

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 332 | www.orissapost.com

Jharkhand: Spanish woman gangraped

PRESS 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.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I've requested the high command not to give me a ticket for the upcoming elections

seize the consignment of a Karachi-bound ship from China NATIONAL P5

dozen Indians in 2024

INTERNATIONAL P6

BHUBANESWAR | SUNDAY MARCH 3 2024



make a comeback on Google

BUSINESS P7

FC 4-0 in their Indian Women's League match SPORTS | BACK PAGE

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Modi, Shah among **BJP's first 195 picks**

PRESS 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 Rijiju, Jvotiraditva 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

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.'

PRESS 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

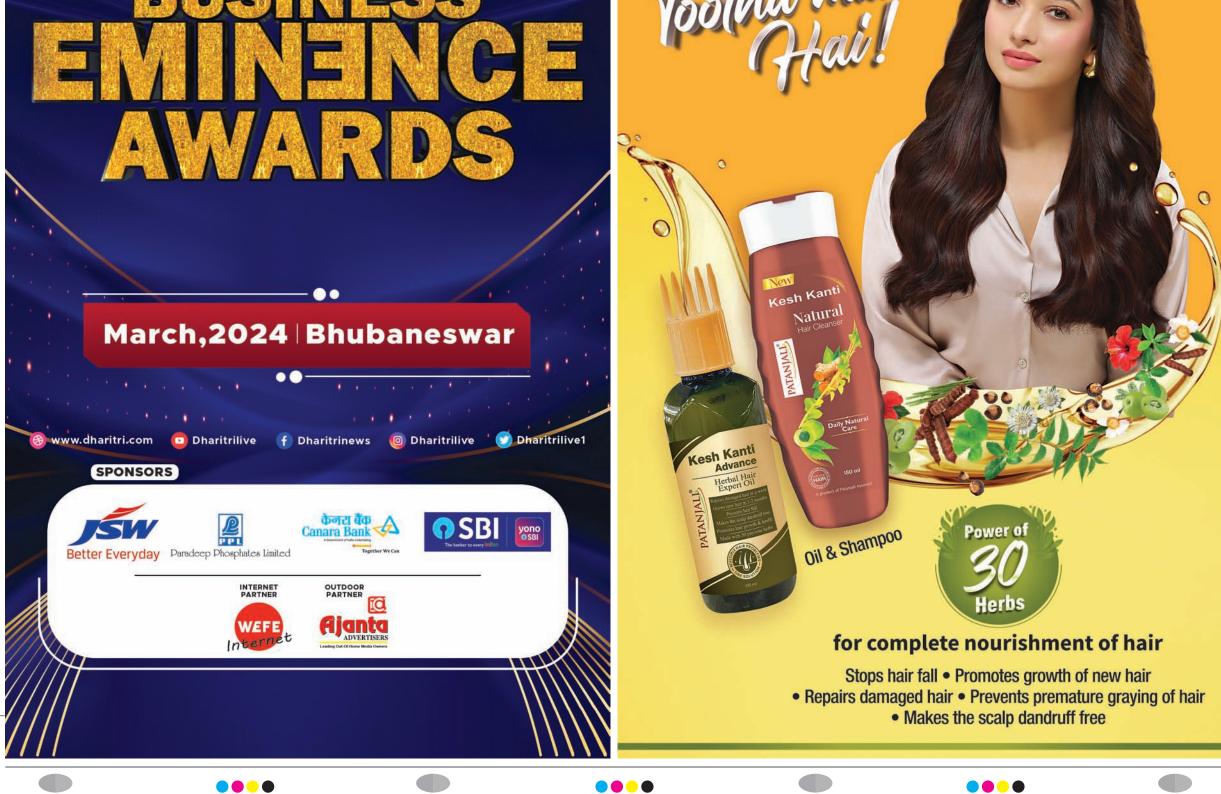
rticle 21 asserts that every indi-A vidual has the right to live, and his/her life cannot be taken away except in accordance with the prescribed legal procedures. The right encompasses various aspects, including the right to live with dignity, and to a healthy environment. It also protects the personal 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.

ticipatory 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.



PATANJALI **Kesh Kanti** Tootna mana







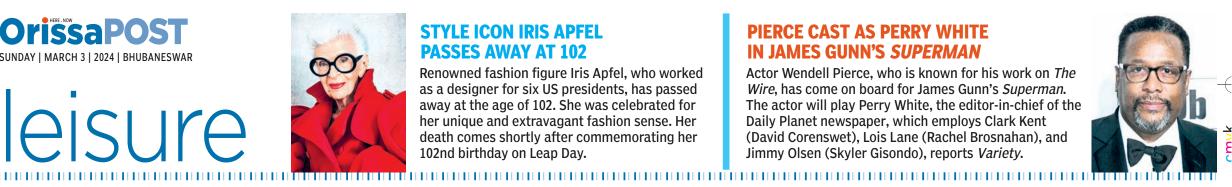


STYLE ICON IRIS APFEL PASSES AWAY AT 102

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



ARIFS

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. Ganesha says today is not auspi cious for buying a house or a vehicle

TAURUS

Today, says Ganesha, you will are 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 quarc against giving into excessive stress and worry and look after your health, says Ganesha

The day is very favourable, says Ganesha. 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 focussed and disciplined about your projects. You will feel the need to improve your style of functioning. Traders can expect good financial gains today, says Ganesha.

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, savs Ganesha.



You will be drawn towards those of the opposite sex today says Ganesha. You will meet people who share the same wavelength that you do in the afternoon,



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 SS some Rajamouli movie but a virus that could lead to cervical cancer.

PEANUTS

THEY DON'T

BELIEVE ME

CHUCK .

THE TEACHER AND

PRINCIPAL AT SCHOOL DON'T BELIEVE I'VE GRADUATED! THEY WANT

ME BACK IN SCHOOL!

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

CASTING COUCH Ankita's shocking revelation

Mumbai: Actress Ankita ing their intentions. Then he sug-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-

Janhvi makes her stand-up debut

> 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

> > I'M GONNA SHOW'EM

WY DIPLOMA FROM THE

ACE OBEDIENCE SCHOOL

TAKE ALONG MY

ATTORNEY ... IS HE AROUND

THINK I SHOULD

BUT

gested, '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 prom-

ise to cast me. I declined, realising I didn't want to be associated with such practices. It was a moment of deep selfdoubt, leading me to reject the film industry altogether, deeming it distasteful.'

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

Los

Angeles:

Actress

Priyanka

set to star in The

Bluff, an upcoming

film from Russo

Brothers' banner AGBO

Studios and Amazon MGM

According to a media agency, the

movie is being directed by Frank E

Flowers, who has co-written it with Joe

Chopra Jonas is

because this

darling

child

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.

been the most

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. AGENCIES

Priyanka in **Ŕusso Brothers' The Bluff**

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 Kassee 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,

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 Ganesha

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 Ganesha. 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.

Sometimes it feels like you are stuck in a guicksand, 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 vou, and vou 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 Ganesha.

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

Studios.

will be seen on the OTT series Heads of State opposite John Cena and Idris Elba. PTI

SUDOKU

FUN JOST

THE LIFE OF THE

AW HAS NOT BEEN

OGIC .. IT HAS BEEN

EXPERIENCE!

YOUR

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15 ON

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THE WAY

CROSSWORD

10

22

6 Saintly glow

7 Sound system

8 Water sources

installment

14 TV

16 Risqué 17 Crete, e.g.

18 Ski starter

21 Turn topsy-

turvy

23 Unspoken

19 Type of action

12

25

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24 Battery part

25 Aboveboard

27 Phrase structure

1 Chinese temple

5 Two are better

3 Homburgs

than one

2 Despot's duration

22 Release

26 Fears

Down

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

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SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

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8

3

9

6 3 5 1 9 4 8

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



20

24

26

Across

Make clean

9 Cooking utensil

4 Clippers

10 Concur

11 Restaurant

patron

12 Slender

13 Monster

(3,4)

15 Work, as dough

20 Olympic event









SIN 3h

CALVIN AND HOBBES

OVE THE

SINNER

Hate th

HERE.NOW OPISSA P VOLUME 13, ISSUE 332 | www.orissapost.com (PRINTED AT SAMBALPUR) BHUBANESWAR | SUNDAY MARCH 3 2024 **DSPL - 767**

Nearly 4 crore people are benefiting from **BSKY & BSKY** Nabin Card

Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana Paving the Way for a Healthy Odisha, Happy Odisha

SHOT IN THE ARM FOR HEALTHCARE CM launches ₹3,037cr irrigation projects

POST NEWS NETWORK

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 650bed 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.

government has spent over Rs The CM also inaugurated two 2,000 crore in creating 2,950 beds 500-bed medical college and hosin these five hospitals. These apart, pitals – Government Medical foundation stones were laid for ex-College and Hospital in pansion of Acharya Harihar Post Sundargarh and Dharani Dhar Graduate Institute of Cancer in Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack, MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur,

According to the Chief

Minister's Office (CMO), Odisha

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.

OIPR-15001/13/0598/2324

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POST NEWS NETWORK

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, Koharadangari 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 Gadiajor, 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.



Keonihar.





30,000 Plus Jobs Created, 50+ Companies in last 3 Years Solidifying Bhubaneswar's 'Premier IT Hub' BOOSTING EMPLOYMENT Odisha, the top choice of Fostering youths' technical skills tag with Major Players like PwC, Concentrix, AND ECONOMIC IT companies. and expertise. Infosys, TCS, EY, Deloitte, Wipro, IBM, PROSPERITY Synopsys, Accenture, Cognizant and more. **Information & Public Relations Department** OIPR-15001/13/0601/2324

downtown

Swain flags off chicks distribution program

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



ARINDAM GANGULY, OF

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

OrissaPOST

SUNDAY | MARCH 3 | 2024 | BHUBANESWAR

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

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 de-

partment, he added. The minister said that the

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

as part of the experience.

being distributed to provide

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 7 lakh affected families 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 dpartment 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.

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,

Mayurbhani 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 cit-

izens 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



night jungle safari in Bharatpur This new venture which started March 1 promises an ad-The safari will start from Ekamra Haat, offering a unique

venturous exploration of the wilderness under the cover of window to participants from night, adding a thrilling noc-6.15 pm to 8.30 pm every weekturnal perspective to end, and will proceed into the noc-Bhubaneswar's beloved heritage turnal world of Bharatpur's walk series," said an official. 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.

Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

Bhubaneswar, March 2:

Cuttack's famous silver filigree

(Chandi Tarakasi) has received

the geographical indication (GI)

POST NEWS NETWORK

Ekamra Walks offers night jungle safari in Bharatpur

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 (CD surgery on the two children.



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 Kalvan 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.



GI TAG FOR CUTTACK SILVER FILIGREE

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.

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WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	36.8° €	32.5℃
Min Temp	22.0°C	22.0°C
Humidity	77%	84%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
FORECAST		ML.
FOG/MIST IN THE MORNING	Ż	B



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 OP PHOTO

"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

"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

Refrigerating lettuce helps contain bacterial contamination

efrigerating may help prevent lettuce from E Coli **L**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).



nation, the researchers found.

higher, E Coli grows very fast on

lettuce, but if lettuce is refrig-

erated at 4 degrees Celsius, we

see a sharp decline in the E Coli

"At room temperature or

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 contami-

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 inoc ulated 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. PTI

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'Everest is crowded and dirty now'

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.

but eventually it will flow down

"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

and carries them downward." For the Sherpas, Everest is Qomolangma or goddess mother of the world, and is revered by their community. They gener-

ally 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-

to base camp as the snow melts

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 20month-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.

Dutch tourist lands in beggars' home 'after being robbed' onward journey to Bhitarkanika,

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, March 2: A 72year-old tourist from the Netherlands, who had checked in to a hotel in Puri, claimed Friday that he staved 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

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-

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

the driver robbed him of his

money when he stepped out of

The tourist then had an al-

tercation with the driver, who

took Arkel to his parental house

and 'locked me up for three days'.

turned to Puri via Bhubaneswar.

I then went to the police and

filed a complaint," he said.

"With some youths' help, I re-

With very little money in

hand, Arkel had to stay in a

shelter home for beggars from

January 25 to March 1, he told

the incident, the Puri district

administration arranged for

his stay at the state guest

After the media reported

reporters here.

house, he said.

the car to relieve himself.

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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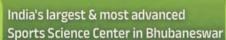
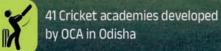




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power post

FOCUS DISSIDENCE

By your stumbling, the world is perfected. SRI AUROBINDO



Child of Largest NGO

Next year, the world's largest NGO or non-governmental organisation marks its centenary. The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh was founded in 1925 at a single shakha in Nagpur and today, according to its website, has over 57,000 daily shakhas across India. RSS says it does not keep a record of its members so it does not know how many there are.

Why was it formed? We are told the reason for this in the six-volume official history of the BJP, which was published by the party in 2006. The party quotes Hindu Mahasabha leader BS Moonje as saying that communal violence frequently happened in Nagpur because though Muslims only numbered 20,000 of the population of the city, "We (Hindus) felt insecure because the Muslims were never afraid of 1.3 lakh Hindus." Moonje felt this was because Hindus were divided into watertight compartments, "each having a special and cultural life of its own that there is hardly any association between them." This was in contrast to the Muslims who "form one organic community, religiously well organised and disciplined." And because of this "any injury done to any part of the community anywhere is felt as keenly all throughout."

The book says that the formation of the RSS was to address this

problem of disunity of Hindus in relation to taking on Muslims. It would work towards the cause of Hindu unity and solidarity and cultural nationalism. Its founder KB Hedgewar went about organising Hindu society and addressing its two problems of disunity and the caste system. He did both of these through the mechanism of the shakha, where Hindus of all castes would gather for an hour daily. They would play games, exercise, learn to march and do some drills. They would also sing songs together addressed to Bharat Mata. The problem of caste would be addressed through their playing and eating together. MD Deoras, the third head of the RSS described it thus: "I was present in the first Sangh camp. In that there were quite a number of Mahaar brethren. At the time of meals, some began hesitating to sit with them. They had never before in their lives sat for meals with Mahaars. They placed their problem before Doctorii (Hedgewar). But he did not enforce the discipline of the camp and ask them to get



Aakar Patel

Golwalkar was pragmatic and felt the RSS had to operate within the law

discipline of the camp and ask them to get out. Doctorji simply said: 'Our practice is to sit together. We shall sit accordingly' All of us sat together for meals. Those few that were hesitant sat in a separate line. But for the next meals those very people came to Doctorji and apologised and sat with us of their own accord." Hedgewar died in 1940, by when the RSS had spread beyond Nagpur and had 100,000 members. His successor was Golwalkar, under whom the RSS continued to grow and spread. Golwalkar was pragmatic and felt the RSS had to operate within the law. When the British forbade Indians in 1943 from military dress and drill, the RSS gave it up immediately.

The BJP says that an RSS rally in Delhi in December 1947 drew a large crowd and also attracted Hindu princes, businessmen and leaders of other Hindu organisations. This popularity was something that alarmed the Congress, especially Nehru. On 30 January 1948, Gandhi was assassinated.

Golwalkar had sensed that the RSS would get into trouble once the details of Gandhi's assassination were out. He acted immediately. On the day of the murder, 30 January, he sent telegrams to RSS branches suspending operations for thirteen days. The same day he telegrammed Nehru, Patel and Devdas Gandhi with a message of condolence: "Shocked at this cruel fatal attack and tragic loss of greatest personality." The next day he again wrote to Nehru expressing his shock and referring to Godse as "some thoughtless perverted soul" who had "committed the heinous act of putting a sudden and ghastly end to the life of poojya Mahatmaji by the bullet." He called the killing unpardonable and an act of treason. That same day he wrote also to Patel: "My heart

DIDN'T DIE FOR NOTHING

n 17 January, 2021, when Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny boarded a plane to Moscow from Berlin, where he had been treated after being poisoned in Russia with the nerve agent Novichok, he said he was pleased to be going home. But he knew the risks involved: a long prison sen-



Ian Buruma

SOCIETIES WARPED BY DICTATORSHIP HAVE TO FIND A MORAL BASIS FOR BUILDING SOMETHING BETTER Involved: a long prison sentence, torture, even death. Navalny, who died on 16 February in an Arctic penal colony, faced a dilemma that all political dissidents must grapple with: live in exile and fade into obscurity, or confront an oppressive regime and risk ending up a martyr. Either way, the chances of overthrowing the governments they oppose are

virtually zero. Even those who do not actively defy oppressive regimes, particularly those with the means to flee, face a similar choice: build a new life abroad, where they might not be warmly received, or stay in their home countries and live under the corrupting influence of dictatorship. Corruption is often made sweet by regimes that richly reward conformity – and crush the few people who refuse to conform.

This dilemma is especially bitter, because it creates a rift between dissenters who stay and those who leave – a rift that benefits oppressive regimes. People can decide to stay for all kinds of reasons, but the mere fact of them staying will get them quickly condemned by exiles as immoral stooges of the dictatorship. The leavers, meanwhile, are accused of betraying their country in exchange for the luxury of living abroad.

This was the case in Nazi Germany in the 1930s. Thomas Mann, who was famous enough to remain an important voice in exile, denounced German writers who continued to live in the Third Reich; their work, he later



Navalny faced a dilemma that all political dissidents must grapple with: live in exile and fade into obscurity, or confront an oppressive regime and risk ending up a martyr

declared, was so tainted that it became worthless. Some of these writers – also opponents of the Nazi regime – reproached Mann for preferring to live comfortably in California rather than bear witness to what was happening at home.

A similar dynamic has been a constant feature of modern China: people who oppose the Communist dictatorship at home sneer at Chinese dissidents abroad for being irrelevant and out of touch. And it is apparent in Russia today. For example, the immensely courageous journalist, Dmitry Muratov, who won a Nobel Peace Prize in 2021 for his defence of intellectual freedom, has been criticised by some Russian exiles for deciding to stay in Russia, despite his courageous opposition to the war in Ukraine.

There is no right answer to the dissident's dilemma. There are equally good reasons to leave as there are to stay, and they often depend on personal circumstances. So, what was the point of Navalny's decision to risk his life for a cause he could

never realise, at least not in the short term? Neither his probable murder, nor the alternative of staying in Western Europe, would have brought Russian President Vladimir Putin's rule to an end.

But there was a point. Open defiance chips away at a dictatorship's façade of total control. A dictatorship cannot rely on military might or fear of the secret police alone; the people must be convinced that their subjugation to a tyrant is normal, and that resistance is abnormal, even a form of madness. That is why Soviet dissidents were often locked up in psychiatric facilities rather than prisons. Navalny's return to Russia,

however futile it may have seemed, showed that standing up for freedom of thought and expression is a rational response to tyranny. His defiance signaled to others who felt the same way but lacked Navalny's extraordinary courage that they were not alone.

circum- they were not alone. the point There is another point, too. n to risk By rewarding conformity, by he could making people repeat lies and propaganda, by forcing friends and relatives to betray one another, dictatorships bring out the worst in people. They create a culture of fear, mistrust, and betrayal. There is nothing peculiarly Russian, German, or Chinese about this. Many nations, at different times, have been warped by oppressive rulers, but not necessarily forever. Regimes are defeated. Tyrants die.

It is then that the example set by political martyrs plays a vital role. Societies warped by dictatorship have to find a moral basis for building something better. The morale of a people used to slavishness and persecution must be restored. That some brave people stood up for freedom, even when it appeared to be fruitless, helps in this process, by providing a model.

Jean Moulin, the civil servant who led the French resistance and was tortured to death by the Gestapo in 1943, never saw the end of the Nazi occupation he fought. The Nazis executed the Lutheran pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer in April 1945, three weeks before Adolf Hitler killed himself. Chinese writer Liu Xiaobo, who returned to China during the Tiananmen Square uprising of 1989, spent the rest of his life in and out of jail and died in custody in 2017, having failed to dismantle his country's oneparty regime. Navalny had no chance of toppling Putin's neoczarist rule.

But the only hope of building societies that can protect freedoms and bring out the best in people lies in the examples of what they have done.

> The writer is the author, most recently, of the forthcoming Spinoza: Freedom's Messiah (Yale University Press, 2024).

> > ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

Tradia is experiencing a ro-servations, but the IMF is blunt grew slower than 4.9% in ulism may cause euphoria but

is wrung with extreme agony. It is difficult to find words to condemn the person who committed this crime..."

None of this helped. Patel banned the RSS on 2 February. The notification said: "The professed aims and objects of the RSS are to promote the physical, intellectual and moral well-being of the Hindus and also to foster feelings of brotherhood, love and service amongst them

also to loster leerings of brotherhood, love and service antiongst them ... the Government have, however, noticed with regret that in practice members of the RSS have not adhered to their professed ideals. Undesirable and even dangerous activities have been carried on by members of the Sangh (who) have indulged in acts of violence involving arson, robbery, dacoity, and murder and have collected illicit arms and ammunition. They have been found circulating leaflets exhorting people to resort to terrorist methods to collect firearms ... rendering it incumbent on the government to deal with the Sangh in its corporate capacity." Golwalkar was arrested on 3 February along with 20,000 swayamsevaks.

The RSS says it was shocked that no political party or leader spoke up for it. The ban remained for 17 months. It was lifted after the RSS was asked to produce a constitution. This was written up and submitted. The ban was lifted on 11 July 1949. Immediately following this, the RSS began debating entering politics in the pages of its house organ, The Organiser. It published articles from RSS workers including KR Malkani who wrote RSS "must take part in politics not only to protect itself" but also "to stop un-Bharatiya and anti-Bharatiya politics" and to "advance the cause of Bharatiyata through state machinery."

Thus was born the Jana Sangh/BJP, today the largest political party in the world, child of the largest NGO.

WISDOM CORNER

- Take care of all your memories. For you cannot relive them.
- Time you enjoy wasting, was not wasted.

JOHN LENNON

Life is like a wheel. Sooner or later, it always come around to where you started again.

STEPHEN KING

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1847: Scottish-born American inventor and scientist Alexander Graham Bell, whose foremost accomplishments were the invention of the telephone (1876) and the refinement of the phonograph (1886), was born in Edinburgh.
- **1924:** The last remnant of the Ottoman empire in Turkey is abolished. The end of the Islamic caliphate marked the demise of the 600-year old empire and gave way to the formation of a reformed Turkey under Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.
- **1991:** Following a high-speed car chase, Los Angeles police officers brutally beat Rodney King, an African American motorist; despite a videotape of the beating, the policemen were acquitted in 1992, causing large-scale rioting in the city.



Shivaji Sarkar AN INCREASED GOVERNMENT CAPEX MAY DO LITTLE TO CHANGE THE OVERALL INVESTMENT SITUATION AS MOST PRIVATE FIRMS REMAIN RELUCTANT TO INVEST MORE

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101

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST

(200 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

requested to send their contact numbers and full

columns (between 750-1250

L bust growth rate of 8.4% paralleled by rising inflationary trends, sparking concerns within the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Projections of economic ease appear optimistic, prompting questions about whether inflation might impede growth or if capital expenditure (capex) could bolster it.

However, key concerns linger, including a dip in core sector growth and a contraction of the farm sector by 0.8%, compared to the previous expansion of 5.2% in the third quarter of 2022-23. Despite a notable rise in manufacturing by 11.6%, following a contraction of 4.8% in the preceding year, challenges persist. Despite substantial government capex, consumption growth remains feeble, private investment continues to lag, and constructions may be a drag.

India's claim of growth is accompanied by decadal cumulative inflation of 55% at 5.5% a year. Rural inflation at 5.93% is far higher than the urban at 5.69% as in December 2023. And less noted vegetable inflation has touched 9.94%. The RBI is cautious in its ob-

on high core inflation and stresses that central banks need to keep monetary policy tighter for longer than is current in markets. In its Global Financial Stability Report, it says "risks to global growth are skewed to the downside as the global credit cycle has started to turn as borrowers' debt repayment capacity diminishes."

India needs to heed to the warning. Despite RBI remaining tight fisted, it notes at the Monetary Policy Committee report of this February that since February 2023 it has not succeeded in its effort to check prices. The means government has to be careful on burgeoning borrowings. The country's al location for debt repayment of ₹10 lakh crore or almost 25% of the central budget skews the economic focus. The quarterly GDP growth figures touching 8.4% in third quarter against the Bloomberg estimates of 6.6%, projected as fastest in 18 months, portrays one side of the picture as simultaneously the core sector growth slips to 3.6%, a 15month low in January. Latest data show eight core sectors

December and 9.6% in January 2023. The core sector consists of 41% of the index for industrial growth.

An increased government capital expenditure outlay may do little to change the overall investment situation as most of private firms remain reluctant to invest more. Margins for companies have plummeted despite high sales growth and it is apprehended that sales would decelerate.

The consumers may have to pay higher prices for natural gas after the elections adding to further inflationary trends. The government has raised natural gas prices to \$8.2 per unit – million metric British thermal units. For consumers the cap remains at \$6.5 in the current price mechanism when the Indian basket, was linked in April 2023. It is meant for international sale by domestic producers.

producers. Promising investments to the people that is unsustainable have deleterious effect on the economy. Debt pushed investments raise money circulation

further spiking prices. The pop-

gains to the economy are uncertain. It could, as the RBI indicates, be deceptive. Revival of growth in consumption demand is the key and would require improved employment and household income conditions.

The RBI stresses that jobs and household income rise are key to growth of the country whatever might be the euphoric figures of it being the fifth or third largest economy. The consumer is constrained by the gap in discretionary spending that is the freedom of purchasing goods of their choice.

This is also reflected in foreign direct investment (FDI) as a percentage of GDP being restricted to 2-2.5% of GDP, which is hardly sufficient as also hot volatile money. This could be an indication that foreign companies are circumspect.

The country has to check inflation as it diminishes the purchasing power of individuals. Prudent economic policies are necessary for sustaining growth and job creation. Supposed global standing epaulets hardly help.

INFA

Heritage sites

Sir, Charaideo Maidams are slated to be Assam's third UNESCO World Heritage Site after Kaziranga National Park and Manas National Park got the coveted tag almost 40 years ago in 1985. Charaideo Maidams are just the tip of the iceberg in a culturerich Assam where every corner speaks history. Assam's rich history has always been out in the cold but now it is receiving all the fanfare and the attention of the larger national populace. The Ahoms were invaders but instead of ravaging the cultural landscape or imposing their culture, they enriched the Assamese culture which was in its nascent stage. Assam is because of Ahoms and we are forever grateful that they chose Assam as their kingdom. I humbly urge the government of Assam and the Union Ministry of Culture to nominate many such worthy sites like Majuli, Dibru-Saikhowa National Park, Dehing Patkai National Park, Rock Cut Cave in Bongaigaon, Bamuni Hills in Tezpur, and many others for the UNESCO World Heritage site tag so that Assam gets its due importance that it has been long denied.

Noopur Baruah, TEZPUR

Strong message

Sir, Cricketers Shreyas Iyer and Ishan Kishan have paid the price for refusing to play in the current season of the Ranji Trophy tournament, and the two were duly excluded from annual player retainership 2023-24 released by the BCCI a few days ago. Both have been in the news of late with the BCCI asking them to play in the country's premier domestic tournament, but they seem to have not taken the board's advice seriously. Reportedly the two players have prioritised the cash-rich IPL over domestic cricket. And with money deciding their choice, sadly the spirit of the game is compromised. Ranji Trophy has 🛁 been instrumental in building the castle of Indian cricket, on which the laurels of several great names of Indian cricket rest. By dropping the two from the contract, the BCCI has sent out a strong message to all Indian cricketers that no way it can tolerate players pulling out themselves from the premier domestic competitions.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI









state

WE PRIORITISE EXCEPTIONAL CUSTOMER SERVICE: PARTHO PADHY

Nirmalva Group of Hotels, one of the oldest and most sought after addresses for travellers in Berhampur City, is well-known for its hospitality and comfort stay. Santosh Kumar Padhy (Partho), the founder and owner of Nirmalya Group of Hotels, began his entrepreneurial journey in 2003 with a budget family hotel, Hotel Nirmalya, which has now grown into a successful chain of five hotels in the Silk City. At present, Santosh is the Secretary of the Ganjam District Hotel Association and President of the Ganjam District Restaurant Association. He believes his postgraduate education from Harvard Institute of Management and Technology has been instrumental in shaping his business strategies. In an interaction with Orissa POST, Santosh talks about his experience in the sector, and upcoming projects. Excerpts...

ational issues.

Having firmly established in the business, what are your unique selling points?

 Our unique selling points include dedication, a strong focus on customer feedback a robust online presence, and a commitment to delivering exceptional service. These elements have been crucial in establishing and maintaining our reputation in the hospitality sector.

- How do you face the surging competition in the industry?
- While we have achieved sig-

nificant success, we acknowledge and actively address challenges such as hiring and retaining staff. ensures a personalised and housekeeping efficiency, adapting to changing

guest expectations, and handling oper-Do you have any BUSINESS expansion plans in EMINENCE the pipeline? There must be AWARDS varying expecta-We have an exciting

project coming up in tions of the customers Gopalpur – a 3-star property, in from your organisation. collaboration with Sterling How do you meet their de-Holiday Resorts. Additionally, mands and grievances? we are in discussions with var-Our approach of customer ious prominent groups for setinteraction revolves around ting up a full-fledged resort at understanding our guests, ef-Tampara in Chhatrapur.

fective communication,

guest

and delivering on our prom-

ises and commitments. This

positive experience for each

 As an entrepreneur, what would be your advice for newcomers in the business?

Good customer service is paramount in any field, more so in hospitality industry. As a core principle, we prioritise exceptional customer service. Our team undergoes continuous training to up date communication skills and problem-solving strategies specific to guest services. Excellent guest service means hotels keep on getting repeat guests. While many hotels are struggling, the ones that stand out are those which value their guests.

Despite steps, no let-up in murram loot in Jajpur

However, that has failed to deter

the concerned contractor from

extracting murram as he is re-

portedly carrying out the ille-

gal works under the cover of in-

Locals alleged that the con-

tractor is extracting hundreds of

trips of murram under the pre-

text of using it in construction

of a compound wall of the VCI

from the plant premises and its

periphery is later sold to VCI

plant at a premium. The locals

also alleged that some influen-

tial persons like political rep-

resentatives, mining officials,

tehsil authorities and Jakhpura

police officials are hand in gloves

in this murram loot.

The same murram extracted

plant.

fluential political persons.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, March 2: There is no letup in illegal mining of minor minerals in Jajpur district as miscreants are stealing murram with impunity from Kacheri village under Jakhpura panchayat and Danagadi tehsil in this district on the pretext of using it for construction of industrial plants in Kalinganagar.

In a bid to check the loot of minor minerals, the state government has handed over its control to the Mines department. However, the move by the state government has been left frustrated with unabated illegal mining and transportation of murram

An industrial firm VCI Chemical Private Limited is constructing a plant at Kacheri village. The concerned contractor was seen extracting murram from the plant premises as well as its periphery and transporting it outside for a premium. The illegally extracted murram is also being used in construction of a rail route from Jakhpura to Jajpur Road.

The Mines department issued a show-cause notice to the railway authorities a fortnight back.

ram loot are getting louder in Pankanal, Manoharpur and Jakhpura areas where the district administration is yet to launch a crackdown. It is alleged that large volume

of murram is being extracted illegally from Kacheri village and transported outside in the pretext of using it for construction of plants at Kalinganagar by allegedly greasing the palms of tehsil and mining authorities

The tehsil authorities and the officials of Minor Minerals department are aware of the development but have stayed mum on the issue due to their alleged complicity with the miscreants.

The state government is losing revenue worth crores due to lack of any stringent action and whimsical attitude of the officials. Things have come to such a pass that minor minerals start ing from sand to stone are being looted in broad daylight without any fear of retribution.

Notably, the district has huge deposits of minor minerals such as black stone, laterite stone and murram in areas under Dharmasala, Barchana, Rasulpur, Danagadi, Korei and Sukinda tehsils.

Similar allegations of mur-

Murmu pays homage to Bhima Bhoi

PNN & AGENCIES

Sambalpur, March 2: President Droupadi Murmu Saturday paid homage to Santha Kabi Bhima Bhoi in Samabalpur district. The President visited Rairakhol and offered floral tributes to the statue of the saint.

Accompanied by Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, she then went to Chousathi Siddhankara Dhooni Mandap at Madhupur and paid homage to the revered figure from the 19th century by pouring oil on the everlighted 'Havan'

She then visited the nearby Chausathi Siddhi Ashram. There, the President had a brief discussion with the monks and enquired about the old trees of the ashram. She also planted



saplings on the ashram premises. She was presented with a photo of Santha Kabi Bhima Bhoi and a book. She also interacted with the people

at the ashram, and distributed chocolates among the children.

Murmu is an admirer of Bhima Bhoi, whom she quoted in her first speech after taking oath as the President in July, 2022.

The President is scheduled to attend a civic reception in Sambalpur, and meet followers of the Mahima cult at the Mini Stadium here before returning to New Delhi.

In the morning, Governor Raghubar Das and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik went to the Bhubaneswar airport to see Murmu off as she left for Sambalpur.

Odisha visit February 28, and attended a slew of events in Mayurbhanj, Keonihar, Sambalpur, Ganiam, Cuttack and Khurda districts

DROWN IN BRAHMANI

Kendrapara: In a tragic incident, two vouths engaged as wall painters for a cement company went missing in the Brahmani river while taking bath at Narendrapur ghat in Nimapur village under Pattamundai rural police station in this coastal district. The drowned duo identified as Aiit Kumar and Javed belonged to Agra area of Uttar painters, all from outside the state were engaged for the last 12 days in Rajnagar block to paint walls for a cement company. After completing their job, the workers went to bathe in the Brahmani river at Narendrapur river ghat. While they were taking a bath in the river, Ajit Kumar and Javed were swept away in the current to the middle of the river. The co-workers with the help of locals and fire tender personnel later launched a rescue operation, but they remained untraced.

Bank of India Gold Auction Zonal Office: Bhubaneswar Zone, 1/1D, Star House, Jaydev बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Bank of India BO Notice Bihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Ph.:0674-2362249 It is hereby brought to the notice of the following gold loan borrowers, their legal heirs, person engaged in the business of gol ornaments and general public that in spite of repeated notices by the Bank, the following borrowers are not repaying their dues to the Bank. Notice is hereby published that if they fail to deposit all their dues in their respective gold loan accounts (including Up-to-date interest and all costs, charges/expenses) by 22.03.2024, their pledged gold ornaments will be auctioned at Concerned Branch Premises on 25.03.2024 at 11.00 AM. For this Bank shall not be held responsible for any incovenience or damage caused to the concerned borrowers and no allegations or representations will be entertained from any borrowers in this regard. Bank reserves the right to cancel the auction without assigning any reason in case, the bidding price so arrived at is observed to be low or inadequate. Further, if needed be Bank reserves the right to change the data and time of the above scheduled auction or cancel the same without assigning any reasons thereon. Purity and net weight and reserve price of gold ornaments/ coins etc. will be available to intersted bidders on auction date and auction venue/auction portal Total Dues as on 29 02 2024 Gross Wt. Net Wt. A/c. No Name & Address of the Borrower(s) excluding unapplied interes in Gram in Gram Charges, Cost & Expenses SASTRI NAGAR BRANCH, PLOT NO. 206, SASTRI NAGAR, VIP ROAD, NEAR THE WORLD, BBSR-751012, MOB.: 7008636839 513277610000351 Sunil Kumar Gupta, S/o- Dinanath Gupta, Plot No.: E/61, Kharave 218.250 209.520 ₹9,70,000.00 513277610000352 329.250 312.787 ₹14,29,966.05 Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751001

513277610000406 ₹1.53.597.40 45.350 44.443 KALPANA SQUARE BRANCH, PLOT NO.: A/88, BJB NAGAR, BHUBANESWAR-751014, MOB.: 7205040070 513077610000600 Bishnupriya Mallick, W/o- Guru Prasad Mallick, Flat No.: T-16, Ahalya 40.27 39.45 ₹1,82,000.00 513077610000601 Devi Niwas, Plot No.: 34, Palasuni, Mancheswar, Bhubaneswar-751010. 45.8 45 ₹2,07,000.00 Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 02.03.2024 Zonal Manager, Bank of India

Bank of India E- AUCTION SALE NOTI Bank Of India Building, Lal Bazaar, In front of MKC School, PIN-757001 E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and

Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act) read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to be held on 25.03.2024 from 11:00AM to 05:00PM

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Bank of India under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financia Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rules 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice to the borrower, and the Authorised Officer has taken possession of the property described herein below. Offers are invited by the Authorised Officer under Sub-Rule 5 & 6 of Rule 8 of the said Rules by holding e-auction on 25.03.2024 from 11:00AM to 05:00PM. Public at large and Borrower and Guarantor in general are being informed that E-auction under SARFAESI Act in respect of under noted property will be conducted for sale on the terms & conditions under Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 and to following conditions for realization of debts due

The President began her four-day **2 WORKERS FROM UP**

> Bank of India BOI बैंक ऑफ इंडिया



AWARENESS PLAY: Artistes perform a skit as part of a street play for awareness on wildfire at Bisra Square in Rourkela, Saturday

NHRC for **₹**1L compensation to tribal for forced family planning

PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapara, March 2: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has recommended Odisha government to pay a compensation of ₹1 lakh and ensure the recanalisation operation of a speech-impaired unmarried tribal youth who was subjected to a family planning operation forcibly without following due procedure.

Adjudging a petition filed by rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy, the NHRC passed the order March 1 after receiving reports from the state government.

Tripathy in his petition alleged that health officials of Mathili Sub-Divisional Hospital in Malkangiri district had performed a vasectomy August 3, 2023 on one Divyang (dumb) unmarried youth Ganga Durua, of a Scheduled Tribe community of Kosarbata village for the sake of highlighting increased cases of vasectomies in the area. He alleged the operation

was carried out based on an ASHA worker's report but without obtaining any con-

sent of the victim and requested the NHRC for an impartial investigation of the case and compensation, and justice to the victim.

According to the NHRC notice, the state government in its reply stated that compensation of ₹2000 could not be paid to the victim as he did not have a bank account.

This was found to be against the procedure of Direct Benefit Transfer and the amount disbursed to the ASHA worker had to be recovered and to be paid directly to the bank account of the actual beneficiary. The operating surgeon was issued a show-cause notice by the CDM and PHO, Malkangiri for the lapses in determining eligibility and conducting of

surgery without proper screening The NHRC issued a notice to the Chief Secretary

directing him to show cause within four weeks as to why the commission should not recommend payment of compensation of ₹1 lakh to the victim. In reply to the show cause

notice, the operating surgeon mentioned that the negligence had been done unknowingly by him.

The recanalisation of the NSV in the case of Ganga Durua needs to be done after obtaining voluntary consent from him.

If he agrees to the procedure, then the superintendent of SDH, Mathili has to ensure the provision of travel, procedure-related requirements, and necessary coordination support

for the same. In another report, the Malkangiri administration stated that action had been taken against the ASHA worker. The Joint Secretary of Health and Family Welfare has submitted a reply to the show cause notice admitting the negligence on the part of government officials.

However, the NHRC was requested to exonerate the state from payment of compensation.



Manual offers are not allowed against this tende and any such manual offer received shall be ignored Complete details & Tender documents

will be available in the website a http://www.ireps.gov.in Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRS)/ PR-1142/0/23-24

EAST COAST RAILWAY tice No.: ST-SBP-TENDER-202

Dt. 23.02.2024 Name of Work: ONSITE COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT OF TRAIN INDICATION BOARDS (TIB) (19 STATIONS), COACH INDICATION BOARDS (CIB) (12 STATIONS) AND AT A GLANCE DISPLAY BOARD (3 STATIONS) OVER SAMBALPUR DIVISION FOR A PERIOD OF 36 (THIRTY SIX) MONTHS.

Tender value: ₹2,20,91,084.46, EMD ₹2,60,500/-, Cost of Tender Document ₹11,800/-

Date & time of Tender Closing: 1100 hrs o 18.03.2024

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

Complete information including e-Tende documents of the above e-Tenders is available n website www.ireps.gov.in

Note: The prospective tenderers are advise to revisit the website 15 (fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigenda issued for this tender. Divisional Railway Manager (S&T) 1140/0/23-24

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

Last date for submission of EMD & Documents: Dt. 22.03.2024 from 11.00 A.M. to 03:00 P.M.

Date & Time of Inspection of Property: Dt. 21.03.2024 between 11.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. For inspection please contact the Respective Branch Head or Recovery Department, Zonal Office, Baripada (Dakshya Prasad Mishra, Mob.: 9090070958)

SI. No.	<u>BRANCH</u> / Name & Address of the Borrower/ Mortgagor / Total Dues	Description of the Properties	Reserve Price / EMD / Type of Possession
1.	BAHALDA BRANCH / Borrower / Mortgagor: Shri Ishan Kumar Mishra, S/o: Late Ananta Kumar Mishra, At: Dubulabeda, P.O: Rairangpur, Dist.: Mayurbhanj, Odisha, PIN-757043 / Total Dues: Rs.29,39,992.89 as on 09.05.2023 (excluding interest & other charges) of Mr. Ishan Kumar Mishra, Bounded by North: Road, Behera & others & West: Hrushikesh Nanda & Others	Kisam: Gharabari, Tahasil: Bahalda standing in the name	₹ 14,43,150/- / ₹ 1,44,315/- / Symbolic
2.	GANESWARPUR (JANUGANJ) BRANCH / Borrower & Mortgagor: Karunakar Tunga, S/o: Harekrushna Tunga, At: Mangalpur, P.O.: Januganj, Dist.: Balasore, PIN-756109 / Total Dues: Rs.5,72,404.15 as on 30.08.2023 (excluding interest & other charges) Niranjan Mohanty, South: Road, East: Mayadhar Tunga,	Kissam: Gharabari at Mouza: Mangalpur, P.S./Tahasil: Remuna, SRO: Balasore, Dist.: Balasore standing in the name of Karunakar Tunga , Bounded by North:	₹ 20,11,950/- / ₹ 2,01,195/- / Symbolic
poi of	Terms and c e Sale Notice containing the General Terms and Condition tal (1) https://www.ibapi.in (2) https://www.mstcecomm assistance before or during e-Auction process may c tps://www.mstcecommerce.com), details of which are a	nerce.com (3) www.bankofindia.co.in. In case of any d ontact authorized representative of our e-Auction Se	ifficulty or need

15 DAYS E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO BORROWER(S)/ GUARANTOR(S)/ MORTGAGOR(S) Fhis is also a 15 days sale notice to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) of the aforesaid loan accounts for settlement of their outstanding dues with the bank and to participate in the public auction on the above mentioned date.

Place: Baripada, Date: 02.03.2024

Authorised Officer, Bank of India

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

NOTICE FOR PUBLIC AUCTION OF PLEDGED GOLD ORNAMENTS / ARTICLES

t is hereby brought to the following gold loan borrowers, their legal heirs, persons engaged in business of gold ornaments. Articles and general Public that inspite of repeated reminders/notices by the Bank, the following borrowers are not repaying their dues to the Bank. Notices is hereby published that if they fail to deposit all their dues in their respective gold loan accounts (including up-to-date interest and all costs charges/expenses) by 4.00 PM DATED: 19.03.2024 then from 11.00 AM TO 2.00 PM of 20.03.2024, their pledged gold/ ornaments/articles will be put up for public auction through open bidding in the branch premises. For this, Bank shall not be held esponsible for any Inconvenience or damage caused to the concerned borrowers and no allegations or representations will be entertained rom any borrowers in this regards. Persons interested to take part in the bidding should deposit Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only) with the Branch Manager before the scheduled time/date towards earnest money. Persons having taken part in final bidding must be able to deposit full amount to the bank within 24 hours, failing which their earnest money, deposited with the bank will be forfeited Bank reserves the right to cancel the auction without assigning any reasons in case, the bidding price so arrived at, is observed to be low or inadequate. Further, if need be, Bank reserves the right to charge the date, time or place of the above scheduled auction or cancel the same without assigning any reasons thereon.

SI. No.	A/c. No.	Name & Address of the Borrowers	Gross Wt. In Gms.	Net Wt. In Gms.	Total Dues as on 27.02.2024 (excluding unapplied intt., Charges, Cost & Expense)
1	535877610000328	Sarathi Ojha, W/o: Chintamani Ojha, At: Banka Sahi, Tehsil Road, Bhadrak, Odisha-756100	35.40	27.00	₹1,11,052.65
		RANDIA BRANCH, AT/PO- RANDIA HAT, DIST- BHAD	RAK, PI	N- 756:	135
2	535677610000704	Dhaneswar Jena, S/o: Ratnakar Jena, Kubera Guamal, Bhadrak- 756163	7.00	5.6	₹24,479/-
	ace: Baripada Ite: 02.03.2024				Zonal Manager Bank of India



BJP gears up to wrest Bhadrak from BJD Jual's 'model village' is far from ideal

POST NEWS NETWORK

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



party's vote share in the con-

stituency was 20.03 per cent, it

increased to 39.51 per cent in

2019. The Congress, however,

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

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 Maniulata 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 as its pick for the Lok Sabha seat. It might also project an entirely new face as the third alternative.

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 falls (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, Juel 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 gov ernment 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





still await completion.

augurated. However, at present,

20 out of the 36 drinking water

projects have become defunct.

The nearly 40-metre long river

bridge on the Patatangar Road

is awaiting completion. The chil-

dren's park is in complete dis-

array due to lack of mainte-

park's maintenance would be his responsibility. Even today, Gurundia is lag-

nance. Jual had then stated the

ging 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 However, many of the projects works despite repeated reminders. It is the state govern-Bonai Sub-Collector Surendra ment which has opened one Kumar Mina took keen interest Adarsha Vidyalaya. But locals say, in completing the projects, and as the Union Minister for Tribal in 2016 some of these were in-

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: Fivetime 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 BJP 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

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.

He was the transport minister

BJD in tight spot over selection of candidate

go for change in candidates this

time. Moreover, the BJD nominee

has become a sharp poser for

the ruling party. Chatters were



Asit Tripath

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Bolangir, March 2: The im-

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





tested from Bolangir Assembly seat then who will it field from

BJP might reap maximum benefit in the election after the construction of Ram temple in Avodhva. 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



passe 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 vet 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

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

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 progrmmes 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

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

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 Chandbali block in Bhadrak district, Saturday



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



national



Even while the government is seen standing with the rich, it is demolishing houses of the poor and farmers seeking a minimum support price for their produce have to face bullets JAIRAM RAMESH CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY

HEARING POSTPONED

A court hearing scheduled Saturday in the 2018 defamation case against Rahul Gandhi over his alleged objectionable remarks targeting Home Minister Amit Shah was postponed to March 13 after the Congress leader's counsel sought more time saying he was busy with the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra



Farmers' stir

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

gathers steam

Ludhiana (Punjab), March 2:

The Samyukta Kisan Morcha

(SKM), which spearheaded a

farmers' agitation in 2020-21,



The Aam Aadmi Party will announce candidates for all 13 Lok Sabha seats in Punjab in next two to four days

ARVIND KEJRIWAL AAP NATIONAL CONVENO

Todav 'nari shakti' (women power) is at the forefront of our developmental journey and taking

the lead in nation building. The Jammu and Kashmir administration is focusing on women-led development with unwavering dedication and determination to support gender parity and gender equity

MANOJ SINHA J&K LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

The private water tankers in Bangalore would be taken over by the state government in view of severe wate shortage

SHORT TAKES

Girl injured in pitbull attack

New Delhi: In yet another dog bite incident in the national capital, a seven-year-old girl was injured in an attack by a pet pitbull in Shahadra's Jagatpuri area, police said Saturday. A police officer said the girl was playing outside her house Friday evening when the dog attacked and dragged her before she was rescued by the locals. The girl was taken to a hospital by her mother and her condition was stated to be out of danger, the officer added.

1 killed, 4 injured

Shillong: One smuggler was killed and four others, including three BSF personnel, were injured after a mob attacked the paramilitary force near the Indo-Bangladesh boundary in Meghalaya's East Khasi Hills district, the border incident happened Friday night at Dalia village when the group of people, suspected to be smugglers from India and Bangladesh, gathered on both sides of the border to smuggle goods, the BSF said in the statement.

Nine more MLAs in SHIP FROM CHINA TO PAK touch with us: Rana PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Himachal Pradesh Congress

MLA Rajinder Rana Saturday

claimed that nine more party

legislators "feeling suffocated"

due to Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu's

style of functioning are in touch

with him as he called the Chief

Congress MLAs, who had cross-

voted in the Rajya Sabha polls,

witnessed during the Himachal

Pradesh Cabinet meeting Saturday

"heated debate" over policy deci-

he is meeting the Congress rebels

at Panchkula nor the CM had

met us on his way to Delhi, did

not ask us to patch up. He has his

grievances against the govern-

ment which failed to provide

Vikramaditya Singh, who

sent him," Rana said.

sions, sources said.

Minister "liar number one".

land for installing Virbhadra Singh's statue and interfered in Shimla, March 2: Rebel his functioning," he added.

Sukhu Friday said he gave the go-ahead to Vikramaditya Singh to meet the rebels who crossvoted in the Rajya Sabha polls, in what appeared to be a placatory gesture even as he called the same six MLAs "black serpents".

In a setback for the ruling Rana along with five other Congress in Himachal Pradesh, the BJP Tuesday won the state's lone Rajya Sabha seat despite have been disqualified from the being in the minority with just Assembly for abstaining from vot-25 MLAs against 40 of the Congress as nine MLAs, ining on the cut motion and finance bill. Meanwhile, high drama was cluding six from the Congress and three independents, voted for BJP candidate Harsh Mahajan. Himachal Pradesh Assembly as ministers Jagat Negi and Rohit Thakur left midway following a

Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania had Thursday disqualified six Congress MLAs namely Sudhir Sharma, Ravi Thakur, Rajinder Rana, Inder Dutt Lakhanpal, Chetanya Sharma and Devinder Kumar Bhutto for abstaining from voting on the Cut Motion and the Finance Bill. After crossvoting by the rebels in the Rajya Sabha polls, Vikramaditya had announced his resignation from the Cabinet Wednesday but softened his stand by the evening after meeting the observers, who said that the resignation

had been withdrawn.

STOPPED AT MUMBAI PORT Further investigations showed many discrepancies in the shipping details, indicating

potential evasion tactics to conceal the true recipients

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, March 2: Security agencies at Mumbai's Nhava Sheva port intercepted and seized the consignment of a Karachibound ship from China after it was found carrying a dual-use consignment with implications for Pakistan's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes, officials said Saturday.

Customs officials, acting on intelligence, halted the Maltaflagged merchant ship -- CMA CGM Attila -- en route to Karachi on January 23 and, during its inspection, found that the consignment had a Computer Numerical Control (CNC) machine, manufactured by an Italian company, known for its precision and efficiency controlled by a computer system. A Defence Research and



Development Organisation (DRDO) team examined the consignment and confirmed its potential usage in Pakistan's nuclear initiatives, notably in manufacturing crucial components for missile development, the officials said.

CNC machines fall under the Wassenaar Arrangement, an international arms control regime aimed at curbing the spread of items with dual civilian and military applications, in which India is an active participant. The CNC machine was used by North Korea in its nuclear programme. Further investigations showed many discrepancies in the shipping details, indicating potential evasion tactics to conceal the true recipients. This incident fol-

said Saturday that more than 400 farmer outfits will participate in a "Kisan Mahapanchayat" in Delhi March 14 to press the BJPled Centre to accept their demands, including a law on the minimum support price (MSP) for crops. Thirty-seven farmer bodies,

which are part of the SKM, held a meeting Saturday regarding their proposed "mahapanchayat" at Delhi's Ramlila Maidan. Talking to reporters, Bharti Kisan Union (Lakhowal) general secretary Harinder Singh Lakhowal said farmers are continuously struggling for their demands. In continuation of their struggle, it was decided that a "mahapanchayat" will be organised in the national capi-

tal March 14, he added. More than 400 farmer organisations from across the country will take part in the "mahapanchayat", farmer leaders said. They said they will not travel to Delhi by tractor trolleys, but through buses and trains.

They said they are continuously raising their voice against the Centre regarding their demands.



Houses at Rashil village are seen covered in snow in Lahaul and Spiti district, Saturday

Lok Sabha polls: CEC allays fears of EVM tampering -

lows past seizures of dual-use

military-grade items being tran-

shipped from China to Pakistan,

raising concerns over illicit

The ongoing probe aims to

ascertain if the suspected

Pakistani entities receiving

these items are linked to the

Defence Science and Technology

Organisation (DESTO), re-

sponsible for Pakistan's defence

The port officials, with specific

intelligence, had alerted the

Indian defence authorities who

inspected the heavy cargo and

reported their suspicions, after

which the consignment was

seized, the officials said and

added that the seizure falls under

the prevention of possible pro-

liferation by Pakistan and China.

research and development.

procurement activities.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, March 2: Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar Saturday sought to allay fears pertaining to the EVMs and asserted that political parties and candidates are informed about the specific EVM which has gone to a particular polling station.

"Information is given in writing to the political parties, candidates and its agents about which EVM has gone to which specific polling centre. They are also informed about which EVM has gone for training," Kumar said here.

He said that no warehouse can open without their permission and added there are no procedures, which can be done without the presence of the political parties. Information about how many votes have been polled in a particular EVM after polling is available with the polling agent and they can verify the EVMs (electronic voting machines) before the counting process, he added. To a question on misinfor-

mation on social media, the chief

election commissioner said it is a serious issue. He added that action can be taken under the provisions of the IT Act.

Kumar was accompanied by Election Commissioner Arun Goel. Uttar Pradesh's Chief Electoral Officer Navdeep Rinwa was also present on this occasion. The chief election commissioner was on a three-day tour to the state capital beginning February 29 to review the poll preparedness of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.



Rana termed Sukhu "liar number one" and alleged that he was trying to twist the facts."Neither Public Works Department Minister Vikramaditva Singh had told the Chief Minister that

DK SHIVAKUMAR KARNATAKA DEPUTY CM





Two dead, six hurt

Jammu: Two people were killed and six others injured in separate incidents as incessant rains pounded several parts of Jammu region for the second day Saturday. officials said. Over three dozen houses and other structures suffered damages due to gusty winds in the province, they said.

Central Crime Branch to probe blast

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore (Karnataka), March 2: Bangalore Police Commissioner B Dayananda Saturday said that the investigation of the Rameshwaram cafe blast in which 10

people were injured has been handed over to Central Crime Branch 🛒 and that no arrest has been made in connection with the incident. In a post on 'X', he

said, "Investigation of the case has been handed over to the Central Crime Branch (CCB). All the injured are recovering. No arrest (have been) made." Earlier in the day, police sources said that four persons have been de-

tained for questioning in connection with the low-intensity bomb blast at a Bangalore eatery.

They were picked up from Dharwad. Hubballi and Bangalore. Dayananda said that the investigation into the incident, caused by an

Improvised Explosive Device (IED), is in full swing.

"Several teams are working on different leads obtained so far," he said."Keeping in mind the

sensitivity of the case and the security concerns, we appeal to the media to not indulge in speculation and cooperate," Dayananda said.

Meanwhile, security has been tightened across Bangalore.

HEALTH A GLARING HOLE IN ELECTION DISCOURSE: EXPERT

Not only are most parties seemingly uninterested in prioritising commitments on health in their poll agenda, even the voter on the street appears to be unaware of *healthcare rights, the public* health experts say

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 2: Every year, crores of Indians are pushed to the brink of financial ruin by medical emergencies, but as India gears up for the Lok Sabha polls, health remains conspicuously absent from the election discourse, feel experts. Not only are most parties seemingly uninterested in prioritising commitments on health in their poll



agenda, even the voter on the street appears to be unaware of healthcare rights, the public health experts say.

The result is that election after election, medical infrastructure and services leave a lot to be desired."Public health issues have traditionally not been a prominent poll agenda in India due to various factors. The most vocal sections of society 'the educated middle class' often do not access public health services, instead preferring the private sector. Hence, demands to improve government health services are not raised strongly," Dr Abhay Shukla,

national co-convenor of Jan Swasthya Abhiyan, said.

Healthcare has suffered in the absence of adequate allocations in the Union budget under successive governments, the experts said. India has a heavy disease burden with a WHO report stating that the country accounts for one-fifth of the total deaths occurring from stroke and ischemic heart disease, especially in younger adults.

Also, more than around 57 per cent of women (15-49 years) and 67 per cent of children (below 5 years) are anaemic, according to the National Family Health Survey 5 data, Sourindra Mohan Ghosh, assistant professor at the Council for Social Development, stated. Not only that, the NFHS data points to a wide incidence of hypertension and diabetes, while an ICMR report says that India will have 29.8 million cancer patients in 2025.

EVECUTIVE ENCINEED I I DIVISION DEDUAMDUD
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, L.I. DIVISION, BERHAMPUR
e-mail: eeolicbam@ymail.com
e-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. 14/2023-24 OLIC (BAM)/Dt.01.03.2024
No. CAD-4433: The Executive Engineer, Lift Irrigation Division
Berhampur on behalf of OLIC invites Percentage Rate Bids in Single
Cover System to be received in Online Mode only for the work "Installation
and Energisation of LIPs in Ganjam District as detailed in the table
below. The Bid should be submitted by the eligible class of contractors as
mentioned below registered with the State Government and contractors
of equivalent grade/class registered with Central Government/M.E.S.
Railways/C.P.W.D. for execution of Civil Works and valid Electrical (H.T.
Licence issued by ELBO Odisha as a single or having Joint Venture
having proper registration with authorized registering departments
through Online in the Govt. website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in
The bidders should have necessary portal enrolment with own Digita
Signature Certificate.
1. Numbers of Package : 46 Numbers 2. Estimated Cost : Rs.14.14 lakhs to 49.40 lakhs
3. Tender Cost : As per DTCN
4. Class of Contractor : As per DTCN
5. Date & time of Publication : Dt.06.03.2024 from 11.00 A.M.
6. Date & time of Closing : Dt.14.03.2024 at 17.00 hrs.
7. Date & time of Opening of Bid : Dt.15.03.2024 at 12.00 Noon
Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov

OFFICE OF THE

urther details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov in. Addendum/Corrigendum/Cancellation of tender, if any, can be seen in the said website OIPR-32442/11/0019/2324 Sd./- Executive Enginee

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER CHHELIGADA HEAD WORKS DIVISION

At/P.O.: Mahendragada, Via: Chandragiri, Dist.: Gajapati, PIN - 761017 e-mail: eechwd@gmail.com

e-Procurement Notice No. SE-CHWD-09/2023-24 No. A-1647: Bid document consisting of work, estimated cost, cost of ender paper, EMD, time of completion, class of contractor, the set of terms and condition of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in -procuremnt portal http://tenderodisha.gov.in

1.	Type of the work	:	Building works
2.	No. of works	:	09
3.	Class of Contractor	:	'D', 'C' & 'B' Class Contractor
4.	Bid Identification No.	:	e-CHWD-60/2023-24 to e-CHWD-68/2023-24
5.	Estimated Cost	1	Rs.4.13 lakhs to Rs.34.39 lakhs
6.	Period of Completion	:	4 (Four) to 6 (Six) Calendar months
7.	Date & time of availability of bid documents in the portal	:	04.03.2024 to 10.03.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.
8.	Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal	2	10.03.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.
9.	Date of Opening of Bid	:	11.03.2024 at 11.30 A.M. in the e-procurement cell, Office of the Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, RBVN Basin, Berhampur, Dist.: Ganjam
10.	Name of the Office Inviting Bid	:	Superintending Engineer, Chheligada Head Works Division, Mahendragada, Dist.: Gajapati
N.E	8.:		and and a second second second second
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2)	Further details can be see	n	from Government website: http://
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7.	Date & time of Openig	of Bids	:	14.03.2024 at 11.00 AM
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international



Islamist extremists and far-right groups are spreading a poison. That poison is extremism RISHI SUNAK | PM, UK

IRAN'S LOWEST ELECTION TURNOUT

Turnout for Iran's parliamentary election, seen as a test of the clerical establishment's legitimacy, appears to have hit a historic low of around 40%, according to reports. Heavyweight moderates and conservatives staved away from Friday's election and reformists called it unfair as it was mainly a contest between hardliners and low-key conservatives loyal to Islamic revolutionary ideals

about her friend Ghosh's death.

Taking to X, she posted, "The

reason, accused details every-

thing are not revealed vet or per-

haps no one left in his family to

fight for it except his few friends.

He was from Kolkata. Excellent

dancer, was pursuing PhD, was

taking an evening walk and sud-

denly he was shot multiple times

She tagged the X handles of the

Indian Embassy in the US, Prime

Minister Narendra Modi among

others and said, "Some friends

in US are trying to claim the

body but still no update about it"

and requested the Embassy to

reason of his murder," she said

in the post on Friday. On

Saturday, Bhattacharjee said in

another post on X: "Hope we get

the update of this heinous crime

as early as possible. If I am not

wrong, this is 5th or 6th mur-

der of Indian Students in 2

months. We all are worried here

with the larger diaspora.

"At least we should know the

by an unknown.

look into it.

& grieving.²



uote

Trump has spent a lifetime tearing us down and devaluing our existence. I've been so proud of how Joe has placed women at the heart of his agenda

JILL BIDEN | FIRST LADY, US

I will never submit to any economic political or foreign power. I will always work for the supreme interest of the people of Mexico and the nation

CLAUDIA SHEINBAUM PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, MEXICO



internal affairs MUMTAZ ZAHRA BALOCH FOREIGN OFFICE

US drops 5-day Covid isolation

New York: Americans who test positive for Covid-19 no longer need to stay in isolation for five days, US health officials announced Friday. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention changed its longstanding guidance, saying that people can return to work or regular activities if their symptoms are mild and improving and it's been a day since they've had a fever. The change comes at a time when Covid-19 is no longer the public health menace it once was. It dropped from being the nation's third leading cause of death early in the pandemic to 10th last year.

Imran gets bail in four cases

Lahore: A Pakistani court has confirmed the interim bail of iailed former prime minister Imran Khan in fou cases related to the May 9 violence and others, according to a media report Saturday. The 71year-old Pakistan-Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) party founder is currently incarcerated at Rawalpindi's high-security Adiala jail in multiple cases. On May 9 last year, Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party workers vandalised a dozen military installations, including the Jinnah House (Lahore Corps Commander house), Mianwali air base, the ISI building in Faisalabad, and the Army headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi.

Another Indian gunned down in US

Classical dancer from India shot dead in US; Indian mission condemns 'reprehensible gun attack'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York. March 2: In vet another deadly attack on Indians and Indian-Americans in the US in recent months, a 34-yearold trained classical dancer from India and a student of Washington University, was shot dead in St Louis, Missouri. Kuchipudi and

Bharatnatyam dancer Amarnath Ghosh, who migrated to the US from West Bengal last year "to follow his dancing dreams," was shot several times near the border of St Louis' Academy and Central West End neighbourhoods. He died on the spot.

According to the St Louis Metropolitan Police Department, the shooting happened at 7:15 pm Tuesday at Delmar Boulevard and Clarendon Avenue, news portal '5 On Your Side' reported Friday.

Ghosh was pursuing his master's in the Performing Arts Department of Washington University.

Hailing from Suri town in West Bengal's Birbhum district, Ghosh was an alumni of Kalakshetra, a prestigious Chennai institution that is a vital centre for the study and performance of fine arts, from 2007 to 2011.

His uncle Shyamal Ghosh said in Suri Saturday, he is still in

Russian drone strike

Kyiv: Three people were killed when a Russian

drone hit an apartment block in the southern

Gov Oleh Kiper said Saturday. A further eight

people sustained injuries, authorities said.

the country's Armed Forces

Ukrainian port city of Odesa overnight, regional

Ukraine's Armed Forces reported that the Odesa

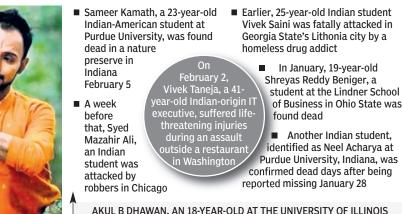
country more widely, air defenses shot down 14 of

17 drones launched against Ukraine, according to

region was attacked by eight drones, of which seven were shot down by air defenses. Across the

kills three in Odesa

SERIES OF ATTACKS



AKUL B DHAWAN, AN 18-YEAR-OLD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN, WAS FOUND DEAD LAST MONTH WITH SIGNS OF HYPOTHERMIA

today, we don't have any details

friends Hima Kuppa and Ravi Kuppa in the US said, "He was always travelling a lot for his performances. A lot of organisations called him for performances, but he always wanted to come back to St Louis.'

Gosh's killing has prompted India's consulate in Chicago to take up the issue with local police and the university.

Asserting that the mission is 'extending all help to the relatives of deceased Amarnath Ghosh," India's Consulate in

Chicago posted on X that it has "taken up the case strongly with St Louis police and the University for investigation of the reprehensible gun attack.'

Offering deep condolences to family and friends of the deceased in St Louis, Missouri, it said, "We are following up forensic, investigation with police and providing support.'

Washington University, where Gosh was a student, has condemned his killing as "senseless violence beyond comprehension."

It was actor Devoleena Bhattacharjee, who first alerted the authorities on social media

Nominations filed for Pak Prez polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, March 2: Pakistan's former president Asif Ali Zardari and his rival ethnic Pashtun politician Mahmood Khan Achakzai Saturday filed their nominations for the presidential election to be held March 9.

Zardari, from Sindh province. is the co-chairman of the Pakistan Peoples Party and has the support of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz as the two leading parties joined hands to form a coalition government after the February 8 elections produced a split mandate.

Zardari, 68, is set to become

US averts partial govt shutdown

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, March 2: President Joe Biden Friday signed a short-term spending measure that keeps one set of federal agencies operating through March 8 and another set through March 22 — officially staving off a partial government shutdown that would have started Sunday.

The measure gives lawmak ers some more time to draft and pass spending measures to keep the federal government operating for the current fiscal year, which ends September 30. Washington has been running on a series of short-term measures because Congress had failed to enact fullyear spending bills on time.

"This bipartisan agreement prevents a damaging shutdown and allows more time for Congress to work toward full-year funding bills," Biden said in a statement Thursday evening after both the House and Senate cleared the temporary fix. "That's good news for the American people. But I want to be clear this is a short-term fix—not a long-term solution." The House acted first

The series of attacks on Thursday. The vote to approve the Indians and Indian origin perextension was 320-99. It easily son/students had prompted the cleared the two-thirds majority officials of the Indian Embassy needed for passage. Democrats in Washington and its consulates overwhelmingly voted to avert a at various places to hold a virtual partial shutdown. But the vote interaction with Indian students was much more divided with from across the US, discussing Republicans, 113 in support and 97 against. The Senate then took various aspects of student wellbeing and ways to stay connected up the bill and approved it during an evening vote of 77-13.

Ukrainian troops rationing ammo



DISTURBED TERRITORIES

Since the beginning of

of Indian and Indian-

2024. there have been at

least half a dozen deaths

origin students in the US.

The alarming rise in the

number of attacks has

caused concern among

the community

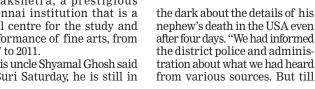
First vessel lost in Red Sea conflict after Houthi attack



Dubai: A ship attacked by Yemen's Houthi rebels has sunk in the Red Sea after days of taking on water, officials said Saturday, the first vessel to be fully destroyed as part of their campaign over Israel's war against Hamas in the Gaza Strip. The sinking of the Rubymar comes as shipping through the crucial waterway for cargo and energy snipments moving from Asia and the Middle East to Europe has been affected by the Houthi attacks. Already, many ships have turned away from the route. The sinking could see further detours and higher insurance rates put on vessels plying the waterway - potentially driving up global inflation and affecting aid shipments to the region.

SPOKESPERSON, PAKISTAN

SHORT TAKES



about his death," he said. Calling him "very friendly and very talented," Ghosh's



Israel kills 7 Hezbollah members

Sidon: An Israeli drone strike hit a car in south Lebanon Saturday

officials said. Another four Hezbollah members were killed in a

Lebanese security official, who spoke on condition of anonymity

because he was not authorised to speak to journalists. The state

Israeli military said in a statement that it had "struck a vehicle in

southern Lebanon, in which a number of terrorists who launched

run National News Agency said the latest strike Saturday hit a

car in the Naqoura area along Lebanon's southern coast. The

morning, killing three Hezbollah members, state media and

strike on a house in the town of Ramia overnight, said a

rockets into Israeli territory were driving".

president for the second time as he is being supported by the parties that enjoy a majority in the electoral college. He also served as president from 2008 to 2013. Achakzai, 75, from Balochistan, is the chief of the Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party and was nominated by Imran Khan, the jailed leader of the Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf party. In Parliament, Achakzai would be supported by the Sunni Ittehad Council, the new home of the PTI-backed independent lawmakers.

Their papers were filed for the presidential elections and the scrutiny of the nomination papers will be held Monday. The elections will be held March 9.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS PLAN TO TAKE WEEKS TO CONSIDER AID

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, March 2: Ukrainian drones fly without ammunition. Russian artillery unleash deadly volleys from safe positions beyond the range of Kyiv's troops.

Shortages of ammo and supplies are resulting in lost ground to Moscow, US congressional leaders warn, yet the Republicancontrolled House has shown little hurry to resupply Ukraine with military aid.

Across Washington, officials are viewing the drop-off in ammunition shipments with increasing alarm. It's now been over two months since the USwhich since World War II has fashioned itself as the "Arsenal of Democracy"-last sent military supplies to Ukraine.

But House Speaker Mike Johnson appears determined to chart his own course away from a \$95 billion foreign aid package passed by the Senate — a decision that could stall the package for weeks to come after an already arduous months-long wait in Congress.

With US military shipments cut off, Ukrainian troops withdrew from the eastern city of Avdiivka last month, where outnumbered defenders had withheld a Russian assault for four months.

Delays in military support from the West are complicating the task for Kyiv's military tac-

ticians, forcing troops to ration ammunition and ultimately costing the lives of Ukrainian soldiers. Defence officials are discussing

options, which include possibly tapping existing stockpiles even before Congress approves funding to replenish them, according to Senator Jack Reed, the chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee, And at a White House meeting this week, President Joe Biden, the two top Democrats in Congress and Senate **Republican** Leader Mitch McConnell all took turns intensely urging Johnson to take up a Senate-passed package that would provide \$60 billion worth of assistance for Kyiv.

So far, the Republican speaker has refused.

The Louisiana Republican just four months into the powerful job as speaker, second in the line to the presidency — is under intense pressure from all sides. The leaders of 23 European parliaments have signed an open letter urging him to pass the aid. And within his own House ranks, senior Republicans are growing restive at the inaction, even as other far-right members have threatened to try to remove him from leadership if he advances the aid for Kyiv.

If Ukraine gets the aid they will win. If they don't get the aid they will lose - with dire consequences to the **United States**

CHUCK SCHUMER | SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

US military to airdrop food, supplies GAZA WAR

AGENCIES

Washington, March 2: The US military will start carrying out airdrops of food and supplies into Gaza in the coming days, joining other countries like France, Jordan and Egypt that have done the same.

HOW WOULD AN AIRDROP OF AID WORK?

The United States will use military aircraft to drop supplies over Gaza. While it is unclear which type of aircraft will be used, the C-17 and C-130 are best suited for the job. According to the US Air Force, a C-130 can hold 16 pallets while a C-17 can carry 40.

Military personnel on the ground load supplies onto the pallets, which are then loaded onto planes, and locked in place. Once the aircraft is over the

area where the supplies are needed, the lock holding them in place is released and they sail to the ground with the help of a parachute attached to the pal-

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?



While the military can look at weather patterns ahead of time, the wind plays a large role in ensuring that they land where they should. Social media videos have shown some aid delivered by other countries

ending up in the sea. Gaza is densely populated and officials say it will be difficult to ensure that the aid reaches the people who need it

and doesn't end up in some place that is unreachable. "It is extremely difficult to do

an airdrop in such a crowded environment as is Gaza," John Kirby, President Joe Biden's top national security spokesperson, said.Officials also say that without a US military presence on the ground, there is no guarantee that the aid will not end up in the hands of

HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY

t least 5,76,000 people in the Gaza Strip - one quarter of the Henclave's population - are one step away from famine, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The UN Palestinian refugee agency UNRWA said Friday that during February an average of nearly 97 trucks were able to enter Gaza each day, compared with about 150 trucks a day in January, adding: "The number of trucks entering Gaza remains well below the target of 500 per day.'

Hamas WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF **PAST US AIRDROPS?**

Each year over Christmas, it drops humanitarian aid to remote islands in the Pacific Ocean in an effort known as "Operation Christmas Drop.³

In 2014, the United States military airdropped aid in northern Iraq, when civilians were trapped by Islamic State fighters. In those few months, more than 100,000 meals and 96,000 water bottles were airdropped.

WHAT ARE OPTIONS ARE BEING LOOKED AT?

On Friday, President Joe Biden told reporters that the US was also looking at the possibility

of a maritime corridor to deliver large amounts of aid into Gaza. A US official said one possible option is shipping aid by sea from Cyprus, some 210 nautical miles off Gaza's Mediterranean coast.

No decision has been made on military involvement in such an operation, said the official, adding the Israelis were "very receptive" to the sealift option because it would avoid delays from protesters blocking land crossings to aid convoys

But the reality is that the maritime option using the military is highly challenging, with no clear location where the aid could be unloaded from ships.













business



BEE helped India to reduce its energy consumption by around 3.5 per cent, and to reduce its carbon emissions by 306 million tonnes per annum **RK SINGH** MINISTER FOR POWER AND

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



Industries Limited





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 selfregulatory 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

the plan forward, a

memorandum of

euros at its steelworks site

at Piombino in Italy. To take

RIFT WITH INVESTORS

BYJU'S unable to pay salaries India wins big at WTO meet

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



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 vour 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

has fought fearlessly and tire-

Earlier this week, a com-

Seek approval before deploying under-trial Al: 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 is-

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

as on other issues.

INDUSTRY MINISTER

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 propos 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.

Apps delisting can't be permitted: Govt

GOOGLE-INDIAN STARTUPS ROW

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

lessly, "leaving no stone unturned" to find a way to honour the company's commitment to employees

It is an agonising reality

investors have already

3 CONFÉRENC

STÉRIELLE DE L

202

CM13

The country retains

full policy space for

benefit of farmers,

fishermen at WTO

Abu Dhabi, March 2: The out-

come of the 13th ministerial

conference of the WTO was

'good" and India is "completely

satisfied" as the country con-

tinues to retain its full policy

space to protect the interests of

farmers and fishermen in every

respect, Commerce and Industry

Minister Pivush Goval has said.

curement of food grains for dis-

tribution among the poor con-

tinues uninterrupted and without

policy space for the benefit of

our farmers, our fishermen, and

in every respect, we have been

"India continues to retain full

any hindrance.

He said that New Delhi's pro-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

that some of these

reaped substantial profits .

in fact, one of them has

made a staggering eight

pany 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.

(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.

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' Altt (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 wellknown 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.

sued 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.

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

Indian Bank inaugurates renovated premises of Pathara Branch

Berhampur: Indian Bank has inaugurated the renovated premises of Pathara Branch at Bhejiput 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.













all three formats: a hard-hitting

middle-order batsman, an athletic

fielder and now as a serious

bowling option. He had taken

only 11 wickets in his five pre-

vious Tests with a best of 4/53.

victim, brilliantly caught by Will

Young under the helmet at short

leg, Phillips set off on a long,

jubilant run around the Basin

Reserve, finally ending the

ter and any celebration a six-

year-old girl would do, that's

probably me," Phillips said. "I've

never really thought what to do

if I got a five-for but the emotion.

the way the crowd went up. It was

Phillips acknowledged New

Zealand's chance of winning

the test is slight but happy

to able to give his team a

chance. "I understand we've

got to combat the situations

just an unbelievable moment.

"I've got a six-year-old daugh-

Henry's arms.

When Green became his fifth



Valley Hockey and Tenr

Phillips spell sinks Aussies



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wellington, March 2: Parttime off-spinner Glenn Phillips took 5/45 as New Zealand bowled out Australia for 164 in their second innings Saturday on the third day of the first cricket Test

Phillips' maiden five-wicket total comprised the wickets of Usman Khawaja (28), first-innings century-maker Cameron Green (34), Travis Head (29), Mitch Marsh for a first-ball duck and Alex Carey (3). Matt Henry took 3/36 as Australia was bowled in less than four hours.

Australia still increased their overall lead to 368 after leading by 204 on the first innings. At stumps New Zealand was 111/3 and 257 runs behind. Rachin Ravindra reached a half century from 77 balls just before stumps and was 56 not out at the close of play

and Daryl Mitchell was 12. Australia struck a major blow

when they dismissed Kane Williamson for 9 in the last session. Williamson fell to Nathan Lyon, the off-spinner who likely holds the key to the match.

After being run out for 0 in the first innings, Williamson was caught by Steve Smith at leg slip from a ball that bounced more than he expected. Smith moved to first slip and caught Will Young (15) off Head as New Zealand's hopes of winning began to melt away.

Ravindra revived those hopes a little before stumps with his first half century in his first match against Australia. The only previous time he passed 50 in his Test career, he made 240. A New Zealand win remained unlikely and of the three possible results still in play an

Australia win is most probable.

A draw also looms as a possi-

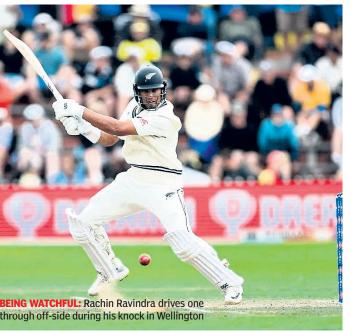
bility as rain is forecast for most of the fourth day.

New Zealand's highest successful fourth-innings run chase in New Zealand is 324 and the current target would represent the

10th-highest successful chase in the history of test cricket. Still, Phillips' incredible contribution in the middle session when four of his five wickets fell helped save some face for New Zealand after it was bowled out for 179 in reply to Australia's 383.

New Zealand captain Tim Southee threw the ball to Phillips as his first spin option of the second innings. New Zealand didn't take a specialist spinner into the match but relied on Ravindra who took 1/24 in the first innings. Southee then backed Phillips who bowled his

16 overs without a break. Phillips has a reputation in the New Zealand team as a player who can make things happen in



that are out there," he said. "Obviously there's a bit of turn so it's a matter of how we go about combating (Nathan) Lyon. The way their big fast bowlers bowl as well is going to be a challenge. I definitely think we've got the time on our hands to be able to pull this off."

Australia resumed Saturday at 13/2 after losing Steve Smith and Marnus Labuschagne late on the second day. Nathan Lyon was once again a useful nightwatchman and he made 41 before he fell in the first session and Khawaja also was out stumped before lunch.

BRIEF SCORES

Australia 383 & 164 (Nathan Lyon 41, Cameron Green 34, Travis Head 29; Glenn Phillips 5/45, Matt Henry 3/36, Tim Southee 2/46); New Zealand 179 & 111/3 (Rachin Ravindra 56 batting; Nathan Lyon 2/27). Match to continue.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 2: Veteran goalkeeper PR Sreejesh says he has learned to steer clear of negative thoughts with experience, something that has helped him immensely while guarding the post for the Indian team in big matches.

As he prepares for the up coming Paris Olympics, Sreejesh spoke about the criticism that comes with the "thankless job" of manning the goalpost for the national side.

"It is a thankless job at times because if I made 10 saves and concede one goal, everyone will remember that one mistake. But I have accepted that and I have moved on with that," he said Saturday.

"This profession has helped me in my personal life on how to deal with pressure and criticism as well," Sreejesh added during a conversation with David Lee, who is the head coach of Prime Volleyball League franchise Bengaluru Torpedoes.

One of the best players in modern-day volleyball, Lee represented USA thrice at the Olympics, and led his side to a gold medal and a bronze medal

Sreejesh, who is one of the top goalkeepers in the world, has represented India at the Olympics three times, and won the bronze medal at the Tokyo Games in 2021.

During a discussion on how athletes can develop mental strength at an early age, Sreejesh opened up on his struggles as a young goalkeeper.

"Goalkeeping is a mental game. Being a player, we understand how we want to get involved in a match. But, being a goalkeeper, I just stand behind



and my game is in my head,' Sreeiesh said.

"As a young player, my negative feelings used to dominate my positive feelings, and that would lead me to concede goals. Now, with my experience, things have changed for me, and I allow positive thoughts to dominate.

Sreejesh praised Prime Volleyball League for providing a platform for youngsters to showcase their skills and recalled his experience of playing in the erstwhile Hockey India League. "I was always very curious to see how the top overseas players are playing and how they train and behave.

"Earlier. I never used to care about my diet, preparations, or proteins. I was a good listener, but never took an initiative in meetings. But the league helped me in learning from the overseas player and helped me improve in all these aspects of my game."

CSK training camp gets underway ahead of IPL



Blue cards plan scrapped by FIFA

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Loch Lomond (Scotland), March 2: There will be no blue cards shown in football, FIFA president Gianni Infantino said Saturday ahead of the annual meeting of the sport's rule-making panel.

The rules panel known as IFAB is due to look at extending trials of "sin bins" at low-level games. But beyond that, the idea aired a month ago of adding blue cards to referees' pockets with their red and yellow to remove players from the field for several minutes has been scrapped.

"Let me be clear — it's a red card to the idea of blue' cards,

Mumbai eves pummel Bangalore

not added 52 runs for the sixth wicket after MI decided to bowl first

Mumbai were without their regular skipper Harmanpreet Kaur and premier pacer Shabnim Ismail, who have been nursing injuries, for the second match on the trot, but that did not affect their intensity.

The RCB top-order batters did not have the required amount of patience to weather the storm when the MI bowlers found a fine line early on.

Skipper Mandhana (9) grew impatient and looked to smash pacer Issy Wong (1/20) out of the park. But the shot neither had power nor timing as Brunt com-

pleted a simple catch inside the

It was a similar case with

some other RCB top-order bat-

ters such as Ghosh and

circle.



Chennai, March 2: Chennai Super Kings' pre-season camp got underway here on Saturday in the presence of pacer Deepak Chahar, who will be eyeing a national comeback through a consistent run for his franchise in the IPL beginning March 22.

"The first batch of local (Indian) players arrived on Friday and more are expected to arrive in the coming days," a Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) official told PTI

Friday, CSK confirmed the arrival of the first batch of players in the city and they included Simarjeet Singh (pacer), Rajvardhan Hangargekar (allrounder), Mukesh Choudhary (pacer), Prashant Solanki (spinner), Ajay Mandal (all-rounder) and Deepak Chahar (seamer).

Notably, Chahar has not played any form of cricket since last

of the T20 series against Australia midway before skipping the tour of South Africa due to his father's illness

However, he declared himself fully fit last month while training at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bangalore. The injury-prone pacer is eyeing a comeback to the national side for the T20 World Cup scheduled in the Caribbean and the USA in June.

Fan-favourite and team skipper MS Dhoni's arrival is yet to be confirmed. He was spotted with his wife Sakshi in Jamnagar Friday when he attended the pre-wedding function of Anant Ambani, the youngest son of Indian business tycoon Mukesh Ambani.

CSK open their IPL 2024 campaign against Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) here. March 22.

Infantino told reporters in a video clip posted overnight on his Instagram account. "There will not be any blue cards used at elite level." "This is a topic that is non-existent for us and FIFA is completely opposed to blue cards." Infantino said.

Sin bins were introduced in grassroots football in the 2019-20 season to try to reduce dissent and increase fair play. The idea has been unpopular with English Premier League coaches. However, the new suggestion

of using blue cards to send players to sin bins was met with widespread derision. The IFAB panel is made up of officials from FIFA and the four British football federations. FIFA has four votes and the federations of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales each has one. Six votes are needed for a proposal to pass

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Bangalore, March 2: Mumbai Indians batters and bowlers functioned in perfect sync to power their side to a seven-wicket win over Royal Challengers Bangalore in their Women's Premier League (WPL) match

Yastika Bhatia (31, 15b, 4x4, 2x6) and Hayley Matthews (26, 21b, 3x4, 1x6) added 45 runs for the first wicket in just 3.5 overs to give a sound launching pad to MI. The subsequent batters exploited the strong start to register a fine win, reaching the 132-run target with 29 balls to spare to take them to the top of the table



here Saturday

with six points. The MI bowlers were efficient while restricting RCB to a timid 131/6.

Bhatia gave a fiery start to the Mumbai chase as she began with a boundary off pacer Renuka Singh in the very first ball and the introduction of Sophie Molineux prompted her to take aggression to next level.

The left-hander smashed the left-arm spinner over the deep mid-wicket for a six and then carted her past point for a four. However, Bhatia was not all power as she showed a delectable touch too, like a flowing backfoot punch off Sophie Devine (1/16). But Devine had the last laugh as Bhatia's drive away

from her body was snaffled by stumper Richa Ghosh diving to her left.

Matthews perished when she drilled an uppish drive straight to Smriti Mandhana off off-spinner Shreyanka Patil (1/15). MI needed 63 runs from that point but stand-in captain Nat-Sciver Brunt (27) and Amelia Kerr (40 n o, 24b, 7x4) hardly broke a sweat while adding 49 runs for the third wicket through a medley of pulls, reverse sweeps and late cuts. From there, it was easy for MI to canter home.

Earlier, RCB would have been in deeper trouble had Elysse Perry (44 n o, 38b, 5x4) and Georgia Wareham (27, 20b, 3x4)

Sabbhineni Meghana who tried to break the shackles by force, not the best approach when the bowlers are on top. But Perry showed how to score runs here, selecting her balls to

perfection to punish the bowlers. She found an able ally in Wareham, who complemented Perry with good rotation of strike and occasional hits to the fence.

BRIEF SCORES

RCB Women 131/6 (Ellyse Perry 44 n o, Georgia Wareham 27; Pooja Vastrakar 2/14, Nat Sciver-Brunt 2/27) lost to MI Women 133/3 (Amelia Kerr 40 n o, Yastika Bhatia 31; Shreyanka Patil 1/15) by 7 wickets.

Pegula in San Diego Open semis

ASSOCIATED PRESS

San Diego, March 2: Top-seeded Jessica Pegula beat Anna Blinkova 6-1, 2-6, 6-2 Friday to advance to the semifinals of the San Diego Open.

Pegula, ranked No.5 in the world, will face Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova or Marta Kostyuk Saturday. Pegula finished with 24 winners. She made 17 unforced errors, the majority of which came in the second set.

Third-seeded Emma Navarro advanced to the semifinals for the second year in a row by beating the last remaining qualifier, 113th-ranked Daria Saville, 6-4, 6-2. She'll face Katie Boulter, who beat 2022 runner-up Donna Vekic 6-4, 6-3

There will be no return trip to the semifinals for Vekic. The seventh seed was upset on a



windy day by Boulter, who at No.49 is Britain's top-ranked player. Earlier this week, Boulter beat second-seeded Beatriz Haddad Maia 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 **DE MINAUR ADVANCES**

Defending champion Alex de Minaur advanced to the final of the Mexican Open when Jack Draper retired in the third set



beating second-seeded Holger Rune 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 in the late match.

Odisha Postal defeat **Colts XI in E-League**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 2: Odisha Postal kicked off their E-League Cricket Tournament campaign with a convincing 4-wicket victory at the KT Global School Ground in Barunei, Saturday.

Colts XI were bowled out for a paltry 97 before the completion of the stipulated 40 overs after they won the toss and opted to bat in the Elite Series league match. Aman Dash was the top scorer for Colts XI with 21, while Jyoti Ranjan Behera (18) and M Prashant (16) were the other notable contributors.

Subham Nayak (3/23), Anurag Sarangi (2/18) and Sai Prasad Acharya (2/19) shared seven wickets among them for Odisha Postal, who notched up the win in 28.4 overs with Anurag (29 n o) and Sanjeeb Sahoo (21) being the major contributors.

Odisha FC returned to their winning form with a commanding 4-0 victory over Sethu FC with a clean sheet in their Indian Women's League (IWL) match at the Tilak Maidan Stadium in Goa, Saturday.

Pyari Xaxa struck twice (60th and 78th minutes) in the second half after Win Theingi Tun (fourth) and Indumathi Kathiresan (23rd) gave Odisha FC 2-0 lead at the halftime break.

The OFC eves took an early lead when Win swiftly regained possession and scored with a magnificent chip over the goalkeeper. Indumathi doubled the advantage with a powerful strike from outside the box, finding the bottom corner of the net.

After the change of ends, it was Pyari's turn as she show-

Odisha FC eves thrash Sethu 4-0



0

cased her skill with a swift turn and a clinical finish after receiving a pass from Sanju, making it 3-0 in favour of Odisha FC.

Pyari completed the rout capitalizing on a rebound before slotting the ball into the net after her initial shot was saved by the goalkeeper. Odisha FC will face Hops FC at the Dr. Ambedkar Stadium in Delhi, March 8.

OFC PIP JAMSHEDPUR

Odisha FC kicked off their journey in the Regional Qualifiers (East) of the Reliance Foundation Development League (RFDL) on a strong note with a 2-1 victory over Jamshedpur FC in Kolkata. Dheeraj Datta (37th minute) and Roshan Panna (51st) scored for OFC.

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Living Together Morality vs Modernity

SUNDAY POST MARCH 3 - 9, 2024



NISHIT MAJITHIA IS VERSATILE. HE IS AN ACTOR. ANCHOR. SCRIPTWRITER, OUIZ 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



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.

MADHUSMITA SAHU, OP



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 it 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!

With parents

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.

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

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

FIH

PRO



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

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Arr MIXED BAG

SUNDAY POST MARCH 3 - 9, 2024

Living Together Morality vs Modernity

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.'

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

MADHUSMITA SAHU, OP

hough 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 rela-

tionships. 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 au-

tonomy, choice, and partnership Guidelines dynamics. However, despite this evolving acceptance, issued by the Uttarakhand government extend financial protection and inheritance rights to couples in live-in relationships, addressing the concerns of those into it form

companionship' Arpit Kanungo

(name changed on re-

quest), 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

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

societal stigmas and cul-

tural barriers still persist,

particularly in con-

'Let us accept modern of

recognising and regulating this increasingly common aspect of modern relationships. These guidelines offer clarity and

He goes on to add, "Furthermore, these guidelines may

recog-nised 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 dayto-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 wellbeing 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

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.

"Tve 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.

SUNDAY POST MARCH 3 - 9, 2024

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

OP DESK

illiam 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 con-

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

for

street gangs maintained strong ties and voted for their leaders in exchange 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 Daniel Day-Lewis playing 'Bill the Butcher' in 2002 film *Gangs of New York*, directed by Martin Scorsese

PERSONALITY

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.

SUNDAY POST MARCH 3 - 9, 2024

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

Actors need to follow their instincts: Triptii

so far. She recently ad-

dressed the criticism surrounding her decision to take on the role since people questioned why an actor who has outper-

formed 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.

Zareen's interest

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 lipsmacking 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.*

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 womencentric 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 businesswoman, 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. SUNDAY POST MARCH 3 - 9, 2024

Moeraki-boulders

Contraction of the second

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

rom 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



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

Piha Beach

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.

Abel Tasman National Park

Ninety Mile beach

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