

🔄 ଉପରୋକ୍ତ ଶିକ୍ଷାନୁଷାନରେ ପଢୁଥିବା ଯୋଗ୍ୟ ୟୁକି/ ପିଜି ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀ ନୂଆ-ଓ ଛାତ୍ରବୃତ୍ତି ପରିସରଗତ ହେବେ (ସେଲ୍ଟ ଫାଇନାନ୍ସିଙ୍ଗ କୋର୍ସ

- in PPP Mode ຈາຍາຍ) ເ
- 💠 ଛାତ୍ରମାନଙ୍କୁ ୯ହଜାର ଟଙ୍କା ଓ ଛାତ୍ରୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ୧୦ହଜାର ଟଙ୍କାର ବାର୍ଷିକ ବୃତ୍ତି ଯୋଗାଇ ଦିଆଯିବ ।
- 💠 ଅନୁସୂଚିତ ଜାତି ଓ ଅନୁସୂ<mark>ଚିତ ଜନଜାତି ତଥା ନିର୍ମାଣ ଶ୍ର</mark>ମିକଙ୍କ ପୁଅଙ୍କୁ ୧୦ହଜାର ଓ ଝିଅଙ୍କୁ ୧୧ହଜାର ଟଙ୍କାର ବାର୍ଷିକ ଛାତ୍ରବୃତ୍ତି ଯୋଗାଇ ଦିଆଯାଉଛି ।
- 💠 କାଳିଆ ବୃତ୍ତି ପାଉଥିଲେ ପିଲାମାନେ ଏହି ଯୋଜନାର ଲାଭ ପାଇପାରିବେ ନାହିଁ ।
- 🔅 ଯେଉଁ ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କ ବାପା/ମା ଆୟକର ପରିସରଭୁକ୍ତ ଥିବେ କିୟା ରେଗୁଲାର ସରକାରୀ ଚାକିରିରେ ଥିବେ / PSU / AUTONOMOUS BODIES ରେ ଥିବେ କିୟା ଅନୁଦାନପ୍ରାସ୍ତ ଶିକ୍ଷାନୁଷାନମାନଙ୍କରେ ଅନୁଦାନପ୍ରାସ୍ତ କରୁଥିବେ, ସେମାନେ ଏହି ଯୋଜନା ପାଇଁ ଯୋଗ୍ୟ ବିବେଚିତ ହେବେ ନାହିଁ ।
- 💠 କେବଳ ସ୍ୱ ଆର୍ଥିକ ପ୍ରଦତ୍ତ ପାଠ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା (ସେଲ୍ଡ ଫାଇନାନ୍ସିଙ୍ଗ କୋର୍ସ in PPP Mode), distance course, Open School ଇତ୍ୟାଦି କରିଆରେ ପଢୁଥିବା ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀ ଏହି ଯୋଜନାରେ ଅନ୍ତର୍ଭୁକ୍ତ ହେବେ ନାହିଁ ।
- 💠 ଡ଼ିବିଟି (DBT) ବା ସିଧାସଳଖ ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ଆକାଭଞ୍ଚକୁ ବୃତ୍ତି ବାବଦରେ ଅର୍ଥରାଶି ପଠାଯିବ । ଏଥିନିମନ୍ତେ ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀ ଆବେଦନ ସମୟରେ ଏକ ନିକସ୍ୱ ଘୋଷଣାନାମା ଦାଖଲ କରିବେ ।
- 💠 ଉଚ୍ଚ ଶିକ୍ଷାରେ ଉତ୍କର୍ଷ ଓ ଗୁଣବତ୍ତାର ଅଭିବୃଦ୍ଧି ନିମନ୍ତେ ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଏହି ପ୍ରଚେଷ୍ଟା ଶିକ୍ଷାରେ ଆର୍ଥିକ ପ୍ରତିବନ୍ଧକକୁ ଏଡାଇବାରେ ସକ୍ଷମ ହେବ ।

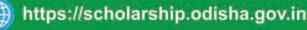


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Narendra Modi **Prime Minister**

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In the august presence of

Anandiben Patel Governor **Uttar Pradesh**

Keshav Prasad Maurya

Deputy Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi'

Minister, Industrial Development, Export Promotion

NRI & Investment Promotion, Uttar Pradesh

Rajnath Singh Minister of Defence

Govt. of India

Yogi Adityanath

Chief Minister Uttar Pradesh

Brajesh Pathak Deputy Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

Jaswant Singh Saini

Minister of State, Parliamentary Affairs & Industrial Development, Uttar Pradesh

AND OTHER DIGNITARIES

Date : 19th February, 2024 | Time : 12:00 PM Venue : Indira Gandhi Pratishthan, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow

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Information and Public Relations Department, U.P.

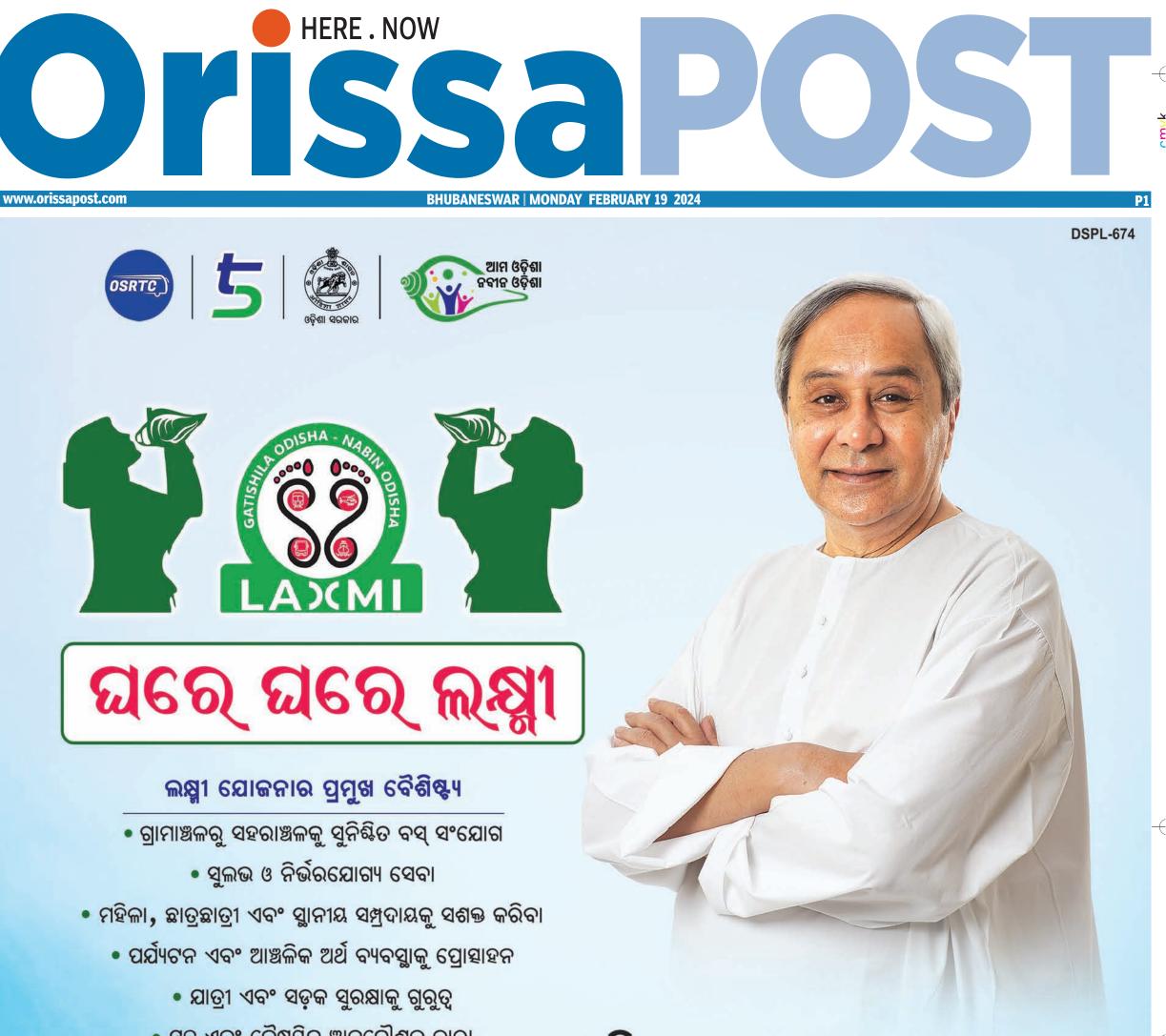
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Metro Pradesh

Express Pradesh







 ସ୍ୱଚ୍ଛ ଏବଂ ବୈଷୟିକ ଜ୍ଞାନକୌଶଳ ଦ୍ୱାରା ପରିଚାଳିତ ସାଧାରଣ ପରିବହନ

ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ମାନ୍ୟବର ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ



downtown/state

State's first vaccine plant to start production by May

SAPIGEN BIOLOGIX'S PLANT AT

ODISHA BIOTECH PARK WILL

HAVE A CAPACITY TO PRODUCE

2.4 CRORE DOSES OF DIFFERENT

VACCINES PER DAY

AT FULL CAPACITY, THE

FACILITY WILL BE THE BIGGEST VACCINE-PRODUCING PLANT IN

THE COUNTRY

IT IS EXPECTED TO PRODUCE

OVER 15 VACCINES FOR

VARIOUS DISEASES, INCLUDING

CHOLERA AND MALARIA

THE RS 1,500-CRORE VACCINE

PLANT WILL CREATE DIRECT

EMPLOYMENT FOR 1.500

PEOPLE, WITH MOST OF THEM

BEING LOCAL RECRUITS

The decision came in response

to recommendations gathered

by 5T and Nabin Odisha

Chairman Kartik Pandian dur-

ing his recent visits to districts,

the HE minister said.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayak, Sunday.



5T and Nabin Odisha Chairman Kartik Pandian Sunday visited the sub-units of the plant and interacted with its management and employees

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Feb 18: Sapigen Biologix vaccine plant at Odisha Biotech Park in Andharua area of the City here, the first such facility in the state, will start commercial production by May this year, officials said, Sunday. 5T and Nabin Odisha

OrissaPOST

MONDAY | FEBRUARY 19 | 2024 | BHUBANESWAR

Chairman Kartik Pandian Sunday visited the sub-units of the plant and interacted with its management and employees. He instructed all government agencies to assist in the commissioning of the plant within the next three months.

The plant will have a capacity to produce 2.4 crore doses

Remuneration hike for matrons

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 18: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Sunday announced enhancement in the monthly remuneration of women matrons working in hostels run by the Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Caste Development, Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare department from Rs 10,000 to Rs 15,000.

This apart, if any working woman matron dies due to misfortune, her heirs will be paid a lump sum of Rs 2 lakh. The CM also announced that they will be given a lump sum of Rs 1 lakh when they stop working at the age of 60. For this, the state government will spend over Rs 15 crore annually.

Man murdered over obscene comments

of different vaccines per day, they said.

"Åt full capacity, the facility will be the biggest vaccine-producing plant in the country," the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said in a statement.

It is expected to produce over 15 vaccines for various diseases, including cholera and malaria.

The Rs 1,500-crore vaccine plant will create direct employment for 1,500 people, with most of them being local recruits, the CMO said. The variety of vaccines pro-

duced in Bhubaneswar will be supplied to many parts of the world. It will help make Odisha a leader in the field of biotechnology. The project is in complete sync with the motto of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Odisha government - 'Every Life is Precious'.

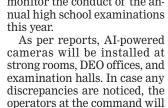
During the visit, the 5T Chairman assured all assistance from the state government and informed about Biotechnology Policy which has been approved by the state Cabinet.

The Nabin Odisha Chairman expressed confidence that with this plant, many other biotechrelated product companies will get attracted to Odisha Biotech Park, bringing major investments and creating jobs in the field.

18 new degree colleges soon

Nayak highlighted the government's commitment to ad-Bhubaneswar, Feb 18: The dressing faculty crunch by hirstate government has decided ing 1,056 lecturers within the to establish 18 new degree colnext week, building on previleges in Odisha in this academic ous appointments in recent acyear, said Higher Education (HE) ademic vears. Minister Atanu Sabyasachi

The state's educational landscape has significantly expanded, with the number of degree colleges growing from 548 in 2000 to 1,040 presently, accompanied by an increase in universities from five to 24. the HE minister said.



be intimated about it. As per the schedule, the examination will begin with the first language Odia paper on February 20 while the exam for the second language English will be held February 23. The



Mathematics paper February 26, Hindi/Sanskrit February 28, Science March 2, and social science March 4.

The vocational practical examinations will be conducted in respective schools by OSEPA between January 15 and 31.

The HSC examinations will be held in 2,991 centres in

New app for waste recycling

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Feb 18: To encourage people to recycle their domestic waste, British Deputy High Commissioner for East and Northeast India Andrew Fleming recently launched here the pilot Recycle Pay App de-

wave, there will be no second sitting in the examinations. The evaluation of question papers will start from March 15 and is likely to be completed in the subsequent 12 days.

Meanwhile, amid preparations, thousands of secondary school teachers have been staging protest at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar for the last 11 days. No concrete step was stated to have been taken to resolve the issue, sources said.

The teachers, under the Odisha Secondary School Teachers' Association (OSSTA), are protesting against the alleged failure of the state government to address their 21-point charter of demands. These demands include grants to eligible schools, salary system revisions, removal of pay grade anomalies, extension of retirement age, and pension benefits for retired teachers of unaided schools.

Engineering student dies in road accident

POST NEWS NETWORK

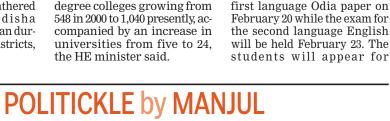
Keonjhar, Feb 18: A 21-yearold vouth. an engineering student at the Indira Gandhi Institute of Technology (IGIT) at Sarang in Dhenkanal district was killed in an accident Sunday morning while travelling on a bike to Maa

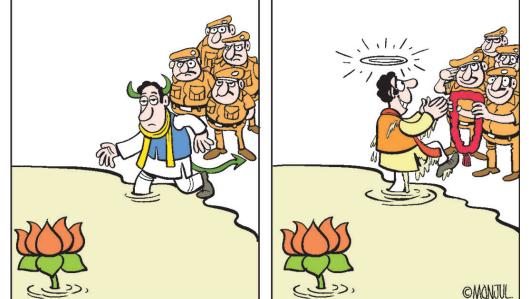


HSC EXAM STARTS FEBRUARY 20

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Feb 18: The Annual High School Certificate (HSC) Examination for Class-X will commence on February 20 and continue till March 4. The Board of Secondary Education (BSE) it set to make use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to monitor the conduct of the an-





Dhenkanal district for allegedly making obscene comments on women, a police officer said, Sunday. The deceased was identified as Dharmananda Dehury of Kandar village. The murder took place Friday night and police arrested the accused, identified as Sridhar Dehury Saturday, the police officer said.Prabha Tripathy, sub-divisional police officer (SDPO), Kamakhyanagar said Dharmananda, under the influence of alcohol, went to Sridhar's house Friday evening and allegedly passed obscene comments on the women members of the latter's family.

veloped by City-based startup Ceiba Green Solutions.

Incubated at the Atal Incubation Centre, Nalanda Institute of Technology Foundation, Ceiba Green Solutions' Recycle Pay App operates on a circular economv business model. It allows users to effortlessly convert their household scrap to instant money by providing them on-demand, free waste pickup service and transparent pricing.

While addressing the audi-

significance of the India-UK Roadmap 2030 in addressing Tarini temple at Ghatagaon in India's waste management chal-Keonihar district. The deceased lenges. He said, "We aspire to was identified as Om Prakash launch a new phase of cooper-Naik of Kusumi village under ation on urbanization by sup-Parjang block of Dhenkanal disporting smart and sustainable trict. The bike rider Ambuja cities, promoting climate action, Charan Biswal was also injured effective waste management, in the accident and is currently and a circular economy." undergoing treatment at the district headquarters hospital here.

have registered to appear for the

exams. As many as 7,831 stu-

dents will sit for the SOSC ex-

amination in 55 centres while

3,037 students will appear for

the Madhyma examinations

According to officials, keep-

ing in view the possible heat

at 107 centres.

Following the launch, a workshop was conducted by Ceiba Green Solutions founder Neelima Mishra, who said her startup follows the slogan of 'Sort. Recycle. Earn.'

120 in the motorised one. The

facility is available for visitors

from 8am in the morning till

Speaking about the park and

its facilities, Karunakara Behera,

who along with two others has

got the lease from the RMC, said,

aging and maintaining those.

Besides, we are allowing mar-

riage functions on the vacant

land on the other side towards

the DAV Polytechnic with a nom-

inal charge of Rs 17,000 per day."

losses but are hopeful that in

the long run we will make profit

out of it. Because we are grad-

ually getting visitors in larger

numbers starting this winter,"

he added.

"Presently we are incurring

The boats have been provided by the RMC. We are simply man-

7.30pm in the evening.

bers are in shock after coming to know of his untimely demise. Sources said seven friends on three bikes left their institute for Ghatagaon at about 4.00am, Sunday, The other students were identified as Shakti Ranjan Sahu (22), Ritesh Sahu (17), Shubhra Jyoti Sahu (18), Chandramani

Om Prakash was second year

student of Mechanical Engineering. His family mem-

Murmu (23) and Pintu Naik (22). The mishap occurred when Ambuja lost control of the bike close to Maa Tarini temple. He fell down from the bike, but did not suffer any serious injuries as he was wearing a helmet. Om Prakash, who was without a helmet, suffered serious injuries after falling down from the bike. His head hit a large stone and Om Prakash lost his consciousness. Their friends, who were behind them, rescued Om Prakash and Ambuja and rushed them to the district headquarters hospital in a car.

However, Om Prakash succumbed to his injuries during treatment. Police personnel from town police station rushed to the spot and launched an investigation.

CLASSIFIED

Basanti Sarovar now a go-to spot for Steel City denizens

AFFIDAVIT

I Golap Mishra, W/o Late Birabadal Mishra of Charchika, Banki, Cuttack, at present village- Kotadwar samil Sunadeipur, Banki, Cuttack, by this affidavit no. 779/7.8.2023 states that my name has been wrongly mentioned as Manjubala Mishra in my deceased husband's service record. Myself Golap Mishra and Manjubala Mishra, W/o Birabadal Mishra is one and same person. Hence this affidavit for all purpose.

THE WHOLE AREA ENCOMPASSING THE POND HAS NOW BECOME A PLEASANT SITE TO WATCH AFTER UNDERGOING A COMPLETE **TRANSFORMATION** LAST YEAR

RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela, Feb 18: Rehabilitated during the last Hockey World Cup, Basanti Sarovar is now one of the most desired destinations for the Steel City residents to unwind. The introduction of the



boating facility has further added charm to the pond.

After the fallen statue of the hockey player near the stadium, this pond has become the next favourite spot for denizens. Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC) is also showcasing the pond area to attract visitors to the place. Besides, the three-day street food festival, which was in-

troduced last year, is held near the pond.

The whole area encompassing the pond has now become a pleasant site to watch after undergoing a complete transformation last year. Earlier, the pond was like any other uncared for water body filled to the brim with hyacinth and other aquatic weeds.

Earlier used by the nearby slum dwellers to clean dirty clothes, bathe buffaloes, and for angling, the city administration would clean a portion of the mud-filled pond to make way for offering of prayers during the Chhat festival. Besides, with the fall of the day, it would become a haven for drug peddlers and anti-socials.

The pond and its peripheral infrastructure are spread over 10 acre area. The boating facility began August 1 with two motorised boats that can accommodate six persons each in one ride. Besides, there are four pedal boats with sitting capacity of two and four persons.

The charge for a 20-minute ride in the pedal boat is Rs 50 and for the same duration, it costs Rs

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Hundreds detained Over 400 people have been detained in Russia while paying tribute to Opposition leader Alexei Navalny

INTERNATIONAL | P4

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Embracing responsibility Ananya Panday reflects on turning 25, stressing gradual change over

instant transformation and embraces increased responsibility with age LEISURE | P6



fabrication plants are going to come up in India very soon, says Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar

BUSINESS P7

Stunning victory

of everyone.

When everyone makes an ef-

Taking an aim at critics who

wondered if he would be able

to handle foreign policy, he said

India's ties with West Asia is at

its strongest and noted that he

was the first prime minister in

a few decades to visit the UAE.

The Congress government used to look at West Asia through the

Five Arab countries have be-

stowed their highest honours

on him. Modi said the nation no

longer thinks and dreams small.

holds particular symbolism for

to provide a morale boost for

Russia ahead of Putin's bid for

re-election next month, which he

US President Joe Biden had

warned that Avdiivka could

fall to Russian forces because

of ammunition shortages fol-

lowing months of Republican

congressional opposition to a

new US military aid package

towards securing Moscow's hold

on the regional centre of

It is also seen as another step

is almost certain to win.

prism of Pakistan, he said.

fort, then the BJP will win more

than 370 seats and the NDA led by it 400-plus seats in the 543-

member House, he said.

India's women shuttlers win historic gold in the Badminton Asia Team Championships beating Thailand in the final **BACK PAGE**

P1

BHUBANESWAR | MONDAY FEBRUARY 19 2024

Biggest in 577 Tests: India crush England

REUTERS

Rajkot, Feb 18: India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal and home hero Ravindra Jadeia combined to fashion a 134-run romp to victory against England in the third test Sunday, xposing holes in the touring side's nigh-risk approach in the process.

There was no inkling of any imminent collapse when opener Ben Duckett smashed an 88-ball hundred to lead England's strong reply to India's firstinnings 445 at the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium.

Joe Root then played a highly debatable shot, a reverse scoop against ndia's premier seamer Jasprit Bumrah, to depart, which triggered a spectacular collapse.

Cruising at 224-2, England folded for 319 as they conceded a lead of 126 that allowed India to nose ahead in a contest that had looked evenly poised after two days.

Jaiswal then almost singlehandedly batted England out of the contest with his unbeaten 214, which allowed India to declare on 430-4 setting England an improbable target of 557.

The opener, who retired hurt on 104 Saturday with back spasms, returned to pummel the England attack, equalling Wasim Akram's record of 12 sixes in a test innings. It followed his 209 in the second test in Visakhapatnam.

DRERM

Union ministers, farm leaders hold 4th round of talks

AGENCIES

Chandigarh, Feb 18: A panel of Union ministers began the fourth round of talks with farmer leaders here Sunday evening over their demands, including a legal guarantee of minimum support price (MSP) for crops.

Agriculture and Farmer Welfare Minister Ariun Munda. Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai reached the Mahatma Gandhi State Institute of Public Administration in Sector 26 for the talks. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann also joined the meeting.

The Union ministers and farmer leaders had met earlier February 8, 12 and 15 but the talks remained inconclusive. The meeting comes amid thousands of farmers from Punjab staying put at the Shambhu and Khanauri points of the state's border with Haryana after their 'Delhi Chalo' march was halted.

Besides a legal guarantee of MSP, the farmers are demanding the implementation of the Swaminathan Commission's recommendations, pension for farmers and farm labourers, farm debt waiver, no hike in electricity tariff, withdrawal of police cases and 'justice' for the victims of the 2021 Lakhimpur Kheri violence, reinstatement of the Land Acquisition Act, 2013, and compensation to the families of the farmers who died during a previous agitation in 2020-21.

Seeking third term for benefit of India: Modi ing they have to earn the trust

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 18: Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted Sunday that the BJP's return to power with a strong mandate is the first condition for India to realise its big goals as he exhorted thousands of party members to work with renewed energy, vigour and enthusiasm for the next 100 days to ensure a big victory.

Addressing nearly 11,500 BJP delegates from across the country at Bharat Mandapam here, he said he is seeking power not for 'satta bhog' (enjoying power) but for the country's benefit, and slammed the Opposition, especially the Congress, saying they make all kinds of false promises but lack a road map for making the country developed.

This is something only the BJP can do, he said, exuding confidence about his return to power while noting that many foreign countries have invited him for engagements in July, August and September. This suggests that these countries also know that 'aayega toh Modi hi' (Modi's re-election is inevitable).

In his 65-minute valedictory speech at the BJP's national convention ahead of the Lok Sabha elections expected in April-May, the prime minister stuck to the

We have to connect with evervone. not for forming government but to build the country NARENDRA MODI PRIME MINISTER

message of the country's growth and rising global standing besides his government's measures for empowering every section of society, especially the poor. He asked BJP members to con-

It now has big dreams and has nect with all sections of society, taken big resolutions to make India a developed country by including those who have not been inclined to the party, say-2047, he added.

Nadda to continue as BJP prez till June 30

ncumbent party president JP Nadda's tenure has been extended till June 30 in view of Lok Sabha polls as the BJP's national convention Sunday amended the party's constitution, allowing its apex organisational body -- the Parliamentary Board -- to take a decision related to its president, including his or her term and its extension, in 'emergency' situations. A proposal to this effect was brought by the party's general secretary Sunil Bansal. The party president is generally elected through organisational polls after a few elections are carried out in at least 50 per cent of its state bodies. The state BJP organisation poll is also contingent upon elections in district bodies and so on.

Russia in full control of Ukraine's Avdiivka

REUTERS

Moscow/Kyiv, Feb 18: Russia Sunday said it had full control of the Ukrainian town of Avdiivka after Ukraine withdrew though Moscow said that some Ukrainian troops were still holed up in a vast Soviet-era coke plant after one of the most intense battles of the war. The fall of Avdiivka is Russia's biggest gain since capturing the city of Bakhmut in May 2023 and comes almost two years to the day since President Vladimir Putin triggered a full-scale war by ordering the invasion of Ukraine. Russia's defence ministry said its troops had advanced 8.6 km in that part of the 1,000-km front line, and that Russian troops were pressing forward after a deadly urban battle that has left the town an almost completely depopulated wreck.

GGEST WIN IN 9 MONTHS

Ukraine forced to abandon eastern bastion of Avdiivka

Russia as it was briefly taken in 2014 by Moscow-backed separatists who seized a swathe of eastern Ukraine but was then recaptured by Ukrainian

for Kyiv.

🖪 Russia says Ukrainian units entrenched at Avdiivka coke

Chandigarh mayor resigns, three AAP councillors join BJP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Feb 18: BJP leader Manoj Sonkar resigned as Chandigarh mayor and three AAP councillors joined the saffron party Sunday, a day before the Supreme Court is scheduled to hear a plea alleging irregularities in the recently held mayoral polls.

Sonkar has submitted his resignation to the municipal commissioner said Chandigarh BJP president Jatinder Pal Malhotra.

The Congress and the AAP do not have an alliance and are only befooling the public. They will be exposed before the public. Malhotra told PTL

Meanwhile, senior BJP leader Arun Sood said three AAP councillors have joined the BJP.

The BJP had swept the January 30 Chandigarh mayoral polls, in a setback to the Congress-AAP alliance that alleged tampering with ballot papers by the presiding officer.

Sonkar had defeated the AAP's Kuldeep Kumar for the mayor's post, polling 16 votes against his rival's 12. Eight votes were declared invalid. Kumar had later moved the Supreme Court.

On February 5, the Supreme Court had rapped the returning officer who conducted the Chandigarh mayoral polls, observing that it was obvious that he defaced the ballot papers and that he should be prosecuted, adding that his action amounted to "murder and mockery" of democracy

The court had also ordered preservation of ballots and the video of the poll proceedings besides seeking the returning officer's personal appearance during the next hearing in the case February 19.

Woman shot at by poachers in forest

Bhanjanagar: A young woman sustained critical bullet injuries on her thigh after being shot at by suspected poachers in a forest near Bediguba village under Bhanjanagar police limits in Ganjam district. The incident took place Saturday evening, while the matter came to light Sunday after she was rushed to Bhanianagar Hospital for treatment. The injured woman identified as Swapna Sahu had gone to the forest along with her mother to pluck sal leaves for making plates Saturday. While she was busy making bundles of the leaves, suddenly a bullet struck her leaving her critically injured.

Tenders floated for Puri int'l airport

Bhubaneswar: The IDCO has invited tenders for the first-phase development, operation and maintenance of the proposed international airport at Puri. The Sri Jagannath International Airport will be constructed near Sipasarubali in Puri district. The first phase entails work on public-private-partnership mode for 4.6 million passengers per annum (mppa) capacity at an estimated cost of ₹2,203 crore. As per the tender, the eligible bidder will complete the construction work in 1,095 days and maintain it for seven years from the date of commercial operation. The tenders can be submitted between February 21 and April 20.



Ukraine said it had withdrawn its soldiers to save troops from being fully surrounded after months of fierce fighting. Putin hailed the fall of Avdiivka as an important victory and congratulated Russian troops

After the failure of Ukraine to pierce Russian lines last year, Moscow has been trying to grind down Ukrainian forces just as Kyiv ponders a major

plant troops who built extensive for-Putin claims important victory, tifications. Capturing Avdiivka is likely

- congratulates troops
- Kyiv facing critical shortages of artillery rounds
 - White House blames congressional inaction

new mobilisation and President Volodymyr Zelenskiy appoints a new commander to run the war.

"The head of state congratulated Russian soldiers on this success, an important victory,' the Kremlin said in a statement on its website.

Avdiivka, which is called Avdeyevka by Russians, has endured a decade of conflict. It Donetsk, about 20 km to the east, held by Russian and pro-Russian forces since 2014

Japan's 'Naked Men' fest yields to ageing population **IRREGULAR** by MANJUL

'Sominsai' festival is the latest tradition impacted by the country's ageing population crisis

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Tokyo, Feb 18: A steam of sweat rose as hundreds of naked men tussled over a bag of wooden talismans, performing a dramatic end to a thousand-yearold ritual in Japan that took place for the last time.

Their passionate chants of 'jasso, joyasa" (meaning "evil, be gone") echoed through a ceder forest of the northern Japan's Iwate region, where the secluded Kokuseki Temple has decided to end the popular annual rite.

Organising the event, which draws hundreds of participants and thousands of tourists every year, has become a heavy burden for the ageing local faithful, who find it hard to keep up with the rigours of the ritual.

garded as one of the strangest festivals in Japan, is the latest tradition impacted by the country's ageing population crisis that has hit rural communities hard. "It is very difficult to organ-

RISING STAR: India's Yashasvi

Jaiswal celebeates scoring 200

runs during the 4th day of the 3rd

cricket Test match between India

and England, at Niranjan Shah

PTI PHOTO

Stadium, in Rajkot, Sunday

ise a festival of this scale," said Daigo Fujinami, a resident monk of the temple that opened in 729. 'You can see what happened

today --so many people are here and it's all exciting. But behind the scenes, there are many rituals and so much work that have to be done," he said adding, "I cannot be blind to the

difficult reality. Ageing population

Japan's society has aged more rapidly than most other countries. The trend has forced countless schools, shops and services to close, particularly in small or rural communities.

it was scaled down to prayer ceremonies and smaller rituals.

Kokuseki Temple's Sominsai festival used to take place from the seventh day of Lunar New Year through to the following morning. But during the Covid pandemic,

The 'Sominsai' festival, re-

The final festival was a shortened version, ending around 11:00pm, but it drew the biggest crowd in recent memory, local residents said.

As the sun set, men in white loincloths came to the mountainous temple, bathed in a creek and marched around temple's ground. They clenched their fists against the chill of a winter breeze, all the while chanting "jasso iovasa"

Some held small cameras to record their experience, while dozens of television crews followed the men through the temple's stone steps and dirt pathways. As the festival reached its climax, hundreds of men packed inside the wooden temple shouting, chanting and aggressively jostling over a bag of talismans.

Changing norms

Toshiaki Kikuchi, a local resident who claimed the talismans and who helped organise the festival for years, said he hoped the ritual will return in the future.

"Even under a different format, I hope to maintain this tradition," he said after the festival. "There are many things that you can appreciate only if you take part.'

Many participants and visitors voiced both sadness and understanding about the festival's ending. "This is the last of this great festival that has lasted 1,000 years. I really wanted to participate in this festival,' Yasuo Nishimura, 49, a caregiver from Osaka, told AFP.

Other temples across Japan continue to host similar festivals where men wear loincloths and bathe in freezing water or fight over talismans.

Some festivals are adjusting their rules in line with changing democraphics and social norms so that they can continue to exist -- such as letting women take part in previously male-only ceremonies.

From next year, Kokuseki Temple will replace the festival with prayer ceremonies and other ways to continue its spiritual practices.



It was a bad speech by the minister. PM's name could have been mentioned at least three more times

CTC

WEATHER BBSR

Max Temp	34.6°(33.2℃
Min Temp	22.5℃	22.0°C
Humidity	91%	87%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
FORECAST		ML -
FOG/MIST IN THE MORNING	Ż	X

power post

FOCUS POLITICS

BUSINESS OF POLYCRISIS

Change yourself if you wish to change the world THE MOTHER



Fearless Fighter

The death of Alexei Navalny, the man Vladimir Putin feared the most, is not only mysterious but seems likely to be the end of political dissent in Russia. The fiercest pro-democracy voice in the despotic state has turned silent forever. The 47-year-old, who was serving a 19-year sentence on charges of extremism, was moved in December from his former prison in central Russia to a 'special regime' penal colony — the highest security level of prisons in Russia above the Arctic Circle. He felt unwell after a walk and collapsed, a prison release said.

The news drew widespread condemnation and outrage from most of the democratic world. US President Joe Biden said that Washington doesn't know exactly what happened, "but there is no doubt that the death of Navalny was a consequence of something Putin and his thugs did.' Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was more direct in his reaction: "It is obvious that he was killed by Putin." Russia saw an outpouring of grief with thousands of mourners laying flowers in honour of their hero. Over 400 individuals have been arrested during such gatherings in 32 cities, as reported by the rights organisation OVD-Info.

Navalny, a former lawyer, gained recognition through his blogs that uncovered widespread corruption within the Russian elite. He criticised the ruling class as "crooks and thieves" and specifically targeted Putin's inner circle. With the use of the internet and drones, Navalny highlighted the extravagant lifestyles of high-ranking officials, shedding light on their vast wealth and luxurious properties. Following the protests against Putin in December 2011, sparked by allegations of electoral fraud, Navalny was among the first to be detained.

In 2021, Navalny earned the admiration of many within Russia's opposition circles for willingly coming back to Russia from Germany, where he had received medical treatment for what Western laboratory tests confirmed as an assassination attempt using a nerve agent in Siberia. Upon his arrival in Moscow, he was immediately arrested. Although the subsequent mass protests were remarkable in terms of their regional scope, they were not sufficient to pose a significant challenge to the Kremlin. The reason for this could be that Navalny appealed mostly to the masses in Moscow and St. Petersburg. Beyond the urban areas, Russia is a different place and has few takers for Western liberalism. Ultimately, the authorities outlawed Navalny's organisations within the country and either arrested or compelled their employees to leave Russia.

Navalny's demise, though shocking, was not entirely unexpected, for there is a history of such deaths in the modern Russia of Putin. A very recent story in The Independent of UK has claimed that the extra security prison that Navalny was held in had been visited by a very high level group of intelligence operatives from Moscow only two days prior to his death. Poisoning, exposure to fatal nerve agents, firing from close range, fall from window -- Putin foes have faced it all during his nearly quarter century long rule. The mercenary Yevgeny Prigozhin and key members of his Wagner private military group were killed in a plane crash last August. This incident occurred exactly two months after Prigozhin initiated an armed rebellion, which Putin condemned as both a betrayal and an act of treachery. Although Prigozhin did not criticise Putin directly, he did express his dissatisfaction with the Russian military leadership and raised doubts about the motivations behind invading Ukraine. A US intelligence assessment concluded that the crash, resulting in the loss of all 10 lives on board, was deliberately caused by an explosion. Several political leaders, journalists and former spies, who dared to challenge Putin, have met with similar fate

With Navalny's untimely death, the fragmented Russian opposition has been deprived of its foremost figurehead while Putin readies himself for the upcoming March presidential election - a predetermined ballot that will ensure the continued reign of the former KGB spy until at least 2030

It's time Navalny's supporters recall what he had once told CNN: "If they decide to kill me then it means we are incredibly strong and we need to use that power and not give up... We don't realise how strong we actually are.



David Keen & Ruben Andersson

POLITICIANS COMPETE TO PROMISE **'SECURITY' IN THE FACE OF NEW CRISES THAT ARE**

FEEDING ON ONE ANOTHER

"Waiting for the Barbarians," the muchfeared barbarians never turn up. "Now, what's going to happen to us without barbarians?" the poem asks. "Those people were a kind of solution." We seem to have become addicted to useful "barbarians." From terrorists and drug lords to human smugglers and even refugees, our politics increasingly revolves around simplified threats and facile solutions. So, for example, congressional Republicans tell Democrats they will not support more military aid for Ukraine unless something radical is done to stem the flow of migrants and asylum seekers at the United States' southern border.

n Constantine Cavafy's poem

the

Lost in these debates is an appreciation of the larger game that is being played. The "war on terror," the "war on drugs," and the fight against irregular migration all exhibit a pattern that we call "wreckonomics": a state of functional dysfunction in which the purported threat worsens as politicians, contractors, and enforcers exploit it for their own ends.

A spoof personal ad, taped to a wall in the Pentagon at the end of the Cold War, captured this pattern perfectly: "ENEMY WANTED: Mature North American Superpower seeks hostile partner for arms-racing, Third World conflicts, and general antagonism. Must be sufficiently menacing to convince Congress of military financial requirements."

One way or another, the barbarians duly appeared. By 2008 (adjusted for 2010 dollars), annual US defense spending had hit \$696.5 billion, compared with an average of \$517 billion during Ronald Reagan's presidency in the 1980s. NATO, rather than disappearing, was expanding.

Meanwhile, the fight against drug traffickers, smugglers, and migrants has been the gift that keeps on giving - at least from the perspective of defense contractors, detention conglomerates, and security agencies. The US Border Patrol budget has



Relying on dodgy metrics and a politics of distraction, our leaders continue to fiddle while the world burns

grown more than tenfold in the past three decades, and European border-security expenses have similarly rocketed. The war on terror has cost a staggering \$8 trillion.

In addition to all the Western politicians and companies that have benefited from hyping these threats, "partner" states quietly gamed the system. When Guatemala's civil war ended in 1996, shadowy counterinsurgency structures signed up to the war on drugs but soon became complicit in the very criminal enterprises they claimed to be countering. Similarly, in Libva. Muammar el-Qaddafi found that he could ease his international isolation by threatening to "turn Europe black" and promising to rein in the international terrorism that he himself had suborned. Soon enough, many others learned to sell their cooperation in the "fight against migration," sometimes stoking the threat to maximise the price.

This is an old game. In the early wars on drugs and alcohol a century ago, enforcers were often in cahoots with the gangs that profited from prohibition. Double-gaming took a different form in Vietnam, where, according to one US general, South Vietnamese forces kept the war going "at the appropriate level" to prolong American support. In the war on terror, Afghan warlords fueled threats against the foreign occupier while offering to remedy them. Regimes in Sri Lanka and Syria used the same pretext to pursue local vendettas.

In each case, the threat only worsened. Yet these "wars" have proved remarkably enduring, because confronting an endless stream of "barbarians" can be a politically and economically rewarding enterprise.

Gaming the information environment has become a key part of this process. While the costs have piled up in the form of mass incarceration, soaring drug use, stronger smuggling networks, countless border deaths, and almost one million fatalities in the war on terror, the public is subjected to a hall of mirrors. Like the "body count" metric used by the US in Vietnam, these grisly statistics are distorted to look like evidence of success. Under the influence of New

Public Management – a school of thought aiming to make public administration more businesslike-budget-conscious bureaucracies increasingly compete to demonstrate "good metrics." Our wars are no exception. In the war on terror, tallies of killed insurgents buttressed claims of "wins" against Saddam Hussein, al-Qaeda in Iraq, and the Islamic State. In the drug wars, statistics capturing the acreage of poppy fields destroyed or soldiers deployed signal "success." This positive spin feeds our collective astonishment when things go spectacularly wrong – when Saigon falls to the Viet Cong or Kabul to the Taliban. In the political gaming of barbarians, fear has been a faithful friend. As General

Douglas MacArthur suggested in the McCarthyite 1950s, "Always there has been some terrible evil at home or some monstrous foreign power that was going to gobble us up" unless we rallied behind the government. Today, Donald Trump says immigrants are "poison ing the blood of our country, while British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak plays his own lurid migration game by suggesting that "our enemies" are using migration as a "weapon" to destabilise Europe.

There are ways out of wreckonomics. One important step is to recognise the true costs of our "wars." Encouragingly, the drug war has started to give way in many countries to more healthcentered approaches as its costs and failures have grown more evident. Elsewhere, though, it is tempting to say that failure has become the new success. Politicians compete to promise "se curity" in the face of new crises that are feeding on one another. Pointing to a deeply disorienting "polycrisis," Adam Tooze of Columbia University wisely suggests that a single fix is no longer possible. Yet our disorientation seems only to have boosted the appeal of the quick fix.

We need to get over our simplistic obsession with violently reducing supply, whether through fighting migration or waging war on drugs or terror. Instead, we can start tackling demand. We also must recognise how the gaming of endless "wars" is feeding the polycrisis. Relying on dodgy metrics and a politics of distraction, our leaders continue to fiddle while the world burns. If we cannot end our addiction to fighting useful barbarians, the real barbarians may turn out to be us.

David Keen is Professor of Conflict Studies at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Ruben Andersson is **Professor of Social** Anthropology at the University of Oxford. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM PAYTM CRISIS The need for corporate governance

The recent Paytm crisis has by adopting technological solu- From RBI's point of view, a their quest for financial inclusion,

WISDOM CORNER

Illusions commend themselves to us because they save us pain and allow us to enjoy pleasure instead. We must therefore accept it without compla int when they sometimes collide with a bit of reality against which they are dashed to pieces.

- The only true measure of success is the ratio between what we might have done and what we might have been on the one hand, and the thing we have made and the things we have made of ourselves on the other **HG WELLS**
- It is in the admission of ignorance and the admission of uncertainty that there is a hope for the continuous motion of human beings in some direction that doesn't get confined, permanently blocked, as it has so many times before in various periods in the history of man. **RICHARD P. FEYNMAN**

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1878:** American inventor Thomas Edison patented the phonograph. It was the first machine able to reproduce recorded sound.
- **1942:** US President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the executive order allowing the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.
- **1945:** Iwo Jima invaded by U.S. Marines. On this day in 1945, during the final phases of World War II, U.S. Marines invaded Iwo Jima so as to wrest control of the strategically important island from the Japanese, who put up fierce resistance in the ensuing battle. The photo showing 4 marines erecting a U.S. flag on the island has become one of the best-known images of World War II.
- **1963:** American author and activist Betty Friedan published The Feminine Mystique, a landmark work that was a catalyst for the second-wave feminist movement.
- **2008:** Fidel Castro formally resigned as president of Cuba; he was succeeded by his brother Raúl. Castro was 81 years old at the time and had been in power for 49 years.



Hiking trip

Sherlock Holmes and Matthew Watson were on a camping and hiking trip.

They had gone to bed and were lying there looking up at the sky. Holmes said, "Watson, look up. What do you see?' "Well, I see thousands of stars."



Holmes? "To me, it means someone has stolen

our tent.'



Sourajeet Pradhani **STARTUPS IN THE** NAME OF

TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION. CANNOT EVADE BASIC **COMPLIANCE AND REGULATIONS OF OPERATION AND** GOVERNANCE

etters

are most welcome to contribute letters

postal address/email ID. They may also

and suggestions, preferably by email,

rissapost

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

send in their valuable comments, opinion

101

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST

(200 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

requested to send their contact numbers and full

to: edit@orissapost.com

columns (between 750-1250

not only rocked the banking sector, but also unsettled the entire startup ecosys-

tem in India. Paytm, along with Byju's, has been one of the 'blueeyed' startups. The issues faced by Paytm reflect the lack of maturity of the Indian startup ecosystem, as compared to the one in western countries like the US.

On 8 November 2016, Prime Minister Modi announced a demonetisation drive that would throw India's cash-reliant economy into a tailspin. There was one clear winner though. Paytm, a company that had been working on payment solutions for offline merchants since 2015, dove right in. If a cash-haemorrhaged economy was the problem, then Pavtm with its mobile wallet platform was the solution. By the end of that month, Paytm, owned by One97 Communications Ltd, claimed to have added 1.5 lakh merchants to an existing network of 10 lakh merchants across India that were now accepting digital wallet payments. In 2014, the Reserve Bank of India released Draft Guidelines for

"Licensing of Payments Banks" and "Licensing of Small Banks." The underlying presumption was that there would be value addition

tions at lower costs. The eligible entities for a payment bank licence ranged from NBFCs to mobile telephone companies, supermarket chains, companies, real sector cooperatives, and public sector entities. Paytm Payments Bank was among those awarded a licence and the bank started its operations in May 2017.

In June 2018, the RBI prohibited Paytm Payments Bank from opening any new account and wallet on account of supervisory concerns. Those prohibitions were lifted in December 2018. The next year, the Office of Banking Ombudsman issued a show-cause notice for Paytm Payments Bank's failure to monitor a certain account maintained with it that had shown a sudden increase in the velocity of daily transactions involving immediate transfer to other banks. These actions were found to be in violation of RBI's provisions on KYC norms. In July 2021, RBI issued a show-cause notice to Paytm for submitting false information about the transfer of an operating unit. By October the same year, it was charged a ₹1 crore penalty for contravention of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.

series of issues was popping up: Pavtm did not monitor payout transactions or carry out risk profiling of entities availing those services. In several cases, the regulatory ceiling of end-ofday balance in customer advance accounts was breached. The banking regulator also found that Paytm Payments Bank had

reported a cyber security incident late, and had failed to implement device-binding control measures. The video-based customer identification by the bank also failed to prevent connections from IP addresses outside India. In October 2023, another penalty of ₹5.93 crore was imposed on the payments bank after the RBI found several non-compliancesonce again highlighting the bank's failures around the identification of account owners.

Paytm Payments Bank is also a key banking partner for Paytm. This means funds deposited in Paytm's popular digital wallets are held with Paytm Payments Bank. The bank houses all of the parent's 330 million wallet accounts. It implies money held in them is deposited with the payments bank. The whole issue has highlighted the innate flaws in our system. In the RBI has failed to put 'checks and balances' on such entities. Secondly, there is no mechanism to safeguard the interests of customers. Finally, the startups in the name of technology and innovation, cannot evade basic compliance and regulations of operation and governance.

The most important constituent in this worrying and damaging string of events is India's entrepreneurial ecosystem. It has exposed the loopholes in which modern startups operate and the paucity of governance in their mode of functioning. The socalled founders of these new age startups complain of stringent regulations impacting the growth of emerging businesses in India. But the main objective of RBI is to protect the interests of the common man, rather than setting a wrong precedent by allowing startups to bypass basic compliance like KYC. The Paytm crisis is an opportunity for all stakeholders -- government, startups -- to make the entire ecosystem evolve in a positive manner.

> The writer is the founder and CEO of fintech startup FINCIST.

Befitting honour

Sir, Celebrated Urdu poet and film director Gulzar and Sanskrit scholar Rambhadracharya have been selected for the 58th Jnanpith Award. This award is considered the country's highest literary honour. Gulzar, or Sampooran Singh Kalra has been awarded for his notable contribution to Urdu literature. Previously he has also received many national and international accolades for his work in the film industry. Ramabhadacharya becomes the second person from the Sanskrit genre to be awarded in the history of this prestigious award. He is one of the four Jagadguru Ramanadacharyas of the Ramananda sect. He has written more than 200 books and texts including four epics. Awarding Rambhadacharya is one way to show respect to one of the world's oldest languages Sanskrit. Sanskrit is believed to be the mother of many Indian languages. However, the language is now restricted to a very few number of people. According to many linguistic experts, footprints of Sanskrit have been found in many languages across the globe like Latin. Revival of Sanskrit literature will help discover philosophical and scientific knowledge in this script and promote our Indic culture. Recognising Sanskrit scholars and texts will encourage young Sanskrit scholars towards more literary works on this Vedic-age language. So India should now recognise and award more and more exponents of Indian classical languages

Deba Prasad Nayak, DHENKANAL

Remarkable milestone

Sir, Many congratulations to Ravichandran Ashwin for achieving a remarkable milestone of taking 500 Test wickets. Ashwin has embarked on an extraordinary journey in the cricketing realm since his Test debut in 2011. Following the Kumble-Harbhajan Singh era, Ashwin had big shoes to fill, and he has done it with remarkable consistency. Demonstrating his immense prowess, Ashwin notched up an impressive nine five-wicket hauls in his initial 16 Tests, a testament to his skills in dismantling opposition batting lineups. Interestingly, Ashwin once revealed that he wanted to retire when he reaches 618 Test wickets, as he doesn't want to break the leg-619 Test wickets.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI













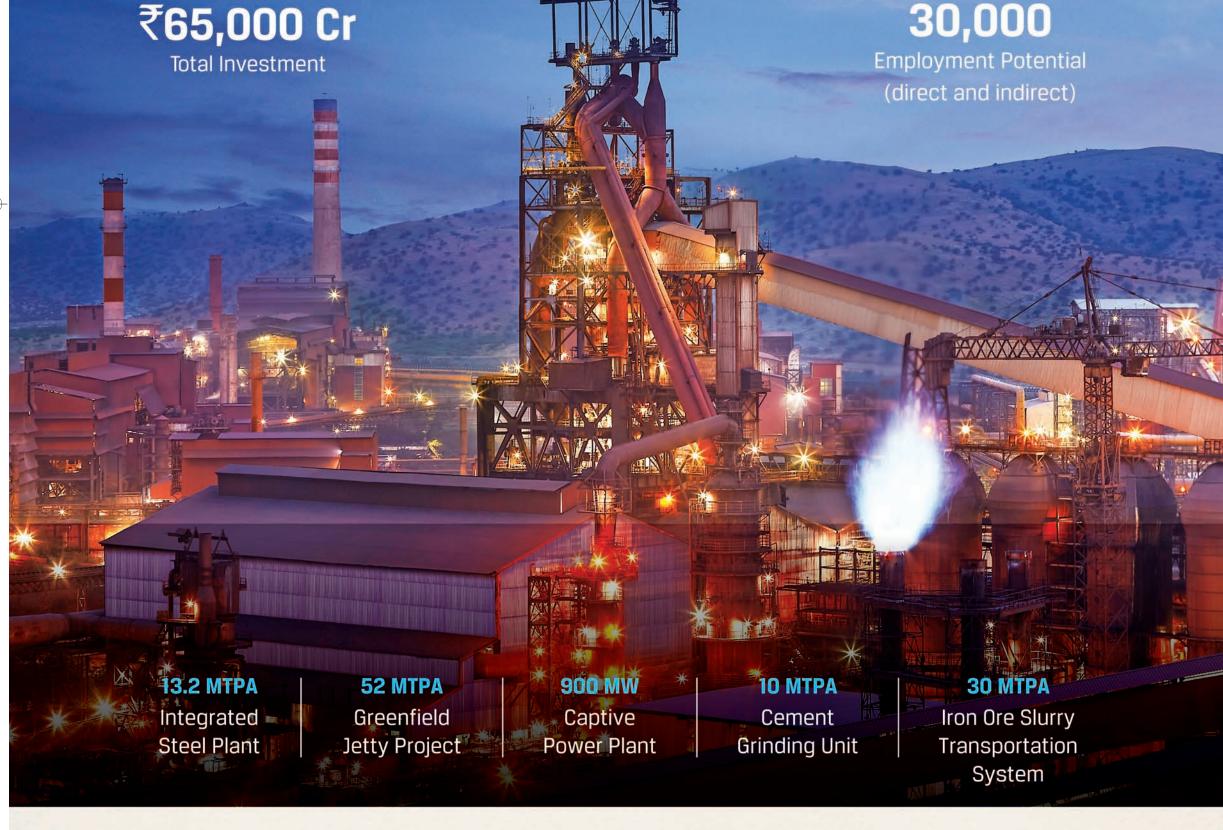
INSPIRED BY THE HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER SHRI NARENDRA MODI'S VISION OF



SHRI NARENDRA MODI HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER OF ODISHA

JSW GROUP, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH **GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**, BREAKS GROUND **ON A GREEN FIELD 13.2 MTPA INTEGRATED STEEL PLANT COMPLEX**







international



Nice to see Palestinian **Foreign Minister Riyad** al-Maliki. Exchanged views on the current situation in Gaza S JAISHANKAR | EAM OF INDIA

GERMAN LABOUR UNION CALLS STRIKE

A labour union in Germany has called on ground staff for Lufthansa to walk off the job at seven airports Tuesday following a similar strike earlier this month



uote

We are going in the direction that at the start of Parliament's spring session we can ratify Sweden's accession to NATO

VIKTOR ORBAN HUNGARY PM

Even now, police are picking up our workers and leaders and pressuring them. This was not the job of any caretaker

setup. They exceeded their mandate OMAR AYUB KHAN PTI'S PM CANDIDATE

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

EDDIE ROWE WFP'S DIRECTOR FOR SUDAN

SHORT TAKES

UK extends visas for Ukrainians

London: The UK government Sunday extended its visa scheme for war-hit Ukrainians who sought refuge in the country in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, allowing an additional 18month stay on their current terms. The Home Office said that from early 2025, all those in the UK under one of the Ukraine visa schemes will be able to apply to stay here for an additional 18 months and continue to have the same rights to access work, benefits, healthcare, and education throughout their stay.

Earthquake jolts northern Afghan city

Kabul: An earthquake struck Mazar-i-Sharif city, the provincial capital of north Afghanistan's Balkh province. and adjoining areas Sunday, with no report about casualties, locals said. As reported by Xinhua news agency the Balkh provincial police in a statement released after the quake said. "A relatively strong tremor jolted Mazar-i-Sharif city at 03:52 p.m. local

MOURNING Hundreds detained The sudden death of Navalny, 47, was a crushing blow to many Russians, who

had pinned their hopes for the future on President Vladimir Putin's fiercest foe

AGENCIES

Moscow, Feb 18: Over 400 people were detained in Russia while paying tribute to Opposition leader Alexei Navalny, who died at a remote Arctic penal colony, a prominent rights group reported Sunday.

Navalny remained vocal in his unrelenting criticism of the Kremlin even after surviving a nerve agent poisoning and receiving multiple prison terms.

The news reverberated across the globe, with many world leaders blaming the death on President Vladimir Putin and his government.

In an exchange with reporters shortly after leaving a Saturday church service, President Joe Biden reiterated his stance that Putin was ultimately to blame for Navalny's death. "The fact of the matter is, Putin is responsible. Whether he ordered it, he's responsible for the circumstance," Biden said. "It's a reflection of who he is. It

cannot be tolerated.' Meanwhile, Navalny's wife, Yulia Navalnaya, published a picture of the couple on Instagram Sunday in her first social media post since her husband's death. The caption read simply: "I love you." Hundreds of people in dozens of Russian cities streamed to ad-hoc memorials and monuments to victims of political repressions with flowers and candles Friday and Saturday to pay a tribute to

Courts in St. Petersburg have

ordered 42 of those detained

Friday to serve from one to

six days in jail, while nine

others were fined, court officials

In Moscow, at least six

people were ordered to serve 15

days in jail, according to

OVD-Info. One person was also

iailed in the southern city of

Krasnodar and two more in the

the politician

said late Saturday.

city of Bryansk, the OVER A DOZEL group said. CITIES, POLICE The news of Navalny's death came a month be-

fore a Presidential MORE THAN 200 election in Russia RRESTS WERE MAD IN ST. PETERSBURG. that is widely expected to give RUSSIA'S SECON President Vladimir

Putin another six years in power. Questions about the cause of death lingered, and it remained unclear when the authorities would release Navalny's body. More than 12,000 people have submitted requests to the Russian government asking for the politician's remains to be handed over to his rela-

tives, OVD-Info said Sunday. Navalny's team said Saturday that the politician was "murdered" and accused the authorities of deliberately stalling the release of the body, with Navalny's mother and lawyers getting contradicting information from various institutions where they went in their quest to retrieve the body. "They're driving us around in circles and covering their tracks, Navalny's spokeswoman, Kira

Yarmysh, said Saturday. A note handed to Navalny's mother stated that he died at 2:17 pm Friday, according to Yarmysh. Prison officials told

Ex-Thai PM Thaksin released on parole

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bangkok, Feb 18: Former Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra was released on parole early Sunday from a Bangkok hospital where he spent six months serving time for corruption-related offenses.

Thaksin was seen wearing a neck support inside one of the cars in a convoy leaving the Police General Hospital just before sunrise, and he arrived at his residence in western Bangkok less than an hour later.

A homemade banner with the words "Welcome home" and "We've been waiting for this day for so so long" was seen hanging at the front gate of his house.

A polarising figure in Thai politics over the last two decades, Thaksin was in office from 2001 until he was toppled in a 2006 coup. He was later convicted of abuse of power and other misdeeds while in office and returned in August from more than a decade of self-imposed exile to serve his prison sentence.



His original eight-year sentence was commuted to only a by King Maha year Vajiralongkorn September 1. Thaksin had called his convictions politically motivated.

Justice Minister Tawee Sodsong confirmed approval of Thaksin's parole last week, citing the possibility of early release for inmates who have serious illnesses, are disabled or are over the age of 70. Thaksin is 74 years old.

He was confined to a police hospital in Bangkok. Opponents charged that serving his sentence in a hospital was a special privilege.

ELECTION RIGGING Imran's party demands judicial investigation



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Feb 18: Jailed former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's party Sunday demanded a judicial probe into growing allegations of vote rigging even as two major political parties failed to reach a power-sharing formula to form a coalition government.

Though independent candidates backed by Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party won the maximum number of seats in Parliament, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMLN) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) - have announced that they will form a coalition government after the February 8 elections resulted in a hung Parliament.

The post-poll alliance by the PML-N and the PPP could mean that PTI will not be able to form the next federal government, prompting Khan's party to allege that the two rival parties were trying to steal the people's mandate with the help of the powerful establishment.

Khan's beleaguered party received a major boost Saturday when a senior government official in charge of the election process in the garrison city of Rawalpindi alleged that rigging took place and dragged the Chief Election Commissioner and the Chief Justice into it.

Buoyed by the allegations of vote rigging, the PTI Sunday demanded a judicial probe into the manipulation of the results of the elections.

Division Rawalpindi Commissioner Liaquat Ali Chattha in a bombshell press conference Saturday alleged that he oversaw the rigging to deprive the PTI of 13 seats which were given to losing candidates after fake votes were added to their name. Chattha also claimed that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa were involved in the alleged rigging.

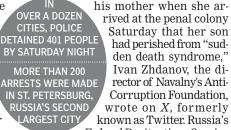
PTI leader Gohar Ali Khan at a press conference said that efforts were made to keep the party out of the electoral arena when people responding to the call Imran Khan went to the polling stations in huge numbers. "We had won 180 seats in the National Assembly, 42 seats in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa assembly, 115 in Punjab, 16 in Sindh, and four in Balochistan assembly," he said. Gohar said that the allegations by Chattha had corroborated what the party had

been saying all along. "This is the first time a commissioner is raising his voice according to his conscience. He (Chattha) said that he made sure candidates who lost were made to win while those who won were made to lose," he added.

SNIPPETS

China to ramp up patrols near Taiwan

Bangkok: China is stepping up patrols in the waters off the coast of Taiwan's Kinmen archipelago, days after two of its fishermen drowned while being chased by the Taiwanese coast guard, which accused the



den death syndrome,' Ivan Zhdanov, the director of Navalny's Anti-Corruption Foundation. wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter. Russia's Federal Penitentiary Service reported that Navalny

felt sick after a walk Friday and became unconscious at the penal colony in the town of Kharp, in the Yamalo-Nenets region about 1,900 kilometres northeast of Moscow. An ambulance arrived, but he couldn't be revived, the service said, adding that the cause of death is still 'being established.

Navalny had been jailed since January 2021, when he returned to Moscow after recuperating in Germany from nerve agent poisoning he blamed on the Kremlin.

After the last verdict that handed him a 19-year term, Navalny said he understood he was "serving a life sentence, which is measured by the length of my life or the length of life of this regime.'

Hours after Navalny's death was reported, his wife, Yulia Navalnava, made a dramatic appearance at the Munich Security Conference.

time but so far no report on loss of life and property damage has been received."

Yemeni military official found dead

Cairo: The Yemeni embassy in Egypt announced Sunday that a senior Yemeni military official was found dead in his apartment in Cairo. "The Embassy of the Republic of Yemen to the Arab Republic of Egypt is following with great interest and concern the issue of the killing of Major General Hassan bin Jalal al-Obaidi, Director of the Military Industrialisation Department in the Ministry of Defense, who was found murdered in his apartment in the Egyptian capital Cairo," said the Yemeni embassy.

boat of trespassing. The Chinese coast guard's Fujian division will regularly monitor the waters off the southern coast of the city of Xiamen - a few kilometers from Kinmen – to strengthen maritime law enforcement. said the coast guard's spokesman. Gan Yu, in a statement Sunday.

Israel strikes across Gaza

Rafah (Gaza Strip): Israeli strikes across Gaza killed at least 18 people overnight and into Sunday, according to medics and witnesses, as the United States said it would veto another draft UN cease-fire resolution. The US, Israel's top ally, instead hopes to broker a cease-fire agreement and hostage release between Israel and Hamas, and envisions a wider resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has pushed back, calling Hamas' demands "delusional" and rejecting US and international calls for a pathway to Palestinian statehood.

2 officers, 1 first responder killed in shooting

Burnsville: Two police officers and one first responder were shot and killed early Sunday while responding to a domestic abuse call in a Minneapolis suburb, according to a law enforcement association. The deaths of the two Burnsville police officers and the first responder were confirmed by the Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association, which represents public safety professionals in the state. "Horrific news from Burnsville," Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz said in a post on Facebook. "While responding to a call of a family in danger, two police officers and one firefighter lost their lives, and other officers were injured. Other law enforcement agencies immediately began posting messages of condolence on social media, including images of badges with blue bars through them.



A carnival float depicting a queen parades through Place Massena during the opening ceremony of 151st edition of the Nice Carnival in Nice, southern France

Philippines landslide death toll rises to 98

Manila: The death toll from a landslide in a mining town in Davao de Oro province in southern Philippines has climbed to 98, a regional disaster prevention office said. The Maco Municipal Disaster Risk **Reduction and Management** Office said Saturday that rescuers continue to search for nine others who remained missing, report said.

Jordan kills five drug smugglers

Amman: Jordanian soldiers have killed five smugglers who allegedly tried to bring drugs into the country from neighbouring Svria, the country's military said. The army said the incident occurred early Sunday. It said four other suspected smugalers were wounded and "large quantities of drugs" were seized.

TRUMP HAWKS \$399 BRANDED SHOES AT 'SNEAKER CON'

The launch comes a day after a judge in New York ordered Trump to pay a whopping \$355 million in penalties, finding that the former president lied about his wealth for years

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Philadelphia, Feb 18: As he closes in on the Republican Presidential nomination, former President Donald Trump made a highly unusual stop Saturday, hawking new Trump-branded sneakers at "Sneaker Con," a gathering that bills itself as the "The Greatest Sneaker Show on Earth.'

Trump was met with loud boos as well as cheers at the Philadelphia Convention Center as he introduced what he called the first official Trump footwear.

ident lied about his wealth for years, scheming to dupe banks, insurers, and others by inflating his wealth on financial statements. That penalty came after Trump was ordered to pay The shoes, gold lame \$83.3 million to the writer high tops with an American flag E Jean Carroll for damaging her detail on the back, are being sold reputation after she accused him as "Never Surrender High-Tops" for \$ 399 on a new website that also sells Trump-branded "Victory47" cologne and perfume for \$99 a bottle. He'd be the 47th President if elected again. The website says it has no

of sexual assault. With interest payments, Trump's legal debts might now exceed a half-billion dollars — an amount it is unclear he can afford to pay. Trump's appearance was met connection to Trump's cam-

with clashing boos from his de-tractors and chants of "USA!" from supporters who arrived at the sneaker event decked out in Trump gear. The duelling chants made it difficult, at times, to hear Trump speak. Some held signs that read "SNEAKER-

ties, finding that the former pres-



HEADS LOVE TRUMP."

"There's a lot of emotion in this room," Trump said of the reaction, after holding up and showing off a pair of gold shoes, then placing one on each side of his podium. "This is something that I've been talking about for 12 years, 13 years," he said.

As he spoke, the smell of weed occasionally wafted through the room. Some of those who attended said they were unaware Trump would be there and continued to shop as a crowd gathered around the stage. Many in the audience said they were not from the city and instead hailed from nearby states and Washington.

The attendees skewed younger and more diverse than Trump's usual rally crowds. Trump's campaign is hoping he will be able to win over younger and minority voters, particularly young Black men, in a likely rematch against President Joe Biden in November.

This isn't the first moneymaking venture Trump has announced since launching his third campaign for the White House in 2022. Trump last year reported making between \$1,00,000 and \$1 million for a series of digital trading cards that portrayed him, through photo editing, in a series of cartoon-like images, including an astronaut, a cowboy, and a superhero.

Trump's new sneaker website says it is run by CIC Ventures LLC, a company that Trump reported owning in his 2023 financial disclosure. A similarly named company, CIC Digital LLC, owns his digital trading card NFTs, or non-fungible t okens. The website states the new venture "is not political and has nothing to do with any political campaign.

A Trump spokesman did not respond to questions about theevent, including whether Trump was paid to attend.

paign, though Trump campaign

officials promoted the appear-

On Friday, a judge in New

York ordered Trump to pay a

whopping \$355 million in penal-

ance in online posts.









national



The Constitution belongs to every citizen of the country and efforts to undermine its foundations must be thwarted SIDDARAMAIAH KARNATAKA CM

EMERGENCY LANDING

A Chinook helicopter of the Indian Air Force made a precautionary landing following a technical snag in Punjab's Sangrur district Sunday, police said





India has been pushing for a two-state solution to the Palestine issue for many decades and an increasing

number of countries are now not only supporting it but seeing it as more urgent than before S JAISHANKAR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

The INSAT-3DS

satellite, placed into orbit by the ISRO's GSLV rocket, will transform meteorological services and enhance weather forecasting

KIREN RIJIJU UNION MINISTER FOR EARTH SCIENCES

Be aware, they (BJP-led Centre) are deactivating Aadhaar cards. Several Aadhar cards have been deactivated in

many districts of Bengal. They (BJPled Centre) are delinking Aadhaar cards so that before polls people do not get benefits of Lakshmi Bhandar through banks, free ration

MAMATA BANERJEE WEST BENGAL CM

SHORT TAKES

Naxalites kill **CAF** personnel

Bijapur: A Chhattisgarh Armed Force (CAF) personnel was hacked to death by Naxalites at a village market in Chhattisgarh's insurgency-hit Bijapur district Sunday, police said. The attack occurred around 9:30 am in a village under Kutru police station limits, where a CAF team was deployed for security at a market, a senior official said. "A small group of Naxalites attacked company commander Tijau Ram Bhuarya, who was leading the CAF team," he said. The Naxalites hacked Bhuarya to death with an axe before fleeing the scene, he said. Bhuarya belonged to the 4th battalion of the CAF, he said.

PM to visit UP

Lucknow: Prime Minister

Pak increases telecom towers in PoK Jharkhand announces Bihar-like caste survey PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Jammu, Feb 18: The number of telecom towers along the Line of Control in Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir (PoK) has been increased in recent times with an aim to aid terrorists and their associates in infiltration activities, officials

said here. Terror groups have been using highly encrypted YSMS services, a technology that merges smartphones and radio sets for covert communication purposes, the officials said after a study of the pattern of infiltration bids and recent terror attacks, particularly in the south of the Pir Panjal

range in the Jammu region. With this technology, a handler of a terror outfit in PoK is connected with the infiltrating group and its reception party in the Jammu region on a telecom network used across the LoC. This is done to avoid detection by the army or the BSF, which guard



the borders with Pakistan. The project for boosting telecom signals has been completely

handed over to the Special **Communication Organization** (SCO) led by Pakistani army officer Maj Gen Umar Ahmad Shah, believed to be formerly working with Pakistan's spy agency ISI. The strategic placement of tele-

com towers near the LoC and the international border, generally used for aiding terrorists and their associates in infiltration activities, stands in violation of Article 45 of the constitution of International

the Telecommunication Union (ITU), a body under the United Nations. Article 45 of the ITU's constitution requires all 193-member countries to take the steps required to prevent the transmission or circulation of identification signals, "and to collaborate in locating and identifying stations under their jurisdiction transmitting such signals".

The officials said, the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR) under the ITU has reiterated that all stations are "forbidden to carry out unnecessary transmissions, or the transmission of superfluous signals, or the transmission of false or misleading signals, or the transmission of signals without identification".

The matter is being discussed at the ministerial level for taking it up at the international forum concerned, they said. The new telecom towers are operating on the Code-Division Multiple Access (CDMA) technology and the encryption has been done by a Chinese firm mainly for catering to YSMS operations, the officials

This rouge telecom infrastructure supports infiltrating

terrorists and their contacts in the Jammu and the Kashmir regions. The deployment of CDMA technology along the LoC has been done with the aim to complicate monitoring efforts as the technology allows multiple signals on a single transmission channel, posing challenges in controlling

illegal communications. Past instances of use of such technology in 2019 and 2020 were thwarted by security agencies by breaking the encryption. The officials said the present attempt of terror groups aided by state actors of Pakistan would meet a similar fate.

Despite the towering presence of the SCO in PoK, including in Gilgit and Baltistan, telecom towers offer minimal advantages in the Kashmir Valley due to its elevated terrain. But, their signals extend into the Jammu plains, with traces even reaching sensitive places like the Kot Balwal jail area.

sonnel department to prepare a draft (SoP for conducting the survey) and place it before the cabinet for approval, he said. If everything goes according to the plan, the exercise will begin after the Lok Sabha elections,

Indicating the survey, the CM posted on X, "Jiski Jitni Sankhya Bhari, Uski Utni Hissedari (Bigger the population, bigger the share). Jharkhand is ready."

Vinay Kumar Choubey, principal secretary to the CM, said, 'The personnel department will prepare a standard operating procedure (SOP) to conduct the survey in Jharkhand. It will be placed before the cabinet for approval." The caste survey will be conducted on the pattern of neighouring Bihar, where data collection was conducted between January 7 and October 2 last year, he added. Choubey said that several departments, including rural and welfare, were considered but the personnel department was finalised for carrying out the survey.

He said that if everything goes according to the plan, the caste survey would commence just after the Lok Sabha elections. Legislators of the ruling JMM-Congress-RJD government in Jharkhand have been demanding a caste-based survey in the state.

PM condoles Jain seer's demise

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday condoled the death of Acharya Vidhyasagar Maharaj, a top religious figure of Jains, and said he will be remembered by the coming get erations for his invaluable contributions to society. Acharya idhyasagar Maharaj breathed his last Sunday at Chandragiri Teerth in Dongargarh in Chhattisgarh's Rajnandgaon district after undertaking 'sallekhna'. 'Sallekhna is a Jain religious practice involving voluntary fasting unto death for spiritual purification, a statement from the teerth said. In a post on X, Modi said, "My thoughts and prayers are with the countless devotees of Acharya Shri 108 Vidhyasagar Ji Maharaj Ji. He will be remembered by the coming generations for his invaluable contributions to socie-



A fisherman posts black flag on a boat during a protest demanding for the immediate release of the Rameswaram fishermen who are languishing in Sri Lankan prisons, in Rameswaram, Sunday,

Rape survivor alleges sexual abuse by judge in Tripura court

Nath won't switch to BJP: MP Cong chief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, Feb 18: Madhya Pradesh Congress chief Jitu Patwari Sunday evening sought to dispel speculation about Kamal Nath's possible switch to BJP, claiming that the senior Congress leader had told him that he was not going anywhere.

The BJP misuses the media and questions the integrity of a person and this has come to light. I had a talk with Kamal Nath ji who told me that the reports floating in the media were part of a conspiracy. He told me that he was a Congressman and will remain in Congress, Patwari said.

"His relationship with the Gandhi family is unshakable. He has lived with the ideology of Congress and will remain with it till the end. This is what he told



me," the Congress leader said. Asked why Nath was not himself putting forth his side, Patwari said that the MP Chief Minister would speak at the right time. "What I said was on his behalf,"

he claimed. Nath and his son and Chhindwara MP Nakul Nath arrived in the national capital on Saturday afternoon, while Nakul Nath dropped Congress from his bio on social media. Around half a dozen Madhya Pradesh MLAs loyal to Kamal Nath reached Delhi Sunday, accentuating the speculation that the father-son duo was set to join

the ruling BJP. In MP capital Bhopal, Nath's Congress colleague Digvijaya Singh expressed confidence that his "old friend" won't forsake the party from where he began his political journey.

This rouge telecom infrastructure supports infiltrating terrorists and their contacts in the Jammu and the Kashmir regions Ranchi, Feb 18: Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren has given the go-ahead for a castebased survey in the state on the lines of neighbouring Bihar, a senior official said Sunday. The CM has directed the per-

the official said.

Narendra Modi will be on a daylong visit to Uttar Pradesh Monday during which he will lay the foundation stone of the Shri Kalki Dham Temple in Sambhal district and address a gathering there, according to a statement. The temple is being constructed by the Shri Kalki Dham Nirman Trust whose chairman is Acharya Pramod Krishnam, who was expelled by the Congress for "anti-party remarks" days after he had met PM Modi and invited him to lay the foundation stone. The inauguration programme around 10:30 am will be attended by many saints, religious leaders and other dignitaries, said the statement issued Saturday.

3 shot dead

Begusarai (Bihar): A 25-yearold woman and her father and brother were shot dead allegedly by her father-in-law in Bihar's Begusarai district Saturday evening, police said, The incident took place in Bishnupur Ahuk village in Sahebpur Kamal police station area. The deceased have been identified as Neelu Kumari (25). her father Umesh Yadav and brother Raiesh Yaday. They were residents of Sreenagar area of Begusarai district.

A THREE-MEMBER PANEL HEADED BY DHALAI DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGE GAUTAM SARKAR HAS INITIATED A PROBE INTO THE ALLEGATION.

A SENIOR ADVOCATE SAID SUNDAY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Agartala. Feb 18: A rape survivor has alleged that she has been sexually abused by a magistrate inside his chamber in a court in Tripura.

A three-member panel headed

by Dhalai District and Sessions Judge Gautam Sarkar has initiated a probe into the allegation, a senior advocate said Sunday. The woman alleged that the in-

cident of sexual abuse took place on February 16 when she went to the chamber of first class judicial magistrate, Kamalpur to get her statement recorded in

connection with her rape. In her complaint to the additional district and sessions judge, Kamalpur, the woman stated, "I went to the chamber of the first class judicial magistrate to get my statement recorded on February 16. When I was about to give my statement, the judge groped me. I rushed out of his chamber and informed the lawyers and my husband about the incident."

The woman's husband also lodged a separate complaint with the Kamalpur Bar Association over the incident. Acting on the survivor's complaint, District and Sessions Judge Gautam Sarkar, along with Chief Judicial Magistrate Satyajit Das, visited Kamalpur's additional district and sessions judge's office to investigate the matter.

"The three-member panel headed by the district and sessions judge also met the members of Kamalpur Bar Association on the court premises and sought our point of view on the allegations of the woman. We placed our points before the panel," Shibendra Dasgupta, secretary of the advocate body, said over phone.

Responding to the allegation brought against the judge, Registrar General, Tripura High Court, V Pandey said, "We have not yet received any official complaint regarding the issue. Like other people of the state, I too came to know about it from the media and social media platforms. Once we receive a complaint in a proper format, we will definitely take appropriate action.

Red Fort reopens

New Delhi: The historic Red Fort complex, which was closed for visitors about a week ago due to security reasons in view of a farmers' march, has been reopened, official sources said Sunday. The iconic Mughal-era monument, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in old Delhi, was "suddenly sealed" late Monday night "due to security reasons"."It was reopened a couple of days ago," a source at the Archeological Survey of India said. However, the Red Fort is regularly closed for visitors Mondays, so they will not get entry inside the complex February 19. The site was temporarily closed amid a massive deployment of police and paramilitary forces in central Delhi in view of the farmers' 'Delhi Chalo' march.

ty, especially his efforts towards spiritual awakening among people, his work towards poverty alleviation, healthcare education and more.'

tara jilina ashcri (SAMBALPUR Bank of Baroda REGION) CORRIGENDUM With reference to the "E-Auction Sale Notice" published in The Orissa Post on 18.02.2024 in the above address Regional Office (Sambalpur Region) should be read as Regional Office Sambalpur instead of Regional Stressed Assets Recovery Branch: Sambalpur. All other facts remain unchanged. unchanged Dt.18.02.2024/Authorised Officer



All Interstor Education and Amaterias Interviews Inter संतुष्ट न हों तो वह स्मार्ट ओडीआर पर https://smartodr.in/login शिकायत दर्ज कर सकता है म्युचुअल फंड निवेश बाज़ार के जोखिमों के अधीन हैं, योजना से जुड़े सभी दस्तावेज़ों को ध्यान से पढ़ें।

Selfie point near LoC in Uri now a major tourist attraction

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Uri (Kashmir), Feb 18: A selfie point near the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir has become a major attraction for tourists as it allows them to capture the mesmerising beauty of Uri's remote border region and offers a panoramic view of the Jhelum river, officials said here.

The INDIA selfie point provides visitors with an engaging environment symbolising a sense of nationalism in the region, they

said. The army had last year opened 'Kaman Setu', zero-point at the LoC here, for tourists. The selfie point was opened for the public around the Republic Day this year.

The selfie point is the brainchild of artist and RNAF founder Rouble Nagi. It has been positioned strategically along the National Highway-44 and the structure offers a panoramic view of the picturesque Jhelum river, enhancing the pride of the locals as well as the tourists, the officials said.

The army thanked Nagi's foun-

dation which is known for its women empowerment projects. "Her gesture of gifting the structure stands as a testimony to rising nationalism in the valley. The selfie point was conceptualised with an aim to provide a unique engaging environment for individuals and groups alike," the army said.

Nagi said sculpting the name of the nation through her art installation is a tribute to the sacrifices made by various sections of society for the country's freedom."Nothing feels better than sculpting the name of my nation through my art. Proud to install my sculpture #INDIA a Uri, a remote border region," Nagi daughter of a retired army officer said. "How blessed we are to be free. Our children need to know the sacrifices that were made by so many to protect the freedom we enjoy today, she said, urging people to include Uri as their tourist des tination. Nagi has been instrumental in making selfie points in Kashmir which included one at the revamped Polo view market Rajbagh and Dal Lake.

	OFFICE OF BIDYADHARPU	THE SU JR CAN I Id: ee	NAL DIVIS	ENDIN SION, E	G ENGI BIDYADI ail.com)	HARPU	R	No.A-152
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Procurement Office		No.	in Lakhs (Approx.)		document (Online)	From	То	opening
Superintending Engineer, Bidyadharpur Canal Division, Bidyadharpur	Supply of security personnel for engagement at Salandi Dam, Hadagarh, Salandi Barrage, Bidyadharpur, Salandi IB, Bidyadharpur Office and Head Regulators (HR) of SRMC and SLMC for the period from April-2024 to March-2025.	23/01 of	44.38	45000/-	6000/-	19.02.24 11.30 hrs.	29.02.24 17.00 hrs.	01.03.24 11.30 hrs.



eisure

MUSIC HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY ESCAPE: GLORIA

Singer Gloria Esteban recently admits that music has always helped her through her toughest times. She told Billboard, "For me, lyrics and music have been something that had me sit with the records and read who wrote everything. I read the lyrics. I absorbed them! It helped me through very difficult times and has been my escape."

RUSSELL BROKE LEGS FILMING ROBIN HOOD

Actor Russell Crowe broke both legs while filming Robin Hood. It wasn't until years later that he felt mysterious pain, attributing it to a decade-old incident where he hurriedly executed a scene, jumping onto inadequately prepared terrain, without recognizing the severity at the time.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshaSpeaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181 ARIES

> You will be in a tight fix as the day starts. However. that's exactly the kind of situation in which your skills are tested. In the evening you will draw a lot of praise for your excellent performance. If iesha chooses to shower his blessings on you, you will sign new deals.

TAURUS

This day is meant for taking some time out from your busy schedule, and seeking some fun and relaxation. So says Ganesha. It is possible that you will be getting together with your friends and family members for a fun filled evening followed by a great dinner and a late night movie

GEMINI

You are likely to be in a romantic mood today. You may just end up falling in love today. A difficult situation will bring out the competitive streak in you and spur you on to physical and mental excellence. Your capacity and intelligence will be testified to by your work, says Ganesha

CANCER

You will focus on financial matters and plan accordingly. Compared to expenses. you will save more. A beneficial day for cashiers, money lenders and petty traders. Ganesha counsels hard work to achieve success

LEO

You will be unable to express the feelings that rise up inside you in spite of wanting to. However, keep them close to your heart. You will be very serious about your work today. There is a possibility of some delay in your schedule today due to eseen problems, says Ganesha

VIRGO

In all likelihood, you will be eager to grab the monetary challenges that come your way, as they only enhance your desire for success. You will bring up new ideas and better methods of tackling the challenges on hand. Ganesha gives you an assurance that your present business views will do you a world of good.

LIBRA

Ganesha advises you not to take stress about small issues or matters. To avoid tension and to gain mental peace it is advised you perform yoga or meditation There will be pressure put on you regarding certain matters at the work-front. You should take decisions regarding critical matters only after carefully weighing the pros and cons.

Ananya: Not a child anymore

Mumbai: Actress Ananya Panday is enjoying the current phase of her life, having completed a quarter of a century. She admits that turning 25 has marked a significant shift in her perspective on life and career.

'I'm already halfway through my 20s. I think we make a big deal out of every birthday. This also happens on New Year's, you just see a big change in one day...but it doesn't happen like that," she tells us, highlighting the introspection that often accompanies reaching such a pivotal age.

Reflecting on the expectations and pressures associated with reaching a certain age, she emphasises that real change and evolution happen gradually, over time.

The Student of the Year 2 actress also acknowledges a sense of increased responsibility with age as she says, "I feel like I've let go of the childhood excitement and I feel like I'm properly going adult now, but I feel like that's something anyone can decide on at any age, like someone can make that decision at 21, while someone at 30 might not feel that change.

'Initially, my excitement for acting stemmed from the thrill of being on the big screen, dancing, and singing. However, as I delve deeper into projects like Gehraiyan and Kho Gaye Hum Kahan, my passion shifts towards the acting process. I aspire to make meaningful contributions to storytelling, showcasing diverse

facets of myself, even in minor roles, to offer audiences something unique. concludes Ananya.

AGENCIES



Mumbai:

There are quite a few ac tresses in the Hindi industry who have tried their hands at other departments of filmmaking too after being an actor. From Hema Malini and Konkona Sensharma to Kangana Ranaut, the actresses went on to direct films: likewise. there's Juhi Chawla, Shilpa Shetty Kundra, Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Anushka Sharma, Deepika

and Alia Bhatt, who turned producers while juggling their careers as an actor. Now, actress Rakul Preet Singh says that given a choice

I NOTICE THAT A LOT OF

YOUR STUDENTS DO HAVE

DOGS, DON'T THEY?

IT SAYS, "SOMEBODY RUN THIS BOY OVER

WITH A TRUCK .

Rakul shares her aspirations

between direction and production, she would pick the latter. She shares, "I don't think I can direct. Considering I am good with numbers, I might produce. But direction is something I don't think I can ever do. I think that's not my cup of tea, and so I don't even want to try." Interestingly, her boyfriend, Jackky Bhagnani, is an actor turned producer, and we wonder if her interest in production comes from there.

Rakul and Jackky's wedding celebrations will take place over two days.

Films are reflection of society: Shilpa

New Delhi: Actress Shilpa Shetty things were farhas said that films in the 90s were looked at as a medium to 'escape from reality' and things were farfetched, hence, the actresses were glamorous because one 'didn't want to see drab stuff.

Shilpa has been ruling the roost since her debut in 1993 with Baazigar. Since then, she has made her mark in many 90s and 2000s films. And with Indian Police Force, the actress made her series debut on a streaming platform in 2024.

Talking about filmmakers now taking women seriously as compared to the 90s, Shilpa told IANS: Times have changed and with time, content has changed. Films are nothing but a reflection of the fabric of our society. Back in the day I think films were looked at as a medium to kind of escape

from re ality.

So.

fetched, actresses were glamorous because you didn't want to see drab stuff. And there was a clear dichotomy between art films and commercial cinema. Today, I feel lines are blurred.' "In today's society, em-

phasis is on quality content reflecting the modern woman's identity. Examples like Shefali Shah in Delhi Crime, Vidya Balan in Shakuntala, or Tara Shetty in *IPF* showcase this shift. Adapting to the times is crucial, comparing decades is futile as the future remains uncertain,'

she concluded. IANS

Tollywood is patriarchal, male-dominated: Radhika

Mumbai: Actress Radhika Apte's remarks on the

Telugu film industry have

stirred

on-

line debates. She critiques its patriarchal nature, emphasising mistreatment of women and her personal struggles. Social media discussions vary from industry critique to individual accountability.

In an old interview with film critic Rajeev Masand, she sparked controversy by criticising the Telugu film industry. She stated, 'The one industry I've

struggled the most with is Telugu. That industry is so patriarchal, sort

vinist. It's unbearable the way women are treated." The actress, who has

appeared in a variety of Indian language films, including Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu, highlighted her struggles within the Telugu industry. She added, "Even their part in the films is like My Man is the God. On set, you are treated like some third person and the actor! They don't even ask the actors anything. You know, they say that the actor's mood right now is not good, and he wants to have Chai. I have constantly struggled, and I put an end to it. I

have realised that's it for me. Apte's bold remarks have ignited a stir on social media platforms. Some social media users claimed it was an act to defame the industry, while others argued that the acof maletions of a few individudominated... als should not tarnish the reputation of the entire male chauindustry. AGENCIES

Padukone.

SCORPIO

Thank Ganesha that you have the grace to handle pressure at work, because today, you are going to be bogged down with a lot of work pressure. By the end of the day, try some stress bursting activities like yoga, meditation of listening to soft music.

SAGITTARIUS

Ganesha predicts a day full of romantic developments today. Mushy talks and whispering sweet nothings in your

beloved's ears may give you little joys of life. However, brace yourselves as there are times when relationships do not workout, and you may experience this soon.

Your lover is in for many pleasant surprises today. You'll be in a completely romantic mood, making every wish of your sweetheart your command. Both of you will go shopping, and have fun. Extravagant expenditures will keep you charged up for the day. You will achieve what you had wanted, that is the happi

AOUARIUS

Travelling is on the cards for you today. Ganesha advises you to travel alone, because if you take people with different tastes along with you, their preferences may dampen your mood and spoil the trips But, once put in such a situation, you will try to adjust yourself and find

PISCES

Your planetary configuration not being favorable, you are advised not to start any new projects today. The benefits accrued by any project you take up today might not justify the risks associated with it. Businessmen need to be extra careful in all their dealings.



IT 15 ? GOOD! I'M

HERE TO ENROLL! DOG? NO, MA'AM, I

DIDN'T BRING A DOG

I'M SERIOUS! IT'S A NOTE! YOUR MOM MUST'VE

PINNED IT ON YOUR SHIRT

What'

SO

PEANUTS

ON YOUR BACK !

IS THIS THE

ACE OBEDIENCE

SCHOOL"

from February 19 to 20, and the wedding will take place on February 21. AGENCIES

IS THIS ONE OF

THOSE PROGRESSIVE SCHOOLS?

IF I'M GOING TO

GET CLOBBERED.

I LIKE TO

DESERVE IT.



SUDOKU

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

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SOLUTIONS

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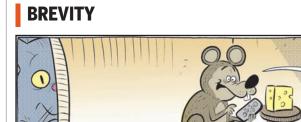
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CALVIN AND HOBBES WAIT! DON'T HIT ME THERE'S SOMETHING

ness of your sweetheart.

enjoyment in that, too.



HOLD ON. LET ME PUT YOU ON

SQUEAKERPHONE

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CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

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nymph





business



India has a significant stake in the artificial intelligence revolution and the best part is that the government is very open to partnering with the industry SANDIP PATEL MD, IBM INDIA/SOUTH ASIA

ADVANCED STAGE: INDIA-UK TRADE DEAL

With the negotiations for the proposed India-UK free trade agreement reaching an advanced stage, the Prime Minister's Office reviewed the progress of the talks February 16, sources said. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal were also present in the meeting, they said





I think it (Paytm crisis) has drawn the attention of fintech entrepreneurs, to the fact that you also have to know how to

comply with the law. Regulatory compliance is not an optional thing for any country in the world, certainly not in India

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR UNION MINISTER

As far as the demand is concerned, as we have been saying, we do expect the industry to grow double digit on revenue in the coming year at the

least NIRANJAN GUPTA CEO, HERO MOTOCORE

I think spiritual destination and spirituality is going to play a more significant role across the globe. Not just for us, but

generally for the world population, a very important role and I'm glad to say that we are at the forefront of it PUNEET CHHATWAL MD & CEO, IHCL

SHORT TAKES

Betting big on LNG

New Delhi: With quicker adoption of liquified natural gas (LNG) becoming a centre point in government's gas policy and to control greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, leading city gas distributor (CGD) Adani Total Gas Ltd has identified this super-chilled fuel to fuel its growth. Adani Total Gas Ltd (ATGL) is aiming to increase the adoption of LNG as the primary fuel for long-haul commercial vehicles, replacing diesel, through an ecosystem approach, a senior company official said. This includes strategic tie-ups with various stakeholders like auto ancillaries, Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), fleet operators, end-use industry, and retrofitment players to advocate for quicker adoption

Chip dream gets big boost FPIs cautious on

Two full-blown multi-billion dollar semiconductor plants going to come up in India, says MoS IT

New Delhi, Feb 18: Two fullfledged semiconductor fabrication plants are going to come up in India very soon entailing multi-billion dollar investment besides several chip assembly and packaging units, Minister of Electronics and IT Rajeev

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandrasekhar said. In an interview with PTI, the minister confirmed that the two projects include a \$8 billion proposal submitted by Israel-based Tower Semiconductors and the other from Tata Group.

"I am happy to share this with you and you are probably the first one I'm sharing this with. In the near term, two full-blown fabs are going to come up in India. These are going to be multi-billion-dollar fabs in the 65, 40 and 28-nanometer technology and there are going to be a host of other packaging proposals that we are evaluating,' Chandrasekhar said.

He was responding to a question on \$8 billion investment proposal submitted by Tower Semiconductors and the status of India's semiconductor

roadmap. The minister said that the project will be approved in the third term of Prime Minister Narendra Modi if they are not cleared before the upcoming general elections

"I can safely tell you that the names that you mentioned have submitted these big, very credible, very significant investment proposals. There are other announced proposals by Tata as well in the fab. We see this happening in a very, very quick short term," Chandrasekhar said. The government has received



four proposals for setting up semiconductor manufacturing plants and 13 for chip assembly,

testing, monitoring and The two projects include packaging a \$8bn proposal submitted (ATMP) units. The proby Israel-based Tower posals are in Semiconductors and the addition to a

₹22,516-crore chip assembly plant being set up by US-based memory chip maker Micron in Gujarat.

Electronics manufacturing The minister said India's semiconductor story is very akin to that of electronics in the countrv. He added that India was a 'classic case of missed oppor-

tunity" in semiconductors. "In 2012 Intel wanted to set up a plant here, and they found no support and they walked away. When the prime minister launched this (semiconductor) program in 2020 January, we knew we had to work very fast, and smartly and we had to in essence play catch up for the

last 75 years of lost opportunity. We have made significant progress in a broad spectrum of areas: semi-

conductor design, startups, research, talent, packaging and fabrication. Chandrasekhar other from Tata Group said

According to government data, domestic electronics manufacturing increased over four-fold to ₹8.22 lakh crore in the last 10 years.

In FY 2013-14, electronics manufacturing was ₹1,80,454 crore (\$29.8 billion) and has grown significantly to ₹8,22,350 crore (\$102 billion) in FY 2022-23, which is further expected to grow up to ₹23,95,195 crore (\$300 billion) by 2026

Chandrasekhar also wrote a letter to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman before the budget to reduce import duty on electronic components to facilitate the growth of exports from the country.

He said the global value chain supply of electronics is shifting from being predominantly based in China to now looking for more hubs.

"India has played a big role in that shift in the last five years. India will play a big role in the coming five years to a decade. Electronics manufacturing, we were almost absent. To put it in the words of Tim Cook (Apple CEO), three years ago there were no Apple phones being manufactured in India. We were importing 100 per cent of all mobile phones. Today we are exporting \$10-12 billion of Apple and Samsung mobile phones," the minister said.

He said that the growth has been spectacular.

"Our prime minister's ambition is to get to the top of the peak. So whatever I say pre-budget, whatever our views of the budget, are aimed at taking our success and taking it further. We believe and our prime minister has a clear vision that we want to do \$300 billion of electronics manufacturing by the year 2026-27," the minister said.

India has now reached a stage where 99.2 per cent of mobile handsets being used in the country are manufactured domestically, and from being an importer in the segment, the country has now become an exporter, as per official data.

"We have an absolutely clear view in the government and the prime minister, that smartphones IT, laptops, servers or hardware is an area that we want to be global champions and leaders and play the role of being a very trusted partner to the GVCs for enterprises, governments and people of the world," Chandrasekhar said.

equities in Feb

FOREIGN INVESTORS TAKE OUT ₹3,776CR FROM EOUITIES BUT INJECT ₹16.560CR IN DEBT MARKET

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 18: Foreign investors adopted a cautious approach offloading Indian equities worth close to ₹3,776 crore so far this month owing to a spike in the US bond yields and uncertainty over the interest rate environment in the domestic as well as the global front.

In contrast, they are bullish on the debt market and injected ₹16,560 crore in during the period under review, data with the depositories showed.

According to the data, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) pulled out a net sum of ₹3,776 crore from the Indian equities this month (till February 16). This came following a net withdrawal of ₹25.743 crore in January.

With this, the total outflow for this year has reached ₹29,519

FPIs have been consistently losing the tug of war with DIIs and, therefore, they are a bit reluctant to press aggressive selling. They will have to buy the same stocks later, which they have been selling, when conditions are favourable for buying. On the continued bullish

stance in the debt markets, Morningstar's Srivastava attributed it primarily to the announcement of the inclusion of Indian government bonds in the JP Morgan Index, coupled with the country's relatively stable economy.

This came following a net investment of ₹19,836 crore in the



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

INVESTMENT STRATEGIST. GEOJIT FINANCIAL SERVICES

debt markets in January, ₹18,302 crore in December, ₹14,860 crore in November, and ₹6.381 crore in October, data showed.

In September 2023, JP Morgan Chase & Co announced that it will add Indian government bonds to its benchmark emerging market index from June 2024. The move influenced the inflow in the country's bond markets in the past few months.

Overall, the total FPI flows for 2023 stood at ₹1.71 lakh crore in equities and ₹68,663 crore in the debt markets. Together, they infused ₹2.4 lakh crore into the capital market.

The flow in Indian equities came following a worst net outflow of ₹1.21 lakh crore in 2022 on aggressive rate hikes by the central banks globally. Before the outflow, FPIs invested money in the last three years.

Mcap of six most valued firms dips by ₹71,414 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 18: The combined market valuation of six of the top-10 most valued firms eroded by ₹71,414 crore last week, with state-owned company LIC emerged as the biggest laggard. Of the top-10 most valued firms, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), ITC, Hindustan Unilever, Bharti Airtel and Reliance Industries faced a total erosion of ₹71.414.03 crore.

TIDBITS BYJU'S rights issue gets \$300mn commitment

New Delhi: Edtech major Think and Learn, which operates under BYJU'S brand name, is learnt to have received a commitment of \$300 million from investors for its ongoing rights issue which will close by the end of February, sources aware of the development said. BYJU'S floated a rights

The Learning App

issue in January to raise \$200 million through equity rights issue at an

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 18: Hybrid mutual fund schemes have been gaining popularity among investors, attracting ₹20,634 crore in January, marking a 37 per cent surge from the previous month, largely due to their appeal as an alternative investment option post-change in taxation laws for debt funds.

The main reason for the increase in flows in this category is that they are being looked at as an alternative postchange in tax laws. Currently, arbitrage funds are sitting at a spread of around 8 per cent making it an attractive investment opportunity, especially on a post-tax basis

Hybrid mutual funds gather steam



Power usage grows

of the fuel.

New Delhi: India's power consumption increased 7.5 per cent on-year to 1354.97 billion units (BU) in the April-January period of this financial year, indicating an uptick in economic activities across the country. Power consumption in the country has increased to 1354.97 billion units (BU) in the April-January period of this financial year, from 1259.49 BU in the April-January period of fiscal 2022-23, according to government data. It was 1505.91 BU in the entire fiscal year of 2022-23. the data showed. Experts believe the 7.5 per cent growth in power consumption in the country clearly shows a perk up in economic activities in the first 10 months of this fiscal year.

enterprise valuation in the range of \$220-250 million which is a 99 per cent reduction in its peak valuation of \$22 billion. Sources also shared that BYJU'S has offered miffed investors to appoint two independent directors to enhance transparency but only after the rights issue and declaring its financial result for the 2023 fiscal.

Zee alleges Star India of violation of agreement



New Delhi: Zee Entertainment Enterprises has alleged that Star India has not acted in accordance with the agreement between them over the sharing of the TV broadcast rights of ICC cricket matches and has sought a refund of Rs 68.54 crore from

the Walt Disney-owned firm. In August, 2022, Zee Entertainment Enterprises had entered into an Alliance Agreement with Star India for a sub-license of TV broadcasting rights of ICC Men's and Under 19 international matches from 2024 to 2027. Star India has "failed to obtain necessary approvals, execution of necessary documentation and agreement" and believes that it has "by its conduct breached" the agreement, Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEEL) said in the financial statement of its latest December quarter results last week.

With this, total inflow in the category reached ₹1.21 lakh crore in the April-January period of the current financial year (FY24). However, hybrid schemes saw outflow in the same period of

the preceding financial year. Hybrid funds are mutual fund schemes that typically invest in a combination of equity and debt securities and sometimes in other asset categories such as gold.

The category has been attracting regular inflows since April 2023, after a change in taxation for debt funds that kicked off in the same month. Before that, the segment saw a net withdrawal of ₹12,372 crore in March last year.

According to the latest data with the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi), hybrid schemes witnessed an inflow of

FEROZE AZEEZ DEPUTY CEO, ANAND RATHI WEALTH

MF SCHEMES ATTRACT ₹20,634CR IN JAN ₹20,637 crore in January, which was higher than **ROSE 37%** ₹15,009 crore inflow seen

TOTAL INFLOW A The two categories of 1.21L-CR IN THE hybrid funds that at-APRIL-JAN PERIO tracted most funds dur-NET WITHDRAWA ing the month under re-OF ₹12,372CR IN MARCH LAST YEA view are arbitrage funds and multi-asset alloca-

Out of the ₹20,637 crore inflow in hybrid funds in January, arbitrage funds witnessed an inflow of ₹10,608 crore, while for multi-asset allocation funds it was ₹7.080 crore.

in December.

tion funds.

Moreover, around 50 per cent to 70 per cent of the allocation in the hybrid category has been going towards arbitrage funds in the last six months.

Besides, the multiasset category, offering easy diversification, has become the investors choice.

In terms of folios, the segment added 3.36 lakh hybrid folios in the month under review, taking the total to 1.31 crore, representing a share of 7.7 per cent on the total folios of

16.95 crore Hybrid funds appeal more to investors with a moderate or low-risk profile. These funds are good investment options as they reduce the volatility associated

when participating in equity markets while simultaneously providing stability in the fixed income market.

On the other hand, State Bank of India, Infosys, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank were emerged as the gainers. They collectively added ₹62.038.86 crore.

However, in last week, the BSE benchmark climbed 831.15 points or 1.16 per cent.

The market valuation of stateowned insurer LIC fell by ₹26,217.12 crore to ₹6,57,420.26 crore. TCS's market valuation tumbled by ₹18,762.61 crore to ₹14,93,980.70 crore.

The mcap of ITC eroded by ₹13,539.84 crore to ₹5,05,092.18 crore, while that of Hindustan Unilever diminished ₹11,548.24 crore to ₹5,58,039.67 crore

Market valuation of Bharti Airtel declined ₹ 703.60 crore to ₹6,30,340.9 crore, and that of Reliance Industries dipped by ₹642.62 crore to ₹19,76,493.92 crore. Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Wednesday became the first Indian company to achieve a market capitalisation of of ₹20 lakh crore. The company's shares hit their 52-week high of ₹2,968.40 apiece.

However, market capitalisation of SBI jumped ₹27,220.07 crore to ₹6,73,585.09 crore. Infosys added ₹13.592.73 crore, taking its valuation to ₹7.06.573.08 crore.

Market valuation of HDFC Bank climbed by ₹12,684.58 crore to ₹10,78,493.29 crore and that of ICICI Bank went up by ₹8,541.48 crore to ₹7.17.796.25 crore.

In the ranking of top-10 most valued firms, Reliance Industries continued to dominate the chart followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Infosvs. State Bank of India, LIC, Bharti Airtel, Hindustan Unilever and ITC.

Households' savings shift away from banks to capital markets

HOUSEHOLD SECTOR PLAYS A MAJOR ROLE IN THE INDIAN ECONOMY AS THE SUPPLIER OF FINANCIAL **RESOURCES IN THE FORM OF SAVINGS, CONTRIBUTING 70% TO TOTAL GROSS DOMESTIC SAVINGS**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Feb 18: Financial savings by Indian households have shifted away from the conventional bank (including nonbank) deposits to capital markets, BofA Securities said in a report.

The former accounted for 39 per cent of total financial savings in FY2001 and capital markets could garner only 4 per cent of the total pie. In FY2023, corresponding figures stand at 37 per cent and 7 per cent respectively, the report said.

With improved financial literacy, savings parked into life insurance and provident and pension funds have risen steadily from 34 per cent of total in FY2001

to 40 per cent of overall financial savings in FY2023.

RBI's latest data on quarterly movement of flow of financial assets and liabilities of households shows that in FY23, savings parked as As currency has of FY22, fallen from 12 per cent household savings of total in FY22 to 7 in financial assets per cent stand at ₹28tn, of gross financial twice the ₹14tn assets in seen in FY12 FY23. This is

getting redistributed towards bank deposits which have risen from 22 per cent to 35 per cent of the total during the same pe-



riod, the report said. As of FY22, household savings in financial assets stand at ₹28 trillion, twice the ₹14 tril-

lion seen in FY12. On an average, an Indian household holds 77 per cent of its total assets in real estate, 7 per

cent in other durable goods (such as transportation vehicles, livestock and poultry, and machinery), 11 per cent in gold, the report said.

Share of physical savings in total household savings has steadily tapered from 69 per cent in FY2012 to 49 per cent in FY21. It, however, rose again to 61 per cent of total in FY22 and we expect to rise further in FY23 as well.

Accordingly, we expect total household savings in FY23 to surpass the level seen in FY22, owing to a further increase in physical savings, the report said.

Household savings are broadly classified into financial and physical assets- accounting for 56 per cent and 44 per cent of total household savings respectively. Of the financial savings, bank and non-bank deposits account for 37 per cent and only about 8 per cent goes to shares & debentures.

Real estate is the largest component of physical savings at 77 per cent share and 11 per cent of total physical savings is in the form of gold, the report said.

Households are the mainstay of gross domestic savings, their contribution stood at 90 per cent of the total in FY2001. Household savings can be broadly classified into physical and financial assets. Physical savings account for 45 per cent of the total, the share has been trending down steadily from 55 per cent in FY2001.







Women shuttlers create history Jaiswal, Jadeja sink England

FIRST-EVER TEAM GOLD MEDAL FOR INDIA AS THEY WIN ASIA CHAMPIONSHIPS



AGENCIES

Shah Alam (Malaysia), Feb 18: Anmol Kharb yet again performed when it mattered, winning the decisive fifth rubber to lead the Indian women's team to a historic Badminton Asia Team Championships title with a tight 3-2 victory over Thailand, here Sunday.

The young sprightly women's team, led by seasoned PV Sindhu, defied all expectations to come up trumps against two-time bronze medallists Thailand. It is the first-ever major title for Indian women's in team championships and provides a big boost to the team ahead of the Uber Cup, which will be played in Chengdu, China April 28 to May 5.

India had won two medals in the past with the men's team claiming bronze in the 2016 and 2020 editions.

"It is a great moment for Indian badminton. I give a lot of credit to these youngsters. They dis-

SHORT TAKES

2 Odisha players in Indian squad

Bhubaneswar: Two footballers from Odisha have found a place in the 23-member senior Indian squad that will play at the Turkish Women's Cup 2024 in Alanya from February 21 to 27. They players are forward Pyari Xaxa and defender Juli Kishan. The AIFF announced the team Sunday and the players will leave Monday for Turkey, AIFF secretary general M Satyanarayan informed. Indian eves will play against Estonia (Feb 21), Hong Kong (Feb 24) and Kosovo (Feb 27) in the group stages.

played great spirit, they were supporting each other and the atmosphere was just like it was when India won the Thomas Cup. So this is a special moment for India," former India coach Vimal Kumar said.

Thailand were however, without two of their top singles players, World No. 13 Ratchanok Intanon and World No. 16 Pornpawee Chochuwong.

Two-time Olympic medallist Sindhu, who is returning to action after a four-month injuryforced break, provided India a confident start. She defeated World No. 17 Supanida Katethong 21-12, 21-12 in the first singles to hand India a 1-0 lead. World No. 23 Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand continued their splen-Benyapa Aimsaard and did run, dishing out another gritty performance to shock World No.10 pair of Jongkolphan Kititharakul and Rawinda Pra

Jongjai 21-16, 18-21, 21-16 to put India in the driver's seat. However, Busanan Ongba-

Vimal hopeful

New Delhi: Former India coach Vimal Kumar is mighty impressed with doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand. He said Sunday that the young Indian combination will be a definite contender for an Olympic medal if they qualify for the Paris Games. "I give a lot of credit to Treesa and Gayatri for the way they have performed this week. They have done incredibly well. They have a great chance of a medal, if they qualify for the Olympics. We can definitely expect a medal from them," Vimal said. "They have the potential to upset many pairs who are ranked above them," Vimal added.

sponsibility of taking India through and she did that with a dominating 21-14, 21-9 victory over World No. 45 Pornpicha Choeikeewong in the deciding third singles.

Except for trailing early on in the first game, Anmol dominated the show. She recovered from a 3-6 deficit to grab a slender 11-10 advantage at the break. She then increased the margin to 17-13 and easily closed out the first game. Anmol continued in the same vein in the second game, moving from 6-5 to 11-5 in a jiffy. Anmol never looked back after that.

"I'm very happy that we bagged the gold medal because this is the first time India are winning the gold at the Badminton Asia Team Championships," Anmol said after the match. "It is a big thing because history has been scripted here," she added.

Chief national coach Pullela Gopichand hailed India's feat. He said the performance of the young women brigade gives him a lot of hope for the future. "It has been a fantastic performance. Overall, every member of the team contributed. We beat some really top teams, not many teams in the world can talk about beating China, Japan and Thailand and I think member each played well," Gopichand said.

5-match series with a massive 434-run victory

PRESS TRUST

Rajkot, Feb 18: Yashasvi Jaiswal's (214 n o, 236b, 14x4, 12x6) sensational double hundred found harmonious co-existence with the stunning craftiness of five-wicket man Ravindra Jadeja (5/41) as ruthless India demolished wasteful England by a record 434 runs on the fourth day of the third Test here Sunday. Jadeja was well-supported by spinners Kuldeep Yadav (2/19) and Ravichandran Ashwin (1/19) as England perished in their desire to play the 'Bazball' brand of cricket. Chasing a victory target of 557 runs, England folded for just 122 runs to hand India a 2-1 lead in the series. This was also India's biggest

win in Test cricket in terms of runs, bettering the previous 372-run win over New Zealand at the Wankhede Stadium in 2021. Earlier in the day

Jaiswal equalled the highest number of sixes (12) in a Test innings. Riding on his knock India declared at 430 for four, which gave them a massive lead of 556 runs.

It was also a perfect platform for Jadeja to weave his magic as England's claims of fancying themselves in big chases through an aggressive approach came to nothing. India's plan of attacking the wickets took the wind away from the sails of England, whose top-order crumbled without any

significant contributions. Ashwin who

returned to the game after attending a medical emergency at home, also got into the act once he started bowling.

DREAMI

Ben Duckett (4) ran himself out, Zak Crawley (11) was trapped leg-before by Jasprit Bumrah and Jadeja struck twice in quick succession to see the back of Ollie Pope (3) and extended Jonny Bairstow's (4) misery on this tour.

After a brief period of resistance, Joe Root (7) missed a sweep with the umpire declaring him out leg-before off firmed that the ball would have flicked the top of off-stump. Captain Ben Stokes (15) had a similar fate missing a sweep off

Kuldeep as DREAM England slumped to 50 for six.

For a while, it seemed England would fold for one of their lowesttotals ever against India. but a late burst from Mark Wood (33, 15

The two put on an unbeaten stand of 172 runs for the fifth wicket to take the winds out of balls, 6x4, 1x6) England's sails. Jaiswal meantook them while joined Vinod Kambli and Virat Kohli as only the third Indian ever to have scored two

> consecutive double centuries in Tests **Brief scores** India 445 and 430 for 4 decl (Yashasvi Jaiswal, 214

Ashwin returns

Rajkot: Senior India off-spinner

Ravichandran Ashwin was back

in action against England here

Sunday. He was forced to leave

for Chennai to attend to his ailing

mother, hours after reaching

the coveted milestone of 500

of the match. "The BCCI is

Test wickets on the second day

pleased to announce the return

of Ravichandran Ashwin to the

squad after a brief absence due

to a family emergency. Ashwin

from the squad after Day 2 of the

third Test in Rajkot to attend to a

family emergency," BCCI said in

a statement. "It was pleasing to

Earlier in the day, Shubman

Gill (91, 151b, 9x4, 2x6) was un-

lucky to miss out on a century,

but that did not bother Jaiswal

and debutant Sarfaraz Khan (68

n o, 72b, 6x4, 3x6), who got his sec-

ond half century of the game.

see Ashwin in action on Day 4,"

to 122 from 82 for eight.

the BCCI added.

had to temporarily withdraw

n o, Shubman Gill 91, Sarfaraz Khan 68 n o) beat England 319 and 122 (Ravindra Jadeja 5/41, Kuldeep Yadav 2/19) by 434 runs.

Delhi take 1st innings lead against Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK



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POST NEWS NETWORK	ODISHA	INDIA	ODISHA	[] Watch Hockey	OMC OISHA	[] Watch Hockey	ODISHA	10
Rourkela, Feb 18: Indian men's hockey team chief coach Craig	00				~		Consideration and the second second	Se ODI
Fulton said Sunday the ongoing FIH Pro League matches are	ODISHA	ODISHA		~	NEAT ANA			٠
vital to his team's preparation for the Paris Olympics scheduled	-		100	HERE AND	MANAGERY MANAGERY		5	OMC .
for July-August. The Indians	ODISHA	Watch	-			ODISH	ODISHA	10

Indian eves end campaign with thrilling victory

PNN & AGENCIES

Rourkela, Feb 18: A day after upsetting World No.3 Australia. India women once again played an entertaining and fast-paced brand of hockey to defeat the

Bhubaneswar, Feb 18: Riding on an unbeaten century by Jonty Singh (105 n o, 218b, 9x4, 1x6), Delhi managed to take a vital

PCI to conduct elections March 9

New Delhi: The suspended Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) announced Sunday that it will conduct its delayed polls March 9. The Sports Ministry had February 4 suspended the body for not holding elections on time. The four-year term of PCI executive committee had ended on January 31. PCI president Deepa Malik and general secretary Gursharan Singh issued the election notice in which they asked all the state affiliated units to send the names of representatives, who would be eligible to vote in the polls.

Alcaraz suffers shock defeat

Buenos Aires: World No. 2 Carlos Alcaraz was beaten Saturday here by Nicolás Jarry of Chile 7-6 (7-2), 6-3 in the semifinals of the Argentina Open tennis tournament. Alcaraz was the defending champion but hasn't looked as sharp and aggressive this week as he was a year ago. The 20-year-old smashed his racket onto the court after his defeat, a rare feature for the Spaniard.

Barca get full points

Madrid: Robert Lewandowski converted a retaken 97th-minute penalty to give FC Barcelona a 2-1 win over Celta Vigo in a match of the La Liga played Saturday. Lewandowski had put Barca ahead with an excellent control and rightfooted shot in the 44th minute, but lago Aspas' deflected effort drew Celta level at the beginning of the second half.

have so far played four matches in the Pro League out, winning three and losing one against Australia.

"It (Pro League) gives us 18 games that you are cannot reflect looking in the build up whether we are to Paris. So it is important. Whether some teams are putting their strongest teams or not is out of our control,' Fulton said during a virtual press conference.

"Everything we are looking forward to is to have more perspective about our game, develop our game with the squad we have. We know we can compete in all the games, in different phases we have to do different things and do them better. So the Pro League is really important for now because this is the only competition we have,' Fulton pointed out.

India captain Harmanpreet Singh too agreed with his coach. 'These are the major matches we are getting before the Olympics



Indian captain Harmanpreet Singh and coach Craig Fulton

and they are olaying against weal very important oppositions. We have for us. We to learn from each started on a good note but as the coach said from the

Australia game we have learnt a lot," he said.

'We will definitely get a lot of advantage by playing these matches. Before the Olympics these are the games we are getting and we had made a good start as well and these matches will definitely help us in Paris," added the Indian skipper.

Scoreline

Treesa & Gayatri bt Kititharakul

Busanan bt Ashmita Chaliha

Anmol Kharb bt Pornpicha

Benyapa & Nuntakarn bt Shruti

mrungphan brought Thailand

into the match defeating

Ashmita Chaliha 21-11, 21-14.

Thailand then won the next

doubles match to restore parity.

Nuntakarn Aimsaard trounced

the young Indian pair of Shruti

Mishra and Priya Konjengbam

The tie evenly poised at 2-2,

21-11, 21-9 in just 29 minutes.

Anmol again shouldered the re-

'Pro League games vital for Paris'

PV Sindhu beat Supanida Katethong 21-12, 21-12

& Rawinda 21-16, 18-21, 21-16

& Priya 21-11, 21-9

21-11. 21-14

21-14, 21-9

India had a tough time Friday against a resilient Ireland before securing a narrow a 1-0 win in the final quarter. 'We played them (Ireland)

after a long time, it was a totally

different game. We have learnt a lot from that match. Ball possession was mostly with us but they defended quite deep and we need to work on how to manage that before the next match,' Harmanpreet pointed out.

Fulton emphasised on the need to have consistency in their performance. "Obviously the Australia game was big learning curve for us. We just need to be a bit more consistent," Fulton said.

"India have a DNA of attacking hockey, of possession and the Irish have a defensive mindset. Every country has different way of playing because of culture cultural or philosophy. That's the beauty of playing international sport," Fulton pointed out.

United States 2-1 via shootout in an FIH Pro League match here Sunday.

The regulation period ended in a 1-1 stalemate with India scoring in the 19th minute through young drag-flicker Deepika Kumari and the US equalising through Ashlev Seesa in the 45th minute. Mumtaz Khan and Sonika were on target in the shootout, while Leah Crouse scored for the losing team.

Despite the win, the Indian chief coach, Janneke Schopman, would be unhappy with the way the Savita Punia-led side dominated for most part and still could not win the contest in regulation time despite earning several penalty corners. The win Sunday came after India had thrashed the US 3-1 in the Bhubaneswar leg of the Pro League. The victory would have soothed the nerves of the 20.000-odd crowd at the stadium, who saw US score the equaliser in the dying minutes of the third quarter.

first innings lead Sunday against Odisha in their Ranji Trophy Group D encounter. Replying to Odisha's first innings score of 440, hosts Delhi scored 451 all out at stumps in the game being played at the Jamia Millia ground. The first innings lead ensured at least three points for Delhi from the game. With only a day left in the match, the chances of an outright decision looks slim.

Delhi will also be indebted to Yash Dhull (112, 167b, 14x4, 1x6) as he led the foundation for Singh to take the hosts past Odisha's score. Resuming at their overnight score of 187 for two, Delhi at one point were reduced to 266 for five with Dhull back in the hut. However, Singh and Kshitiz Sharma (64, 130b, 7x4) put on 147 runs for the sixth wicket, to give stability to the innings. It was this partnership which ensured that Delhi will be able to take the lead.

Yash Dhull top scored for Delhi

was Singh who took the hosts past Odisha's score much to frustration of the bowlers of the visitors.

JB Mohapatra (3/63) was the most successful bowler for Odisha. Biplab Samantray (2/34), Govind Poddar (2/66) and Sunil Roul (2/116) shared six wickets between themselves. However, they failed to make breakthroughs at crucial junctures and that cost Odisha dearly. Odisha fielding was also not sharp and they allowed too many easy singles.

Brief scores: Odisha 440; Delhi 451 (Yash Dhull 112, Jonty Singh 105 n o, JB Mohapatra 3/63). Match to continue.

After Sharma's departure it

Legendary SA all-rounder **Procter breathes his last**

match

CRAIG FULTON

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Johannesburg, Feb 19: Cricket South Africa (CSA) mourned Sunday the death of one of country's finest all-rounders, Mike Procter. He was 77.

Procter's career as a fast bowler, capable off-spinner, hardhitting middle-order batter, and astute captain is etched in the annals of South African cricket history. Beyond his playing days, he served the game in every conceivable role - as a national captain and coach, administrator, selector, commentator, elite ICC match referee, and then dedicated his final years to coaching underprivileged children.



Procter was South Africa's coach in the post apartheid era. He played 401 first class games but could only feature in seven Tests due to South Africa's isolation in 1970s and 1980s.

"Mike was not just a giant on the field but a beacon of hope and inspiration off it. He ensured cricket grew in all sectors," said CSA president Rihan Richards.

Cuttack, Khurda win Nua-O kabaddi titles

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, 18 February **2024:** Cuttack won the men's team title while Khurda women emerged champions in the Nua-O State Kabaddi tournament which ended Sunday. The tournament, organised by the Sports and Youth Services department, was held in Cuttack.

In the men's final, Cuttack defeated Puri to win the title. Dhenkanal and Balsore finished third and fourth respectively. Karunakar Behera of Cuttack bagged the 'outstanding player of the tournament' award.

In the women's category, Khurda defeated Ganjam in the final to emerge champions. Sundargarh and Japur teams



(Left): Cuttack men's team pose with the trophy, cheque and dignitaries; an exciting moment during the women's final

finished third and fourth respectively. Khurda's Jvoti Daleh received the 'outstanding player of the tournament' award in the women's segment.

The winning teams were presented with ₹2 lakh each in both the segments. The runners-up teams got ₹1 lakh each while the

third and fourth-placed teams received ₹50.000 each in both the categories. Both Karunakar and Jyoti were presented with ₹10,000 each for their brilliant performances in the tournament.

The prize distribution ceremony was graced by Subash Chandra Singh, Mayor, Cuttack

Municipal Corporation, Deepankar Mohapatra, CEO, 🔫 Hockey Promotion Council of Odisha and other esteemed officials of DSYS.

The day marked the successful conclusion of all six disciplines in the Nua Odisha's sports initiative

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