

Consignment seized
Security agencies at Mumbai's Nhava Sheva port intercept and seize the consignment of a Karachi-bound ship from China

NATIONAL | P5

Rampant killings
A 34-year-old trained classical dancer was shot dead in the US taking the toll to at least half a dozen Indians in 2024

INTERNATIONAL | P6

Return to Play Store
Naukri, 99acres and NaukriGulf are among a handful of apps that make a comeback on Google Play Store

BUSINESS | P7

Odisha FC beat Sethu
Pyari Xaxa scores two goals helping Odisha FC thrash Sethu FC 4-0 in their Indian Women's League match

SPORTS | BACK PAGE

Jharkhand: Spanish woman gangraped

PREST TRUST OF INDIA

Dumka, March 2: A foreign national from Spain was allegedly gangraped in this district of Jharkhand, police said Saturday. The incident occurred at Kurumahat under Hansdiha police limits, around 300 km from Ranchi, Friday night when a tourist couple from Spain was spending the night at a makeshift tent.

An official, on condition of anonymity, said seven to eight local youths were involved in the incident. Three arrests have been made while a manhunt is on for the remaining persons, he added.

As per information, the couple had reached Dumka from Bangladesh on a two-wheeler and was en route to Bihar and then Nepal.



Modi, Shah among BJP's first 195 picks

PREST TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 2: The ruling BJP Saturday announced Prime Minister Narendra Modi will fight again from Varanasi in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections as it named 34 Union Ministers in the first list of 195 candidates.

The list also included two former ministers as well as Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla from Kota in Rajasthan.

Union ministers whose names have been announced by the BJP in the first list of candidates include Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Bhupender Yadav, Mansukh Mandaviya, Sarbananda Sonowal, Kiren Rijju, Jyotiraditya Scindia, Arjun Ram Meghwal, G Kishan Reddy, Arjun Munda and Smriti Irani.

Announcing the list, BJP National General Secretary Vinod Tawde said the party is confident that it would form the government for the third term under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with a much bigger mandate.

He also said the party has

DEBUT	
■	Mansukh Mandaviya
■	Bansuri Swaraj
■	Kamaljeet Sehrawat
■	Ramvir Singh Bidhuri
■	Praveen Khadelwal

DROPPED	
■	Meenakshi Lekhi
■	Harsh Vardhan
■	Sadhvi Pragya Thakur
■	Ramesh Bidhuri
■	Parvesh Verma

been working on further expanding its footprint across states and also to strengthen the ruling National Democratic Alliance.

The list includes 28 women and 47 young leaders, he said.

The announced names included those for 51 seats in Uttar Pradesh, 20 in West Bengal and five in Delhi.

Modi has set a target for the BJP to win at least 370 seats on

its own in this Lok Sabha election and more than 400 for the NDA. The Election Commission is expected to announce the poll schedule later this month and the elections are likely to be held in April-May.

The BJP won 303 seats in the 2019 polls but currently it has 290 members in Lok Sabha for various reasons including some MPs recently resigning after winning assembly polls.

The announcement of the first list at a press conference at the party headquarters here follows an over five-hour-long meeting of the BJP's Central Election Committee (CEC) Thursday night.

The CEC members, which included Prime Minister Narendra Modi, party's national president JP Nadda and Union Ministers Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh, had discussed the probables for states like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Goa and Uttarakhand among others to finalise the nominees.

Before that, Shah and Nadda had met Modi at his residence to hold consultations.

Citizen's liberty paramount: SC

In what came as a reiteration of the age-old judicial maxim that likens delayed justice to a denial of the same, the Supreme Court Saturday rapped the Bombay High Court for shirking its responsibility in adjudicating the bail application of an undertrial - who has been languishing in jail for years following his arrest in a murder case - expeditiously and, rather, shifting it to a lower court. The apex court termed the judicial delay as a 'gross violation of Article 21.'

PREST TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 2: The Supreme Court has said that Article 21 is the soul of the Constitution as the liberty of a citizen is of paramount importance and the high court not expeditiously adjudicating matters related to it would deprive a person of this precious right.

A bench of Justice BR Gavai and Justice Sandeep Mehta made the observation after noting that the Bombay High Court has granted bail to one Amol Vithal Vahile, a prime accused in the murder of a corporator in Maharashtra, after a nudge from the apex court January 29.

The bench, in its recent order, said it is thus clear that before the order was passed by this court January 29, 2024, the high court in-



stead of deciding the application for bail on merits shunted it on one or the other ground.

"Needless to state that Article 21 of the Constitution of India is the soul of the Constitution as the liberty of a citizen is of paramount importance. Not deciding the matter pertaining to liberty of a citizen expeditiously and shunting away the matter would deprive the party of their precious right guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India," it said.

Referring to one such case, the bench said in the matter the application for anticipatory bail was not decided for more than four years.

"We have also come across numerous matters wherein the judges are not deciding the matter on merits but find an excuse to shunt the case on different grounds. We, therefore, request the chief justice of the High Court of Bombay to convey our request to all judges exercising the criminal jurisdiction to decide the matter pertaining to bail/an-

What is Article 21

Article 21 asserts that every individual has the right to live, and his/her life cannot be taken away except in accordance with the prescribed legal procedures. The right encompasses various aspects, including the right to live with dignity, and to a healthy environment. It also protects the personal liberty of individuals stating that no person shall be deprived of their personal liberty except according to the procedure established by law. It includes the freedom to move freely and to engage in any lawful occupation or profession.

anticipatory bail as expeditiously as possible," the bench said.

On January 29, it noted that March 30, 2023, the high court had asked Vahile to approach the trial court for regular bail even though it had observed that he was languishing in jail for more than seven years. The top court had said that the approach of the high court was not in accordance with the sanctity that has been given to personal liberty in the catena of judgments.

धरित्रि | OrissaPOST

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• Repairs damaged hair • Prevents premature graying of hair
• Makes the scalp dandruff free



**STYLE ICON IRIS APPEL
PASSES AWAY AT 102**

Renowned fashion figure Iris Apfel, who worked as a designer for six US presidents, has passed away at the age of 102. She was celebrated for her unique and extravagant fashion sense. Her death comes shortly after commemorating her 102nd birthday on Leap Day.

**PIERCE CAST AS PERRY WHITE
IN JAMES GUNN'S SUPERMAN**

Actor Wendell Pierce, who is known for his work on *The Wire*, has come on board for James Gunn's *Superman*. The actor will play Perry White, the editor-in-chief of the Daily Planet newspaper, which employs Clark Kent (David Corenswet), Lois Lane (Rachel Brosnahan), and Jimmy Olsen (Skyler Gisondo), reports *Variety*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
The stars are sending out a warning today, and it will prevent you from getting cheated. Even though you manage to remain a step ahead of people, you are likely to make a few enemies along the way. Ganesh says today is not auspicious for buying a house or a vehicle.

TAURUS
Today, says Ganesh, you will be likely to encounter someone who is bent upon provoking and getting on your nerves. You are urged not to retaliate and do things unbecoming of your good nature. Keep calm and unruffled. Respond and behave in a manner befitting your better nature.

GEMINI
You will be in an extremely emotional and romantic mood today. You may be worried about your personal relations, health, diet, career etc. You need to guard against giving into excessive stress and worry and look after your health, says Ganesh.

CANCER
The day is very favourable, says Ganesh. You will feel a sense of joy and happiness with your valuable possessions. You may fall into love or have a strong romantic ties with someone. A great time for lovers.

LEO
You will be extremely serious about your work today and will work diligently to finish your tasks. You will be focused and disciplined about your projects. You will feel the need to improve your style of functioning. Traders can expect good financial gains today, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
Your ambitions and desire to undertake more work will be very prominent today. After working hard all day, try to get yourself some recreation and relaxation, perhaps at a private party, a social gathering or maybe even at a marriage reception, says Ganesh.

LIBRA
You will be drawn towards those of the opposite sex today says Ganesh. You will meet people who share the same wavelength that you do in the afternoon, and this will lead to a lot of interesting discussions. You will want to expand upon your knowledge of the world today and will be successful in your efforts.

SCORPIO
Expressing your feelings becomes important at some point of time. Today, you are in a mood to express emotions for your near and dear ones. And why not? After all, they need to be appreciated. Though your heart is full of emotions today, do not express in a way that you become vulnerable in eyes of general public.

SAGITTARIUS
You are like a new hope for your company and you are assigned with many challenging projects, today. And your hard work and efforts are appreciated when you handle the projects successfully. If you are fortunate enough, you may also gain incentives very soon, predicts Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
You are armed with good communication skills, it helps you convince the most adamant of those around you. But, you'll need to hone this talent once again, says Ganesh. You'll look into heart of the matter and find the answers you have been searching for. As the day progresses, your creativity will come to the fore, impressing the people around.

AQUARIUS
Sometimes it feels like you are stuck in a quicksand, and there is none out there to pull you out. But, the independent Aquarius is capable of dealing with adversities alone. And, that tendency shall hold you in a good stead even today.

PISCES
The mundane routine of daily life will finally catch up with you, and you will feel the urge to take a break and travel somewhere. And a break is well deserved considering the number of hours you have slaved over your current projects. A picnic or a short journey with your partner is very much on the cards, says Ganesh.

CASTING COUCH

Ankita's shocking revelation



Mumbai: Actress Ankita Lokhande has opened up about her casting couch experience after auditioning for a film and how she decided not to enter that industry. In an interview, she shared that she was told she would have to 'sleep with the producer' when she went to get her signing fee for the film.

She said, "In Mumbai, I experienced a situation related to a South Indian film. Upon receiving a call informing me of my selection post-audition, I agreed to sign the contract. Despite my excitement, I harboured doubts due to the ease of the process, questioning my fate. Upon arrival, I was isolated in a room while my coordinator remained outside. The proposition was clear, 'compromise'. At 19, aspiring to become an actress, I faced a pivotal moment grappling with the ethical dilemma presented before me."

The actress also shared, "What sort of compromise are you suggesting? Attending a party with your producers and financiers? I was clever enough to avoid hear-

ing their intentions. Then he suggested, 'You need to sleep with the producer.' I immediately stood up, refusing to be part of such a proposition. I asserted, 'Your producer doesn't seek talent, just someone to sleep with, and I refuse to be that person.' I walked away. Despite his promise to cast me, I declined, realising I didn't want to be associated with such practices. It was a moment of deep self-doubt, leading me to reject the film industry altogether, deeming it distasteful."

Janhvi makes her stand-up debut

Mumbai: Actress Janhvi Kapoor has tried her hand at stand-up comedy and, in her latest video, flexed her comic muscles as she tried to educate her audience about HPV and its vaccination. She started her video with a joke, saying that HPV wasn't the name of some SS Rajamouli movie but a virus that could lead to cervical cancer.

The *Baawaal* actress also made some jokes about the audience being unkind towards her acting in her debut film as she introduced herself as an 'aspiring comedian and aspiring actor.' She then switched gears and talked about HPV, telling her audience to get vaccinated. She also brought in timeless jodis like 'Shah Rukh-Kajol, Shah Rukh, and ₹1000 crore films and idli-sambar' as she spoke about the virus. The video has

been shared on the social media handles of 'I Pledge to Prevent', and the Serum Institute India has supported the project.

On the work front, Janhvi has *Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari*, *Mr and Mrs Mahi*, and *Devara* in the pipeline. AGENCIES

Ileana opens up about postpartum depression

Mumbai: Actress Ileana D'Cruz, who became a mother to a baby boy in August last year, recently shared a heartfelt post on Instagram, detailing her pregnancy journey and the challenges of battling postpartum depression.

Her note began with the following feelings: "Hi, It's been a while since I've really taken a photo of myself or posted something on here... Between being a full-time mama and keeping the house, I don't seem to find time for myself. I'm mostly in pyjamas and a messy, unattractive mom bun to keep my hair away from my munchkin's little grabby hands, so the thought of pouting for a selfie just doesn't really cross my mind. The truth is, it's been incredibly tough some days. Being sleep deprived doesn't help."

She added, "Definitely not trying to come across as complaining because this darling child has

been the most beautiful thing to happen to me. But we just don't talk about postpartum depression enough. It's very real. And it's an incredibly alienating feeling. And I'm trying every day to work on making some time to get myself feeling better. But sometimes I can't manage that. So what I'm trying to say is that I'm working on coming back here and giving you a glimpse into my new life now."

She concluded, "Which I love, btw—there's been so many amazing things that have happened to me, and it's been an overwhelming emotional journey. I just haven't been one of those moms who's bounced back immediately. I'm being kinder to myself and my body and getting to a stronger, healthier me at my own pace. But I'm coming back. That's all. Thanks for sticking around and reading."



Priyanka in Russo Brothers' The Bluff

Los Angeles: Actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas is set to star in *The Bluff*, an upcoming film from Russo Brothers' banner AGBO Studios and Amazon MGM Studios.

According to a media agency, the movie is being directed by Frank E Flowers, who has co-written it with Joe Ballarini. Set in the 19th century Caribbean, *The Bluff* follows a former female pirate, essayed by Chopra Jonas, who must protect her family when the mysterious sins of her past catch up to her. The film, which is targeting a spring production start

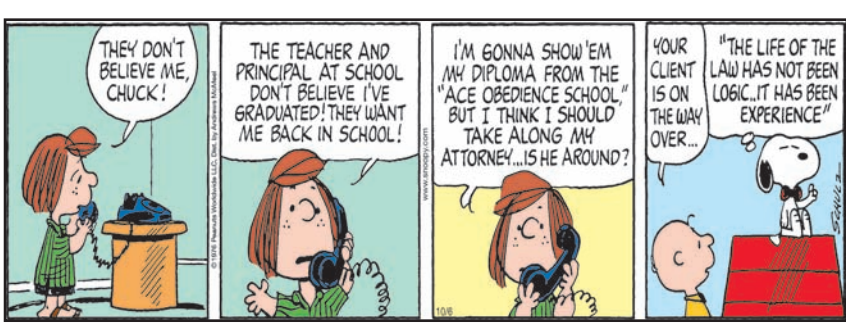
in Australia, will be available to stream on Prime Video.

The Bluff will be produced by AGBO's Anthony Russo, Joe Russo, Angela Russo-Otstot, and Michael Disco; Cinestar Pictures' Cisely Saldana and Mariel Saldana; and Priyanka Chopra Jonas. Meanwhile, AGBO's Kasee Whiting; Cinestar Pictures' Zoe Saldana; Rocket Science's Thorsten Schumacher; Ballarini; and Flowers serve as executive producers.

Priyanka, who counts more than 75 international and Hollywood films to her credit, will be seen on the OTT series *Heads of State* opposite John Cena and Idris Elba. PT



PEANUTS



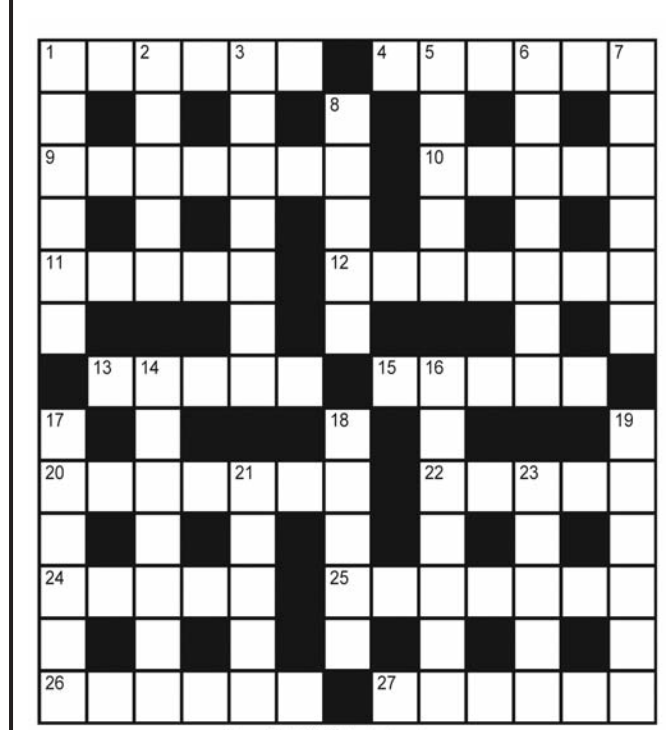
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



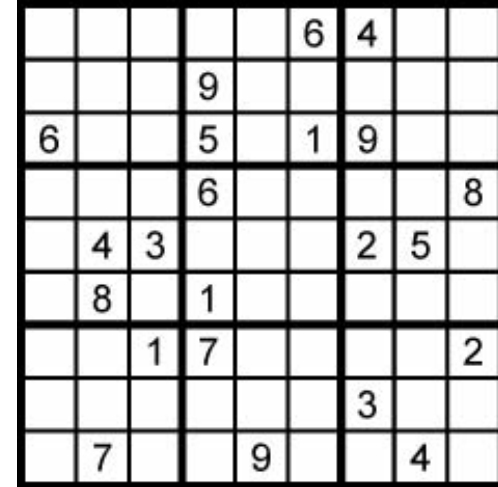
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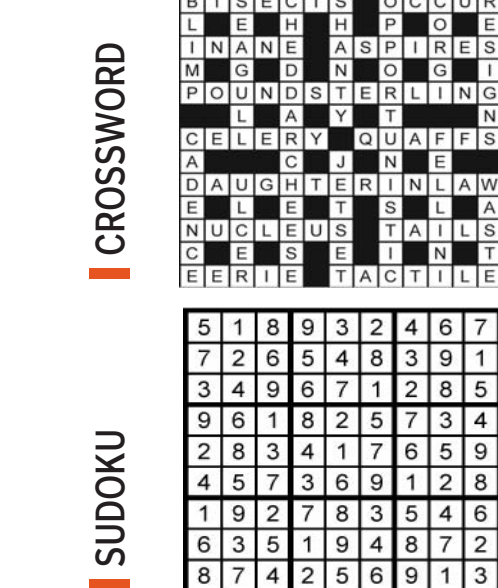
- Across**
- 1 Make clean
 - 4 Clippers
 - 9 Cooking utensil
 - 10 Concur
 - 11 Restaurant patron
 - 12 Slender
 - 13 Monster
 - 15 Work, as dough
 - 20 Olympic event (3,4)
 - 22 Release
 - 24 Battery part
 - 25 Aboveboard
 - 26 Fears
 - 27 Phrase structure
 - 6 Sainly glow
 - 7 Sound system
 - 8 Water sources
 - 14 TV installment
 - 16 Risqué
 - 17 Crete, e.g.
 - 18 Ski starter
 - 19 Type of action
 - 21 Turn topsy-turvy
 - 23 Unspoken

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



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SHOT IN THE ARM FOR HEALTHCARE

Bhubaneswar, March 2: In what would help bridge the deficit of trained medical personnel and expand the healthcare infrastructure in the state, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated teaching hospitals in five state-run medical colleges and laid the foundation stones for the transformation of four healthcare institutions in Odisha into world-class facilities, Saturday.

Patnaik inaugurated three 650-bed medical college and hospitals - Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital in Bolangir, Pandit Raghunath Murmu Medical



College and Hospital in Baripada and Fakir Mohan Medical College and Hospital in Balasore.

The CM also inaugurated two 500-bed medical college and hospitals - Government Medical College and Hospital in Sundargarh and Dharani Dhar Medical College and Hospital in Keonjhar.

According to the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), Odisha government has spent over Rs 2,000 crore in creating 2,950 beds in these five hospitals. These apart, foundation stones were laid for expansion of Acharya Harihar Post Graduate Institute of Cancer in Cuttack, MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur,

Rourkela Government Hospital (RGH) and Veer Surendra Sai Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR) in Burla into world-class health facilities.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief minister said the prime aim of the government is to provide better medical treatment and healthcare services to the people Odisha. He said the people of the state have reposed faith in the healthcare services provided by the government.

Official sources said the state government will soon fulfil the demands of the students at Berhampur and Burla medical colleges.

CM launches ₹3,037cr irrigation projects

Bhubaneswar, March 2: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched as many as 52 irrigation projects worth ₹3,037 crore, Saturday.

Patnaik inaugurated six irrigation projects in four districts worth ₹131 crore and laid the foundation stone for 46 such projects in 15 districts worth ₹2,906 crore.

The CM inaugurated Kusumi Barrage in Nayagarh and underground pipeline systems of Kendua minor irrigation project in Nayagarh, Phatatangar minor irrigation project in Sambalpur and Katagaon minor irrigation project in Bolangir

and Sankhabhanga minor irrigation project as well as Tile minor irrigation project, both in Mayurbhanj.

Patnaik laid the foundation stones for Hadua Dam and its underground pipeline system in Cuttack, Kusumi Barrage underground pipeline system in Nayagarh, Dimiria-Routpara inter-river reservoir project in Cuttack, Baideswar-Gopinathpur inter-river reservoir project in Cuttack, and Phataki inter-river reservoir project, Malgaon Barrage and Satijor minor irrigation project, all three in Nabarangpur.

The chief minister also laid the foundation stones for Lakatiguda and Temurapalli minor irrigation

projects in Malkangiri, Bhaluguda, Podagada, Koharadangi and Kurlu Ghati minor irrigation projects in Nabarangpur; Kalyani minor irrigation project in Rayagada and Changiria, Dam-kipali, Batharla, Daitarimunda, Bileisathi, Ghagara, Semelmunda, Dumerchuian minor irrigation projects in Bolangir.

Among others, Naveen laid the foundation stones for Gadajor, Baraha Nala, Dhoben Chanchara, Pakhanjor, Lamer, Tukuguda and Kutungpadar minor irrigation projects in Kalahandi and Utalijor, Jhilinala, Saladihi, Sunamudi and Nuagada minor irrigation projects in Bargarh district.

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Swain flags off chicks distribution program

7 lakh beneficiaries to get five chicks each to combat malnutrition and anaemia



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, March 2: Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment and Fisheries and Animal Resources Development Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain flagged off chicks distribution program to more than seven lakh families under Nutrition at Doorstep Program in order to combat malnutrition and anaemia.

Officials from all the districts of the state connected through video conferencing distributed chicks to beneficiaries in their respective districts, after the flagging off by Minister Swain at Krushi Bhawan, Saturday.

On this occasion, Swain said that extensive steps have been taken by the state government to eliminate malnutrition and anaemia. These include distribution of fruit and vegetable

saplings and poultry chicks. The families suffering from malnutrition and anaemia have already been distributed with saplings of drumstick, raw banana, papaya, and sweet potato. From this, they can get vegetables as their nutrition. Along with this, chicks are being distributed to provide nutrition filled with animal protein, he said.

He also informed that more than 7 lakh identified families across the state will be benefited under this scheme. Each family will get five 28-day old chicks free of cost under this programme. Day-old chicks are difficult to rear as their mortality rate is high, so 28-day-old chicks are being provided by the Fisheries and Animal Resources Development department, he added.

The minister said that the

chicks will grow well with negligible mortality. Eggs from these backyard chickens will play an important role in supplementary nutrition. From this scheme, the state's egg production will be increased by about 4.5 lakh eggs/day or 16 crore eggs/year. Around ₹24 crore will be spent by the state government in current financial year for implementation of the programme to provide chicks to combat malnutrition and anaemia of the state, he said.

Minister Swain also said that these chicks are being supplied at the doorstep of the beneficiaries. The beneficiaries, who attended through virtual mode, thanked the Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain for such innovative steps taken for their benefit. During the programme Swain interacted with the beneficiaries of 30 Gram Panchayats of 30 districts.

Earlier, Principal Secretary, Fisheries and Animal Resources Development department Suresh Kumar Vashishth said that about 7 lakh families of the state will get protein supplementation through poultry rearing. Director, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Ramashis Hazra and other departmental officers were present on the occasion.



IN REMEMBRANCE: Chief Secretary Pradeep K Jena lighting lamp during an event to observe educationist Bimal Kishore Mishra's birth centenary at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

GI TAG FOR CUTTACK SILVER FILIGREE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 2: Cuttack's famous silver filigree (Chandi Tarakasi) has received the geographical indication (GI)

tag, official sources said, Saturday.

Taking to X, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik wrote, "Cuttack's silver filigree got GI tag. It is a matter of honour for Odisha." "The centuries-old sophisti-

cated craft practiced in the Silver

City of Cuttack gives a distinct identity to our state for its intricate workmanship," Patnaik wrote, extending his best wishes to the people of Odisha, espe-

cially to Cuttack.

The Odisha State Co-Operative Handicrafts Corporation Limited had applied for GI tag for Cuttack's silver filigree work in July 2021.

BNTYY TRAIN FLAGGED OFF

Bhubaneswar: The 10th trip of Baristha Nagarika Tirtha Yatra Yojana (BNTYY) from Balasore railway station was flagged off, Saturday in the presence of Tourism Minister Ashwini Kumar Patra. This is the 10th trip of BNTYY pilgrimage train approved during 2023-24. A total of 1,000 (970 pilgrims along with 30 Escort Officers) from the district of Balasore, Bhadrak, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and Jajpur will visit Agra-Mathura. This is the 8th year of Baristha Nagarika Tirtha Yatra Yojana since its inception in 2016-17. The scheme was launched by state government to enable the poor and deprived senior citizens for realization of their lifelong dream of having one pilgrimage to fulfillment of their spiritual aspirations. So far, 29 such trips have been organised in collaboration with IRCTC under this Yojana benefiting more than 28,651 senior citizens in the age group of 60 to 75 years. This is 30th trip and a total of 29,651 pilgrims have availed this scheme as of Saturday. The dignitaries present on this occasion were Sudhanshu Sekhar Parida, Remuna MLA, Swarup Kumar Das, Balasore MLA, Lenin Mohanty, Chairman, OTDC, Durga Prasad Samantaray, Advisor, BNTYY, Balamukunda Bhuyan, Addl. Secretary, Tourism department and other officials.

Ekamra Walks offers night jungle safari in Bharatpur

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, March 2: To make Ekamra Walks more attractive for City folks and tourists, the Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) has introduced night jungle safari in Bharatpur as part of the experience.

"This new venture which started March 1 promises an adventurous exploration of the wilderness under the cover of night, adding a thrilling nocturnal perspective to Bhubaneswar's beloved heritage walk series," said an official.



The safari will start from Ekamra Haat, offering a unique window to participants from 6.15 pm to 8.30 pm every weekend, and will proceed into the nocturnal world of Bharatpur's dense forests. "This initiative

aims to provide a unique experience for nature enthusiasts and adventure seekers, allowing them to witness the vibrant wildlife activity that emerges after dark," the official said.

Participants will gather at Ekamra Haat, the starting point for this one hour journey, and will be guided by experts during the safari through wildlife habitats. The experts will help the tourists understand the ecosystem's dynamics at night while also communicating to them about the importance of ecological conservation.

"Every weekend this safari is designed to accommodate both locals and tourists, offering them a fresh perspective on wildlife exploration and an opportunity to engage with nature in an entirely new light. The night jungle safari is not just a trail it's an adventure that calls upon the curious people to discover the unseen life of the forest," the official said.

Registration details and information about the safari are available on the Ekamra Walks official website at www.ekamrawalks.com.

Cochlear implant gives babies hearing ability

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 2: Successful cochlear implant surgery at SUM Ultimate Medicare (SUMUM) has endowed two infants from remote parts of the state with the ability of hearing here recently.

The children, belonging to Keonjhar district were unable to hear and speak from birth and the parents brought them to SUMUM for consultation and further treatment. Radhamadhab Sahu, the hospital's senior consultant and head of the department of ENT and skull base surgery advised cochlear implant (CI) surgery on the two children. "The surgery by posterior tympanotomy method, a minimally invasive procedure that requires a very small incision, resulted in less pain, and was conducted by Sahu," informed hospital officials Saturday ahead of the World Hearing Day March 3.

"The technique helps in quick recovery. Both the implants were successfully placed and switched on after 21 days," he said. The children will have to undergo speech therapy for three months, the hospital's audiologist Lopamudra Tripathy said.

Sahu said that 80 per cent of the needs of people worldwide



having hearing impairment remain unmet leading to high economic loss.

"The changing mindset relating to ear and hearing care is crucial to improving and mitigating the cost of unaddressed hearing loss," he said. CI is the gold standard surgery for patients with severe to profound deafness. The implant, a small electronic device (electrode) which is placed in the inner ear, improves the capabilities of people with limited or no ability to hear, he said while adding that the WHO has set the theme for this year as 'Changing mindsets: Let's make ear and hearing care a reality for all.'

Sahu said government schemes like the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) and Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP) were helping hearing disabled children to turn over a new leaf in their lives free of cost.



MELODIOUS PERFORMANCE: Artists during a musical presentation at the 8th Nrutya Naivedya Odissi Utsav 2024 at Guru Kelu Charan Mohapatra Odissi Research Centre in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

MARKET WATCH		
INDEX		VARIATION
SENSEX	73806.15	↑ 60.80
NIFTY	22378.40	↑ 39.65
DOLLAR	82.84	↓ ₹0.06
EURO	89.80	↑ ₹0.21
GOLD	₹63600	↑ ₹37
SILVER	₹70630	↑ ₹95

WEATHER		
	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	36.8°C	32.5°C
Min Temp	22.0°C	22.0°C
Humidity	77%	84%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

Refrigerating lettuce helps contain bacterial contamination

Refrigerating may help prevent lettuce from E Coli contamination, but not kale and collards - types of saag - a new research has found.

Seeing outbreaks on lettuce but not on kale and other brassica vegetables like broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, collard greens and others, researchers analysed the tendencies of leafy greens to get infected with E Coli, or Escherichia coli, a bacterium species found in lower intestines of humans. While generally harmless, some of its strains are occasionally re-

sponsible for food contaminations and can cause food poisoning.

The researchers at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, US, infected whole leaves from five leafy greens - romaine lettuce, green-leaf lettuce, spinach, kale, and collards - with E. Coli (serotype O157:H7) and observed what happened after storing them under these temperatures - 4 degrees Celsius (refrigeration), 20 degrees Celsius (room temperature) and 37 degrees Celsius (normal body temperature).



Overall, a combination of both temperature and leaf surface properties such as roughness and the natural wax coating were found to govern susceptibility to the bacterial contamination, the researchers found.

"At room temperature or higher, E Coli grows very fast on lettuce, but if lettuce is refrigerated at 4 degrees Celsius, we see a sharp decline in the E Coli

population. However, for waxy greens like kale and collard, we get the opposite results."

"On these vegetables, E Coli grows slower under warmer temperatures, but if it is already present, it can survive longer under refrigeration," said Mengyi Dong, who conducted the research as a doctoral student in the department of Food Science and Human Nutrition (FSHN), at the University of Illinois.

Even so, kale and collard are overall less susceptible to E Coli contamination than lettuce and

while rinsing lettuce does help, it doesn't remove all the bacteria because of their tight attachment to the leaf, said Dong, lead author of the study published in the journal 'Food Microbiology'.

Further, the researchers inoculated cut leaves with the E Coli strain to compare the intact surface of a whole leaf to the damaged surface of a cut leaf, which they said presented different situations. "When the leaf is cut, it releases vegetable juice, which contains nutrients that stimulate bacterial growth," said Dong.

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'Everest is crowded and dirty now'

Dutch tourist lands in beggars' home 'after being robbed'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kathmandu, March 2: The only surviving member of the mountaineering expedition that first conquered Mount Everest said Saturday that the world's highest peak is too crowded and dirty, and the mountain is a god that needs to be respected.

Kanchha Sherpa, 91, was among the 35 members in the team that put New Zealander Edmund Hillary and his Sherpa guide Tenzing Norgay atop the 8,849-meter (29,032-foot) peak on May 29, 1953.

"It would be better for the mountain to reduce the number of climbers," Kanchha said in an interview in Kathmandu on Saturday, "Right now there is always a big crowd of people at the summit."

Since the first conquest, the peak has been climbed thousands of times, and it gets more crowded every year. During the spring climbing season in 2023, 667 climbers scaled the peak, but that brought in thousands of support staff to the base camp between the months of March and May.

There have been concerns about the number of people living on the mountain for months on end, generating trash and waste, but authorities have no plans to cut down on the number of permits they issue to climbers.

There are rules that require climbers to bring down their own trash, equipment and everything they carry to the mountain



or risk losing their deposit, but monitoring has not been very effective.

"It is very dirty now. People throw tins and wrappings after eating food. Who is going to pick them up now?" Kanchha said. "Some climbers just dump their trash in the crevasse, which would be hidden at that time but eventually it will flow down

to base camp as the snow melts and carries them downward."

For the Sherpas, Everest is Qomolangma or goddess mother of the world, and is revered by their community. They generally perform religious rituals before climbing the peak.

"They should not be dirtying the mountain. It is our biggest god and they should not be dirty-

ing the gods," he said "Qomolangma is the biggest god for the Sherpas but people smoke and eat meat and throw them on the mountain."

Kanchha was just a young man when he joined the Hillary-Tenzing expedition. He was among the three Sherpas to go the last camp on Everest along with Hillary and Tenzing. They



Kanchha Sherpa

could not go any further because they did not have a permit.

They first heard of the successful ascent on the radio, and then were reunited with the summit duo at Camp 2.

"We all gathered at Camp 2 but there was no alcohol so we celebrated with tea and snacks," he said. "We then collected whatever we could and carried it to base camp."

The route they opened up from the base camp to the summit is still used by climbers. Only the section from the base camp to Camp 1 over the unstable Khumbu Icefall changes every year.

Kanchha has four children, eight grandchildren and a 20-month-old great-granddaughter. He lives with family in Namche village in the foothills of Mount Everest, where the family runs a small hotel catering to trekkers and climbers.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, March 2: A 72-year-old tourist from the Netherlands, who had checked in to a hotel in Puri, claimed Friday that he stayed at a shelter home for beggars for over a month, after he was allegedly robbed by a taxi driver.

Anthony Von Arkel also said that the taxi driver had 'locked him up' at a house in Bhubaneswar for three days following the incident.

He had registered a complaint in this connection January 25, a police officer said.

Arkel claimed that he went to Bhubaneswar from Puri in a cab to exchange foreign currency, January 9, and during his

onward journey to Bhitarkanika, the driver robbed him of his money when he stepped out of the car to relieve himself.

The tourist then had an altercation with the driver, who took Arkel to his parental house and 'locked me up for three days'.

"With some youths' help, I returned to Puri via Bhubaneswar. I then went to the police and filed a complaint," he said.

With very little money in hand, Arkel had to stay in a shelter home for beggars from January 25 to March 1, he told reporters here.

After the media reported the incident, the Puri district administration arranged for his stay at the state guest house, he said.

Graft cuffs on cops

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 2: Vigilance sleuths Saturday arrested two Assistant Sub-Inspectors (ASIs) of police over bribery.

In the first case, ASI of Dabugaon police station in Nabarangpur district, Simanchal Moharana, was nabbed while demanding and accepting Rs 5,000 from a man for showing leniency and to help him in a case registered earlier against him and his family members.

On seeing the Vigilance offi-

cial, the ASI threw the entire bribe money in police station Malkhana which was recovered and seized by the officials.

Following the trap, simultaneous searches were conducted at two locations of Moharana. A Vigilance case under Section 7 of the PC (Amendment) Act, 2018 has been registered.

In the other case, ASI of Bhadreswar police station in Cuttack, Alok Kumar Sarangi, was nabbed while demanding and accepting Rs 8,000 from a man to help him in a case registered earlier in the police station.



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BJP gears up to wrest Bhadrak from BJD

Bhadrak, March 2: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), in the backdrop of its performance in the 2019 general elections when party candidate lost to the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) nominee by a slender margin in the reserved Bhadrak Lok Sabha (LS) seat, has centered all focus on the constituency for the upcoming polls.

The Bhadrak Lok Sabha seat has been in the BJD's kitty since 1998. However, in the 2019 polls, the party had to toil hard to retain the seat with a narrow margin. BJD's Manjulata Mandal had defeated BJP candidate Abhimanyu, son of former Union minister late Arjun Charan Sethy, by just 28,803 votes.

Despite his father's long legacy as BJD MP from Bhadrak, Abhimanyu's move to join the BJP after being denied a BJD ticket from the seat in 2019 had created quite a flutter in political circles. On the other hand, playing woman card for the first time in the LS segment, the



MANJULATA MANDAL

BJD had wrested the seat with Manjulata, wife of former Dhamnagar MLA Muktikanta Mandal as its candidate.

The five Assembly seats in the district and Soro and Simulia Assembly segments in neighbouring Balasore constitute the Bhadrak Lok Sabha constituency.

While in 2014, the saffron party's vote share in the constituency was 20.03 per cent, it increased to 39.51 per cent in 2019. The Congress, however,



ABHIMANYU SETHI

found itself in the third position in 2019 - from being the runner up in 2014 - with its share of votes sliding to 16.98 per cent from 29.86 per cent.

In 2019, BJP candidate Abhimanyu had garnered 4,83,502 votes while BJD's Manjulata had managed to overtake him with 5,12,305 votes.

This time, the BJP has set its eye on those Assembly seats where it lost by a close margin in 2019. It is learnt that the party

has already started preparations and leaving no stone unturned to ensure Abhimanyu's victory.

Sethy has been busy building public support by undertaking frequent visits to various places in the constituency.

With Bhadrak's Manmohan Samal being at the helm of the saffron party's affairs in the state as president, the party is bringing many leaders and organisers of other parties into its fold to win the Lok Sabha as well as all Assembly seats under the former. After bringing victory for the party in the Dhamnagar bypoll under his stewardship, Samal is confident of putting up a good show in the district.

On the other hand, it is no secret that the number of ticket aspirants in BJD is increasing in various poll segments of the district. In view of the infighting within the party, it remains to be seen whether the BJD will go ahead with Manjulata, or her husband Muktikanta, or his pick for the Lok Sabha seat. It might also project an entirely new face as the third alternative.

Jual's 'model village' is far from ideal

RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela, March 2: It was in 2014 when the Union government floated the 'Model Village' scheme (Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana) under which every MP has to adopt a village and transform it completely into an ideal village. However, the performance of the scheme a decade after its launch remains a matter of debate.

The Gurundia village in Sundargarh district is a case in point. The village had been adopted by five-time MP and former Union minister Jual Oram. Jual decided to bring about a complete transformation in the village.

Since 2015, the year of adoption of the village, and now, when Jual may get the saffron party's nod to be the MP candidate from Sundargarh, much water has flown down the Khandadhar waterfall (which falls under the constituency). The hope of transformation that was kindled following the decision of Modi government in 2015 seems to have received a rude jolt.

Following his declaration to adopt the village, Jual had allocated ₹2.3 crore for eight projects that were inaugurated in 2016. "Development for transformation is a continuous process and God only knows what he has done for Sundargarh, vis a vis what he has done for Gurundia, his adopted village," said a government school teacher who did not want to be named.

With the allocated funds, steps were taken to transform the Gurundia bus stand, set up drinking water and street illumination projects with the help of solar energy, black topping and widening of roads apart from building a bridge over a river, a park for children and construction of a statue of Lord Hanuman.



nance. Jual had then stated the park's maintenance would be his responsibility.

Even today, Gurundia is lagging behind in electrification, mobile connectivity service, internet services, irrigation and others.

"Perhaps these were not part of the transformation process of an ideal village," lamented a local. The development of the Khandadhar waterfall, the pride of the entire district, was completely carried out by the state government.

Locals allege Jual never took any interest in the developmental works despite repeated reminders. It is the state government which has opened one Adarsha Vidyalaya. But locals say, as the Union Minister for Tribal Development, Jual could have, at least, initiated the process for setting up a Navodaya Vidyalaya.

A BJP cadre at Bonai rued, "When Modiji is so keen on skill development among the youth, Jual, at the least, could have opened one such centre in the village or in Bonai."

5-time MLA Arabinda Dhali quits BJD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, March 2: Five-time MLA Arabinda Dhali Saturday resigned from the ruling BJD, and said that he would join the Opposition BJP.

Dhali, the MLA of Jayadev in Khurda district, said he has sent his resignation letter to BJD president and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik via e-mail.

He, however, did not mention any reason for his resignation. Dhali was first elected to the



Assembly from the Malkangiri seat in a byelection in 1992 on a BJD ticket. He retained the seat

Dhali, the MLA of Jayadev, said he has sent his resignation letter to BJD president and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik via e-mail. He did not mention any reason for his resignation

for two consecutive terms. He then joined the BJD, and

was elected to the Assembly from Jayadev in 2009. He also won the 2019 election from the seat.

He was the transport minister in Patnaik's government.

Last month, expelled BJD MLAs Pradeep Panigrahy and Prasanta Kumar Jagadev also joined the BJP. Former state minister Debasis Nayak of the BJD also switched sides recently.

The Assembly elections in the state are slated to be held along with the Lok Sabha polls.

BJD in tight spot over selection of candidate



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bolangir, March 2: The impasse over selection of BJD candidate for the Bolangir Lok Sabha segment has become a headache for rival BJP and Congress as the 2024 general elections draws near.

According to reports, though the dates for 2024 general elections are yet to be announced, all major political parties have launched hectic preparations to win.

Aspirants wishing to throw their hat in the election arena are in galore in all the mainstream parties, but this large number has turned out to be a headache for the respective party leaders to choose the best among them.

Speculations, concern, dilemma and propaganda about the aspirants in BJD, BJP and Congress are only increasing

with each passing day. However, the BJD getting caught up in a sticky situation over selection of its Lok Sabha candidate has become a cause of concern for the saffron party and Congress.

The Bolangir Lok Sabha constituency consists of seven

BOLANGIR LOK SABHA SEAT

Assembly segments out of which five are in Bolangir district while two more fall in neighbouring Subarnapur district. In the 2019 elections, Sangeeta Kumari Singhdeo was fielded by BJP while Kalikesh Narayan Singhdeo contested from BJD. Samarendra Mishra was fielded by the Congress party from this Lok Sabha constituency.

However, Sangeeta won from this seat by defeating her rivals Kalikesh and Samarendra. Speculations are rife that all the

three mainstream parties might go for change in candidates this time. Moreover, the BJD nominee has become a sharp poser for the ruling party. Chatters were abuzz that Kalikesh Narayan Singhdeo who was defeated in 2019 elections might contest from

Bolangir Assembly seat this time. Kalikesh is now touring various villages and urban areas under the Bolangir Assembly segment and attending various meetings and programmes of the party. His supporters are saying that in all likelihood, Kalikesh will contest for MLA on a party ticket from Bolangir Assembly constituency.

Meanwhile, Kalikesh, who is the chairman of the state Housing Board, opting out of the MP race has put the ruling BJD in a tight spot. The party is

in a dilemma that if Kalikesh contested from Bolangir Assembly seat then who will field from Bolangir Lok Sabha seat?

The name of WODC Chairman Asit Tripathy first cropped up as the party candidate for the Bolangir Lok Sabha seat. Later, names of Titilagarh MLA and minister Tukuni Sahu, Patnagarh MLA and District Planning Board Chairman Saroj Meher, Sonepur MLA and minister Niranjan Pujari and Birmaharajpur MLA Padmanabha Behera started doing the rounds as probable candidates of BJD for the Lok Sabha seat.

Insiders however, said that none of the ministers and MLAs is interested to contest from the Bolangir Lok Sabha seat by sacrificing their Assembly constituencies which are safe for them.

Speculations are rife that

BJD might reap maximum benefit in the election after the construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya. The fear of defeat at the hands of BJP has gripped other party leaders. All the BJD leaders whose names have been doing the rounds as the MP probables fear that the BJP might reap the benefits in the event the party secretly enters into a deal for the Lok Sabha seat.

As a result, the panicked BJD leaders are instead lobbying for ticket from their respective Assembly constituencies. Chatters were abuzz that many party leaders and ministers have sought intelligence reports on their positions in their respective constituencies.

As a result, the name of WODC chairman Asit Tripathy as the party candidate from Bolangir Lok Sabha seat has stopped doing the rounds. Party workers are of the opinion that Tripathy might not be an acceptable face among the voters as his personality that of an officer rather than a leader. Given the situation, the dilemma over who will be the party's candidate from the Bolangir Lok Sabha seat haunts the BJD which has been in power in the state for the last 25-years.



BJD workers during 'Ghare Ghare Sankha' programme at Ward-13 under G Udayagiri NAC in Kandhamal district, Saturday



Workers from other parties join BJP at a merger meeting held at Madhapur and Charadia panchayats under Chandbail block in Bhadrak district, Saturday



Bhubaneswar MLA (Ekamra) Ashok Chandra Panda, along with BJD leader Shreemayee Mishra and other party leaders, taking out a 'Parivaar Sampark Abhiyaan' in the constituency ahead of the upcoming elections, Saturday



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CCI HURDLE FOR RELIANCE-DISNEY MERGER

The proposed merger between Reliance Industries-owned Viacom18 and Walt Disney's Star India is likely to go through greater scrutiny by the Competition Commission of India given the impact it could have on the media & entertainment sector, experts said. The anti-monopoly watchdog might look at the combined market share of the proposed merged entity in the TV and streaming segments as the duo has a commanding presence in both segments, they added



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SHORT TAKES

NUCFDC launched

New Delhi: Cooperation Minister Amit Shah Saturday launched the National Urban Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation (NUCFDC) and asked the umbrella body to set up one urban cooperative bank in each town. NUCFDC has received the RBI approval to function as a non-banking finance company and a self-regulatory organisation for the urban cooperative banking sector. After the launch, Shah said, "After 20 years, NUCFDC has been established. This is the need of the hour. I am happy the RBI has given approval for this." Urban cooperative banks have been operating in India for a long time, but could not grow rapidly even though they can play a key role in the country's economic growth, he said. The main objective of NUCFDC should be to help urban cooperative banks adhere to the Banking Regulations Act and bring professionalism in their work, the minister said.

JSW Steel to invest 143mn euros in Italy

New Delhi: JSW Steel Friday said it will make investments to the tune of 143 million euros at its steelworks site at Piombino in Italy. To take the plan forward, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Ministry of Industry and Made in Italy, the Tuscany Region, the Municipality of Piombino and its Italian arm, JSW Steel Italy SRL. JSW Steel said in a statement. Apart from doubling the current rail-making capacity from three lakh tonne to six lakh tonne per annum, the investments at Piombino are aimed at making the rail mill more efficient, modern and technologically advanced. The project envisages the setting up of the Tandem Mill, a head-hardening facility and increasing the length of the rails from 108 to 120 metres.

Indians top Nepal inbound tourist mkt

Kathmandu: India has emerged as Nepal's top inbound tourist market in February, the tourism authority here said Saturday, as the key sector in the Himalayan nation is gradually witnessing recovery from the onslaught of the coronavirus pandemic. Of the total 97,426 tourists arriving in the country by air route last month, 25,578 were from India, followed by China with 9,180 and the US with 9,089 visitors, according to data published by the Nepal Tourism Board (NTB). Thailand is in fourth place with 4,799 inbound visitors, while the UK and Bangladesh ranked fifth and sixth in the list with 4,571 and 4,099 tourists respectively. According to NTB Director Mani Lamichhane, though the data showed over 25,000 Indians visiting Nepal in February, the actual number is much higher as a large number of tourists from India visited the country via land route.

RIFT WITH INVESTORS

Founder says rights issue funds locked in separate account

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 2: BYJU'S founder Byju Raveendran Saturday said the edtech company will not be able to pay salaries to employees as the recent funds raised through a rights issue are inaccessible due to a legal dispute with certain investors. In a letter to staff, Raveendran said the rights issue, launched a month ago, has been successfully closed. "This was supposed to be a happy correspondence. After all, we now have funds to meet our short-term needs and clear our liabilities. However, I regret to inform you that we will still be unable to process your salaries," he said. In the letter - seen by PTI - Raveendran said the company is

BYJU'S unable to pay salaries



still striving to ensure that salaries are paid by March 10. "We shall make these payments the moment we are permitted to do so as per law," he added. Further, Raveendran said that last month, the company faced challenges due to a lack of capital, and "now we are experiencing a delay despite having funds". "Unfortunately, a select few (4 out of our 150 plus investors) have stooped to a heartless level, ensuring that we are unable to utilise the funds raised to pay your hard-earned salaries," Raveendran said. "At their behest, the amount raised through the rights issue is currently locked in a separate account," he added. Raveendran accused these select investors of having a callous disregard for the lives and livelihoods of others even though they had reaped substantial profits from investment in BYJU'S. Raveendran noted that he

It is an agonising reality that some of these investors have already reaped substantial profits - in fact, one of them has made a staggering eight times their initial investment in BYJU'S. And yet, their actions convey a callous disregard for our lives and livelihoods

BYJU RAVEENDRAN | FOUNDER, BYJU'S

has fought fearlessly and tirelessly, "leaving no stone unturned" to find a way to honour the company's commitment to employees. Earlier this week, a company law court had asked the embattled edtech firm to consider extending the closing date of the \$200 million rights issue, a request that the management had hinted it would not accept even as estranged investors flagged technicalities that prevented the closure of the issue Wednesday.

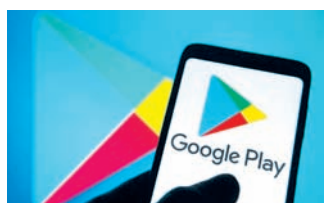
GOOGLE-INDIAN STARTUPS ROW

Apps delisting can't be permitted: Govt

NAUKRI, 99ACRES, OTHER APPS BACK ON GOOGLE PLAY STORE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 2: Naukri, 99acres and NaukriGulf were among a handful of apps that made a comeback on Google Play Store after they complied with the tech giant's payment norms even as the government talked tough, calling delisting of Indian apps unacceptable and summoning a meeting on the issue next week. IT and Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, in an interview with PTI, said removal of apps cannot be permitted and that "startups will get the protection they need". Just as his interview with PTI hit the wire, certain apps like Naukri.Com, 99acres, NaukriGulf, and Shaadi.Com were back on the Google Play Store. Sources said that only those apps which complied with Google Play Store policies were reinstated. Other apps like Bharat Matrimony, Balaji Telefilms' Alt (formerly ALTBalaji), audio platform Kuku FM, dating service Quack Quack, Truly Madly, and Stage OTT, which had disappeared from the Play Store Friday, are still not back. While InfoEdge's matrimony app jeevansathi.Com was not removed, as it continued to be compliant, its Naukri.Com, 99acres and a few others were back after they moved to Google's consumption model, which means any payment to be made is done outside of the app. Taking a strong view of Google pulling out some apps from its Play Store, Vaishnaw Saturday said delisting of Indian apps cannot be permitted and that the tech company and concerned startups have been called for a



India is very clear, our policy is very clear. Our startups will get the protection that they need

ASHWINI VAISHNAW | IT AND TELECOM MINISTER

meeting next week. According to Vaishnaw, the startup ecosystem is key to the Indian economy, and their fate cannot be left to any big tech to decide. The minister's comments came in reference to a question on Google removing some apps, including popular matrimony apps, from its Play Store in India over a dispute on service fee payments, even as apps and well-known startup founders had cried foul. Vaishnaw asserted that the government will be meeting Google and app developers, who have been delisted, next week to resolve the dispute. "I have already called Google. I have already called the app developers who have been delisted, we will be meeting them next week. This kind of delisting cannot be permitted," he said. Stating that India has built a strong startup ecosystem of over one lakh startups, and more than 100 unicorns from scratch in a matter of 10 years, the minister said the energy of youth and entrepreneurs must be channelised fully and "cannot be left to the policies of any big tech". Info Edge (India) Ltd Saturday morning said its apps, including naukri.Com, 99

The raging dispute is over Google imposing a fee of 11 to 26% on in-app payments after anti-competition body CCI ordered scrapping an earlier system of charging 15 to 30%

acres.Com and shiksha.Com have been removed from Google Play Store but within hours it was clarified that some of them have been restored. "Many of the Info Edge apps are back on the Play Store. An effort very well led by (company MD and CEO) Hitesh and the entire Info Edge team. People were up all night for this. Great crisis management," Info Edge founder Sanjeev Bikhchandani said in a post on X. In response to Shaadi.Com founder Anupam Mittal's post, Bikhchandani clarified that the apps are on the consumption model and backup. "Pls clarify that u are back up as consumption apps only i.e. without any in-app billing which will destroy the consumer side of the business in the longer term. Otherwise, this tweet will be interpreted as everything is back to status quo, which is NOT true," Mittal posted on X. Google Friday lamented that a clutch of companies, including well-established ones continue to flout its billing norms, choosing not to pay the Play Store service fee applicable on the sale of in-app digital goods, and warned that it will not hesitate to take necessary action to enforce policies, including removal of such non-compliant apps from Google Play.

Seek approval before deploying under-trial AI: Govt to platforms

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 2: Days after Google's AI platform's response to queries on Prime Minister Narendra Modi generated controversy, the government has issued an advisory for social media and other platforms to label under-trial AI models and prevent hosting unlawful content. In an advisory issued to intermediaries/platforms March 1, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology warned of criminal action in case of non-compliance. "All intermediaries or platforms to ensure that use of Artificial Intelligence model(s) /LLM/Generative AI, software(s) or algorithm(s) on or through its computer resource does not permit its users to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, store, update or share any unlawful content," the advisory said. All platforms, intermediaries and enabling software shall be held accountable for any breaches, it added. "Non-compliance with provisions would result in penal consequences."

The advisory comes within days of Google's AI platform Gemini making uncharitable comments about Prime Minister Modi's policies. The response of Gemini to queries about the Prime Minister led to a strong reaction from the government, with Minister of State for IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar calling it a violation of IT laws. "India continues to retain full policy space for the benefit of our farmers, our fishermen, and in every respect, we have been able to take India's interests to the highest level possible," the minister told reporters here after the five-day meeting of the trade ministers of 166-member World Trade Organisation (WTO). As the members were not able to reach consensus on key issues such as agriculture and fisheries subsidies, the talks that were scheduled to end February 29 got extended for a day. The talks at the WTO's ministerial conference ended with no decision on issues such as finding a permanent solution to public food stockpile and on curbing fisheries subsidies, but the members agreed to further extend the moratorium on imposing import duties on e-commerce trade for two more years. The ministerial conference, the highest decision making body of the WTO, also managed to get more outcomes such as new disciplines on domestic regulation for services, formal joining of Comoros and Timor-Leste as members of the WTO, and least developing countries continuing to get the benefits of LDC even three years after graduation. India successfully pushed the food security issue and the country did not yield any ground on protecting the interest of poor farmers and fishermen as well

India wins big at WTO meet



The country retains full policy space for benefit of farmers, fishermen at WTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Abu Dhabi, March 2: The outcome of the 13th ministerial conference of the WTO was "good" and India is "completely satisfied" as the country continues to retain its full policy space to protect the interests of farmers and fishermen in every respect, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said. He said that New Delhi's procurement of food grains for distribution among the poor continues uninterrupted and without any hindrance. "India continues to retain full policy space for the benefit of our farmers, our fishermen, and in every respect, we have been able to take India's interests to the highest level possible," the minister told reporters here after the five-day meeting of the trade ministers of 166-member World Trade Organisation (WTO). As the members were not able to reach consensus on key issues such as agriculture and fisheries subsidies, the talks that were scheduled to end February 29 got extended for a day. The talks at the WTO's ministerial conference ended with no decision on issues such as finding a permanent solution to public food stockpile and on curbing fisheries subsidies, but the members agreed to further extend the moratorium on imposing import duties on e-commerce trade for two more years. The ministerial conference, the highest decision making body of the WTO, also managed to get more outcomes such as new disciplines on domestic regulation for services, formal joining of Comoros and Timor-Leste as members of the WTO, and least developing countries continuing to get the benefits of LDC even three years after graduation. India successfully pushed the food security issue and the country did not yield any ground on protecting the interest of poor farmers and fishermen as well

By and large, the objectives with which we had come to Abu Dhabi are largely met and we go back fully satisfied. Our largest interest was to protect our farmers and our fishermen, both of which we are strongly doing and that is our offensive interest which we are actively pursuing

PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

as on other issues. Goyal said that "it's a good outcome and we are completely satisfied... A lot of issues continue to make progress in terms of discussions. Generally through the MC13, progress was made on several contentious issues which had not been closed for many years. Forward movement is always a sign of a possible closure going forward." He added that in the proposed fisheries subsidies agreement aimed to curb subsidies that lead to over capacity and over fishing, India found several ambiguities on the proposals that were on the table. Besides, definitions were not satisfactory and several areas where deeper consultations and greater degree of flexibility was required to ensure a fair and balanced agreement, were not possible in such a short period of time. On further extension of the duty moratorium on e-commerce trade, the minister said that India was "not necessarily opposed" to it fully. Since the members had not discussed the issues pertaining to the moratorium during the time between MC12 (happened at Geneva June 2022) and MC 13, such as its scope and its impact on different economies, "we believe that it's in the best interest that we continue this e-commerce moratorium", he said. When asked about the effort of certain developed countries to push non-trader issues like investment facilitation agreement, environment and labour in the WTO, Goyal said India has been successful in making sure that such issues cannot become part of the WTO.

Indian Bank inaugurates renovated premises of Pathara Branch

Berhampur: Indian Bank has inaugurated the renovated premises of Pathara Branch at Bhejput village in Ganjam district March 1. M Aruna, Field General Manager, Bhubaneswar inaugurated the new premises in the presence of Uchhab Chandra Patra, Zonal Manager, Berhampur and Arakshita Sahoo, Deputy Zonal Manager, Berhampur. Uchhab Chandra Patra, ZM, Berhampur thanked all the customers for attending the inauguration and also explained about various bank products i.e., self help groups (SHGs), home loan, vehicle loan, MSME products and services offered by Indian Bank and informed that bank is giving higher interest deposit rate on 300 days and 400 days term deposit. He also solicits the corporation from the customers for the growth of branch. He appealed to all the customers to shift to digital platform for 24x7 banking. Pradeep Kumar Behera, Branch Manager, Pathara Branch proposed the vote of thanks.



MARCH 3 - 9, 2024

SUNDAY POST

HERE . NOW



Living Together

Morality vs Modernity



NISHIT MAJITHIA IS VERSATILE. HE IS AN ACTOR, ANCHOR, SCRIPTWRITER, QUIZ MASTER, AND CRICKET COMMENTATOR ALL ROLLED INTO ONE. FOLLOWING HIS SOUL-STIRRING PERFORMANCE IN THE TV SHOW JIBANA SAATHI AND PLAY AHE NILA SHAILA, NISHIT HAS NOW MADE A FORAY INTO THE FILM INDUSTRY WITH ANUPAM PATNAIK'S 3KANYA. IN HIS FREE TIME, HE ENJOYS READING FICTION AND BOOKS ON MYTHOLOGY



With wife



With parents

Food enthusiast

My Sunday starts with a South Indian breakfast, followed by either a Gujarati or an Odia lunch. For evening snacks, I prefer options from Western Odisha, and to round off the day, a North Indian dinner is perfect for me.



Focus on self-care

Madhu, my better half, takes charge of organising my self-care routine, and I happily go along with her plans. I thoroughly savour her pampering.

Family time

In our family, we spend our time engaging in lively conversations about our day and evening activities. Watching movies and dining out make my Sunday.

Literary activities

I enjoy consuming a wide variety of content online, whether it's through web platforms or OTT services. I also derive pleasure from reading fictions and mythological books

Going with the flow

On holidays, I don't follow any set routine. I just go with whatever feels right. Some days, I enjoy sitting around, while on others, I might feel like going out to watch movies, do some self-care, or even party.

MADHUSMITA SAHU, OP

WhatsApp This Week

Only on Sunday POST!

Send in your most interesting WhatsApp messages and memes at: features.orissapost@gmail.com And we will publish the best ones

THE BEST MEMES OF THIS ISSUE

- What do you call a bee that lives in America? A USB.
Finland has just closed its borders... so now nobody can cross the Finnish line.
What do you call a priest that becomes a lawyer? A father in law.
Why can't fishermen be generous? Because their business makes them sell fish!



JATRA MAGIC

Sir, I found the cover story 'Back in Business' on Odia Opera quite interesting and informative. Though ridiculed by the so-called class audience for its loud expressions and ham acting, the largest form of entertainment in Odisha is well ahead of other mediums like films and television in terms of generating revenue. As a resident of Bhubaneswar, I couldn't resist the temptation of watching a show at Khandagiri, where at least a dozen Jatra troupes set up their camps this season. The ambience was to be seen to be believed. The kind of crowd Jatras draw is incredible. As per the performance, the artistes put in so much hard work that they deserve all the attention and appreciation they garner. It's unfortunate that the government has yet to accord industry status to Jatras and bring the actors and other technicians associated with the medium under the social security net.

SOUMYAJIT SAHOO, BHUBANESWAR

LETTERS



A WORD FOR READERS

Sunday POST is serving a platter of delectable fare every week, or so we hope. We want readers to interact with us. Feel free to send in your opinions, queries, comments and contributions to

features.orissapost@gmail.com
B-15, Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar - 751010, Orissa. Phone (0674) 2549982, 2549948

Living Together

Morality vs Modernity

MADHUSMITA SAHU, OP

Though living together is gradually becoming more common, big Indian cities in particular, crimes involving such arrangements are also on the rise.

Taking the issue into consideration, the Uttarakhand government has recently issued a set of guidelines for live-in partnership under the Uniform Civil Code (UCC). The rules, which emphasise individual rights, offer financial protection and inheritance rights to couples in live-in relationships. Besides, couples are required to register their relationship with local authorities in order to benefit from legal safeguards, demonstrating a proactive attitude to recognising and regulating such partnerships.

This shift in perception is indicative of changing societal attitudes towards personal autonomy, choice, and partnership dynamics. However, despite this evolving acceptance, societal stigmas and cultural barriers still persist, particularly in conservative cultures.

Guidelines issued by the Uttarakhand government extend financial protection and inheritance rights to couples in live-in relationships, addressing the concerns of those into it

While the debate is not likely to end anytime soon, a few stakeholders shared with Sunday POST their thoughts on the issue.

Excerpts:

'Let us accept modern form of companionship'

Arpit Kanungo

(name changed on request), who is currently living with his partner in Kolkata, sharing first the challenges, says, "My partner and I have been together for nearly six years, residing as a couple for two years in Kolkata. In the bustling environment of a metropolitan city, where privacy is prized, navigating our status as a live-in couple presented challenges. Despite working in corporate environments, securing suitable housing proved difficult; many landlords insisted on marriage before renting to us."

Thankfully, a compassionate couple understood their difficulties and leased them a 2-bedroom flat.

Delving into other aspects, he continues: "Our experience of living together outside the bounds of traditional marriage has been both empowering and demanding. It has afforded us the opportunity to strengthen our connection and forge a shared life free from societal pressures."

Asked about his take on Uttarakhand government's move on the issue, he states, "I believe that the introduction of guidelines for such arrangements is a positive step towards

recognising and regulating this increasingly common aspect of modern relationships. These guidelines offer clarity and legal protection to couples choosing to cohabit without formal marriage, addressing issues such as property rights, financial responsibilities, and dispute resolution. By establishing a framework for live-in relationships, it fosters a more inclusive and progressive approach to partnerships, acknowledging the diverse ways in which individuals choose to structure their lives and relationships."

He goes on to add, "Furthermore, these guidelines may encourage a shift in societal attitudes towards cohabitation, reducing stigma and discrimination against couples who opt for it. It could also provide a sense of security and stability for couples, knowing that their rights and obligations are legally

recognised and protected."

Kanungo also pointed out about the possibility of such an arrangement in ancient India.

"In the Vedic period, the Gandharva marriage, one of the eight types of Hindu marriages, has similarity to a live-in relationship. In this type of marriage, the couple lived together out of love

and consent. According to Manu, premarital relationships existed in the Vedic period and afterwards but were rare. However, premarital relationships are depicted and acknowledged in Hindu scriptures," he adds.

Kanungo says though societal norms evolve and embrace more Westernised values, there remains a segment resistant to the idea of live-in relationships. So, he advocates for a shift in their perspective, urging people to reconsider and perhaps accept this modern form of companionship.

'For me living together is about testing waters before taking the marital plunge'

Talking about her live-in experience, Sneha Sudha (name changed on request) says, "My partner (now husband) and I knew each other from our college days. Opting for living together was a mutual thing. We were very similar to each other, and we tried our best to get to know each other more."

Shedding light on reason/s behind their decision, she adds, "Choosing to enter into a live-in relationship before marriage can stem from various reasons, but for me, it was about testing the waters before taking the marital plunge. It allowed us to truly understand each other's habits, quirks, and dynamics on a day-to-day basis, providing invaluable insights into whether we were compatible for the long haul."





She further shares, “Over time, our relationship evolved significantly. Initially, the excitement of cohabitation was palpable as we navigated the novelty of sharing a space and merging our lives. We learned to compromise, communicate effectively, and respect each other’s limitations. Through the mundane routines and shared responsibilities, our bond deepened, fostering a sense of partnership and companionship that laid a solid foundation for our future together.”

However, it wasn’t without challenges. The two encountered conflicts and disagreements, but each hurdle served as an opportunity for growth and understanding for them. Through patience, empathy, and a willingness to work through differences, they emerged stronger as a couple.

“Transitioning from a live-in relationship to marriage offers a unique perspective on the interplay between family and societal expectations. In our journey, these expectations have been both influential and burdensome. Family expectations often stem from traditions, cultural norms, and generational beliefs. These can exert pressure to formalise the relationship through marriage, as it aligns with their values of stability and legitimacy.”

Carrying on, Sneha says, “While this can foster a sense of belonging and acceptance, it can also create tension if our choices diverge from their ideals. Societal expectations add another layer, magnifying the significance of marital status. There’s a prevailing notion that marriage signifies commitment and success in relationships, influencing how we’re perceived by others. While it can offer certain privileges and recognition, it can also perpetuate stereotypes and judgements, especially towards those who choose alternative lifestyles. Our decision to marry was driven by our own readiness and desire rather than external pressures. Ultimately, family and societal expectations should serve as guiding influences rather than dictators of our choices, allowing us to forge a path that authentically reflects our values and aspirations.”

Signing off, she adds, “Ultimately, our journey from living together to marriage was a natural progression fueled by love, mutual respect, and a shared vision for the future. It allowed us to enter into matrimony with confidence, knowing that we had already weathered life’s

ups and downs together and were ready to commit to a lifetime of companionship and support.”

‘Non-committal arrangements weaken the fabric of society’

Sanjogini Hota, a firm believer in tradition, is against the idea of live-in. She says, “I firmly oppose the idea of live-in relationships. Such arrangements undermine the sanctity of marriage and family, which have long been the cornerstones of society. Firstly, live-in relationships promote a casual approach to commitment and intimacy, eroding the significance of marriage vows. In the past, couples would solemnise their union through marriage, signifying a lifelong commitment to one another. By contrast, live-in relationships lack the solemnity and permanence that marriage provides, leading to instability and uncertainty.”

Listing the flaws, she continues: “Moreover, living together outside of wedlock sets a poor example for future generations, blurring the lines between morality and ethical conduct. Traditional values emphasise the importance of marital fidelity and the establishment of a stable family unit for the well-being of children. In a live-in arrangement, these values are often compromised, potentially causing confusion and instability for any offspring involved. Additionally, from a societal

perspective, live-in relationships can contribute to the erosion of social cohesion and community values.”

Strong families are the building blocks of a healthy society, providing emotional support, stability, and a sense of belonging. So, when individuals opt for transient, non-committal arrangements, it weakens the fabric of society, leading to fragmentation and isolation, concludes Hota.

‘Requirement for couples to register their cohabitation is a positive development’

Siddharth Mishra, a family counsellor based in Bhubaneswar, says living within the relationship guidelines of Uttarakhand will not only affect the state but the entire nation.

Elaborating more he adds, “The decision to engage in a live-in relationship is subjective and varies based on the preferences of the individuals involved. While there are advantages and disadvantages associated with this choice, it’s worth noting that in India, there is a growing fascination with Western culture, leading some to embrace its practices, including cohabitation. However, it’s essential for couples to recognise its potential impact on society as a whole. Uttarakhand has taken steps to regulate live-in relationships due to concerns about societal repercussions. Elsewhere in India, the requirement for couples to register their cohabitation is seen as a positive development, especially for those transitioning from platonic friendships to romantic partnerships.”

According to Mishra, “Couples in cohabitation encounter numerous obstacles, such as a lack of mutual respect and boundary violations, initially met with appreciation but occasionally overwhelming. When partners are deeply connected, challenges diminish, paving the way for a seamless transition into marriage.”

Winding off, he has a suggestion for the live-in partners. “I’ve developed a wonderful approach that I recommend to couples called ‘HUG’, standing for ‘Humanity, Understanding, and Gratitude’. It emphasises humility within the relationship, encouraging individuals to stay connected and empathise with each other’s behaviours. It’s essential to appreciate each other for the companionship and support shared,” Mishra says.



The son of an English immigrant couple, William Poole, popularly known as 'Bill the Butcher', first ruled the underworld and then went on to lead the nativist Americans in the mid-nineteenth century fighting the resettlement of Irish Catholics in New York

Bill the Butcher

From notoriety to martyrdom



Daniel Day-Lewis playing 'Bill the Butcher' in 2002 film *Gangs of New York*, directed by Martin Scorsese

OP DESK

William Poole, once a knife-wielding gang leader, is now considered a martyr in America.

"Goodbye boys, I die a true American," he reportedly said in his dying words, which reverberate in the ears of millions even today after 170 years of his death.

Poole, also known as Bill the Butcher (because of his family trade), commanded the nativist street gang Bowery Boys, ruled the underworld, and subsequently entered politics.

This week, Sunday POST examines his transformation from a butcher to a charismatic figure with a cult following.

Early Life

Poole was born in New Jersey July 24, 1821, to an English immigrant couple. The family relocated to New York in 1831 and opened a meat outlet to support themselves.

Poole eventually joined the family business and became known as Bill the Butcher. He also went by the nickname because he was a bare-knuckle boxer who relished battering his opponents until they looked like gory chunks of meat.

Bill's experience as a butcher honed his knife-wielding skills. These abilities, combined with his boxing background, helped him become one of the country's most respected street fighters.

Emergence of the Bowery Boys

Bill eventually became the leader of the street gang, which was anti-Irish and anti-Catholic. Like other street gangs, the Bowery Boys were more than just a criminal group.

Their members were from impoverished, neglected communities, and street gangs filled the void left by a lack of social services. These gangs offered their members jobs like firefighting and enhanced their social status.

In the 1840s, Bill became a firefighter and joined Howard Fire Engine Company #34. The Dead Rabbits, the largest rival gang with Irish members, also operated fire departments.

Nativists vs immigrants

In the first part of the 19th century, Europeans immigrated

to the United States in droves. Many nativist Americans, including second- and third-generation immigrants, opposed this wave of immigration for ethnic and economic reasons.

They feared that these new immigrants would take their employment and economic chances, forcing them to leave the United States. Furthermore, most immigrants were Catholics, but many nativists were Anglo-Saxon Protestants. This created religious strife in the country.

By the 1850s, Irish Catholics constituted more than half of the population in New York City. Tammany Hall, a political outfit that provided Irish membership, used the influx of immigrants to dominate city politics.

The Dead Rabbits and other Irish Catholic street gangs maintained strong ties and voted for their leaders in exchange for

food and money.

Growth of the Know-Nothing Party

The rise of Tammany Hall in 1849 inspired nativist Americans to join the Know-Nothing Party in New York City.

The party received its moniker because when outsiders questioned its members, they would reply, 'I know nothing.'

The party expanded its presence throughout the United States, and by 1855, it had 43 Congress members. Bill was one of the party's first leaders and was essential in persuading its supporters to vote against the Irish Catholics.

Bill vs John

Bill's arch-rival was John Morrissey, an Irish immigrant who worked in Tammany Hall. In exchange for their votes, he assisted new immigrants in obtaining citizenship and finding employment.

Furthermore, like Bill, he was a shoulder-hitter on

election day, protecting individuals from intimidation and violence so they could vote quietly.

In the 1854 mayoral race, Bill and John faced off, defending their respective voters against each other's meddling. The Tammany Hall candidate won this election.

In the same year, Bill and John faced off in a much anticipated boxing match. Bill poured strikes on John, winning the match. However, John's supporters claimed that several of Bill's supporters had assaulted him throughout the contest. Nonetheless, the loss prompted John to begin plotting his revenge.

Untimed death

Within a year of the boxing match, John collaborated with fellow Dead Rabbits members to murder Bill.

Bill and John met February 25, 1855, at a New York City pub named Stanwix Hall. They insulted each other and eventually came to blows. When the authorities arrived, they transported the two to several police stations but released them without filing any charges.

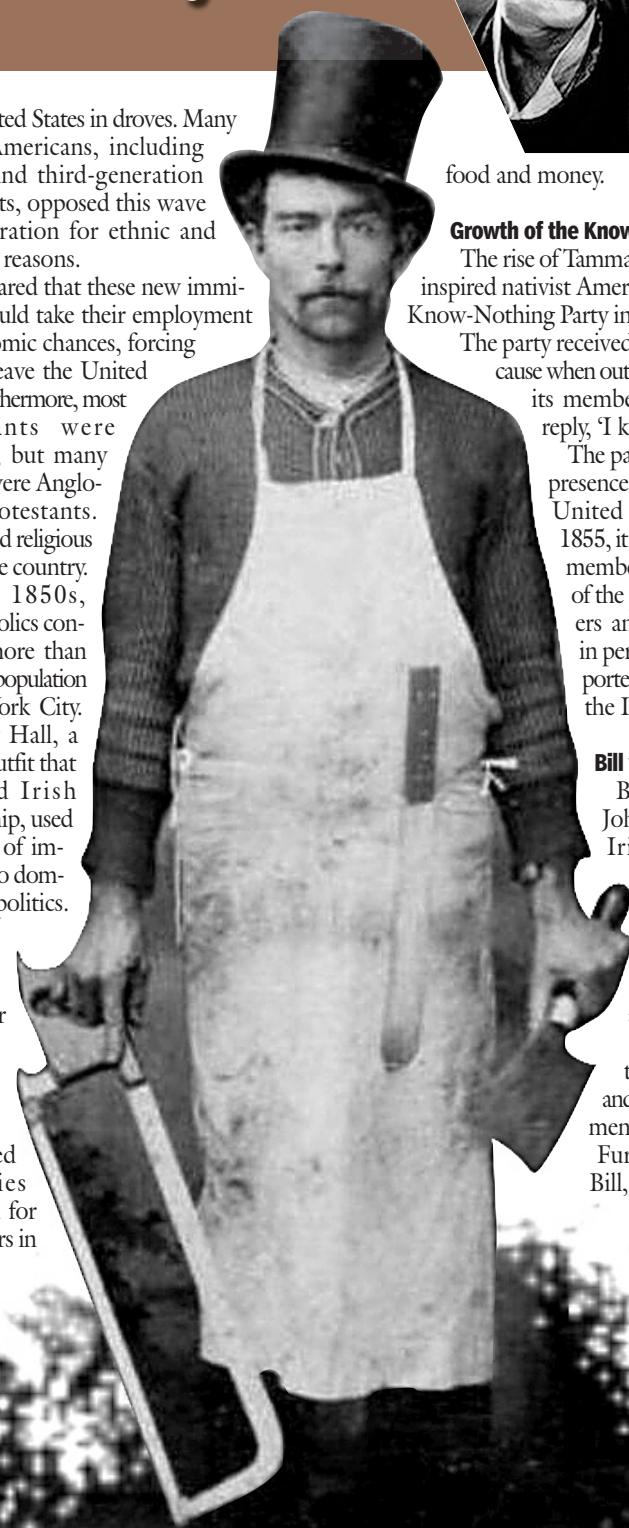
Later, Bill returned to the bar and ran into Tammany Hall colleagues Jim Turner and Lewis Baker. Another struggle broke out, and Baker shot Bill in the chest, while Turner shot him in the leg.

The gunshot lodged in his heart's protective sac, and Bill died 11 days later, March 8, 1855. Bill supposedly screamed those iconic comments before dying to his injuries.

His death at the hands of Irish Catholic immigrants fueled nativist sentiment. He died as a martyr for the cause. Bill was interred at Brooklyn's Green-Wood Cemetery March 11, 1855. Thousands of his supporters turned out to bid him farewell and take part in his funeral procession.

In popular culture

Bill's larger-than-life presence was immortalised by actor Daniel Day-Lewis' fictionalised portrayal of him as William 'Bill the Butcher' Cutting in the 2002 film *Gangs of New York*, directed by Martin Scorsese.



Zareen's interest in Odia movies

Hindi film actress Zareen Khan was recently in Bhubaneswar during the launch of Club Shine X and Lounge at Bhawani Mall in the city.

The *Veer* actress first congratulated the promoters for their initiative to entertain the city's youth with music, food, and beverages.

Sharing her Odisha experience, Zareen said, "I came to this lovely state in the past also and had some wonderful experiences here. I love

Dahibara-aloodam, a lip-smacking snack from Cuttack."

Asked if she has interest in Odia films, the actress added, "I would love to be part of an Odia movie if offered an interesting story."

Earlier, Zareen had a discussion with Odia film producer Ramesh Barik over the issue.

About her long absence from the screens, the actress shared that she took a break from movies due to her mother's ill health and will make a comeback soon.

For the uninitiated, Zareen made her debut in the Hindi film industry with the Salman Khan-starrer *Veer* in 2010 and followed it up with movies like *Ready*, *Housefull 2*, and *Hate Story 3* in subsequent years.

Her last movie was *Hum Bhi Akele, Tum Bhi Akele*, in 2021.

PNN

Actors need to follow their instincts: Triptii

Triptii Dimri, who became an overnight star with Ranbir Kapoor starrer *Animal*, had found her at the receiving end of criticism following her portrayal of Zoya Riaz involved in a honeytrap subplot in the Sandeep Reddy Vanga directorial.

Despite the backlash, Triptii remained unperturbed as she has received praise for her performance

so far.

She recently addressed the criticism surrounding her decision to take on the role since people questioned why an actor who has outperformed her roles in films like *Bulbbul* and *Qala* needed to drop her clothes in a men-and guns movie to get ahead.

Responding to this, Triptii told *Vogue India* that she knows her reasons for doing the film. She mentioned that the director had clearly told her that it was going to be a small role but Triptii found the character of Zoya interesting. She then added actors can't succumb to audience expectations, stating that actors need to follow their instincts to do what they have to do.

"I want to choose roles that push me out of my comfort zone. There's a lot of advice on offer and I listen to it all, but it comes down to instinct. I might make mistakes along the way, but I'm allowed to," Triptii said.

AGENCIES



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY – MARCH 8

Three women-centric movies to hit screens

International Women's Day (IWD) is that day of the year when women are recognised for their achievements, irrespective of divisions—national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic, or political. Back home, filmmakers this year have decided to commemorate the day differently—by releasing three women-centric movies in theatres.

To begin with, Anupam Patnaik-directorial *Trikanya* comprises three unique narratives, each portraying a different facet of women's lives. These stories explore themes of companionship, motherhood, and the complexities of marital relationships.

An Amiya Patnaik Production presentation, the movie features Barsha Patnaik, Sradha Panigrahi, Partha Sarathi Ray, Nishanth Majithia, Sukant Rath, Nivy Aman, Sijan Mohapatra and Manoj Mishra in key roles.

Releasing the film this Women's Day is a good way to showcase the story of the different women's characters and their journey, said Barsha.

The next in the list is Bhoomika Dash and Shreyan starrer *Operation 12/17*. Directed by Sudhanshu Mohan Sahoo, the movie is presented by Sai Lumbini Productions. The



film's story is based on the life of an Indian Army officer and his family.

The movie showcases the fight of a woman who takes on the system to prove that her husband is alive.

Bhoomika said, "This movie will inspire many women to take a stand for themselves, raise a voice wherever required for a change



for the better."

Produced by Subhra Pattnaik and written by Dwipayam Pattnaik, the movie has its cinematography done by *The Kerala Story* famed DoP Prashtunu hapatra.

Varsha Priyadarshini's new movie *Boss* is the third movie to be released a day before the IWD. In the film, Varsha plays



Mayra Patnaik, an independent business-woman, who fights evil people with toughness. The movie is directed by Tripati Sahu, while Varsha has written the story and screenplay in addition to being the creative head. Ramesh Barik is the producer of the movie, and Abhijit Majumdar has scored the music.

PNN



Moeraki-boulders



Ninety Mile beach

New Zealand's coastal gems

Known for its breathtaking landscapes and stunning natural splendour, the island nation boasts some of the world's most enchanting beaches

From pristine golden sands to rugged cliffs and crystal-clear waters, the New Zealand's shores offer a diverse range of experiences for both beach lovers and adventurers alike.

Embark on a journey to discover the five best beaches in New Zealand, ranging from golden sands to black sands, and every vista promises a moment of awe and wonder. Whether you seek adventure, relaxation, or simply a respite from the mundane, these coastal gems beckon with their beauty and charm, inviting you to explore the splendour of Aotearoa's shores.

If you're planning a trip to New Zealand, be sure to include these five must-visit alluring beaches to your itinerary.

Piha Beach

Nestled on the rugged west coast of the North Island, Piha Beach is a surfer's paradise renowned for its powerful waves and dramatic scenery. The iconic Lion Rock, a towering volcanic monolith, dominates the landscape, providing a stunning backdrop for beachgoers.

Whether you're an experienced surfer or a novice, Piha offers excellent conditions for catching waves or simply strolling along its black-sand shores. Be sure to explore nearby attractions such as Kitekite Falls and Waitakere Ranges Regional Park for an unforgettable coastal adventure.

Hot Water Beach

Naturally warmed mineral water rises from deep within the earth, bubbling up through the golden sands of Hot Water Beach. To locate the thermal springs, head towards the rocks at the beach's southern end, where you can create your own spa pool by digging into the sand. One can plan their visit either two hours before or after low tide, when the hot water area is exposed beneath the sand.

Beyond the hot water area, the expansive sandy beach extends northward and curves eastward around a headland. This area offers tranquil and secluded spots perfect for peaceful sunbathing. Nearby, you will also discover charming cafes and galleries to explore.

Abel Tasman National Park

Renowned for its golden beaches, turquoise waters, and lush coastal forests, Abel Tasman National Park offers some of the most stunning coastal scenery in New Zealand. With its mild climate and calm waters, the park is perfect for kayaking, snorkelling, and exploring secluded coves and pristine beaches.

Anchorage Beach and Bark Bay are popular destinations within the park, offering idyllic spots for picnics, swimming, and sunbathing. For the ultimate experience, embark on the Abel Tasman Coast Track, a multi-day hiking



Piha Beach

Abel Tasman National Park

trail that winds along the coastline, offering panoramic views of the Tasman Sea and surrounding islands.

Moeraki Boulders, Waitaki

Moeraki has gained its greatest renown due to its boulders: enigmatic spherical stones strewn along its beach. Weighing several tonnes each and reaching heights of up to two meters, these boulders are interpreted by scientists as calcite concretions formed approximately 65 million years ago. You'll find these boulders hanging out on Koekohe Beach, nestled right between Moeraki and Hampden. Getting there is a breeze, the drive is a real treat on State Highway 1, especially if you're into scenic routes. Moeraki is also often visited by seals and dolphins – especially Hector's dolphins.

Ninety Mile Beach

Stretching along the western coast of Northland, Ninety Mile Beach is one of New Zealand's most iconic and expansive beaches. Despite its name, the beach spans approximately



55 miles (88 kilometers) of pristine coastline, offering

endless stretches of golden sand and rolling surf. Visitors can take a thrilling sand boarding adventure down towering dunes, explore ancient Maori pa sites, and witness breathtaking sunsets over the Tasman Sea.

Fishing, horseback riding, and beachcombing are popular activities along the shoreline, making Ninety Mile Beach a must-visit destination for outdoor enthusiasts and nature lovers.



Hot Water Beach



ANKITA



WANT TO BECOME A MODEL?
Send us your photographs at
features.orissapost@gmail.com

PHOTO: KUMAR SHARAT, OP