian in the 70s gained the spotlight with films such as *Anand*, *Zanjeer*, *Roti Kapada Aur Makaan*, *Deewaar* and *Sholay*. He was even given the tag of the 'angry young man'. Then in the 80s, he attained more stardom with his work in films such as *Amar Akbar Anthony*, *Don*, *Namak Halaal*, *Coolie*, *Mili*, *Chupke Chupke*, *Kabhi Kabhie*, *Silsila*, *Shahenshah* and *Agneepath*. In the 2000s, he was seen in blockbusters such as *Bagban*, *Mohabbatein*, *Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham...*, *Sarkar*, *Pink* and *Piku*. The star has even worked in Hollywood film *The Great Gatsby* in 2013. Big B is now gearing up for the release of the sci-fi thriller *Kalki 2898 AD*.

PEANUTS



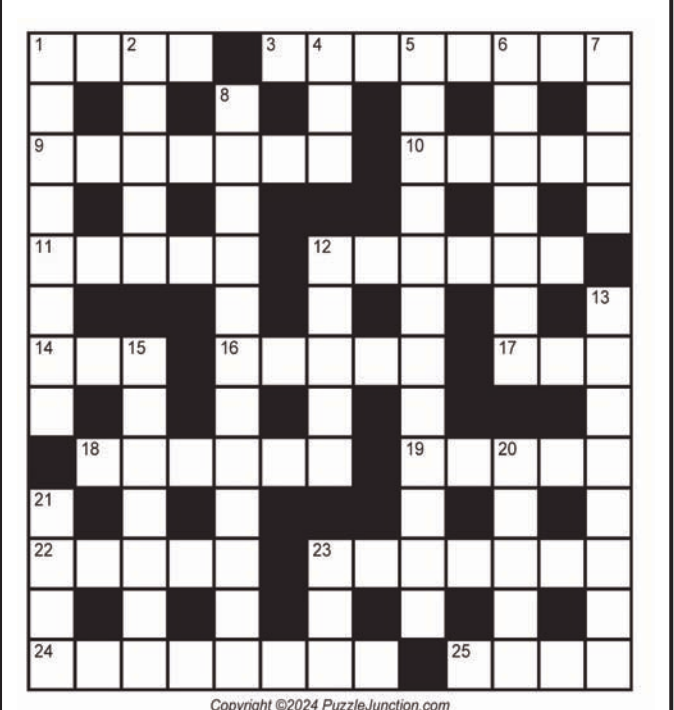
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY

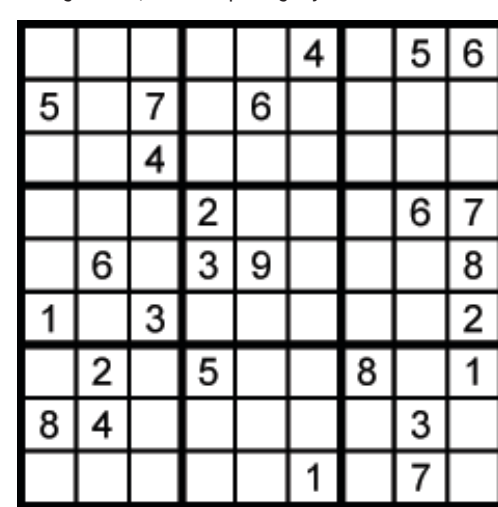


FUN post CROSSWORD

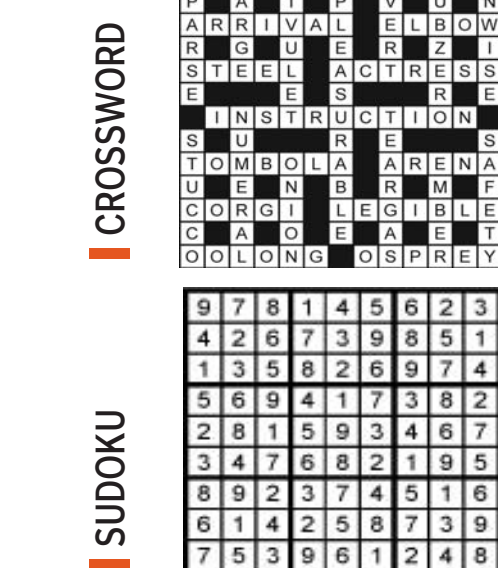


- Across**
- 1 Mongrel
 - 3 Vindictive
 - 9 Equivalent word
 - 10 Type of infection
 - 11 Within walking distance
 - 12 Showered
 - 14 Curve
 - 16 Kind of ink
 - 17 Paltry amount
 - 18 Untidy person
 - 19 Addiction
 - 22 Leftover
 - 23 Cocktail
 - 24 Shaky
 - 25 Intend
 - 6 Sodbusters
 - 7 Showy flower
 - 8 Incredible
 - 12 Radioactive gaseous element
 - 13 Wagram native
 - 15 Yellow and red, for instance
 - 20 Pickling liquid
 - 21 Beige
 - 23 Really bad coffee
- Down**
- 1 Fiddler
 - 2 Ballroom dance
 - 4 Shade tree
 - 5 Attempt
 - (4,2,1,5)

SUDOKU



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Income boost
Odisha farmers can augment their income through better value addition and marketing of their dairy products

DOWNTOWN | P2

Pak political turmoil
A senior Pakistani bureaucrat alleges that the chief election commissioner and the chief justice were involved in poll-rigging in the recent election

INTERNATIONAL | P8

Keeping AI at bay
A group of 20 tech companies signs pact to work together to prevent deceptive AI content from interfering with elections globally

BUSINESS | P9

Jaiswal gives India edge
Yashasvi Jaiswal's century helps India extend their lead over England to 322 in the 3rd Test after home team bowlers' impressive show

SPORTS | BACK PAGE

Paradip-bound oil tanker hit by missile in Red Sea

AGENCIES

Cairo, Feb 17: A Panamanian-flagged tanker carrying crude oil bound for Paradip, Odisha (India) was struck with a missile in the Red Sea, according to a US State Department report.

The missile launched from Yemen hit the M/T Pollux on its port side, it said.

Earlier, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) agency and British maritime security firm Ambrey said a Panama-flagged tanker had reportedly been hit 72 nautical miles (133 km) northwest of the port of Mokha, off Yemen.

"The vessel reportedly sustained minor damage. The crew was reported safe and unharmed," added Ambrey.

"This is yet another example of the lawless attacks on international shipping, which continue after numerous joint and international statements calling the Houthis to cease," a State Department spokesperson said.

M/T Pollux embarked from Russia's Black Sea port city of Novorossiysk January 24 and was due to discharge in Paradip, India, Feb 28, according to LSEG data. Indian Oil Company has a 300,000 barrels per day (bpd) oil refinery at Paradip, Odisha.

The ship is owned by Oceanfront Maritime Co SA and managed by Sea Trade Marine SA, according to LSEG data. Representatives from those firms did not immediately respond to requests for comment.



A STITCH IN TIME: Firemen douse a major fire that broke out at Sujan Chemoplast company, in Navi Mumbai, Saturday

Be impartial: CEC to SPs, Collectors

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Feb 17: Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar Saturday called upon all Collectors and SPs of Odisha to maintain 'absolute impartiality', transparency, remain equally accessible to all political parties and ensure a level playing field for all during the upcoming Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in the state.

An Election Commission of India (ECI) team led by Kumar concluded its three-day tour of Odisha, Saturday.

During their stay, they held meetings with Collectors, SPs, and officials of political parties, enforcement agencies and the state government.

Speaking to reporters, Kumar said that instructions have been issued to the Collectors and SPs to ensure violence-free polls, and keep strict vigil for vehicles carrying cash.

"There will be three-tier security arrangements at district EVM-VVPAT warehouses at all times. All the EVMs will be sealed properly and the details



'Will abide by SC order'

Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said the poll panel will act in accordance with the directives of the Supreme Court regarding the electoral bonds scheme. "In its affidavit to the top court, the commission said it is in favour of transparency and when the order is issued, it will take action as directed by the SC," Kumar added.

of votes cast at polling stations will be informed to the polling agents to maintain transparency," he said.

Further, candidates using their own publications and TV channels for campaigning will be monitored and expenditure borne will be added to election expenses, he stated.

The agencies will keep a strict vigil on illicit online cash transfers through wallets while the State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) will transfer cash during designated hours in designated vehicles only, according to Kumar.

The tenure of Lok Sabha will end June 16 while the tenure of state Assembly will end June 24. So, the elections to both Lok

Sabha and Odisha Vidhan Sabha will be completed before that, he said. Giving a detailed presentation on the electoral roll of Odisha, Kumar informed that a total of 3.32 crore voters including 1.68 crore men, 1.64 crore women and 3,380 transgender voters are eligible to exercise their franchise in Odisha.

A total of 37,809 polling booths will be set up in the state for the elections, of which 4,340 booths will come up in urban areas and 33,469 in rural areas. Webcasting will be done at 22,685 polling booths, Kumar said, adding 156 check-posts will be set up in 15 Odisha districts sharing borders with four other states.

Jnanpith for Gulzar, Rambhadracharya

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 17: Renowned Urdu poet Gulzar and Sanskrit scholar Jagadguru Rambhadracharya have been named the recipients of the 58th Jnanpith Award, the Jnanpith selection committee announced Saturday. Gulzar is known for his works in Hindi cinema and considered one of the finest Urdu poets of this era. He has earlier



received Sahitya Akademi Award for Urdu in 2002, Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2013, Padma Bhushan in 2004, and at least

five National Film awards. Rambhadracharya, the founder and head of Tulsi Peeth in Chitrakoot, is a renowned Hindu spiritual leader, educator and writer of more than 100 books. The committee said, "It has been decided to give the award (for 2023) to eminent writers from two languages: Sanskrit litterateur Jagadguru Rambhadracharya and well known Urdu litterateur Gulzar."

Naveen lays stone for ₹3K-cr textile facility

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Feb 17: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday laid the foundation stone for the ₹3,000-crore Welspun Group's Integrated Textiles Manufacturing Facility and Warehousing Complex at Choudwar in Cuttack district. The proposed complex is expected to create employment for over 10,000 people in and around Choudwar region.

Speaking on the occasion, Patnaik said once the complex comes up, Choudwar will get back its glory of being the textile hub of Odisha. "Choudwar was developed as an industrial hub by former Chief Minister Biju Patnaik in the 1950s.

Today, once again, a new history has been created in Choudwar," added Patnaik.

The CM also informed that cotton farmers in the districts of Kalahandi, Bolangir, Rayagada and Gajapati will benefit from the complex, which will also provide employment opportunities to women. "Women will be provided skill training," he said.

Welspun Group chairman BK Goenka said, "The dedication of the CM and the government of Odisha in fostering an environment conducive to industrial growth and development has been instrumental in bringing our project to fruition. We want to create a world-class textiles ecosystem in Odisha and take forward the legacy of Biju Babu."

SHORT TAKES

2 MKCG students suspended

Berhampur: The authorities of MKCG Medical College and Hospital here have suspended two fourth-year MBBS students for two months for allegedly ragging a junior, an official said, Saturday. Based on the recommendation of the anti-ragging committee, the college's deacon-principal, Santosh Mishra, confirmed the suspensions of Stalin Mohapatra and Jyoti Rout. Rudra Rout, a second-year student, filed a complaint with the police against the duo February 9.

Woman gangraped

Brahmagiri: A woman was allegedly gangraped by two men of Gopinathpur village under Arakhakuda Marine police station here late Friday night. According to sources, two persons from Arakhakuda village called the victim's husband who was inside his residence and launched a murderous attack on him for unknown reasons. Hearing the screams, his wife came to his rescue. However, the duo allegedly raped her by taking turns. Based on her complaint, police have registered a case and arrested the accused.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Now that you've inducted into your party all those you called corrupt, the opposition looks more honest than you

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	34.2°C	32.8°C
Min Temp	20.5°C	19.0°C
Humidity	90%	86%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

FORECAST
CLEAR SKY

ISRO again skips 'unlucky' 13

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Feb 17: The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has done it again. It has skipped the number '13' -- generally considered 'unlucky' -- while numbering its Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) rocket, which flew Saturday evening with the weather satellite INSAT-3DS.

The last flight of the GSLV rocket was May 29, 2023, and the rocket was codenamed 'GSLV-F12'. Logically, the next GSLV rocket should have been numbered as 'GSLV-F13'.

But it was not to be.

The GSLV rocket that flew Saturday has been codenamed 'GSLV-F14'.

Curiously, the same numbering scheme was followed by the ISRO in the case of its other rocket called Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).

After sending up the rocket PSLV-C12, ISRO jumped one number for its next PSLV rocket and codenamed it 'PSLV-C14'. Officials of ISRO are still



unable to explain the absence of the rocket named PSLV-C13 from their launch roster.

"There is no such rocket designated with that number," a high-ranking official said while declining to comment on whether the space agency considered the number 13 unlucky.

Curiously, following the failure of Apollo-13 to land on the moon, the American space agency NASA has not named any other mission with that number.

Recently, officials of two space agencies -- India's ISRO and the NASA of the US -- followed their respective traditions -- at the send-off ceremony of NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar

GSLV-F14 LIFTS-OFF

Sriharikota: A Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle carrying a third generation meteorological satellite lifted-off from the spaceport here Saturday. INSAT-3DS satellite aims to augment the study of the Earth's surface and oceanic observations. The 51.7-metre tall GSLV-F14, weighing 2,274 kg, would serve various departments under the Ministry of Earth Sciences including the Indian Meteorological Department, ISRO said.

(NISAR) -- an Earth science satellite being jointly built by them.

Outside the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Southern California and in front of a scale model of the NISAR satellite, NASA's NISAR Project Manager Phil Barela and ISRO's NISAR Project Director CV Shrikant ceremonially broke fresh coconuts.

The breaking of coconuts before an important event is an auspicious tradition in India to pave the way for the smooth completion of a task.

SAY NO TO CHEMICALS
Choose Patanjali to get natural cleansing & beauty

Made with Haldi, Chandan, Aloe Vera, Neem, Rose and
80% Natural Ingredients
Use Patanjali Herbal Bath Soap

NEW PATANJALI ALOE VERA KANTI BODY CLEANSER 150g Soothing & Refreshing

NEW PATANJALI Haldi Chandan Kanti Body Cleanser 150g FOR NATURAL GLOWING SKIN.

NEW PATANJALI NEEM KANTI BODY CLEANSER 150g Natural Protection

PATANJALI Rose BODY CLEANSER 150g

PATANJALI HERBAL FACIAL FOAM 60ml

PATANJALI saundarya NEEM TULSI Face Wash 100g

PATANJALI Aloe Vera Gel Face Wash 100ml

Patanjali Face Wash Range
Free from harmful chemicals
Made with natural herbs
Beneficial in skin problems
Suitable for all skin types

Shop Online- www.patanjaliayurved.net | Customer Care Number - 18001804108
Email ID - feedback@patanjaliayurved.org | Website - www.patanjaliayurved.org

BMC presents ₹1,027-cr Budget for FY 2024-25



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 17: Surpassing previous records, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Saturday rolled out a Budget allocation of ₹1,027 crore for 2024-25 fiscal, exceeding limits of ₹1,000 crore threshold for the very first time.

The allocation marks a 48 per cent increase from the previous year's (FY 2024-24) allocation of ₹690 crore. In his address at the BMC headquarters, Commissioner Vijay Amruta Kulanage stated the projected revenue has been fixed at ₹581.28 crore, with a capital income of ₹300 crore. The funds, meanwhile, would get a government allocation of ₹125 crore (from the Housing and Urban Development department) and ₹60 crore from Mukta Scheme. Moreover, he claimed

that the grant towards drain and pond renovation would stand at ₹50 crore each.

The maximum allocation of ₹113 crore in the Budget has been earmarked for the ambitious Ekamra Yojana (Ekamra Project), followed by the city's garbage and waste management (₹111.19 crore), and ₹105.96 crore for overall city management.

In her address, BMC Mayor Sulochana Das highlighted that the civic body has planned to set up 10 new Kalyan Mandaps and four wellness centers within the city limits. The initiative would provide enhanced benefits to denizens who otherwise face challenges in arranging a budget-friendly hotel for weddings, ceremonies and gatherings.

In an effort to tackle the crisis of waterlogging in low-lying areas of the city, the BMC has also proposed to procure additional

pump sets. Despite the initial draft estimate of ₹1492.50 crore, the complete budget proposes ₹1514.45 crore for expenditure, ensuring a balanced approach to city improvement, a statement by BMC stated.

The meeting also marked the presence of Standing Committee Chairperson Preetinanda Routray, Additional Commissioner Subhendu Sahu and other officials.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ₹105.96 crore for overall city management
- ₹111.19 crore for garbage and waste management
- ₹113 crore for the Ekamra Yojana
- ₹50 crore for land acquisition
- ₹97.72 crore for paver block road construction
- ₹91.47 crore for drain construction and development
- ₹21 crore for construction of Ward Offices
- ₹25.51 crore for road beautification and purchasing new vehicles



TALENT HONOURED: CMC Mayor Subhash Singh gives away Mukhyamantri Shiksha Puraskar to students at a district level felicitation programme organised at Tulasipur Odisha Police High School in Cuttack, Saturday

ED summons Samal in money laundering case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Feb 17: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned senior BJD MLA (Bhandaripokhari) and former minister Prafulla Samal and his son over an alleged money laundering case, sources said Saturday.

The probe agency has issued summons to Samal and his son Prayaskanti in connection with Barapada Engineering College land irregularities, they added.

The father-son duo has been asked to report before the ED with all related documents. The ED's action comes two days after raids were conducted at different places linked to Samal.

"The ED has carried out search operations at 10 locations in Bhadrak and Bhubaneswar on 15.02.2024 under the provisions of PMLA, 2002 belonging to Prayaskanti Samal (ex-



President), Manoj Kumar Goswami (Secretary) and others of Barapada School of Engineering and Technology (BSET) society in the matter of misappropriation of society money by forgery and cheating. During the search operations, various incriminating documents, digital devices, ₹9 lakh in cash, undated cheques, land agreements and a Toyota

The probe agency has issued summons to Samal and his son Prayaskanti in connection with Barapada Engineering College land irregularities

Fortuner car worth ₹40 lakh approx were recovered and seized," the ED posted on X Saturday.

Sources said the vehicle, however, is registered in the name of Trishna Skyscraper Limited, a construction company.

The raids were conducted at six places in Bhadrak and four in Bhubaneswar Thursday, in connection with alleged financial irregularities to the tune of ₹20 crore in Bhadrak Institute of Engineering and Technology (BIET) at Barapada.

Prayaskanti, who is the pres-

ident of BIET, is accused of swindling the fees paid by students and investing the money to buy properties worth crores of rupees in Bhubaneswar and other places.

Meanwhile, some senior BJD leaders, including the party's Bhadrak district in-charge Sanjay Das Burma, Bhadrak MP Manjulata Mandal and others met Samal at his residence in Bhadrak and discussed the matter.

Reacting to ED's action, the Bhandaripokhari MLA said the raids were nothing but a malicious act.

"The raids are a conspiracy against my client. We are trying to contact ED officials but they are neither seeing us nor issuing any statement on the raid. Prafulla Samal has been keeping unwell and needs continuous treatment. The ED officials are harassing him," Samal's lawyer said.

REMUNERATION HIKE FOR MDM COOKS, ASSISTANTS

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Feb 17: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday increased the monthly remuneration of cooks and helpers preparing mid-day meals in schools from ₹1,400 to ₹2,000.

The decision will benefit 1.10 lakh cooks and helpers working in 55,000 schools, a CMO release said, adding ₹74 crore will be spent

annually in this regard.

The beneficiaries will get the enhanced remuneration retrospectively from October 2023.

Patnaik also announced that an ex-gratia of ₹1lakh will be given to the next of kin of the cooks and helpers in case of their death during job tenure.

Patnaik also approved a proposal to increase the assistance towards the annual contingent

expenditure of Krushak Sathis, appointed in all the Gram Panchayats to make farmers aware of government schemes and modern farm technologies.

The government increased the assistance towards the annual contingent expenditure of Krushak Sathis from ₹12,000 to ₹18,000, a CMO release said, adding that around 13,600 Krushak Sathis will be benefited.

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

I, SAHANWAJ ALLI KHAN, F/o- SHAAN-AL-NAWAZ KHAN, Resident of Kurang Pradhan, At-Raipur, Cuttack, P.O.-Cuttack Sadar Thana, Odisha-754001 are by this affidavit No.-65AA396118 dtd.17.02.2024, That now onwards I shall be known as SAHANWAJ ALLI KHAN for all future purposes. Because my name is wrongly mention on my Son's Passport. That is SANAWAJ ALLI KHAN.

I, Kurma Rao, F/o- Sri K. Sridhara Rao(50), Vill/P.O.-Rambha, P.S.-Rambha, Ganjam, Odisha declared by this affidavit No.-A/291, 17.02.2024, that now onwards I shall be known as K.Kurma Rao for all future purposes.

Before the Executive Magistrate, Bhadrak, I, Jajati Kishore Mohapatra, 42 years, S/o. Gouranga Mohapatra of At/P.O.-Rambhila, P.S.-Bhadrak(R), Dist.-Bhadrak declared that, I the deponent is the father guardian of Geetanjali Mohapatra. That, Laxmipriya Mohapatra and Geetanjali Mohapatra is same and one person.

I, Sekhar Garg, R/o Near North Check Gate, Sri Jagannath Shopping Complex, Rayagada, Orissa - 765001, have changed my name to Shekhar Garg for all future purposes.



BASICS: Students learn Odissi at a workshop held at Ratnakar Bidyalaya by educational and cultural organisation 'Sudha' in Puri, Saturday

Dairy development can boost farmers' income

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Feb 17: Farmers of Odisha can multiply their income through better value addition and marketing of their dairy products, said experts during a session on 'enhancing farmers income through dairy development and value addition' at the Matsya-Pranee Samavesh Odisha, 2024 organised by Fisheries and Animal Resources Development department here, Saturday.

Empowering dairy communities and supporting farmers in increasing their income were the major thrust areas of discussion. The panelists interacted with the audience about technical and business aspects of dairy development, value addition and marketing while en-



couraging them to take on dairy entrepreneurship.

The panel featured technical and business experts like Swapan Sinha, head of marketing, NDDDB, Umashankar Mahapatro of Visaka Dairy, Andhra Pradesh, Mamta Arya, ULDB, Uttarakhhand and Manas Ranjan Upadhaya, entrepreneur of Khir Ganga Dairy, Jharsuguda.

"Agriculture is not limited to only cultivation of crops rather

it also includes animal husbandry. Crop cultivation and animal husbandry both are complementary to each other and sustainable continuity of one can't be possible without another," said Sinha.

Dairy farming is an important sector in Odisha. Day by day the demand for processed dairy products increases in the state and hence there is a need to create more entrepreneurship in this sector, said Upadhaya. The session was chaired by Science and Technology joint secretary Yeddula Vijay and was moderated by Saroj Sahu, GM of SAMUL.

More than 250 dairy farmers from different districts of the state participated in the session. A short quiz was also organised for the in-house audience.

Must combat dual burden of smoking & smokeless tobacco

It is imperative to combat the dual burden of smoking and smokeless tobacco in India, health experts and policymakers contended on first day of the sixth National Conference on Tobacco or Health being held in the national capital Friday.

India faces an alarming toll of over 1 million annual deaths attributed to tobacco use.

The nation is also in an ambitious race against time to achieve a tobacco-free status by 2025.

"It is important to combat the dual burden of smoking and smokeless tobacco, which currently affects nearly 29 per cent of Indian adults," said Sutapa B Neogi, director of International Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR), Delhi. She also emphasised the need



for collective action to drive impactful change in tobacco control policies and practices.

The three-day conference from February 16-18 has been organised by the IIHMR in collaboration with the Ministry of Health

and Family Welfare, and is themed 'Towards Tobacco-Free India - An Audacious Race against Time,' at the India Habitat Centre in

New Delhi.

Atul Goel, Director General of Health Services (DGHS), highlighted the critical role of multisectoral intervention in navigating the country towards a healthier future. He emphasised the need for a concerted effort across various sectors to tackle the deep-rooted issue of tobacco use in society. He also underlined that India's position as the 4th largest global producer of tobacco in 2021, highlights the magnitude of the

challenge.

Early in January, the World Health Organisation (WHO) in a report stated that India is on track to achieve a 30 per cent relative reduction in tobacco use prevalence by 2025, relative to 2010. "India needs adaptive strategies and legislative measures to counter the tobacco industry's relentless creativity in introducing new products," said K Srinath Reddy, from Population Health Foundation of India (PHFI).

Reddy also emphasised the imperative need for collective action to combat the parasitic and water-intensive nature of tobacco cultivation, advocating for continued efforts to counteract the industry's influence on health professionals and policymakers.

India needs adaptive strategies and legislative measures to counter the tobacco industry's relentless creativity in introducing new products
K SRINATH REDDY | POPULATION HEALTH FOUNDATION OF INDIA

ILS Bhub observes 35th Foundation Day

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 17: The Institute of Life Sciences (ILS) observed its 35th Foundation Day here recently.

Speaking on this occasion, ILS, Bhubaneswar director Debashis Dash expressed his gratitude to all the stakeholders who have been instrumental in the institute's success.

He highlighted the remarkable progress made by ILS Bhubaneswar in advancing scientific knowledge, fostering innovation, and addressing societal challenges through interdisciplinary research initiatives.

Joining as guest of honour, Aditya P Das, ex VC of AIPH University Bhubaneswar shared the journey of ILS under his leadership and wished the institute greater success.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.



LaccMI marches across 20 districts

Odisha government's ambitious Location Accessible Multimodal Initiative (LaccMI) that has brought about a transformation in the public transport system has covered 20 districts, with Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launching the affordable bus service in six more districts on February 16, 2024.

A fleet of 198 buses will improve connectivity across 1,363 gram panchayats of these six districts - Khurda, Puri, Kendrapara, Bhadrak, Jajpur and Nayagarh, benefitting over 60 lakh people of the region, the chief minister said while flagging the LaccMI bus service.

According to Odisha State Road Transport Corporation (OSRTC) sources, as many as 22 buses will enhance connectivity across 154 gram panchayats in Khurda district. The affordable bus service will benefit more than 15 lakh people in the region.

A fleet of 44 buses will ply across 433 gram panchayats of Puri, the abode of Lord Jagannath and one of the biggest tourist destinations of eastern India, benefitting over 14 lakh people.

In Kendrapara district, famous for Lord Baladev Jew temple, 37 buses under LaccMI will boost the connectivity across 196 gram panchayats. The affordable bus service will be a boon for more than 11 lakh people of the coastal district.

- LaccMI was launched in Malkangiri district on October 12, 2023
- Extended to Gajapati district on October 20, 2023
- Launched in Kalahandi district on November 1, 2023
- Launched in Rayagada district on November 25, 2023
- Launched in Nabarangpur district on November 30, 2023
- Launched in Koraput district on December 14



Our aim is to make panchayats the epicentre of development and strengthen rural economy. LaccMI will play a poignant role in this direction

NAVEEN PATNAIK | HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER

- LACCMI**
- Promotes affordable and sustainable transportation
 - Focus on providing mobility in rural areas
 - Dependable and economically priced public transport
 - Initially aims to provide intra-block and intra-district connectivity
 - Plan for future to integrate with inter-city services
 - Bridges rural-urban divide
 - Empowers women, students, farmers and entrepreneurs
 - Enables socio-economic development of rural areas
 - 5-Star comfort

As many as LaccMI 25 buses will ply across the nook and corner of 158 gram panchayats of Bhadrak district, famous for Lord Akhandalamani temple, benefitting over 15 lakh people.

The state government has provided 39 buses for 233 gram panchayats of Jajpur, the abode of Goddess Biraja, while a fleet of 31 buses will improve connectivity across 189 gram panchayats of Nayagarh district, famous for Lord Nilamadhaba temple. The affordable bus service is nothing short of a boon for more than 20 lakh people of the two districts.

Earlier on February 12, 2024, Patnaik had launched LaccMI bus service in five more districts, As many as 425 buses are now plying on different routes in 1,457 gram panchayats of these five districts - Mayurbhanj, Bolangir,

lakh people in these districts. The affordable bus service was first launched in tribal-dominated Malkangiri district October 12, 2023. It was later extended to Gajapati district (October 20), Kalahandi district (November 1), Rayagada district (November 25), Nabarangpur district (November 30) and Koraput district (December 14). Deogarh, Angul and Dhenkanal districts got



Bargarh, Keonjhar and Sundargarh, benefitting over 90

- Feb 16, 2024**
198 buses for 1,363 GPs of Khurda, Puri, Kendrapara, Bhadrak, Jajpur and Nayagarh, benefitting over 60 lakh people
- Feb 12, 2024**
425 buses for 1,457 GPs of Mayurbhanj, Bolangir, Bargarh, Keonjhar and Sundargarh, benefitting over 90 lakh people
- Jan 31, 2024**
117 luxury buses for 507 GPs of Deogarh, Angul and Dhenkanal, benefitting over 28 lakh people

fordable bus service in all the districts by February end. According to Patnaik, the affordable bus service (LaccMI) will strengthen social connect as well as the economy of Odisha.

"Our aim is to make panchayats the epicentre of development and strengthen rural economy. LaccMI will play a poignant role in this direction," the Chief Minister said. He said the bus service will help connect children to educational institutions and farmers to markets. Women, students and the differently-abled can use the 'transformational' bus service by paying only ₹5 as fare.



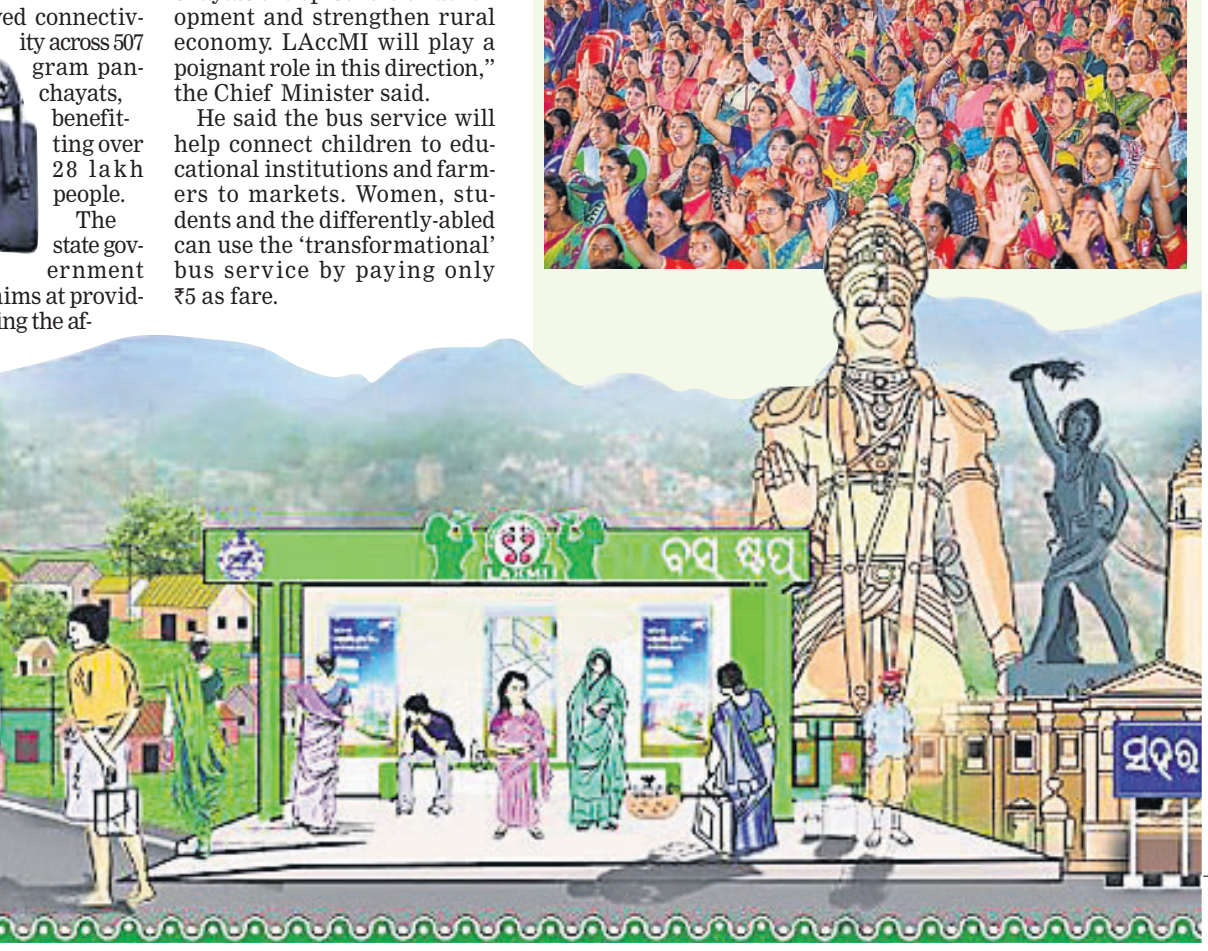
Earlier, we had to shell out ₹50 or more for travelling in auto-rickshaws to Umerkote town. However, after the launch of LaccMI bus service, we can travel to Umerkote by spending a nominal amount

MUNA DAKUA, BADAUMARI PANCHAYAT, UMERKOTE BLOCK



The six LaccMI buses plying in Koshagumuda block have helped the residents living around 80km from the district headquarters avail transportation at very nominal fare

DEBARAJ MAJHI, UKIAPALI, KOSHAGUMUDA BLOCK



Material things are not to be despised - without them there can be no manifestation in the material world.

SRI AUROBINDO



Unlawful Funds

India's electoral bonds scheme has been declared illegal, a rare win in court for those resisting authoritarianism. But many elections including the last general one have been fought on these unlawful funds. It would have been appropriate to have heard and adjudicated on the issue earlier but the court chose not to do so. Former Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, rewarded with a Rajya Sabha seat, when asked why he had delayed adjudicating on the issue said he did not remember the issue coming up before his court.

Many will not know how diabolical the electoral bonds enterprise was and it is for their benefit that this is being written.

The scheme was announced by the Modi government through the Budget in 2017. The bonds would be a way for political parties to receive money through anonymous donors. The donor would have to reveal their identity to the bank while making the bond purchase, but the identity would not be revealed on the bond itself. Political parties could accept the money without being required to reveal who gave it. Voters would therefore not know who was funding and influencing political parties. The change would allow foreign companies and even shell companies to donate to India's parties without having to inform anyone of the contribution or having their names revealed. It also undid that part of the Companies Act under which corporates had to disclose details of their political donations in their annual statement of accounts. Now they were no longer required to do so. The corporates had previously also been limited to donating a maximum of 7.5 per cent of their average three-year net profit to political parties. No longer, because they could now just go through the electoral bond route as that cap had been lifted legally. The process to fund a party anonymously was made easy. Bonds would be available in multiples of up to Rs 1 crore at State Bank of India branches in 29 cities. A donor could purchase them through their bank account and hand them over to the party or individual of their choice, who could then encash them. They would be valid for 15 days.

Four days before the Budget of 2017, a bureaucrat spotted it in Finance Minister Arun Jaitley's speech, and noted that the assent of the RBI was required for such a large shift. This was because the introduction of bonds required changes to the RBI Act, something that apparently the government did not know. The officer drafted a proposed amendment to align the Act with the change and sent the file up the ranks for the Finance Minister to see. The same day, 28 January 2017, a Saturday, the RBI was sent a five-line email seeking its comments. The reply came the next working day, Monday, 30 January. The RBI said it was a bad idea because it went against the RBI's authority as the sole issuer of bearer instruments, meaning cash. These bonds, because they were anonymous, could become currency and undermine the faith in India's cash. On this point, the RBI was unambiguous: amending the law to facilitate this 'would seriously undermine a core principle of central banking legislation and doing so would set a bad precedent.'

The second objection the RBI had was that 'even the intended purpose of the transparency might not be achievable as the original buyer of the instrument (the bond) need not be the actual contributor to the party.'

If person A purchased the bond and then sold it, at face value or more, to any entity, including a foreign government, that entity could gift it to a party. The nameless bond was as good as cash. 'The bonds are bearer bonds and transferable by delivery,' the RBI said, 'hence, who finally and actually contributes the bond to the political party will not be known.' This would affect the money laundering law as well, the RBI said. The last point it made was that what was being proposed through the electoral bond scheme—the transfer of money from bank accounts of entities to political parties—could be done through a cheque, bank transfer or demand draft. 'There is no special need for, or advantage by, the creation of an Electoral Bearer Bond, that too by disturbing an established international practice.'

The next body to say that the electoral bonds scheme was dangerous was the EC of India. In an affidavit to the Supreme Court, it said that to exclude the reporting of donations received by political parties through electoral bonds would have 'serious repercussions on the transparency aspect of political funding of political parties.'

The EC remained opposed to the law even after it was enacted and continued to resist though the Supreme Court gave the government a pass.

The two most important institutions related to the bonds tried to do their work and resisted the scheme. They were unable to.

Though the RBI had responded immediately one reason the government gave to dismiss its concern was that 'this advice has come quite late at a time when the Finance Bill is already printed.'

The electoral bonds episode reveals the limits of institutional checks in our democracy. When a strong executive decides it wants something, even something that is dangerous and unconstitutional, there is little resistance from within to stop it.

The Supreme Court has now held the scheme unconstitutional, something that was obvious to anyone familiar with the most basic details of what the bonds were for. But this should also alert us to how weak our institutions are and how, when they mean well for the country, they can just be ignored.



Aakar Patel

The electoral bonds episode reveals the limits of institutional checks in our democracy



Daoud Kuttab

EVEN BEHIND BARS, BARGHOUTI HAS REMAINED AN INFLUENTIAL FIGURE IN FATAH AND A CHAMPION OF THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE

Hamas leaders have declared that any ceasefire deal in Gaza must include the release of Marwan Barghouti, a popular Palestinian leader who has been in an Israeli prison since 2002. In fact, Barghouti might be the key to more than a ceasefire; he may well be the best hope of reviving the two-state solution.

Now 64 years old, Barghouti has been a member of Fatah, the dominant faction within the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), since he was a teenager. He co-founded Fatah's shabiba (youth movement) decades ago, before rising to lead the Tanzim, Fatah's grassroots cadres that uphold the organization's local-level leadership. Though he has spent more than two decades in an Israeli prison, he remains well-known and widely respected among Palestinians.

I first met Barghouti in the 1980s with my cousin, Mubarak Awad, an advocate of nonviolent activism. Given his interest in the effectiveness of nonviolent struggle, Barghouti had been given the Arabic edition of Nonviolent Soldier of Islam, a translated biography of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, an ally of Mahatma Gandhi in the Indian independence movement. Barghouti was keen to learn not only about Khan, but about anyone, from Gandhi to Martin Luther King, Jr., who might offer useful insights into how to achieve Palestinian liberation.

This intellectual quest shaped Barghouti's leadership of the First Palestinian Intifada that began soon after. The massive protests began as a nonviolent uprising aimed at "shaking off" (the translation of intifada) Israeli occupation; violence erupted only after the killing of four Palestinian laborers in Gaza. Barghouti became too high-profile for Israel's liking, and he was arrested for incitement and later expelled to Jordan.

During this period, Barghouti began to see the weaknesses in Fatah's structure. Palestinians needed to be preparing for statehood, he concluded, so Fatah



Barghouti may well be the only leader with the standing to convince Palestinians across factions to accept an imperfect compromise, if it means they can finally live peacefully alongside Israel in an independent Palestinian state

had to become a political party. It was a bold idea – and a controversial one. When I mentioned the prospect to Fatah's founder, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, during an interview in Tunisia, he became furious.

A liberation movement like Fatah could "represent all Palestinians," Arafat declared, unifying right and left, religious and secular, behind a single aim: liberating Palestinian lands. But as a political party, it would have to create a platform and take a stance on all manner of issues, leading to division and weakness. He then abruptly ended our interview, leaving me slack-jawed. I have since come to believe that Arafat's angry lecture was really intended for Barghouti and other young Palestinian leaders in the West Bank with whom I was in contact. And there may well have been some wisdom in it: a fragmented Fatah has, after all, struggled to contest elections against the united Hamas.

In 1994, Barghouti was permitted to return from Jordan under the Oslo Accords that the PLO had negotiated with Israel. But he was no fan of the Accords, doubting Israel's commitment. And, in fact, far from returning Palestinian lands in exchange for peace, the Accords allowed hawkish Israeli leaders to

quadruple the number of Jewish settlers in those lands.

After being elected to the Palestinian Authority's new parliament, the Palestinian Legislative Council, in 1996, Barghouti began advocating actively for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, having learned Hebrew in prison and then building relationships with Israeli politicians and peace activists in order to further the cause. (He also campaigned against corruption in Arafat's administration and human-rights violations by its security services.)

But Barghouti was becoming disillusioned with the peace process – a feeling that intensified after the collapse of the Camp David summit in 2000. By 2002, he no longer identified as a pacifist, though he made clear that he was not a terrorist either: "I, and the Fatah movement to which I belong, strongly oppose attacks and the targeting of civilians inside Israel," he wrote that January, but "I reserve the right to protect myself, to resist the Israeli occupation of my country, and to fight for my freedom."

Far from seeking to "destroy Israel," Barghouti concluded, "I still seek peaceful coexistence between the equal and independent countries of

Israel and Palestine."

But violent attacks on Israelis, largely carried out by Hamas, were increasing, and in March 2002, Israel effectively ripped up its security pacts with Arafat and the Palestinians, before re-occupying all major Palestinian cities from which it had withdrawn under the Oslo Accords. Soon after, Israeli security forces arrested Barghouti on murder charges linked to his alleged involvement in deadly attacks on Israelis. Refusing to recognize the court's authority, he did not put forward any defense, and was handed five consecutive life sentences. Even behind bars, Barghouti has remained an influential figure in Fatah and a champion of the Palestinian cause. Together with other jailed Fatah leaders, in 2006 he produced a document for the PLO outlining tactical measures, including limiting armed resistance to territories occupied in 1967 and establishing a unity government.

Barghouti believes wholeheartedly in the right of Palestinians to self-determination, having made great personal sacrifices for the cause. He also understands the realities on the ground, and recognizes the need to find a way to coexist peacefully with Israel. And he may well be the only leader with the standing to convince Palestinians across factions to accept an imperfect compromise, if it means they can finally live peacefully alongside Israel in an independent Palestinian state. I haven't spoken to Barghouti directly since our meetings in Tunis in the 1990s, but I have followed his story closely over the years and believe that, once released from prison, he would quickly reclaim his role as a moderate Palestinian patriot and open the way for real progress. With Israeli-Palestinian relations at a historic nadir, there may be no one better suited to lead the way to a just peace.

The writer, a Palestinian journalist, is a former professor of journalism at Princeton University.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM CYBERCRIME

Combating social media identity theft



Ashyashree Praharaj

AT THE HEART OF THIS ISSUE LIES THE VULNERABILITY OF PERSONAL INFORMATION ON DIGITAL PLATFORMS

One are those days when social media platforms were merely used to connect with one's near and dear. In the era dominated by the digital realm, our online identities are increasingly becoming targets for malicious actors seeking to exploit vulnerabilities. The surge in social media identity theft is a cause for concern that demands immediate attention and dedicated efforts to protect individuals from falling prey to these insidious cybercrimes.

The internet community's ubiquity has undeniably transformed how we communicate, connect and share our lives. Unfortunately, this convenience comes at a price. In recent times, the exponential growth of social media platforms has proven to be a fertile ground for cybercriminals to exploit unsuspecting individuals, leading to a concerning rise in identity theft. As we grapple with the repercussions of these pervasive threats, it is becoming more and more imperative to delve deeper into the underlying factors fueling its proliferation and chart a course of action to stem its tide.

At the heart of this issue lies the vulnerability of personal information in digital platforms. Social media platforms act as

repositories of a treasure trove of data, ranging from biological details, contact information, likes and dislikes, and online interactions. In the wrong hands, this information can be exploited for nefarious purposes, ranging from financial fraud, identity impersonation, reputation damage, and emotional distress.

To address this menace, a multi-faceted approach is necessary. At the user level, individuals must adopt a proactive stance towards safeguarding their online identities – adopting password hygiene, regular privacy audits, and vigilant scrutiny of online communication. This includes creating strong and unique passwords for each online account, enabling two-factor authentication whenever possible, and regularly updating software and security settings. It is paramount to empower users with the knowledge and tools to protect themselves against cyber threats.

Social media platforms must be pivotal in fortifying their defences against these malicious actors. As gatekeepers of the digital realm, these platforms wield considerable influence in shaping the online experience and bear a responsibility to safeguard the integrity of users'

identities. Investment in cutting-edge cybersecurity measures, improved authentication protocols, and real-time threat detection mechanisms are essential to staying ahead of cyber adversaries. Clear and concise communication about privacy policies, data usage practices, and security measures is critical to empowering users with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions about their online presence. Advanced algorithms capable of detecting suspicious account activities, automated flagging systems for potential phishing attempts, and proactive outreach to users about potential security risks are a few examples of how platforms can leverage technology to enhance user safety. Collaborative endeavours between digital platforms, law enforcement agencies and cybersecurity experts can benefit more in combating these evolving threats.

Governments must adapt and enact comprehensive laws that address the intricacies of digital identity theft, imposing stringent penalties and incarceration on perpetrators. Moreover, international collaboration is desirable in creating a unified front against intruders who exploit global dig-

ital networks. Central to the overarching strategy is the magisterial role of fostering digital literacy and awareness among the populace. Educating individuals on the risks associated with social media use, imparting practical knowledge on navigating the digital landscape securely, and fostering a culture of responsible online behaviour are the pillars of this endeavour.

The increasing number of social media identity theft cases demands a collaborative and proactive response. By embracing a holistic approach encompassing technological innovations, regulatory and legislative reforms, and public awareness, we can turn the tide against cyber adversaries and safeguard our digital identities. Now is the time for decisive action. The stakes are high, with the integrity of our digital identities hanging in the balance. We can mount a formidable defence against cyber adversaries by harnessing the collective efforts of individuals, social media platforms, governments and the broader community.

The writer is a research scholar, Department of Business Administration, Berhampur University.

WISDOM CORNER

It is easy to hate and it is difficult to love. This is how the whole scheme of things works. All good things are difficult to achieve; and bad things are very easy to get.

CONFUCIUS

Your ordinary acts of love and hope point to the extraordinary promise that every human life is of inestimable value.

DESMOND TUTU

People have a hard time letting go of their suffering. Out of a fear of the unknown, they prefer suffering that is familiar.

THICH NHAT HANH

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1836: Hindu religious leader Ramakrishna Paramahansa, who founded a school of thought that united diverse mystical traditions into a single belief system, was born in Hooghly, Bengal state, India. His world famous disciple Swami Vivekananda founded the Ramakrishna Mission with a twofold purpose: to spread the teachings of Vedanta as embodied in the life of Ramakrishna and to improve the social conditions of the Indian people.

1930: Pluto discovered by Clyde Tombaugh. Using a 13-inch (33-cm) telescope at the Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona, Clyde W. Tombaugh, a 24-year-old American with no formal training in astronomy, discovered the dwarf planet Pluto this day in 1930.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Unconstitutional funding

Sir, The recent Supreme Court ruling that declared the electoral bond scheme unconstitutional has far-reaching implications for the transparency of political funding in India. Originally introduced with the promise of providing a transparent alternative to cash donations, the scheme faced criticism for compromising the right to privacy and political privacy. The court's decision emphasises the fundamental importance of transparency in a democracy, especially concerning the financing of political parties. By instructing the disclosure of details related to encashed bonds, the court aims to shed light on the previously opaque nature of political funding, promoting accountability and citizen awareness. Furthermore, the court's scrutiny of unlimited corporate funding and its suggestion of reasonable restrictions and detailed disclosures offer a pragmatic approach to address the potential influence of corporations on the democratic process. This highlights the need for a balance between allowing financial support for political activities and preventing undue influence. The verdict not only addresses the specific issues with the electoral bond scheme but also prompts a broader discussion on reforming political funding laws in India. Aligning these regulations with international standards becomes crucial to ensuring a more robust and transparent political financing system.

Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH

Ragging menace

Sir, Ragging has reared its ugly head in a medical college in Berhampur, Odisha where a first year medico was beaten up by his seniors on 9 February. Though most states have anti-ragging laws in place, lack of uniformity in implementation is disturbing. Most ragging incidents are swept under the carpet by colleges and the students are advised to compromise with their tormentors. Besides, some students do not come forward with complaints out of fear. It is time the anti-ragging rules and regulations in colleges are cemented. One wonders whether most of the anti-ragging panels are relegated to paper while the students suffer in silence. Names and mobile numbers of anti-ragging panel members should be displayed prominently at different places on the campuses. Students, during admission, should be asked to give an undertaking that they would not promote, or participate in, ragging.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Minor kills self after mom's death in LPG cylinder blast

THE EXPLOSION WHICH OCCURRED FEBRUARY 10 HAS SO FAR CLAIMED LIVES OF FOUR PERSONS INCLUDING THREE OF A FAMILY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Belpada, Feb 17: In a heart-wrenching incident, a 17-year-old boy committed suicide by hanging late Friday night after learning about the death of his mother in hospital following an LPG cylinder explosion at Kanut village under this block in Bolangir district.

The deceased boy was identified as Drona Mahakur, 17, son of Malati Mahakur and Surath Mahakur in the village. Malati was undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Rourkela for her critical burn injuries sustained during an LPG cylinder blast. However, she succumbed Friday.

Unable to bear the loss, a traumatised Drona tied a saree of his mother around his neck and hanged himself to death. The back-to-back deaths of the woman and her son have pushed the neighbours and other co-villagers into mourning.

The incident occurred when Drona's father Surath Mahakur and elder brother Lalit Mahakur were away at Rourkela to bring back the body of Malati.



On being informed, police seized the body and handed it over to their neighbours after a post-mortem as no family member was present at the village, Saturday morning.

As per reports, six persons from two families sustained critical burn injuries in an LPG cylinder blast in the house of Mahesh Adabaria at Kanut village, February 10. The explosion occurred due to a leak in the pipe of a LPG cylinder.

Among the six critically injured, five were from one family and Malati was their neighbour. The injured persons were initially admitted to the VSS Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR) at Burla in Sambalpur

district. Among them, Bhanu Adabaria died February 11 while the rest of the injured were shifted to the JP Burn Hospital in Rourkela. Two others, Mahesh and Bhairavi, succumbed to their injuries February 15 while Malati Mahakur died February 16. Notably, the blast has so far claimed lives of four persons including three of a family.

Meanwhile, the health condition of two others, Bhagyabati Adabaria and Duti Adabaria, is stated to be critical and under observation, hospital sources said.

On the other hand, Belpada tehsildar Banabihari Harpal and BDO Rajesh Kumar Meher reached the spot and took stock of the situation.

Duo awarded 3-yr RI over possession of 3 leopard skins

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 17: In one of the fastest wildlife trials for any STF investigated cases in state, the Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate of Rayagada has convicted two wildlife criminals and sentenced them to undergo three years of rigorous imprisonment (RI) and a fine of ₹10,000 each.

STF sources here Saturday said the two accused Damarudhar Majhi and Santosh Kumar Nayak were arrested by the STF May 24, 2023 near Siriguda Swargadham Chhaka of Rayagada after three leopard hides were recovered from their possession. They were booked under sections of IPC and the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for illegal possession of leopard skin.

During investigation the seized leopard hides were sent to Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun for biological chemical examination and opinion was received affirmatively. After successful investigation, a chargesheet was submitted July 26, 2023 against both the accused persons.

Because of flawless investigation and proper prosecution, the case resulted in conviction within six months from the date of chargesheet. This is the fastest trial for any STF investigated cases and also one of the fastest in Odisha. So far, the trial is completed in three STF investigated wildlife cases and all have resulted in conviction.

Man gets 20 years RI for minor's rape

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Feb 17: Fast Track Court Judge Bijay Kumar Mishra here Saturday sentenced a youth to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment (RI) and imposed a fine of ₹20,000 after convicting him in the 2014 rape case of a 17-year-old girl.

The convict was identified as Deepak Mukhi, 32, of Harichandanpur police station area in Keonjhar district. In default, Mukhi has to undergo additional six months of rigorous imprisonment.

The court passed the order



after examining the statements of 11 witnesses and police inquiry report. The judge also directed the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) to pay an ex-gratia of ₹4 lakh to the survivor, said Special Public Prosecutor Gyanendranath Jena.

Source said that the survivor was studying in a college under

Champua police station area of Keonjhar district. The incident occurred when she was abducted by Mukhi when no one was present at her house, April 29, 2014.

After failing to trace her, the survivor's father lodged a complaint at Champua PS. Police registered a case and rescued the girl from Sadar PS area. After getting detailed information from the survivor, the police arrested Mukhi, June 7, 2014 and produced him in the court. During interrogation, the survivor informed police that Mukhi had raped her several times after her abduction.

4 mutilated bodies found on rly tracks

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela/Tensa, Feb 17: Mutilated bodies of four persons, suspected to be members of one family, were found on the railway tracks on Odisha-Jharkhand border Saturday morning.

The bodies of a man, a woman and two children were found on the railway tracks between Talaburu and Kendaposhi stations under Chakradharpur railway division in West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand. While two bodies were found inside a plastic gunny bag, two others were

lying in the open. It is suspected that all four were brutally murdered before their bodies were thrown on the tracks, Friday night. After recovery of the bodies, train movement on the concerned track has been cancelled.

The identity of the victims could not be ascertained immediately. Meanwhile, DSP Rakesh Minj and a team of the Government Railway Police (GRP) along with a forensic team rushed to the spot and started an investigation into the matter. The bodies have been seized for post-mortem.

Two minors drown in Kalahandi village

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, Feb 17: Two minor boys drowned Saturday while bathing in the village pond at Durespadar under Padepadar panchayat of T Rampur block in Kalahandi district.

The deceased were identified as Aasman Naik, 6, son of Suresh Naik and Shantanu Naik, 6, son of Ishwar Naik of the village.

However, under what circumstances and at what time the two minors drowned are still unclear. On being informed, police reached the spot and sent the bodies for post-mortem to a hospital.

Youth slits throat after defeat in online game

POST NEWS NETWORK

Angul, Feb 17: In a shocking incident bringing back in focus the perils of gaming addiction, a 24-year-old youth from Jerang village under Jarapada police limits in Angul district allegedly attempted suicide by slitting his throat after losing repeatedly in an online game. The youth identified as Soumyaranjan Naik has been hospitalised.

According to sources, Naik had developed a habit of playing online games. However, he reportedly lost his mental balance after losing the Free Fire game repeatedly. Frustrated by the defeats, he brought a sharp-edged weapon and tried to commit suicide by slitting his throat, Naik's family members said.

Family members along with his friends then rushed him to the District

Headquarters Hospital, Angul after finding him bleeding profusely from the neck. The youth was undergoing treatment at the hospital and his condition was stated to be stable when last reports came in.

Earlier, a 19-year-old student from Guda village in Balasore district, allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself after losing over ₹1 lakh playing online games.

Bank of India
Zonal Office: Bhubaneswar Zone, 1/1D, Star House, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar, Ph.: 0674-2362249

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
E-Auction Sale Notice Under SARFAESI ACT, 2002

Where as the Bank acting through its Authorised Officer in exercise of its powers under-Section 13(4) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act (SARFAESI) has decided to put up for E-auction of the following property "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis for realization of the debts due to the Bank.

Sl. No.	Branch Name, MOB: 7008051165/ Name & Address of the Borrowers/ Guarantor/Mortgagor/ Total Dues	Description of the Property	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment Amount
1.	Borrowers: 1) Mr. Bijaya Chandra Behera, S/o. Arjun Behera, 2) Mr. Subhasish Behera, S/o. Mr. Bijaya Chandra Behera, Both are At: Quarter No.: 176, Press Colony, Nuapada, P.O.: Madhupalna, Dist.: Cuttack, PIN-753010, Odisha / Total Dues: ₹17,73,178.68 + interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.	All that part and parcel of Land & Building situated over Khata No.: 533/455, Plot No.: 48/6852, Area: Ac.0.030 Dec i.e. 1306.80 Sqft along with single stored under construction RCC Building of built up Area: 996 Sqft, KISSAM: Gharabari at Mouza: Kadampada, P.S.: Cuttack Sadar, SRO: Cuttack, Tahasil: Cuttack, Dist.: Cuttack, Odisha, Standing in the name of Mr. Bijaya Chandra Behera, Bounded by North: Vacant Land, South: Vacant Land, East: Road, West: Vacant Land	₹11,29,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹1,12,900/- / ₹ 50,000/-

Date & Time of E-Auction: 25.03.2024 at 11.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. with unlimited extension of 10 (Ten) minutes each

Last date & time for submission of EMD & Documents: 22.03.2024 upto 4.00 P.M.

Inspection will be provided to the prospective bidders on any working day before 22.03.2024 with prior appointment of the authorised officer

The sale shall be subject to the terms and conditions and provisions prescribed in the SARFAESI Act 2002 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

This is also a 30 days sale notice to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) of the aforesaid loan account for settlement of their outstanding dues with the Bank and to participate in the public auction on the above mentioned date. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in (1) <https://www.ibapi.in> (2) <https://www.mstcecommerce.com> (3) www.bankofindia.co.in

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 18.02.2024

Authorised Officer, Bank of India

Bank of Maharashtra
ZONAL OFFICE: BHUBANESWAR
First Floor, Door Sanchar Bhavan, Unit-IX, Near Rupali Square, Bhubaneswar -751022, E-mail: dzmbbsr@mahabank.co.in

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

(E-Auction) Sale of secured immovable Assets under SARFAESI Act, 2002

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSETS UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 READ WITH PROVISO TO RULE 8(6) / 9(1) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Bank of Maharashtra, the possession of which have been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Maharashtra, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on Auction Date mentioned hereunder, for recovery of balance due to the Bank of Maharashtra from the Borrower as mentioned in the table. Details of Borrower/Co-Applicant/Guarantor, amount due, short description of the immovable properties and encumbrances known thereon, possession type, reserve price, earnest money deposit and Bid increment amount are also given as under.

Sl. No.	BRANCH & CONTACT NO./ Name and Address of Borrower/Co-Applicant/Guarantor	Short Description of the Immovable properties with known encumbrances / Possession Type	Amount Due (Rs.)	Reserve Price / EMD / BID Increment Amount	Date & Time of E-Auction
1.	BALESHWAR BRANCH / (BRANCH PH.NO.: 6370704860) / Borrower: M/S. N R Multi Service, Prop.: Mr. Girija Sankar Nayak, S/o.: Nanda Kishore Nayak, At: Bagudi, P.O.: Mahumuhan, Soro, Balasore-756045	1) All those pieces and parcels situated at Plot No.: 325/1276, Khata No.: 324/364, corresponding to Khata No.: 324/167, corresponding to Khata No.: 260, Area: Ac.0.0202 Dec, Mouza: Uтарыasara Unit-5, P.S.: Soro, under Jurisdiction of SRO: Soro, Baragada, Dist.: Balasore, standing in the name of Mr. Girija Sankar Nayak, Bounded by East: Plot No.: 620, West: Road, North: Plot of G S Nayak, South: Rest of Plot No.: 325, 2) All those pieces and parcels situated at Plot No.: 325/1266, Khata No.: 324/352, corresponding to Khata No.: 324/167, corresponding to Khata No.: 260, Area: Ac.0.040 Dec, Mouza: Uтарыasara Unit-5, P.S.: Soro, under Jurisdiction of SRO: Soro, Baragada, Dist.: Balasore, standing in the name of Mr. Girija Sankar Nayak, S/o.: Nanda Kishore Nayak, Bounded by East: Plot No.: 620, West: Road, North: Rest of Plot No.: 325, South: Rest of Plot No.: 325 / Physical	₹ 36,84,844.81 + Future Interest w.e.f 29.04.2023	₹ 43,34,400/- / ₹ 4,33,440/- / ₹ 50,000/-	07.03.2024 between 1.00 PM to 5.00 PM with auto extension for 5 minutes in case bid is placed within last 5 minutes
2.	BERHAMPUR BRANCH / (BRANCH PH.NO.: 6370704853) / Borrower: Mrs. Narmada Kumari Beja, W/o.: Late Trinath Beja, Address: At/PO.: Khariaguda, P.S.: Jarada, Dist.: Ganjam, Odisha, PIN-761209 / Co-Applicant: Mr. Ranjan Kumar Beja, S/o.: Late Trinath Beja, Address: At/PO.: Khariaguda, P.S.: Jarada, Dist.: Ganjam, Odisha, PIN-761209 / Guarantor: Mr. Ratnakar Beja, S/o.: Late Trinath Beja, Address: At/PO.: Khariaguda, P.S.: Jarada, Dist.: Ganjam, Odisha, PIN-761209	All that Part & Parcel of Equitable Mortgage of Land and House situated at House site property bearing Khatian Sl. No.: 250/206, Survey/Plot No.: 163/855, SRO: Patrapur, situated at Mouza: Mukundapur, P.O.: Khariaguda, Tahasil: Patrapur, P.S.: Jarada, Dist.: Ganjam, Area: 1394 sq.ft. together with the Buildings and Structures/Residential Block constructed to be constructed thereon admeasuring 1918 Sq.Ft (Carpet) i.e. 1918 sq.ft. (Built up) in aggregate consisting of 4 rooms on 2 floor/s and all the fixtures annexed thereto, standing in the name of Mrs. Narmada Kumari Beja, Bounded (As Per Document) by East: Site of Dilip Kumar Guru, West: Road, North: Main Road, South: Govt. Land (R.I.Office) / Physical	₹ 28,13,639/- + Future Interest w.e.f 06.09.2022	₹ 16,33,500/- / ₹ 1,63,350/- / ₹ 50,000/-	07.03.2024 between 1.00 PM to 5.00 PM with auto extension for 5 minutes in case bid is placed within last 5 minutes

Last Date & Time for Submission of Bid / Deposit of EMD & Proof: 07.03.2024 upto 1.00 PM

Date & Time of Inspection of Properties: on or before 29.02.2024 during banking hours on any working day between 11.00 AM to 5.00 PM

* N.B. (FOR NARMADA KUMARI BEJA ACCOUNT): "Borrowers take the intimation and kindly submit the application before Berhampur Branch on or before 29.02.2024 for removing/taking back the movable items available at secured asset as per panchnama drawn on dated 09.03.2023 at the time of taking physical possession of secured asset. If no application made within stipulated time then will take it as implied consent, that Borrowers are not interested to removing/taking back the movable items and Auction will conduct. No further demand and claim will be entertained in this regard".

Note: This Notice is treated as 15 days Notice for Concerned Borrowers. The Auction Sale will be online E-Auction/Bidding through Website <https://www.mstcecommerce.com>. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link "https://www.bankofmaharashtra.in" provided in the Bank's website and also on e-Bikray (e-बिक्रय) portal (www.ibapi.in)

Place : Bhubaneswar
Date: 15.02.2024

Authorised Officer
Bank of Maharashtra

Bank of Maharashtra
ZONAL OFFICE : BHUBANESWAR
First Floor, Door Sanchar Bhavan, Unit-IX, Near Rupali Square, Bhubaneswar -751022, Email: dzmbbsr@mahabank.co.in

VEHICLE AUCTION / SALE NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower that the below described Vehicle Hypothecated/charged to the Bank of Maharashtra, the possession of which have been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Maharashtra, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on Auction Date mentioned hereunder, for recovery of balance due to the Bank of Maharashtra from the Borrower as mentioned in the table. Details of Borrower, amount due, short description of the Vehicle, possession type, reserve price, earnest money deposit and Bid increment amount are also given as under.

Branch Name/ Branch Manager Name / Contact No.	Name & Address of the Borrower/ Amount Due (Rs.)	Vehicle Detail / Possession Type	Reserve Price / EMD/Bid Increment Amount	Visiting Address for the Vehicle Inspection
BERHAMPUR BRANCH, Mr. Satyajit Rout, Mob.: 6370704853	Borrower: Mr. Jagannath Tripathy, At/PO.: Jamuni, Via: Purushottampur, Near Ashok High School, Berhampur, Ganjam-761018, Odisha / Amount Due: ₹8,17,952/- + Future Interest w.e.f 15.02.2024	Make: Tata, Model: Nexon, Chassis No.: MAT627129MLH 62940, Engine No.: REVTRN11 HYKK80289, Regd. No.: OD07AK2552, Year of Manufacturing: 2021 / Physical	₹ 7,20,000/- / ₹72,000/- / ₹20,000/-	Bank of Maharashtra, Berhampur Branch, Monsoon House, Dharma Nagar, Near Lohia Motors, Berhampur, Dist: Ganjam, Odisha-760002

Date & Time of E-Auction: 07.03.2024 between 1.00 PM to 5.00 PM with auto extension for 5 minutes in case bid is placed within last 5 minutes

Last Date & Time for Submission of Bid / Deposit of EMD & Proof: 07.03.2024 upto 1.00 PM

Date & Time of Inspection of Vehicle: on or before 29.02.2024 during banking hours on any working day between 11.00 AM to 5.00 PM

Note: This Notice is treated as 15 days Notice for Concerned Borrower. The Auction Sale will be online E-Auction/Bidding through Website <https://www.mstcecommerce.com>. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link "https://www.bankofmaharashtra.in" provided in the Bank's website and also on e-Bikray (e-बिक्रय) portal (www.ibapi.in)

Place : Bhubaneswar
Date: 15.02.2024

Authorised Officer
Bank of Maharashtra

Bank of Baroda

REGIONAL STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH: SAMBALPUR
Ground Floor, At: Christian Para, G.M. College Chowk, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha, PIN-768001

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) & 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to be held on 21.03.2024 from 2.00 PM to 6.00 PM

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers, Co-Borrowers, Mortgagors and Guarantors that the below described Immovable properties Mortgaged /charged to the Secured Creditor, will be sold on the basis of "CONSTRUCTIVE/PHYSICAL POSSESSION" of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned accounts. The details of Borrowers/ Guarantors/Secured Asset/s/ Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction Date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below-

PROPERTY INSPECTION DATE AND TIME: 20.03.2024 11.00AM to 1.00PM

Contact Persons; Authorized Officer and Contact No.:

Rayagada- Amit Prakash-Mob.: 7752050861 & VSS Marg-Abhinash Abhimanyu-Mob.: 7682829021

STATUS OF POSSESSION OF PROPERTIES: Physical, ENCUMBRANCE KNOWN TO BANK: NIL

LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF ONLINE PAYMENT OF EMD: 21.03.2024 latest by 2.00 PM

The linking of interested property started after 5.00PM on 20.03.2024 till 2.00 PM on 21.03.2024

The scheduled date of Auction to be held on 21.03.2024 from 2.00 PM to 6.00 PM

Sl. No.	BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrowers / Guarantors & Mortgagors	Description of the Properties & the Owner	Reserve Price EMD of the Property Bid Increment	TOTAL DUES (Type Possession)
1.	RAYAGADA BRANCH / Borrower: Mr. Gouri Prasad Behera, S/o- Late Panchanan Behera, Gandhi Nagar, Dist.: Rayagada, PIN-765001	Equitable Mortgage of Land & Building property situated at Mouza: Komtalpeta, Khata No.: 59/3778, Plot No.: 140/4456, Tahasil/Dist.: Rayagada, KISSAM: Gharabari, to an extent of Area: Ac.0.041cents (dec.), measuring East to West 30ft and North to South 60ft., standing in the name of Mr. Gouri Prasad Behera, Bounded by East: Layout Plot No.: 12 of Garadia, West: Layout Plot No.: 10 of B Sridevi, North: 25 feet Road including Drains, South: Layout Plot No.: 14	₹32,85,000/- / ₹3,28,500/- / ₹20,000/-	₹27,02,894/- plus further interest and charges, legal expenses thereon from 13.02.2024 till full payment (Physical)
2.	VSS MARG BRANCH / Borrower: Mr. Babul Padhan, S/o- Krishna Chandra Padhan, Village/P.O.: Tabla, P.S.: Sasan, Dist.: Sambalpur, PIN-768200 / Co-Applicant: Mrs. Mando Padhan, W/o- Krishna Chandra Padhan, Village/ P.O.: Tabla, P.S.: Sasan, Dist.: Sambalpur, PIN-768200	Equitable Mortgage of Land & Building Area: Ac.0.020 dec., situated at Khata No.: 498/281, Plot No.: 1764, Mouza: Tabla, Tahasil: Maneswar, Dist.: Sambalpur (Odisha), recorded the name of Mrs. Mando Padhan, W/o- Krishna Chandra Padhan, At/P.O.: Tabla, P.S.: Sasan, Dist.: Sambalpur, Bounded by North: Kupan Padhan, South: Road, East: Mando Padhan, West: Ratu Padhan	₹5,50,000/- / ₹55,000/- / ₹20,000/-	₹7,74,136/- plus further interest and charges, legal expenses thereon from 13.02.2024 till full payment (Physical)

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in: <https://www.bankofbaroda.com/e-auction.htm> and <https://ibapi.in>

Also, prospective bidders may contact the Authorised Officer on Mobile: 7752050804

STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE TO THE BORROWERS / GUARANTORS / MORTGAGORS FOR SUBSEQUENT SALE UNDER RULE 8(5), 8(6) AND 9(1) AS PER AMENDED SARFAESI ACT 2002.

This may also be treated as notice under rule 6(2), 8(6) and 9(1) of security interest (Enforcements) Rules, 2002 to the Borrowers/Guarantors of the said loan about holding of E-Auction sale on the above mentioned date

Place : Sambalpur
Date: 17.02.2024

Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

'Raebareli will remain with Gandhi family'

IT IS BEING SPECULATED IN MEDIA REPORTS THAT WITH SONIA GANDHI STEPPING AWAY, HER DAUGHTER PRIYANKA GANDHI MAY CONTEST FROM RAEBAARELI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Varanasi, Feb 17: Uttar Pradesh Congress president Ajay Rai Saturday said that the Raebareli Lok Sabha seat "will remain with Gandhi family."

During an interaction with the media, the state president said, "The people of Raebareli have deep connections with the Gandhi family going across generations. The seat is of the Gandhi family and will remain with the Gandhi family."

When asked about who from the Gandhi family will contest from there, Rai said, "This definitely will be decided by them (Gandhi family)."

Former Congress president Sonia Gandhi, who had represented the seat since 2004, Thursday informed voters of Raebareli that she will not contest the upcoming Lok Sabha polls due to health and age issues.

In the letter addressed to the public of Raebareli, the 77-year-old also threw subtle hints of a possible entry of a member of her family from the constituency.

"After this decision, I will not have the opportunity to serve



you directly but my heart and soul will always remain with you. I know that you will stand by me and my family in the future, just as you had in the past," Sonia Gandhi said in the message written in Hindi.

It is being speculated in media reports that with Sonia Gandhi stepping away, her daughter Priyanka Gandhi may contest from Raebareli.

Meanwhile, Rai, during his interaction with the press, al-

leged that no cameras were allowed with Rahul Gandhi when he went to Kashi Vishwanath temple to offer prayers.

"All BJP leaders, when they come to offer prayers at Kashi Vishwanath temple, are allowed to enter with cameras. No cameras were allowed with Rahul Gandhi and till now no photos have been released by the administration."

Rahul Gandhi, on the second day of the Uttar Pradesh leg of

the 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra', offered prayers at the Kashi Vishwanath temple in Varanasi.

Addressing the people at Gudaulia intersection, Gandhi said that India is a country of love, not of hatred.

"The country will become weak due to conflict between brothers. True patriotism is to unite the country. I have come with my head bowed before Ganga ji. Everyone should feel that they have come to meet their brother during this yatra," Gandhi said.

He said that there are 'two Indias' in the country - one for the rich and one for the poor. He also hit out at the media alleging that it doesn't show the issues of farmers and labourers of the country.

"This media will show Modi ji 24 hours, will show Aishwarya Rai, but will not show the real issues," he said.

Congress leader and former Union minister Jairam Ramesh, MLA Aradhan Mishra Mona, SP MLA Pallavi Patel along with other senior leaders were present during the media interaction.

Tight security ahead of PM's J&K visit

Security forces conduct search for possible cross-border tunnels

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Samba/Jammu, Feb 17: The Border Security Force (BSF) and the Jammu and Kashmir Police conducted a joint search Saturday for any possible cross-border tunnel along the International Border in Samba district, amid heightened security in the Union territory ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit next week, officials said.

In the past decades, about a dozen cross-border tunnels which were used to push terrorists, weapons and narcotics from across the border were uncovered by the security forces along the International Border with Pakistan in Samba, Kathua and Jammu districts.

Police had recently announced a cash reward of Rs 5 lakh to anyone who helps in locating such tunnels used by 'anti-national elements'.

Modi is visiting Jammu February 20 to inaugurate and lay the foundation of 209 projects worth Rs 3,161 crore. He will also address a public meeting at the Maulana Azad Stadium in the heart of Jammu.



As part of the heightened security arrangements in view of Modi's visit, the officials said, the BSF and the police conducted a joint two-hour-long anti-tunnelling operation in the Ramgarh sector of Samba district.

The operation started around 9.45 am and search teams did not find anything suspicious on the ground, they said.

The officials said BSF troops guarding the IB and police personnel manning the border posts have been put on maximum alert, especially after the recent ceasefire violation by Pakistan Rangers, and have been asked to maintain a tight vigil on any suspicious movement from across the border.

Besides the border areas along the IB, security arrangements have been beefed up along the

Line of Control (LoC) and the hinterland to thwart any attempt by terrorists to carry out an attack, the officials said, adding security forces have intensified patrolling, area domination and checking in sensitive areas to maintain peace.

Wednesday evening, Pakistan Rangers violated the ceasefire by firing on a BSF post at Makwal along the IB in RS Pura sector, prompting retaliation by the Indian border guards.

The cross-border firing continued for 25 minutes and later the BSF lodged a strong protest with their counterparts for the unprovoked firing.

Army troops guarding the LoC also fired at Pakistani drones on three occasions in different sectors of Poonch district in the past six days.

Sachin visits bat factory in J&K

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Feb 17: A cricket bat manufacturer in the Sangam area here was in for a pleasant surprise when Sachin Tendulkar and his family visited his manufacturing unit Saturday.

Tendulkar, accompanied by wife Anjali and daughter Sara, stopped by at a unit in Charsoo on the Srinagar-Jammu highway and interacted with the workers there.

"We were busy making bats when a vehicle stopped at our gate. We were pleasantly surprised to find the Little Master and his family," Mohammad Shaheen Parry, owner of MJ Sports, told PTI over phone.

Parry said Tendulkar checked the quality of the bats made of Kashmir willow.

"He stroked a few bats and was quite pleased with the quality. Tendulkar said he had come to compare the batting willow bats with those made of English willow."

"We requested him to lend his voice in support of the local bats," Parry said, adding the batting maestro promised to support the Kashmir willow bats.

Parry said Tendulkar spent an hour at the manufacturing unit and interacted with a small bunch of fans.



Cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar with wife Anjali and daughter Sara visits a cricket bat manufacturing unit at Charsoo, in Pulwama district, Saturday. PTI PHOTO

True patriotism is to unite country: Rahul

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Varanasi, Feb 17: On the second day of the Uttar Pradesh leg of his 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra', Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Saturday said India is a country of love, not of hatred, and it will become weak due to conflict among people.

"True patriotism is to unite the country," the former Congress president said, addressing a gathering in the Gudaulia area of this temple town. Gandhi later left for his Lok Sabha constituency Wayanad from Varanasi and will resume the yatra from Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj Sunday.

Earlier in the day, Gandhi, Congress president in Uttar Pradesh Ajay Rai and other party leaders toured the in an open jeep and also visited the Kashi Vishwanath temple.

Gandhi also called a boy named Rahul from the crowd and asked him about the money spent on his education. Unemployment and inflation are the only two issues in the country right now, he added.

The former Congress president also met with office bearers of the 'Sarva Seva Sangh'.

A senior member of the Sarva Seva Sangh Ram Dheeraj told PTI: "Eight of us met Rahul



Gandhi today. We briefed him about the history of the Sarva Seva Sangh. He told us that if the Congress is voted to power, the government would reconstruct the demolished premises. He also said the party will help the organisation fight legal cases in the courts."

The yatra entered the state Friday from Bihar at Chandauli, where it halted for the night.

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav has said that he would join the yatra in Raebareli.

The yatra will traverse through Uttar Pradesh before entering Rajasthan. The east-to-west Manipur-Mumbai yatra will traverse 6,700 km through 15 states and aims to highlight the message of 'nyay' (justice) while meeting common people on the way.

Azad hints at not contesting LS polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Feb 17: Senior political leader Ghulam Nabi Azad Saturday indicated that he would not be contesting in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections as he would be campaigning for the candidates of his newly formed Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) candidates.

Azad, who has refrained from contesting Lok Sabha elections after his defeat in 2014 Lok Sabha polls, asked his party men to gear up as 2024 would be the election year for Jammu and Kashmir.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of a function in Nagrota, Azad, who resigned from Congress after decades of association, also appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to resolve the issues of agitating farmers 'once for all' as the protest is neither good for the government nor the farmers.

"Parliamentary election is 100 per cent taking place on its time and I can only guess about the Assembly polls (in J&K) as I have no contact with the Election Commission or government. But it (Assembly elections) has to take place as the Supreme Court has set a deadline of September."



After breaking away from the Congress in August 2022, Azad formed his own party in the Jammu region

Asked whether he would be contesting himself in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, Azad said, "I have to campaign for my party (candidates) and if I contest, I will be held up at one place."

After breaking away from the Congress in August 2022, Azad formed his own party in the Jammu region. Political analysts claim that Azad, who has a vote bank in the south of Pir Panjal areas like Doda, Kishtwar, Baderwah and Poonch, will be able to divide the votes of Opposition party candidates.

UP renovates 300 temples under spiritual tourism policy

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Feb 17: As part of its spiritual tourism policy, the Uttar Pradesh government has been renovating ancient temples in various districts. Around 300 temples in all the 75 districts of the state are being renovated. A sum of Rs 50 lakh for each of these temples has been allocated for the refurbishment and renovation. In case of big temples, a separate fund of up to Rs 2 crore each has been allocated.

The work to renovate the temples was reportedly undertaken soon after the formation of Yogi government 2.0.

Uttar Pradesh tourism and culture Minister Jaiveer Singh said, "Several temples are centuries' old and required repair but remained neglected under successive governments. The Uttar Pradesh government decided to restore the glory and fame of the temples. The district administrations and people's representatives were directed to send the list of the temples in their areas that required renovation." Then, the list was handed over to the construction agencies to prepare the estimate of the works.

Some of the reconstructed and renovated temples include Badeshwar Dham temple in Agra district, Rupani Devi temple in



Firozabad, Aamani Baba temple in Aligarh, Kailash temple in Etah, Taragarh temple in Hathras, Lalpuri temple in Mainpuri and Laxmi temple in Mathura, Hathiram Baba temple in Ayodhya.

The Shiva Baba temple in Ambedkar Nagar, Mahadev temple in Barabanki, Ram Janaki temple in Amethi, Jalhidham temple in Gonda, Baba Bihari Das temple in Bahraich, Maa Pateshwari temple in Balrampur and Jharkhand Mahadev temple in Gorakhpur are also on this list.

The minister said, "We have hired architects for the restora-

tion works in the temples. The funds were released accordingly to the agencies to complete the restoration work."

The minister further said that "Apart from the structure of the temples, their premises and boundary walls have also been reconstructed. Sheds have been erected, arrangements for drinking water have been made and benches installed in the temple area. The link roads connecting the temple to the nearby highways or villages have been repaired to facilitate the visit of pilgrims and tourists. Guesthouses are being

constructed near prominent temples."

The infrastructural development around these temples will facilitate the movement of tourists in the area.

"These temples are centres of religious and cultural activities. Along with performing religious rituals, the local people assemble for cultural activities, including bhajan, kirtan and Ram katha," he said.

"After completion, a technical team was sent by the tourism and culture department to check the quality of the works and submit a report. Funds were released to

the construction agencies according to the technical team's report," Jaiveer Singh said.

He further said the UP government has made the restoration work in the temples a continuous process.

"After the works in the temples have been completed, the officers and people have been directed to send a list of the remaining temples in their areas," he said.

The minister said that "We have also constituted a district tourism and culture council in all the 75 districts to monitor the construction, organise festivals and cultural activities on the temple premises. The village committee has been given musical instruments for revival of traditional bhajans and kirtans in temples."

Singh further said constitution of the Braj Teerth Vikas Parishad, Vindhya Dham Teerth Vikas Parishad, Shree Ayodhya Jee Teerth Vikas Parishad, Shree Devipatan Dham Teerth Vikas Parishad and Shree Shuk Teerth Vikas Parishad will give momentum to renovation of the temples and development of religious spots in various districts.

The minister said that the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya was the flagship project of the state government plan to renovate and rebuild the temples across the state.

national

of the day quote

In last 10 years, India has become an example for the world by ensuring bank accounts for every Indian under Jan Dhan Yojana

RAM NATH KOVIND | FORMER PRESIDENT

The PM SVANidhi scheme has restored the dignity of street vendors who are no longer solely dependent on informal credit channels where they were forced to pay 'exorbitant interest rates'

HARDEEP SINGH PURI | UNION MINISTER

Rajkumar Santoshi jailed for two years

Jamnagar: A court in Jamnagar in Gujarat Saturday sentenced renowned filmmaker Rajkumar Santoshi to two years in jail and also directed him to pay Rs 2 crore to the complainant in a cheque return case. Santoshi, a director, producer and scriptwriter, is well known for action movies. Senior Civil Judge VJ Gadhvi sentenced Santoshi to two years in jail and asked him to pay Rs 2 crore to the complainant, which is double the amount he had taken from the latter. The court then allowed Santoshi's appeal for a 30-day stay on the order to allow him to appeal in a higher court. Ashok Lal, an industrialist, in his complaint, said he had lent Rs 1 crore to Santoshi to produce a film against which the filmmaker gave him 10 cheques of Rs 10 lakh each. When the 10 cheques returned due to lack of funds in the bank account, Lal issued him a legal notice under provisions of Negotiable Instruments Act and approached court in 2017 after Santoshi failed to return the money.

Wayanad on the boil after man killed in tusker attack

The hartal was announced by all the three major political fronts protesting against the increasing number of wild animal attacks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Wayanad (Kerala), Feb 17: The district-wide hartal called by the ruling LDF, opposition UDF and BJP Saturday to seek permanent solutions to the human-animal conflicts in the region was total but turned violent at Pulpally with protesters damaging a Forest department vehicle and tying a cow that was killed in a suspected tiger attack atop it earlier in the day. The hartal was announced by all the three major political fronts protesting against the increasing number of wild animal attacks with the latest being Friday when Paul, an eco-tourism guide of the Forest department was killed by a wild tusker near Kuruva island.

As the agitators turned violent, throwing bottles and plastic chairs at the officials, police resorted to a lathi-charge injuring many. The angry mob raised slogans and booed Congress MLAs T Siddique and I C Balakrishnan who tried to pacify the pro-



Nath in Delhi, son drops Congress from bio

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Bhopal, Feb 17: The buzz over senior Congress leader Kamal Nath's possible switch to the BJP grew louder Saturday with the former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister saying if there would be any such thing, he would inform the media first, and his son Nakul Nath dropping Congress from his bio on social media.

Congress leaders from Madhya Pradesh, however, stressed on the decades-old ties between Kamal Nath and the party to dismiss the speculation that he may cross over to the BJP. Madhya Pradesh Congress chief Jitu Patwari recalled how former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had described Nath as her "third son".

Nath arrived in the national capital Saturday afternoon and in his brief interaction with reporters here, he asked them not to get excited. Asked if he is joining the BJP, Nath said, "If there would be any such thing,



I would inform you first."

When a reporter asked if he was not denying a possible switch, Nath said, "It is not about denying, you are saying this, you people are getting excited. I am not getting excited, this side or that side, but if there would be any such thing, I would inform you first."

Nath had been on a tour of his bastion Chhindwara, from

The DMK government has provided appointment letters to 60,567 youth for various government positions since the party came to power in May 2021, and it has planned to recruit 50,000 persons in the next two years

MK STALIN | TN CM

Nath is said to be disgruntled over not getting a Rajya Sabha berth and also Rahul Gandhi is understood to be upset with him since the party lost the Assembly polls late last year

Nath was replaced as the party's Madhya Pradesh unit chief following its rout in the Assembly polls, in which the BJP retained power winning 163 seats in the 230-member House

where he had been an MP for nine terms. His son Nakul Nath won the seat in the 2019 polls, even as the BJP swept the remaining 28 seats in the state. Patwari dismissed the speculation that the party veteran may jump the ship to join the BJP.

Nath's colleague in the party and former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Digvijaya Singh also rubbished the rumours and dubbed them a "media creation". Patwari told reporters, "Can you dream of the third son of Indiraji (Gandhi) joining the BJP?" He said Nath stood behind the

Congress like a rock during the bad patch when the government led by him was toppled by Jyotiraditya Scindia after joining the BJP in March 2020. Digvijaya Singh suggested that Nath who started his political innings with the Nehru-Gandhi family could never leave the party. "Don't get into the breaking business. I spoke with Kamal Nathji last night around 10.30 or 11. He is in Chhindwara. The person who started his political innings with the Gandhi and Nehru family...He stood behind the party when the entire Janata Party and the then government was sending (former PM) Indiraji to jail," he told reporters in Jabalpur.

"Can you believe that such a man will leave Congress, Soniaji and Indiraji family? You all should not even think of it," he added. Meanwhile, adding to the buzz about Kamal Nath's possible switch to the BJP, his MP son Nakul Nath dropped Congress from his bio on social media.

Kejriwal wins trust vote in Delhi Assembly

Kejriwal, who is also the national convener of the AAP, won the confidence motion with the support of 54 MLAs and said no legislator of his party defected

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 17: The Aam Aadmi Party government Saturday won a trust vote in the 70-member Delhi Assembly with Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal claiming that his party has emerged as the biggest challenger to the BJP, which "wants to crush it by any means". Kejriwal, who is also the national convener of the AAP, won the confidence motion with the support of 54 MLAs and said no legislator of his party defected.

Out of 62 AAP MLAs in the Delhi Assembly, 54 were present in the House during the trust vote, two were in jail, two others were unwell, three were out of station and one was not present due to a wedding in his family, the AAP national convener said.

Kejriwal had moved the motion of confidence in the Assembly Friday and accused the BJP of "trying to poach his party's MLAs".

Since seven of the eight BJP legislators were suspended for the remainder of the session for allegedly interfering during the Lieutenant Governor's address Thursday, Leader of Opposition Ramvir Singh



Bidhuri was the only opposition MLA who was present in the House during the trust vote.

He said there was no need for the confidence motion as the AAP government enjoys a majority in the House. "But the chief minister has lost the confidence of the people of Delhi," Bidhuri said.

"There are many serious allegations of corruption against the government and it has failed on many fronts. Kejriwal and his minister Atishi are not cooperating with a police enquiry on the BJP's complaint over their MLA poaching allegations," the Leader of the Opposition said in the House.

On his part, the Chief Minister said the AAP government has a majority in the House but it needed to bring the motion of confidence because "the BJP was trying to poach party MLAs" and topple his government.

Kejriwal claimed his party will "free" the country from the BJP in 2029 even if the saffron party wins the Lok Sabha polls this year.

The AAP convener also alleged that the BJP was spreading a "rumour" that the Delhi Assembly will be dissolved after the Lok Sabha polls and the city will be governed as a Union Territory.

Gadgets recovered from NSA cell in Assam jail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Feb 17: Several electronic gadgets were recovered from the cells of National Security Act (NSA) detainees at Dibrugarh Central Jail in Assam Saturday.

Among the detainees are 10 members of the radical group 'Waris Punjab De' (WPD), a pro-Khalistani outfit, including its chief Amritpal Singh and one of his uncles. They have been jailed since March 19 last year, following their arrests under the NSA from various parts of Punjab during a crackdown on the outfit. Director General of Police



Assam police personnel arrive at the Central Jail to interrogate Waris Punjab De Chief Amritpal Singh's associate at NSA Cell, in Dibrugarh

GP Singh revealed that a search of the premises was conducted by jail staff based on intelligence indicating unauthorised activities. The search yielded various electronic devices, such

as a smartphone with a SIM card, a keypad phone, a TV remote with a keyboard, a spycam pen, pen drives, Bluetooth headphones, and speakers. The jail staff confiscated these items, and investigations are underway to determine the source of these "unauthorized articles and mode of induction." DGP Singh posted on 'X' that additional CCTV cameras were installed in the public area of the NSA block following the receipt of information about unauthorised activities taking place there.

10 killed in TN mishap

Virudhunagar: Ten people including four women were killed in an explosion at a fireworks factory in this district Saturday. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin directed two state ministers to coordinate the rescue and relief activities. The Chief Minister said a sudden explosion in a firecracker manufacturing unit in Kundayiruppu village in Vembakkottai resulted in the death of ten people - six men and four women. He has directed State Revenue Minister K K S R Ramachandran and Labour Minister C V Ganesan to immediately rush to the spot and ensure rescue and relief activities, an official release here said.

NOTICE
That the above name petitioners have filed the above noted case against the above noted O.Ps for issuance of Succession Certificate to the estate of Late V V Sreenivasa Rao of J.K.P.M. Colony, J.K.Pur, Rayagada, P.O./ Dist.- Rayagada. Hence any person who has whatsoever interest over the estate of Late V V Sreenivasa Rao of J.K.P.M. Colony, J.K.Pur, Rayagada, P.O./Dist.- Rayagada may appear in person or through advocate duly authorised on 28.2.24 at 10.30 A.M. before this Court, failing which this case will be disposed of according to law.
Sd./- Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.) Rayagada

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER NUAPADA IRRIGATION DIVISION, NUAPADA
e-Procurement Notice No.- (NID) 05/2023-24
PERCENTAGE RATE e-TENDER
1. The Superintending Engineer Nuapada Irrigation Division, Nuapada, Dist.- Nuapada, Pin-766105, Odisha on behalf of Government of Odisha invites "PERCENTAGE RATE Bids" IN SINGLE COVER SYSTEM in electronic tendering system for the construction works detailed in the table below, which are eventually to be drawn on P1 agreement.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION GANJAM NO.-I, BERRAMPUR
Phone: 0680-2292896, e-mail ID: eemi_gm1@yahoo.co.in
2nd Corrigendum to Bid Identification No. Online Tender/05/GMID-1/2023-24 No. 504 Dt. 08.02.2024
No. A - : In partial modification to this office Bid I.D. No.- Online Tender/05/GMID-1/2023-24 vide Tender Call Notice No.3750 dtd. 26.12.2023, the following modifications are made.

REGIONAL OFFICE : BHUBANESWAR
3/1 A CIVIC CENTRE, IRC VILLAGE, NAYAPALLI, BHUBANESWAR-751015, Email ID: crld.robhubaneshwar@unionbankofindia.bank
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6)/9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

REGIONAL OFFICE : BHUBANESWAR
3/1 A CIVIC CENTRE, IRC VILLAGE, NAYAPALLI, BHUBANESWAR-751015, Email ID: crld.robhubaneshwar@unionbankofindia.bank
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6)/9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

international

of the day quote

WANG YI | FOREIGN MINISTER, CHINA
Today more people have come to realize that the absence of cooperation is the biggest risk. Those who attempt to shut China out in the name of de-risking will make a historical mistake

HEATHER BARR | HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH, US
Afghan women's fear of leaving home unaccompanied was damning and devastating but not surprising. It seemed to be a specific goal of the Taliban to frighten women and girls out of leaving their homes

VOLODYMYR ZELENKYI | PRESIDENT, UKRAINE
Dear friends, unfortunately keeping Ukraine in the artificial deficit of weapons, particularly in deficit of artillery and long-range capabilities, allows Putin to adapt to the current intensity of the war

SHORT TAKES

US, China talks

Munich: Top diplomats from the US and China Friday held a "candid and constructive" discussion on issues vexing their strained relations over Taiwan, the situation in the South China Sea, Russia's war against Ukraine and synthetic opioids, the State Department said. The meeting between US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference marked the latest and highest-level meeting between the two sides since US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks late last year in California. State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said Blinken emphasized the importance of maintaining peace in the Taiwan Strait as well as expanding on nascent counternarcotics efforts. Blinken also raised concerns about China's support for Russia's defense industrial base that Washington sees as helping Moscow's military operations against Ukraine.

Deadliest shooting in Iran in decades

Tehran: A 30-year-old man gunned down 12 of his relatives Saturday in a remote rural area in southeast Iran, the deadliest shooting reported in decades. Head of the justice department of the province of Kerman, Ebrahim Hamidi, told the semi-official ISNA news agency the gunman opened fire on his father, brother and other relatives early morning in a village because of family disputes. The report, which did not identify the assailant, stated he used a Kalashnikov assault rifle. Local media report on occasional shootings, but this attack has had the highest death toll in Iran, where citizens are only legally allowed hunting rifles, common in rural areas.

Pak arrests key Taliban leader

Lahore: Police in Pakistan's Punjab province Saturday claimed to have foiled a major terror plot by arresting seven terrorists, including a key Taliban commander. The spokesman for the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Pakistan's Punjab Police said that it conducted several intelligence-based operations in different districts of the province and arrested seven suspected terrorists with weapons, explosives and other prohibited materials. He said that Husnain Moaviya, a key commander of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) had been arrested in Bahawalpur, some 400 kms from Lahore.

POLITICAL TURMOIL

PAK POLLS 'RIGGED'

PAKISTAN'S CEC, CHIEF JUSTICE INVOLVED IN POLL-RIGGING, ALLEGES SENIOR BUREAUCRAT AS HE RESIGNS

Islamabad, Feb 17: A senior Pakistani bureaucrat has stirred a hornet's nest by alleging widespread rigging aided by the judiciary and top election body in last week's poll against jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's party. As Rawalpindi Commissioner Liaquat Ali Chattha resigned from his post, taking the "responsibility for all this wrongdoing," Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa termed his allegations as "baseless."

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) strongly rejected it and Khan's rival party, the Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) called it a case of "political allegiance" dictating the bureaucrat's claims. Khan, however, claimed that the "incriminating" confession served as "a stark revelation of the countrywide systematic manipulation of election results where PTI's significant leads were deceitfully tampered into losses."

More than eight days after voting took place for the general elections, there is still no clarity on which party would form the government at the Centre. Independent candidates - a majority of them backed by Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) - won 93 of the 265 National Assembly seats and the party, which has been alleging rigging right from the polling day, has embarked on a nationwide protest against "stealing of its mandate." PTI's two main rivals, former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's PML-N and Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) formed a post-poll alliance



Stabbing the country in its back does not let me sleep. I should be punished for the injustice I have done and others who were involved in this injustice should also be punished
LIAQUAT ALI CHATTHA | SENIOR BUREAUCRAT, PAKISTAN

earlier this week. Chattha told reporters that the candidates who were "losing" the elections "were made to win." "I am taking the responsibility for all this wrongdoing and telling you that the Chief Election Commissioner and the Chief Justice are also completely involved in this," Dawn.Com quoted him as saying. The bureaucrat said there was "pressure" on him to the extent that he contemplated suicide but then resolved to present matters before the public and said, "It is my request to the entire bureaucracy to not do anything wrong for all these politicians." He was arrested soon after. CJP Isa said hurling "baseless allegations" without any

The recognition of a Palestinian state is not a taboo for France. We owe it to Palestinians, whose aspirations have been trampled on for too long. We owe it to Israelis, who lived through the worst antisemitic massacre of our time
EMMANUEL MACRON | PRESIDENT, FRANCE

JAPAN'S SPACE MILESTONE
Japan's space agency Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) announced the successful launch of its new flagship rocket Saturday, making it lucky, the third time, for the H3 after years of delays and two previous failed attempts



PIO jailed for life over 30-year-old murder in UK

London, Feb 17: An Indian-origin man has been sentenced to life imprisonment by a court here for murdering a woman 30 years ago after he was connected to the brutal killing through his strand of hair found at the crime scene. Sandip Patel, 51, was found guilty of the murder of Marina Koppel by stabbing her at least 140 times at her flat in the Westminster area of London in 1994 and sentenced at the Old Bailey court in the city Friday. The Metropolitan Police said innovative work by its forensics team on his hair found on a ring worn by Koppel finally brought Patel to justice all these years later.

"This was a great team effort with the forensic scientists, fingerprint experts, the forensic manager and the investigating team all playing their part in solving Marina's murder," said Dan Chester, Operational Forensic Manager and the Met Police's Forensic Lead for Cold Case Homicide Investigations. "Forensic techniques and technologies are constantly evolving, and the police will continue to review serious unsolved cases and, where possible, pursue new opportunities to enable both the prosecution of those responsible and to exonerate the innocent. This includes cases specifically related to violence against women," he said. Marina, who was 39 at the time of her death, lived and worked in her flat during the week and spent time with her husband in Northampton during the weekend. It was an unconventional relationship as Marina worked as a masseuse and occasional sex worker, but the two were happily married, the court heard.

High alert as Khan's party plans stir

Authorities Saturday imposed prohibitory orders here in Pakistan's capital as jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's party began nationwide protests against alleged rigging and stealing of its mandate in the recent elections. Criticising the outcome of the polls, which saw the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party-backed independent candidates emerging as the largest group by winning over 90 National Assembly seats, the PTI announced holding countrywide "peaceful protests" against what it termed "record-high rigging". The party has decided to sit in the Opposition in Parliament. "The PTI has called for countrywide protests against the unprecedented, massive, brazen rigging in general elections 2024, where PTI's win of 180 National Assembly seats and a two-thirds majority in the parliament, was cut down to half," the party said in a statement. The Islamabad police have said that section 144 is in force in the city and the security is on "high alert", as the PTI is set to begin its countrywide protests, the Dawn newspaper reported.

Nawaz's sacrifice for his daughter

Nawaz Sharif sacrificed his ambition to become Pakistan's prime minister for a record fourth term and nominated his younger brother Shehbaz Sharif for the plum post as the powerful Army gave him two options either to choose the premiership or leave it to allow his daughter to become the chief minister of Punjab, according to party insiders. The nomination of Shehbaz Sharif for the slot of prime minister by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz supreme Nawaz Sharif has stirred quite a debate among the PML-N ranks who are questioning why the 74-year-old three-time premier was "sidelined" despite the earlier announcement on the premiership.

theft or murder tomorrow. If hurling allegations is your right, give me evidence along with it too," he said but at the same time hinted that he may not initiate contempt proceedings over the allegations. "I am against contempt myself. It's not about me but the institution."

Officer nor do they ever play a direct role in the conduct of elections," the ECP said and added, the matter would, however, be investigated. Imran Khan applauded the "incriminating confession by the Commissioner of Rawalpindi," which he said confirmed "robbing PTI of at least 13 National Assembly seats in Rawalpindi Division alone." "His statement serves as a stark revelation of the countrywide systematic manipulation of election results where PTI's significant leads were deceitfully tampered into losses," said a post on Khan's official X handle.

Trump hit with \$354.9mn fine, 3-yr ban in NY civil fraud case

New York, Feb 17: Donald Trump must pay \$354.9 million in penalties for fraudulently overstating his net worth to dupe lenders, a New York judge ruled Friday, handing the former US president another legal setback in a civil case that imperils his real estate empire. Justice Arthur Engoron, in a sharply worded decision, opens new tab issued after a contentious three-month trial in Manhattan, also banned Trump, who is running to regain the presidency this year, from serving as an officer or director of any New York corporation for three years. Trump's lawyer Alina Habba vowed to appeal. Engoron canceled his prior ruling from September ordering the "dissolution" of companies that control pillars of Trump's real estate empire, saying Friday that this was no longer necessary because he is appointing an independent monitor and compliance director to oversee Trump's businesses. Trump and the other defendants in the case, Engoron wrote



in the ruling, "are incapable of admitting the error of their ways." "Their complete lack of contrition and remorse borders on pathological," Engoron wrote. "Instead, they adopt a 'See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil' posture that the evidence belies." The lawsuit brought by New York Attorney General Letitia James accused Trump and his family businesses of overstating his net worth by as much as \$3.6 billion a year over a decade to fool bankers into giving him better loan terms. In posts on his social media platform, Trump called Engoron "crooked," James "corrupt" and the case against him "ELECTION INTERFERENCE" and a "WITCH HUNT." "This 'decision' is a Complete and Total SHAM," Trump wrote. "We cannot let injustice stand."

Navalny's body missing from morgue

AGENCIES

Moscow, Feb 17: Alexei Navalny's spokesperson confirmed Saturday that the Russian opposition leader had died at a remote Arctic penal colony and said he was "murdered," but it is unclear where his body is. An official note handed to Navalny's mother stated that he died at 2:17 pm local time Friday, Kira Yarmysh said. She added that an employee of the prison colony said that Navalny's body was taken to the nearby city of Salekhard as part of a probe into his death. She demanded that his body be handed over to his family. When a lawyer and Navalny's mother visited the morgue in Salekhard, it was closed, Navalny's team said, writing on their Telegram channel. The lawyer called the morgue and was told that Navalny's body is not there, his team said. "We demand that Alexei Navalny's body be handed over to his family immediately," Yarmysh wrote on X, previously Twitter. The cause and the circumstances of Navalny's death Friday remain largely unclear. Russia's Federal Penitentiary



Service reported that Navalny felt sick after a walk and became unconscious at the penal colony in the town of Kharp, in the Yamalo-Nenets region about 1,900 kilometres (1,200 miles) northeast of Moscow. An ambulance arrived, but he couldn't be revived. The cause of death is still "being established," it said. Maria Pevchikh, head of the board of Navalny's Anti-Corruption Foundation, said that the opposition leader would "live on forever in millions of hearts." "Navalny was murdered. We still don't know how we'll keep on living, but together, we'll think of something," she wrote on X.

The news of Putin's fierce critic Alexei Navalny death comes less than a month before an election that will give Putin another six years in power

TRIBUTES REMOVED AS POLICE LOOK ON

Floral tributes to Alexei Navalny, President Vladimir Putin's fiercest foe who died Friday in a Russian penal colony, were removed overnight by groups of unknown people while police watched, videos on Russian social media channels show. More than 100 people were detained in eight cities across Russia after they came to lay flowers in memory of Navalny, according to OVD-Info, a group that monitors political repression in Russia. Russia's prison service said in the Arctic penal colony where he was serving a 19-year sentence. On Saturday, police blocked access to a memorial in the Siberian city of Novosibirsk and detained several people, OVD-Info said. Videos and photos shared on Russian social media channels showed flowers being cleared from monuments to victims of Soviet-era repressions across Russia. In Moscow, flowers were removed overnight from a memorial near the headquarters of Russia's Federal Security Service by a large group while police looked on, a video showed. But by morning more flowers had appeared.

IS poses rising threat in Africa despite progress: UN experts

The Islamic State group broke away from Al-Qaida over a decade ago and attracted supporters from around the world. Despite its defeat in Iraq in 2017 and in Syria two years later, UN experts said last month that there are still between 3,000 and 5,000 fighters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

United Nations, Feb 17: The Islamic State extremist group poses a rising threat amid political instability in West Africa and the Sahel and remains intent on carrying out attacks abroad, the UN counter-terrorism chief has said. Vladimir Voronkov reiterated UN findings that IS continues to pose a significant threat to international peace and security, especially in conflict zones, despite significant progress by

UN member nations in countering the threat. The group has also increased operations in its former strongholds in Iraq and Syria as well as Southeast Asia, Voronkov said. Voronkov told the UN Security Council that in West Africa and the Sahel, a broad region cutting across the continent, the situation has deteriorated "and is becoming more complex," as local ethnic and regional disputes cross with the agenda and operations of the extremist group, which is also known by



its Arabic name Daesh, and its affiliates. "Daesh affiliates continued to operate with increasingly more autonomy from the Daesh core," he said, warning that if this trend persists there is a risk "that a vast area of instability may emerge from Mali to the borders of Nigeria." Natalia Gherman, executive di-

The African continent now accounts for almost half of terrorist acts worldwide, with central Sahel accounting for about 25 per cent of such attacks
NATALIA GHERMAN | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UN COUNTER-TERRORISM COMMITTEE

Terrorism, said countering the threat of terrorism in Africa remains a priority for his office. Gherman said that "enduring challenges persist in the Middle East and Southeast and Central Asia, with indications that Daesh is attempting to resurge in those sub-regions as well." In Iraq, they are carrying out "a low-intensity insurgency with covert terrorist cells" while in Syria attacks have intensified since November, the experts said.

In positive developments, Voronkov pointed to the group's prolonged delay in naming a new leader after the previous leader was killed, saying this "is assessed to reflect internal challenges and difficulties in ensuring the new leader's security." In countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Egypt, and Mozambique, he said, terrorist activity by Islamic State affiliates "has been reduced by effective counter-terrorism efforts by member states." Government efforts to tackle IS financing are also continuing to produce results, Voronkov said. "Daesh's financial reserves are currently estimated between \$10 million and \$25 million, down from hundreds of millions a few years ago," the UN undersecretary-general said.



A lingering agitation will cause ₹500 crores economic loss daily and will have an impact on Q4 Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of northern states majorly Punjab, Haryana and Delhi

FISH MARKET UNDER ONDC SOON

With the aim of providing fishermen with an e-market platform, the Department of Fisheries will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) February 19



of the day quote

The Ministry will be coming out with a draft request for proposal (RFP) and share it with industry and, after seeking their views, come out with the final RFP. We intend to take up these projects on very high priority

The spike in US bond yields triggered by the higher-than-expected consumer price inflation led to sustained selling by FPIs in the cash market

The Union Environment Ministry has given clearance to the Vadhavan Port project. We are soon going to get cabinet approval (for the project)

SHORT TAKES

Pernod Ricard sales surge 4%

New Delhi: French spirit maker Pernod Ricard has reported a 4 per cent growth in sales in the Indian market during the first half of the current financial year.

Tax refund for LIC

New Delhi: Life Insurance Corporation of India had received refund orders for Assessment Years 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20.

Tiger Logistics okays share split

New Delhi: Tiger Logistics India Saturday announced splitting of its shares in the ratio of 1:10 to increase public participation in the company's shareholding.

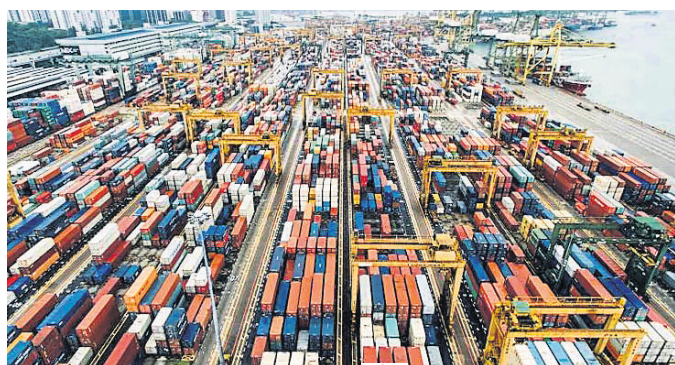
RED SEA CRISIS

Small exporters suffer as rivals nab business

RISING FREIGHT COSTS AND TRANSIT DELAYS HIT INDIA'S SMALL EXPORTERS HARD, ERASING THIN MARGINS POST-RED SEA ATTACKS

REUTERS

New Delhi, Feb 17: Atul Jhunjhunwala, an exporter in the Indian eastern city of Kolkata, is tearing his hair out, having just lost another order due to the Red Sea crisis that has jacked up his shipping costs and times.



Re-routing of ships squeezes already thin margins

Small firms export 40% of India's merchandise exports

Turkey, Poland gain as Indian firms' shipping costs soar

Job losses have emerged and could jump if crisis prolonged

Turkey, a major competitor for India's textiles exports in Europe, poses a big risk to small exporters due to its locational advantage

AJAY SAHAI | DIRECTOR GENERAL, FEDERATION OF INDIAN EXPORT ORGANISATIONS

Job losses are already visible in India's textile hub of Tirupur due to the Red Sea issue in southern India where small exporters are working at one-third of their capacity," said KE Raghunathan, a Chennai-based manufacturer and national chairman of the Association of Indian Entrepreneurs.

He noted that longer shipping times had led to less freight capacity and that the scarcity of containers was becoming a big problem for small exporters as big export houses have booked containers in bulk.

Export organisations have formally sought relief from the government which has formed a trade ministry panel to monitor the situation and consider their requests for help.

"ONE OF THE WORST TIMES" More than 80% of India's merchandise trade with Europe and the United States would normally take place via the Red Sea.

of merchandise to Europe a month and more than \$6 billion a month to the United States.

Textiles, engineering goods - which comprise steel, machinery and industrial parts - as well as gems and jewellery are India's biggest sectors exporting to those regions.

Re-routing via the Cape of Good Hope has meant ships sailing from India will often need an extra 15-20 days before reaching destinations in Europe, greatly increasing costs.

For example, shipping a container to Britain now costs around \$4,000 compared to \$600 before the Red Sea crisis, Ashok Kajaria, chairman at Kajaria Ceramics told analysts' call last month.

The Red Sea crisis comes only a few years after the Covid-19 pandemic when freight rates soared as supply chains snarled and demand for goods jumped.

Patanjali's Sumadhu app bags first prize

HYDERABAD: Ayurvedic products maker, Patanjali's Sumadhu app has received the first prize for AI based technology to test the purity and quality of honey.



The prize was awarded by National Institute of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (NI MSME) Hyderabad in the national seminar on Scientific Beekeeping organised by Acharya Balkrishna.

SANY India participates in Odisha Buildcon Int'l Expo

BHUBANESWAR: SANY India, a leading manufacturer of construction equipment, is making a significant impact at the Odisha Buildcon International Expo in Bhubaneswar.



China's giant BBK partners local firms to make phones

The move comes despite Oppo and Vivo having a large smartphone plant each in India

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Feb 17: China's largest mobile phone maker, BBK Group, is starting production of its Oppo, Vivo and Realme smartphones in partnership with Indian manufacturers Dixon Technologies and Karbonn Group.



This is partly owing to pressure from the government to get local partners and benefit from the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for phone manufacturing, they said.

The move comes despite Oppo and Vivo having a large smartphone plant each in India. These make the entire range of BBK Group brands, such as Oppo, Vivo, Realme, OnePlus and iQOO.

Industry executives said Chinese smartphone companies are cautious about directly investing in their own plants for capacity expansion after increased scrutiny in the last few years, ranging from alleged customs duty and income tax evasion to money laundering.

Investigations are ongoing, Chinese companies came under pressure in India following the escalation in border tensions a few years ago.

Two industry executives said Vivo and Realme recently began manufacturing a few handsets through a plant owned by Karbonn.

signing with Oppo and Vivo for contract manufacturing, according to them. As of now, monthly production capacity for Vivo and Realme in the Karbonn plant is around one million units, while the Dixon production will be lower to begin with, they said.

Since Oppo and Vivo did not apply for PLI benefits, partnering contract manufacturers that have done so already will help them become competitive, especially since competitor Samsung is a PLI beneficiary, an executive said.

The Centre has been nudging Chinese mobile phone companies to partner locally for production and distribution, and also appoint Indian executives in senior management roles, as per reports.

Dixon managing director Atul Lall told investors last month that the company is in the final stages of talks with two large global mobile phone brands.

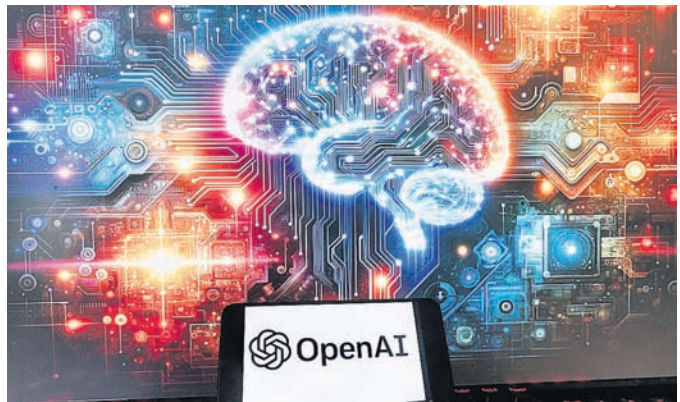
Tech giants come together to fight AI abuse in '24 polls

AGENCIES

Munich, Feb 17: A group of 20 tech companies announced Friday they have agreed to work together to prevent deceptive artificial-intelligence content from interfering with elections across the globe this year.

Signatories of the tech accord, which was announced at the Munich Security Conference, include companies that are building generative artificial intelligence (AI) models used to create content, including OpenAI, Microsoft and Adobe.

The agreement includes commitments to collaborate on developing tools for detecting mis-



leading AI-generated images, video and audio, creating public awareness campaigns to educate voters on deceptive content and taking action on such content on their services.

Technology to identify AI-generated content or certify its origin could include watermark-

ing or embedding metadata, the companies said.

The accord did not specify a timeline for meeting the commitments or how each company would implement them.

"I think the utility of this (accord) is the breadth of the companies signing up to it," said

OpenAI, Amazon.com Inc, Google and 17 other major players in AI have formed a consortium to try to prevent it from being used to deceive voters in upcoming global elections

The rapid growth of generative AI, which can create text, images and video in seconds in response to prompts, has heightened fears that the new technology could be used to sway major elections this year, as more than half of the world's population is set to head to the polls

Nick Clegg, president of global affairs at Meta Platforms.

"It's all good and well if individual platforms develop new policies of detection, provenance, labeling, watermarking and so on, but unless there is a wider commitment to do so in a shared interoperable way,

we're going to be stuck with a hodgepodge of different commitments," Clegg said.

Generative AI is already being used to influence politics and even convince people not to vote.

In January, a robocall using fake audio of US President Joe Biden circulated to New Hampshire voters, urging them to stay home during the state's presidential primary election.

Despite the popularity of text-generation tools like OpenAI's ChatGPT, the tech companies will focus on preventing harmful effects of AI photos, videos and audio, partly because people tend to have more skepticism with text, said Dana Rao, Adobe's chief trust officer, in an interview.

Yashasvi rocks England

OPENER'S CENTURY PUTS INDIA IN CRUISE CONTROL IN THE THIRD TEST AS INDIA'S LEAD SWELLS TO 322 BY STUMPS ON DAY 3



a halt by back spasms that forced him to retire. The Jaiswal-Gill pair added 155 runs in quick time with the former giving the English team a test of their own medicine. The overall lead swelled to 322 by stumps, after Indian bowlers made a splendid comeback, getting last five England wickets for only 29 runs with visitors being bowled out for 319. Mohammed Siraj (4/84) was brilliant with his yorkers to tail-enders while Kuldeep Yadav (2/77) compensated brill-

Jadeja (2/51) spoke volumes about his acumen. India would be looking to take a lead of at least 425 Sunday if not 450 and have at least 125 overs to bowl out England. With no Ashwin available, India would need a cushion of more overs on a deck that is still good for batting. **JAISWAL JAZZ** Jaiswal's onslaught continued despite England frenetically changing their bowling and fielding plans but none worked enough to stop the Indian opener. Having spotted a vacant off-side field, Jaiswal brought out two reverse sweeps off Rehan Ahmed for fours. However, his charge was halted only after England brought back Mark Wood for a short-ball play yet again in the game with a packed leg side field. Unfazed with England's de-

ployments, Jaiswal dealt in singles once into his 90s and brought up his third century of fledgling career with a four off Wood. However, the left-handed opener had to retire hurt close to the end of the play for being unable to deal with back spasms. Jaiswal not only took the wind out of England's aspirations but also consolidated India's grip on the contest, having lost Rohit Sharma (19) cheaply in the second session. At the other end, Gill put behind the disappointment of the first-innings duck with a fifth half century, countering England's ploy of a packed on-side field with up to six fielders placed and Wood bowling into his body. India's task was to preserve wickets and build their lead, given the amount of time left in the game and surface here being benign so far. Additionally, Rohit's early dis-

missal with their overall lead not being big enough would have provided some concerns but all that was banished by the pair of Jaiswal and Gill with their unbeaten 155-run stand for the second wicket. **KULDEEP'S RIPPER** Kuldeep, who was hit for plenty by Ben Duckett on second day, found his mojo, bowling splendidly through the first session of the day which kept a leash on England, while also accounting for Jonny Bairstow with an unplayable delivery. Bairstow moved deep into the crease but was pinned in front of the wickets with one that turned sharply into him from outside the off. Bumrah then accounted for Root (18) for the ninth time in 21 innings, as former skipper's shocking dismissal — a reverse ramp to second slip — once again exposed the bizarreness of the ultra aggressive approach. Having struggled to score freely in the first session, England resorted to go all-out post lunch but the play backfired horrendously. Jadeja had Stokes (41) before getting rid of Tom Hartley. For Ben Foakes, a delivery from Siraj slowed a little bit off the surface for an easy grab for Rohit at mid-on. The India pacer wasted no time in cleaning up tail-enders Ahmed and Anderson to bring up a four-for, with England rolling over for 319 from 290/5 at lunch.

Siraj surprised by Root's shot selection off Bumrah



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ship, and then Stokes played a shot (which got him out) and we got into the game from there," he added. The pitch here at the Niranjan Shah Stadium has not developed enough cracks yet for the spinners to have a bigger say but Siraj said they will have an impact. "Spinners will obviously be effective in the fourth innings because the ball is turning. Not all six deliveries (in an over) are turning but one odd one is. You can get wickets if you bowl with patience at one spot. "Today we did not try anything apart from bowling at the stumps. Had we tried more, maybe we would not have got the wickets," Siraj said. Duckett praises Jaiswal Duckett Saturday called India's Yashasvi Jaiswal a "superstar in the making" but said his side deserves credit for inspiring players in the opposition camp to bat aggressively in Test cricket. Jaiswal dishied out his own version of England's much talked-about 'Bazball' approach of run-making in Test cricket before retiring hurt due to back spasms. The Indian opener shifted gears all of a sudden in the final session. "When you see players from the opposition playing like that, it almost feels like we should take some credit that they're playing differently than how other people play Test cricket," Duckett told the media during a press conference here. "We saw it a bit in the summer and it's quite exciting to see other players and other teams are also playing that aggressive style of cricket. He looks like a superstar in the making, unfortunately he's in some very good form at the moment. He's due a couple of low ones," Duckett said while making a tongue-in-cheek remark.

Rajkot, Feb 17: Pacer Mohammed Siraj is surprised that a well-set Joe Root preferred to play a reverse ramp shot off Jasprit Bumrah and ended up losing his wicket to hand India advantage in the third Test here Saturday. Root was batting at 18, having spent almost an hour at the crease. Trying to improvise, Root attempted a reverse ramp over the slip only to find Yashasvi Jaiswal at second slip. His partnership with centurion Ben Duckett (153) was steady but after his dismissal England could not add even 100 runs to the total. The visitors conceded a huge 126-run lead. "Ben Duckett's partnership was growing with Root, if he had played a little more, then it would have been difficult for us. But suddenly he played that shot which didn't look (like one) to be played," Siraj said during media interaction after the day's play. "But it turned out good for us and after that (Ben) Foakes and Ben Stokes had a good partner-

BRIEF SCORES India 445 & 196/2 (Yashasvi Jaiswal 104 r h, Shubman Gill 65 batting; Tom Hartley 1/42); England 319 (Ben Duckett 153, Ben Stokes 41; Mohammed Siraj 4/84, Ravindra Jadeja 2/51, Kuldeep Yadav 2/77). Match to continue.

Rajkot, Feb 17: Yashasvi Jaiswal's dream season just got better as he single-handedly seized the initiative from England with a sizzling century, putting India in complete control at the end of third day's play in the third Test. Jaiswal's (104 r h, 133b, 9x4, 5x6) second ton of the series was beautifully complemented by Shubman Gill (65 batting, 120b, 6x4, 2x6), who curbed his natural aggression as India ended the day at 196/2 in 51 available overs.

The left-handed opener, who will be torch-bearer of Indian batting for the next decade, scored his third Test hundred in only seventh Test appearance before the blazing blade was brought to



SHUBMAN GILL

liantly for Ravichandran Ashwin's unfortunate withdrawal with two quick wickets in the morning session. However it was Joe Root's indiscreet reverse ramp off Jasprit Bumrah which Jaiswal reacted with less than a second's reaction time that turned the tables. Rohit Sharma's captaincy was spot-on and the manner in which he tweaked Jasprit Bumrah's field position at long-on to get Ben Stokes dismissed off Ravindra

Eves pip Australia in FIH Pro League



An Indian player dribbles during the match, while an Australian player tries to keep up the pace during their match in Rourkela, Saturday

Rourkela, Feb 17: Forward Vandana Katarिया scored from a penalty corner to help the Indian women's hockey team stun World No.3 Australia 1-0 in the FIH Pro League here Saturday. Katarिया scored in the 34th minute as World No.9 India registered their second win of the tournament and also avenged last week's 0-3 loss to Australia in Bhubaneswar. India found themselves under pressure early in the first quarter as Australia was awarded a penalty corner in the third minute. However, the Indian captain and goalkeeper Savita Punia did well to keep the ball out. A few minutes later Jane Claxton took a shot at goal but it went on to hit the goalpost. The first quarter was plenty of action but ended without any goals being scored. The second quarter started with India being awarded a penalty corner early on but it wasn't converted. The Aussies won their second penalty corner in the 20th minute but failed to convert it. Both the teams made plenty of circle entries but the first-half ended goalless. India brought a whole new

India women enter their maiden BATC final

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shah Alam (Malaysia), Feb 17: India kept alive hopes of winning a first-ever gold in Badminton Asia Team Championships (BATC) after the women shuttlers progressed to their maiden final with a 3-2 win over two-time former champions Japan in a thrilling semifinal here Saturday. The World No.23 pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand, World No.53 Ashmita Chaliha and 17-year-old Anmol Kharb registered stunning wins in the first doubles and second and deciding singles to take India through to the summit clash. India will face Thailand in the final Sunday. India had won two bronze medals in men's team event in the 2016 and 2020 editions. Though Japan were without their World No.4 Akane Yamaguchi, the World No.7 pair of Yuki Fukushima and Sayaka Hirota and World No.8 combination of Mayu Matsumoto and Wakana Nagahara, they were still a formidable side, making it tough for India. Returning from a long injury layoff, Sindhu had enjoyed wins against China's Han Yue and



Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand

Hong Kong's Lo Sin Yan Happy but she couldn't produce her best against the left-handed Aya Ohori, going down 13-21, 20-22 in the first singles to peg India back. Treesa and Gayatri, playing the first doubles, dishied out a superlative performance to outwit World No.6 Nami Matsuyama and Chiharu Shida 21-17, 16-21, 22-20 in a 73-minute contest as India drew level at 1-1. Up against former World Champion Nozomi Okuhara, who is currently ranked 20, the

left-handed Ashmita produced an aggressive game, using her overhead cross drops and jump smashes to good use, to record a shocking 21-17, 21-14 win to hand India a 2-1 lead. With Tanisha Crasto suffering a niggle, Sindhu then paired up with Ashwini Ponnappa but they couldn't get across the World No.11 pair of Rena Miyaura and Ayako Sakuramoto, losing 14-21, 11-21 in 43 minutes. With the five-match rubber evenly poised at 2-2, Anmol was

handed the responsibility of taming World No.29 Natzuki Nidaira, and the Indian once again lived up to the expectation, claiming a 21-14, 21-18 win in 52 minutes. In the final, India will have their task cut out against Thailand, who are without World No.13 Ratchanon Intanon and World No.16 Pornpawee Chochuwong. Their singles will be spearheaded by World No.17 Supanida Katethong and World No.18 Busanan Ongbamrunphan.

India thrash Chile in World TT Team Championships opener

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Busan (S Korea), Feb 17: The Indian men's team secured a comfortable 3-0 victory over Chile to open its World Table Tennis Team Championships campaign on a winning note here Saturday. Star Indian paddler Sharath Kamal, ranked 95, started off the proceedings in dominant fashion, racing to 11-5, 11-8, 11-6 win over World No.53 Nicholas Burgos. India's top-ranked paddler and reigning national champion Harmeet Desai continued the momentum, beating the lowly-ranked Gustavo Gomez for a facile 11-8, 11-7, 11-6 win. G Sathiyana was stretched in the first game by Olivares Felipe but the Indian paddler battled it out to seal the tie with a 12-10, 11-8, 11-8 victory. The win has taken India (2 points) to third position in Group 3 behind South Korea (4 points) and Chile (3 points), who have played two ties each. The Indian men's team will take on Poland Sunday followed by South Korea on Monday and New Zealand Tuesday. The Indian women's team will also be in action Sunday against Hungary.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jyothi rewrites own NR to win AIAC gold



Outdoor champion in the 100m hurdles, having won the title in Bangkok last year. She had returned with a silver in the 100m hurdles from Hangzhou Asian Games after initially being disqualified.

TEHRAN: Rising Indian sprinter Jyothi Yarraji marginally bettered her own national record (NR) by clocking 8.12s in the women's 60m hurdles to win gold medal at the Asian Indoor Athletics Championships, here Saturday. The 2022 Asian Games silver medallist in the 100m hurdles had the previous best timing of 8:13s at the same event last year which had earned her a runner-up finish. The 24-year-old athlete topped her heat with a timing of 8:22s and in the final she did better to finish ahead of Japan's Asuka Tereda (8.21s). Lui Lai Yiu of Hong Kong (8:26s) took the third place on the podium. Jyothi is the reigning Asian champion in the 100m hurdles, having won the title in Bangkok last year. She had returned with a silver in the 100m hurdles from Hangzhou Asian Games after initially being disqualified.

Bronze for Pranati



CAIRO: Indian gymnast Pranati Nayak clinched the bronze medal in the women's vault event at the FIG Apparatus World Cup, a Paris Olympics qualifying event, here Saturday. The 28-year-old Pranati scored an aggregate of 13.616 points to stand on the podium. Another Indian in the final round, Dipa Karmakar signed off in the fifth spot in the eight-women final with a score of 13.383. Democratic People's Republic Korea's An Chang-Ook snatched the gold with a score of 14.233 while Bulgarian gymnast Valentina Georgieva took home the silver. She had the same points (13.616) as Pranati but finished ahead of the Indian on technicality. Pranati, thus, became only third Indian woman to win a medal at the FIG World Cup after Aruna Buddha Reddy (2018) and Dipa (2018).

Mehuli, Divyansh lose bronze battles

NEW DELHI: The Indian 10m air rifle mixed team pairing of Mehuli Ghosh and Divyansh Singh Panwar went down 9-17 to Hungary's Eszter Meszaros and Istvan Peni in the bronze-medal match to finish fourth at the ISSF World Cup 10M in Granada, Spain Saturday. India continues to lead the standings with four gold and 10 medals. Mehuli and Divyansh had earlier in the day shot a combined 630.7 in the second qualification relay to earn the fourth place and a shot at bronze. Germany's Maximilian Dallinger and Anna Janssen won gold in the event. Meanwhile, Nancy and Aishwarya Tomar finished 16th in the same event with a tally of 627.6. In the mixed team air pistol Rhythm Sangwan and Ujjwal Malik shot 573 to finish in eighth position while Manu Bhaker and Ravinder Singh shot 568 to end in 19th place.

Delhi respond strongly after Biplab guides Odisha to 440

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 17: Biplab Samantray scored a splendid century (110, 217b, 12x4, 1x6) to help Odisha post 440 in their first innings before Delhi replied strongly to reach 187/2 at stumps on the second day of their Ranji Trophy Elite Group D encounter in Delhi, Saturday. Delhi, who are having a disappointing season, had a strong start to their innings with their openers - Gagan Vats (66, 107b, 9x4) and Anuj Rawat (40, 59b, 6x4) - stitching 67 runs. Sunil Raul (1/44) broke the stand cleaning up Rawat. However, Vats found an able ally in young Yash Dhull (57 batting, 90b, 7x4, 1x6). The pair forged a 77-run partnership for the second wicket. They were looking good until an unfortunate run-out ended Vats' stay. Dhull and Ayush Badoni, however, ensured the home team of no further damage. They had already 43 runs for the unbeaten third wicket stand before the um-



pires called off the day's play. Earlier, Biplab lost his overnight partner Subhranshu Senapati (111) in the fourth over of the day giving Odisha, who resumed the day on 314/4, an early setback. However, the experienced all-rounder found a solid ally in Asirwad Swain (46, 105b, 5x4) as the duo added a superb 111 runs for the sixth wicket. When Asirwad got out, Odisha were 430/6. However they were bowled out for 440 losing their last five wickets for just 11 runs. Debutant Sumit Mathur (4/97) was stand-out among Delhi bowlers, while Himmat Singh (3/42) and Pranshu Vijayran (3/74) shared six wickets between them.