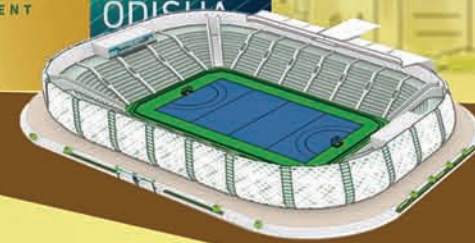




DSPL-788

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Information & Public Relations Department

OIPR-15001/13/0646/2324



## ୫ ମାର୍ଚ୍ଚ ୨୦୨୪

### ପଞ୍ଚାୟତିରାଜ ତଥା ଲୋକସେବା ଦିବସ

ପ୍ରବାଦ ପୁରୁଷ ବିଜୁ ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକଙ୍କର ୧୦୮ତମ ଜନ୍ମବାର୍ଷିକୀ

## ସଶକ୍ତ ପଞ୍ଚାୟତିରାଜ ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ

### ସୁଦୃଢ଼ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ନିର୍ମାଣ

- ◆ ପଞ୍ଚାୟତିରାଜ ଓ ପାନୀୟ ଜଳ ବିଭାଗ ଦ୍ୱାରା ବାଲସଭା ଓ ମହିଳାସଭା ସମ୍ପର୍କିତ ମାର୍ଗଦର୍ଶିକା ଉନ୍ନୋତନ ।
- ◆ ପଞ୍ଚାୟତ ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପ ପରିଚାଳନା ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥାର (Panchayat Project Management System) ସୁବିଧୋଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ ପାଇଁ ଏକ ସଫ୍ଟୱେର (Software) ପ୍ରଥମ ଥର ପାଇଁ ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର ବ୍ଲକ୍ରେ ପରୀକ୍ଷାମୂଳକ ଭାବେ ବ୍ୟବହାର କରାଯିବ ଏବଂ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟାୟକ୍ରମେ ସମସ୍ତ ବ୍ଲକ୍ରେ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ କରାଯିବ ।
- ◆ ପଞ୍ଚାୟତିରାଜ ଦିବସରେ ୧୨ ଗୋଟି ଗ୍ରାମ ପଞ୍ଚାୟତକୁ ISO ପ୍ରମାଣପତ୍ର ଆବେଦନ କରିବା ପାଇଁ LMS & Universal Certification Agency ସମ୍ମତି ଜଣାଇଛନ୍ତି ।
- ◆ ଇ-ପଞ୍ଚାୟତ ସଭା ମୋବାଇଲ୍ ଆପ୍ ଲୋକାର୍ପଣ । ଏହା ଦ୍ୱାରା ସମସ୍ତ ଗ୍ରାମ ପଞ୍ଚାୟତର ମାସିକ ପଞ୍ଚାୟତ ସଭା ଓ ସମ୍ପର୍କିତ ବିବରଣୀ ହିତାଧିକାରୀମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଉପଲବ୍ଧ ହେବ ।
- ◆ ତାଲିମ ପରିଚାଳନା ପୋର୍ଟାଲ ଲୋକାର୍ପଣ । ଏହି ପୋର୍ଟାଲ ଦ୍ୱାରା ସମସ୍ତ ନିର୍ବାଚିତ ପ୍ରତିନିଧି ଏବଂ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ ଅଧିକାରୀମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ସମସ୍ତ ତଥ୍ୟ ଅତି ସଫେପରେ ଉପଲବ୍ଧ ହେବ ।
- ◆ ରାଜ୍ୟ ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ ଉନ୍ନୟନ ଓ ପଞ୍ଚାୟତିରାଜ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠାନ ପରିସରରେ ଆବାସିକ ଛାତ୍ରାବାସ ଓ ଭୋଜନ କକ୍ଷର ଭିତ୍ତିପ୍ରସ୍ତର ସ୍ଥାପନ ।
- ◆ ପ୍ରଶାସନିକ ଗୃହ, ଓରମାସର ଭିତ୍ତିପ୍ରସ୍ତର ସ୍ଥାପନ (ରାଜ୍ୟ ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ ଉନ୍ନୟନ ଓ ପଞ୍ଚାୟତିରାଜ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠାନ ପରିସର ମଧ୍ୟରେ) ।
- ◆ ମାଲକାନଗିରି, ଗଞ୍ଜାମ ଓ କୋରାପୁଟ ଜିଲ୍ଲା ପରିଷଦକୁ ସାମଗ୍ରିକ ପ୍ରଦର୍ଶନ ପାଇଁ ଯଥାକ୍ରମେ ପ୍ରଥମ, ଦ୍ୱିତୀୟ ଓ ତୃତୀୟ ଭାବେ ସମ୍ମାନିତ କରାଯିବ ।
- ◆ ମାଲକାନଗିରି ଜିଲ୍ଲାର ପଡ଼ିଆ, ଗଞ୍ଜାମ ଜିଲ୍ଲାର ହିଞ୍ଜିଳିକାଟୁ ଓ କୋରାପୁଟ ଜିଲ୍ଲାର ଲକ୍ଷ୍ମୀପୁର ପଞ୍ଚାୟତ ସମିତିକୁ ସାମଗ୍ରିକ ପ୍ରଦର୍ଶନ ପାଇଁ ଯଥାକ୍ରମେ ପ୍ରଥମ, ଦ୍ୱିତୀୟ ଓ ତୃତୀୟ ଭାବେ ସମ୍ମାନିତ କରାଯିବ ।
- ◆ ସାମଗ୍ରିକ ପ୍ରଦର୍ଶନ ପାଇଁ ମାଲକାନଗିରି ଜିଲ୍ଲା ମାଧୁଲି ବ୍ଲକ୍ ମାଧୁଲି ପଞ୍ଚାୟତକୁ ପ୍ରଥମ, ଗଞ୍ଜାମ ଜିଲ୍ଲା ଶେରଗଡ଼ ବ୍ଲକ୍ ମହୁପଦର ପଞ୍ଚାୟତକୁ ଦ୍ୱିତୀୟ ଓ ମୟୂରଭଞ୍ଜ ଜିଲ୍ଲା ବଡ଼ସାହି ବ୍ଲକ୍ ମାଣିତ୍ରୀ ପଞ୍ଚାୟତକୁ ତୃତୀୟ ଭାବେ ସମ୍ମାନିତ କରାଯିବ ।

ପଞ୍ଚାୟତିରାଜ ଓ ପାନୀୟଜଳ ବିଭାଗ

**22 projects okayed**  
State government approves 22 projects worth an investment of ₹4,066 crore to further its industrialisation process

**DOWNTOWN | P2**

**SBI moves SC**  
SBI moves the Supreme Court seeking an extension of time till June 30 to disclose details of each electoral bond encashed by political parties

**NATIONAL | P7**

**Tata Motors to demerge**  
Tata Motors announces the demerger of its commercial and passenger vehicle segments into two separate listed entities

**BUSINESS | P9**

**B Sai Praneeth retires**  
World Championships bronze medal winning shuttler B Sai Praneeth brings down curtains on a successful international career

**SPORTS | BACK PAGE**

**SHORT TAKES**

**US SC restores Trump to ballot**

**Washington:** The Supreme Court Monday restored Donald Trump to 2024 presidential primary ballots, rejecting state attempts to hold the Republican former president accountable for the Capitol riot. The justices ruled a day before the Super Tuesday primaries that states cannot invoke a post-Civil War constitutional provision to keep presidential candidates from appearing on ballots. That power resides with Congress, the court wrote in an unsigned opinion. The outcome ends efforts in Colorado, Illinois, Maine and elsewhere to kick Trump, the front-runner for his party's nomination, off the ballot.

**NIA to investigate B'lore cafe blast**

**New Delhi:** The probe into the blast at a cafe in Bangalore has been handed over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), sources said Monday. At least 10 people were injured when a blast took place at Rameshwaram Cafe in Brookfield in East Bengaluru March 1. So far, Karnataka Police's investigation of the blast has been assisted by officials of the NIA, National Security Group (NSG) and Intelligence Bureau (IB). A man wearing a cap, mask and glasses is the prime suspect in the case and is still untraceable, the sources said. The explosion is suspected to be carried out through an Improvised Explosive Device (IED).

**Sanatan remark: SC raps Stalin Jr**

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court Monday rebuked Tamil Nadu Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin over his eradicate Sanatan dharma remark and asked why he has moved the court with his plea for clubbing together the FIRs filed against him after abusing his right to freedom of speech and expression. A bench of justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta told Stalin that being a minister he should have been careful with his statements and mindful of the possible consequences they could have.

**IRREGULAR by MANJUL**



**MARKET WATCH**

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	73872.29 ↑ 66.14
NIFTY	22405.60 ↑ 27.20
DOLLAR	82.97 ↓ ₹0.02
EURO	90.12 ↑ ₹0.27
GOLD	₹64,040 ↑ ₹477
SILVER	₹71,190 ↑ ₹699

**WEATHER**

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	35.7°C	34.6°C
Min Temp	23.4°C	23.8°C
Humidity	83%	78%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

**FORECAST**  
DRY WEATHER VERY LIKELY



**BURNING ANGER:** A protester demonstrates amid a state of emergency in Haiti following violent clashes in the capital that have damaged communications and led to two prison breaks as a major gang leader seeks to oust PM Ariel Henry

**HC annuls Congress MLA Moquim's 2019 election**

**PNN & AGENCIES**

**Cuttack, March 4:** The Orissa High Court Monday declared the election of Congress leader Mohammed Moquim from the Cuttack-Barabati Assembly seat in 2019 as null and void. Adjudicating over a petition filed by BJD leader Debasis Samantray, Justice Sangam Kumar Sahoo annulled the election of Moquim for failing to furnish detailed criminal antecedents during the time of filing his nomination in April 2019. Samantray, a BJD leader and former MLA of Cuttack-Barabati who was recently elected as a Rajya Sabha member, had moved the high court in July 2019, alleging that Moquim had submitted false affidavits along with his nomination during the May 2019 elections. The Congress leader was twice fined ₹10,000 by the court during the adjudication of the case for non-appearance. Moquim had won the Assembly election for the first time in 2019 by defeating Samantray by a narrow margin of a little over 2,000 votes. Meanwhile, the Congress leader after the high court ruling said he will contest the upcoming Assembly polls from the same constituency. "I will examine the verdict of the high court and challenge it, if needed," he said. It is pertinent to mention here that the Madras HC, in a significant judgment in 2019, had held that MPs as well as MLAs are liable to refund salaries, along with penalty, if a court of law declares their election to be illegal, null and void either before or after the completion of their tenure.



**BREACH IN INDRAVATI CANAL FLOODS VILLAGE, FARMLANDS**

**PNN & AGENCIES**

**Bhawanipatna, March 4:** Over 250 acres of agricultural land and houses were submerged as gushing water from a 20-foot breach created in the Indravati Right canal around 3.30am Monday flooded several parts of Kalampur block in Kalahandi district. Water also entered some houses in Deypur village due to the breach, officials said. Executive engineer of Indravati Right canal division, Rajkumar Behera, said the breach took place in the canal's left bank. The spot where the breach took place was weak as it hadn't been renovated for the construction of a bridge, officials added. Behera said the breach took place as farmers had closed three of the five canal gates located near the spot, creating additional pressure at the spot. Canal engineers have reached the spot and are taking stock of the situation. Water supply will resume tonight, he said. After water recedes from the fields, officials of the Agriculture and Revenue departments will assess damages to the fields and standing crops, Behera said. As water gushed inside houses while people were asleep, villagers had to rescue family members stuck inside three houses. Many have also lost their food stock and other valuables as their houses were inundated. On being informed, Kalampur tehsildar Smrutirekha Tula, BDO Bijay Kumar Mandangi, assistant engineer Shyamsundar Marandi, former minister Pushpendra Singhdeo visited the spot and held discussion with the affected farmers. Officials said that the repairing works will start Tuesday.



**Ban on single-use plastic in national parks, sanctuaries**

**PNN & AGENCIES**

**Bhubaneswar, March 4:** At a time when the existing prohibition on single use plastic bags has failed miserably in Odisha, the state government Monday imposed a fresh ban on the use of single-use plastic in national parks, tiger reserves, wildlife sanctuaries and eco-tourism sites in the state from April 1. Chief Wildlife Warden Susanta Nanda said in an order, "In exercise of the power conferred under Section 33 of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, it is hereby ordered that single-use plastic shall be prohibited inside sanctuaries/national parks/tiger reserves of the state with effect from April 1, 2024." As the use of plastic water bottles will also be banned inside the protected forest areas, alternate drinking water facilities will be arranged for the tourists, Nanda, who is also the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), said. He asked the forest officials to widely publicise the plastic ban order so that tourists do not face any inconvenience from April 1. He warned that violation of the order would invite arrest and jail term, besides fines. Resorts and eateries would be also informed about the order. The Forest department would seek the assistance of the Odisha State Pollution Control Board and the district administration to enforce the ban order, Nanda said. Notably, in a bid to curb the rampant use of single-use plastic bags, the government had enacted a state-wide ban October 2, 2019. However, about five years after its implementation, the rule has gone for a toss. It remains to be seen how strictly the government will enforce the new ban.

**Fans bid adieu to Flaco the owl in NYC memorial**

Efforts also are underway to put a statue of Flaco in Central Park with people calling for new laws aimed at preventing birds from flying into buildings

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**

**New York, March 4:** Dozens of mournful fans of Flaco the Eurasian eagle-owl gathered in New York City Sunday to say goodbye to the beloved celebrity creature who became an inspiration and joy to many as he flew around Manhattan after someone let him out of his zoo enclosure. A memorial featuring speeches, songs and poems was held in the late afternoon in Central Park at what organisers call Flaco's favorite oak tree. Flaco was found dead on the Upper West Side February 23 after apparently hitting a building. Testing by zoologists concluded he suffered traumatic impact injuries, but more testing



is planned to determine whether he may have been sick. His death was a heartbreaking end for the birders who documented his daily movements and the legions of admirers who followed along, as people posted photos and videos of the majestic owl with a nearly 6-foot wingspan perched on tree branches, fence posts, fire escapes and water towers — as well as his hours of hooting. "With all of this challenging time that is happening all over the world, this bird really be-

came a symbol of hope and brought so many of us together," Breanne Delgado said at the gathering. David Lei, an avid birder in the city, said losing Flaco was hard to put into words. He said the owl faced the same fate as many other birds in Manhattan — flying into the deceptive windows of tall buildings. Flaco was larger than life and is leaving behind a legacy to match, Lei said. "I thank him today, as I did every day I got to see him, for the joy, awe and wonder he inspired in us throughout his journey." People at the ceremony also advocated for new laws aimed at helping to prevent birds from flying into buildings and curbing the use of rat poison that

larger birds can ingest while eating prey. Efforts also are underway to put a statue of Flaco in Central Park. Flaco was freed from his cage at the Central Park Zoo a little over a year ago by a vandal who breached a waist-high fence and cut a hole through a steel mesh cage. The owl had arrived at the zoo as a fledgling 13 years earlier. Zoo officials and his fans were at first worried about his survival, but he soon proved adept at catching rats and other prey. The zoo later suspended efforts to re-capture him after failed attempts. Tributes poured in from across the globe after his death. Police are still seeking to arrest whoever let him out of his enclosure.

**No immunity to MPs, MLAs for bribery: SC**

Asserting that Articles 105 and 194 of the Constitution seek to sustain an environment in which debate and deliberation can take place within the legislature, the apex court said, this purpose is destroyed when a member is induced to vote or speak in a certain manner because of an act of bribery. Hence, the SC said bribery is not protected by parliamentary privileges and overruled its 1998 verdict as its interpretation is contrary to Articles 105 and 194 of the Constitution



**■ ARTICLE 105(2) confers on Members of Parliament (MPs) immunity from prosecution in respect of anything said or any vote given by them in Parliament or on any parliamentary committee**

**■ ARTICLE 194(2) grants similar protection to Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs)**

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

**New Delhi, March 4:** MPs and MLAs taking bribes to vote or make a speech in the House are not immune from prosecution, the Supreme Court said Monday in a landmark, unanimous verdict that overrules its 1998 judgment protecting such lawmakers. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, welcoming the verdict in a post on 'X', said, "SWAGATAM! A great judgment by the Hon'ble Supreme Court which will ensure clean politics and deepen people's faith in the system." Stating that corruption and bribery by members of the legislatures erode probity in public life, the apex court held that a five-judge bench's interpretation in the 1998 verdict in the JMM bribery case was contrary to Articles 105 and 194 of the Constitution. Bribery is not protected by

Articles 105 and 194 deal with the powers and privileges of MPs and MLAs in the Parliament and the legislative assemblies. It (corruption and bribery) is destructive of the aspirations and deliberative ideals of the Constitution and creates a polity which deprives citizens of a responsible, responsive, and representative democracy, the CJI said while reading out the operative part of the verdict. Analysing the reasoning of the majority and minority in 1998 verdict in the PV Narasimha Rao versus CBI case, the CJI said, "We disagree with and overrule the judgement of the majority on this aspect." On September 20, 2023, the apex court had agreed to reconsider its 1998 judgement. The issue came under the apex court's lens in 2019, when a bench headed by then Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi was hearing an appeal filed by Sita Soren, JMM MLA from Jharkhand and daughter-in-law of party chief Shibu Soren. The Gogoi-led bench had referred to a five-judge bench the matter. Sita Soren was accused of taking bribes to vote for a particular candidate in the Rajya Sabha election in 2012. She contended that the constitutional provision granting lawmakers immunity from prosecution, which saw her father-in-law being let off the hook in the JMM bribery scandal, be applied to her.

# 22 projects worth ₹4k-cr okayed

**THE PROJECTS, AFTER PROPER IMPLEMENTATION, ARE LIKELY TO GENERATE 25,525 JOBS IN 12 DISTRICTS**

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, March 4:** Furthering its industrialisation process, the state government Monday approved 22 projects worth an investment of ₹4,066 crore.

The proposals got the state government's nod at the State-Level Single Window Clearance Authority (SLSWCA) meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena.

The projects are in different sectors such as green energy equipment, chemicals, textiles and apparel, steel, iron & ferro alloys, aluminium downstream, food processing, power & renewable energy, IT infrastructure and infrastructure & logistics, a release said.

The projects after proper implementation are likely to generate 25,525 jobs in 12 districts, officials said.

In the green energy sector, Waaree Clean Energy Solutions Pvt Limited is planning to establish its electrolyser manufacturing plant in Khurda, with



a project cost of ₹435 crore, promising 300 jobs.

In the chemical sector, Shalimar Paints has proposed to set up its unit in Balasore for paints varnish and its applied products project, with an investment of ₹135 crore. This project is estimated to generate 200 jobs.

Reliance Bio Energy Limited has introduced two new projects on compressed biogas and fermented organic manure in Dhenkanal and Cuttack, with a total investment of ₹242.42 crore and offering 138 jobs.

SSIL Paint Industries Private Limited intends to manufacture paint and allied products, with investment plans of ₹150 crore and potentially employing 200 people in Khurda.

In the textile and apparel sec-

tor, OFB Tech Private Limited has proposed to set up its project in Khurda at an investment of ₹857 crore and 15,000 job opportunities. In the technical textile sector, Shalimar Wires Industries Limited in Khurda unveils its project synthetic fabric for industrial filtration with a project cost of ₹76 crore and employment to 100 people.

In the metal downstream sector, BMW Industries Limited is introducing its project in galvanised plain coil, color coating line, and cold rolling mill in Jajpur with a project cost of ₹713 crore and offering 276 potential job opportunities.

Sigma Profiles Private Ltd is initiating its steel structure profiles and pipes manufacturing unit in Sambalpur with a project cost of ₹54.26 crore and 250

employment opportunities.

In the food processing sector, Bajrangbali Minmet Private Limited is initiating a unit for instant pasta and vermicelli, sweet potato powder production, contributing ₹52.10 crore and potentially employing 50 people in Sundargarh.

OFB Tech Private Limited also plans to produce maize starch powder, maize germ, maize gluten, bran fibre, and enriched bran fibre for 150 crore, potentially employing 400 people in Nabarangpur.

In the power & renewable energy sector, Hindalco Industries Limited is investing in Solar PV Power in Koratpur with an investment of ₹200 crore and 80 potential job opportunities.

Steel Limited is investing in a 22 MW Solar PV Power Plant in Sundargarh, with an investment of ₹125.69 crore and offering job employment to 23 people. Adani Total Energies Biomass Limited aims to produce compressed biogas for this sector, with a project cost of ₹136.50 crore and potential employment for 180 people in Sambalpur.

"In a collective effort, these 22 transformative projects, with a cumulative investment of ₹4,066.71 crore, are poised to create 25,525 employment opportunities, paving the way for enhanced industrial growth and economic prosperity in Odisha," the release said.

## 1 arrested from AP in inter-state job fraud

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, March 4:** A man was arrested from Andhra Pradesh by the Odisha Police's Economic Offences Wing (EOW) in connection with its investigation into an inter-state job fraud racket, officials said.

Akashpu Veera Chaitanya, a resident of West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh, was produced before a court in Cuttack Monday, they said.

This was the fourth arrest made in connection with the case, which was registered based on a suo motu inquiry conducted by the EOW on a fake advertisement published in local newspapers, they added.

Earlier, the agency had arrested Mohammad Sanaullah, who was identified as the mastermind, one Sakshi Jain from Hyderabad and one Surat Dalai from Balasore. The gang published the advertisement in newspapers in different states. They collected ₹1,000 from each candidate as an application fee for jobs, and then cheated the aspirants, officials said. The gang allegedly collected crores of rupees from job aspirants, they said.

Chaitanya was arrested as it was found during the investigation that ₹60 lakh of this money went to his account, they said. The investigation would continue, officials said.

## Research funds now at govt medical colleges

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, March 4:** To strengthen the quality of medical education and research in the state, the government decided Monday to create a research fund under the deans or principals of all government medical, dental colleges and hospitals and post graduate institutes for meeting expenditure towards research activities undertaken by these institutions.

In a notification, Health and Family Welfare department said, "For imparting quality education to medical students, conducting research activities along with participation of faculties in seminars and conferences are essential. These help the faculties to remain updated in the field of advanced treatment and teaching methodologies which in turn will help in providing better healthcare services to the people."

A total annual provision of ₹9 crore has been made by the government for this purpose. The notification informed that every year, a total research fund of ₹1 crore each will be provided to SCBMCH, Cuttack, MKCG MCH, Berhampur and VIMSAR, Burla. And a research fund of ₹50 lakh each per annum will be provided to the new government medical colleges and SCB Dental College, Cuttack.



**A total annual provision of Rs 9 crore has been made by the government for this purpose**

The PG institutes will be provided with a total research fund of ₹25 lakh each per annum.

"The provision of research fund will enhance the quality of medical education by facilitating research, publication, participation in seminars and conferences within the country and will facilitate research in subjects specific to the state by creating an environment for inquiry and innovation in health sector of Odisha," said a department official.

This initiative will yield qualitative and quantitative outcomes and enable the institutes to undertake appropriate actions to improve the quality of research, medical education and the patient care in the state, he added.

## State vaccine store inaugurated in City



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, March 4:** Health & Family Welfare and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Niranjana Pujari inaugurated the State Vaccine Store at Nilandri Vihar, Monday.

Speaking on the occasion, Pujari said that the state government has left no stone un-

turned to achieve the goal of 'Sustha Odisha, Sukhi Odisha' by providing quality healthcare services to the people.

He informed that the full immunisation coverage in the state is 90.5 per cent as per National Family Health Survey 5 Report, which is highest among all states in the country. On this occasion, a booklet on ensuring quality vaccine supply chain under Universal Immunisation Program (UIP) was released by the minister and other dignitaries.

The Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Health & FW Department, Shalini Pandit, said that immunisation has significant contribution in reduction of mortality among children less than five years of age.

There has been 50 point decline in under five mortality in the state from 89 (in 2008) to 39 (in 2020) as per SRS Report, she informed.

The Chief of Field Office, Unicef, Odisha William Hanlon Jr. told that the state has made significant progress in immunisation coverage as per NFHS 5 report and Unicef is committed to provide support for further strengthening of health services.

The Mission Director, National Health Mission, (NHM) Odisha Brundha D. said that the new store has been constructed under NHM PIP with budget of ₹123.25 lakh and this store has adequate capacity for storage of vaccines and logistics.

The Family Welfare Director Bijaya Kumar Panigrahy said that the Cold Chain & Vaccine Management system of Odisha is very much robust with adequate infrastructure and manpower. On the occasion, Minister also inaugurated two mobile Blood Collection Vans and a new offset printing press of the Department of Health & Family Welfare at Kharvel Nagar, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar.



**PROMOTING SELF-RELIANCE:** Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) chairman Manoj Kumar distributes machine and kits to artisans under the Gramodyog Vikas Yojna at Rail Auditorium in Bhubaneswar, Monday

## CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit before Notary Public, Bhubaneswar vide No.68AA 940170 on dated 01.02.2024, I have changed my name from PRATIMA KUMARI MOHANTY to PRATIMA MOHANTY for all purposes.

I Nabin Jain, S/o: Late Ganpatram Jain, R/o: M/S Ganpatram Jain, Ward No.4, Kesinga, Kalahandi, Odisha (766012) declare by this affidavit No.1396, dtd. 27.02.24 that my minor son was known by the name Devang Jain. We have changed his name to Dewansh Jain. He shall be known as Dewansh Jain for all future purpose.

By the virtue of an affidavit dt.27.02.24 before the Court of Executive Magistrate, Bhubaneswar, I Prativa Ku Baliarsingh, At-Damana, CS Pur, Dist-Khurda, after marriage have changed my name from Prativa Ku Baliarsingh to Sasmita Sahoo for all future purposes. Prativa Ku Baliarsingh & Sasmita Sahoo is same & one person.

## Urdu teachers' salary hiked

**Bhubaneswar:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday approved a proposal to hike the monthly remuneration of Urdu teachers from ₹7,400 to ₹15,000. These teachers are engaged in Upper Primary (UP), Middle English (ME), and government-fully aided and newly aided high schools of the state. A release issued by the Chief Minister's Office said the state government has appointed Urdu teachers and Urdu resource teachers on a contractual basis in UP, ME and high schools where there are more than 10 students who have opted for Urdu as their primary language. The decision will benefit 44 Urdu teachers employed in UP and ME schools, and more than 40 Urdu resource teachers, it said.

## STF seizes leopard skin; one held

**Bhubaneswar:** The Special Task Force of Odisha Police has arrested a person and seized a leopard skin from his possession during a raid in Kandhamal district. Acting on intelligence inputs, a raid was carried out near Manipadar village under Phiringia police station in the district Sunday, an STF officer said. During the operation, a leopard skin along with ₹5,500 in cash was recovered from the person identified as Belarsen Kanhar (43), he added.

## Sub-plot regularisation cell launched by BDA



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, March 4:** The Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) has established four facilitation cells for sub-plot regularisation and proposed layout plan approval.

These cells have been set up in the offices of District Sub Registrar, Bhubaneswar, Khandagiri, Balianta and Jatni for convenience of general public, official sources said, Monday.

The cell will assist the general public either seeking to sub-divide their land or to regularise the unauthorised sub-divided land for the purpose of converting it to homestead (Gharabari Kisam) purpose. The cell will further assist in

preparation of plan and making application for approval of layout plan by the urban local bodies or BDA.

The cell will function on all working days during the working hours while the details of the cell and the location have been uploaded on the official website of the BDA (www.bda.gov.in). BDA said that two employees each have been deployed to the cells.

The state government in 2015 had imposed restrictions on grant of building permissions on plots which have been sub-divided into sub-plot unauthorisedly without obtaining approval of the concerned Development Authorities/ULBs under provisions of ODA Act 1982.

At a later stage, in 2017 and 2022, the government had brought two different schemes of regularisation of such unauthorised layout by depositing required compounding fee, as applicable. The facilitation cell will help the applicants seeking to regularise their unauthorised sub-plots under these schemes.

## Govt, IIT sign MoU for blind students' edu

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, March 4:** State government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bhubaneswar Monday to provide inclusive and quality education to visually impaired students in the state.

The Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Department (SSEPD) signed agreement with the institute in presence of department Minister Ashok Panda and principal secretary Bishnupada Sethi.

Panda said that improvements in assistive technology, particularly with regard to computers, tablets and smartphones, have made it possible for visually impaired people to read and write in standard scripts.

"IIT-Bhubaneswar will provide technical guidance and support for identification of the right assistive devices as per the identified needs of blind students," Sethi said.

The Research and Industrial Consultancy (SRIC) of IIT will work in collaboration with Exclusive Tinker Lab to provide



these students modern learning opportunities via coding, micro bit, 3D painting, game development, animation, mobile apps, machine learning, artificial intelligence and robotics.

Through the initiative, tabs and smart phones will be provided to secondary students as necessary support for online classes. The students will also be offered career guidance, soft skills training, workshops on personality development, with facilities like digital library and distribution of audio books.

"There will be provision of Kibo Device for visually impaired students in high schools and higher secondary schools

and we will conduct regular monitoring of the activities implemented through the MoU," said Sethi.

He further said that IIT, Bhubaneswar will work to enhance the educational outcomes by broadening avenues for professional development in terms of inclusion.

Niyati Patnaik, director of SSEPD department and Dinakar Pasla, professor and dean of Sponsored Research and Industrial Consultancy (SRIC) of IIT, Bhubaneswar were signatories in the MoU on behalf of the government and IIT. Senior officers of the department and academicians from IIT were present during the signing event.

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



# Viksit Bharat Viksit Odisha

## Modi Sarkar ki Guarantee



### Gift of Development Projects worth over ₹ 20 Thousand Crore for Odisha

#### Dedication to the Nation of

- Bansapani-Daitari-Tomka-Jakhpura Rail Line (162 KM)
- 4-laning of Singhara-Binjabahal Section of NH-49 for 104.176 km
- 4-laning of Binjabahal-Teleibani Section of NH-49 for 78.318 km
- 6-laning of Tangi-Bhubaneswar Section of NH-16 for 56.788 km
- 4-laning of Balasore-Jharpokharia Section of NH-18 for 81.26 km
- Khurda Road - Barang 3rd Rail Line (32.34 KM)
- 5 Million Litres per day capacity seawater desalination plant at Ganjam

#### Foundation Stone Laying for

- 8-laning of Chandikhol-Paradip Section of NH-53 for 77 km
- 4L+PS/2L+PS from km 0.000 to 35.800 (Kuakhia-Mangalpur Section) of NH 20
- Electric Loco Periodical Overhauling Workshop at Norla
- Wagon Periodical Overhauling Workshop at Kantabanji
- Wagon maintenance facilities at Baghuapal

#### Inauguration of

- Mono Ethylene Glycol (MEG) Project at IndianOil's Paradip Refinery
- IndianOil's Paradip-Somnathpur-Haldia Product Pipeline
- IndianOil LPG Import Terminal at Paradip
- CONCOR Container Depot in Kalinga Nagar area

#### Flagging Off of

- New train between Puri-Anand Vihar Terminal from Kendujhargarh Station
- New Train between Paradeep-Kendujhargarh from Paradeep Station
- Container Train from MMLP Jajpur, Odisha to ICD Dadri, Uttar Pradesh

#### PROJECT BENEFITS:

Big step towards energy independence and self reliance

Creation of 60 Lakh mandays of employment

Improved connectivity between Odisha and the adjacent states of West Bengal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh

Efficient rail connectivity to drive in trade and industrial growth in the region

Enhancing Port Connectivity to Paradip Port

by

**Shri Narendra Modi**  
Hon'ble Prime Minister

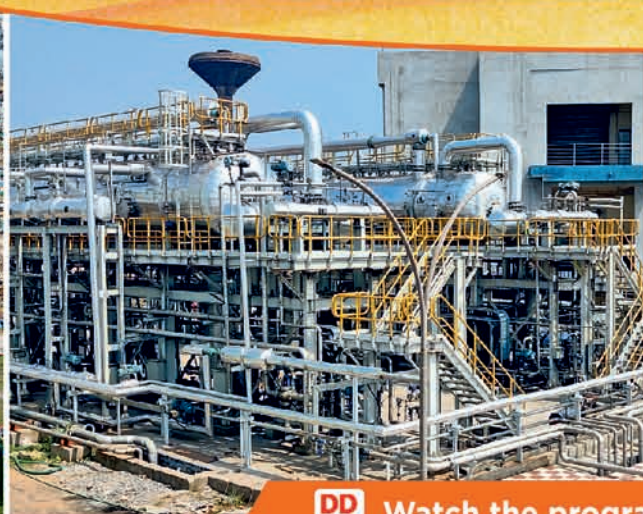
In the august presence of  
**Shri Raghubar Das**  
Governor, Odisha

**Shri Naveen Patnaik**  
Chief Minister, Odisha

**Shri Dharmendra Pradhan**  
Union Minister of Education and  
Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

**Shri Bishweswar Tudu**  
Minister of State for Tribal Affairs  
& Jal Shakti

Chandikhol, Odisha, Tuesday | 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2024, 3:15 PM



Watch the programme live on DD News

FOCUS ECONOMY

# INCONSISTENT FIGURES



The GVA growth for the December quarter is only 6.5%, nearly 2% lower than GDP growth. This gap is the highest reported in the past 10 years

agriculture sectors. GDP can be measured from the spending side (i.e. consumption, investment, net exports and government), or it can be measured from the production side (i.e. agriculture, industry and services). When we look at the latter, agriculture growth has fallen below zero for the December quarter. This negative number is explained as a base effect, since the quarterly numbers are growth over corresponding numbers one year ago. Since that number for the December 2022 quarter was above 5%, and was a "high base" the present number is negative. Be that as it may, the overall contribution of agriculture to GDP growth this year will be below 1% as per latest estimates. This is worrying for various reasons, most importantly for what it means for the livelihoods and incomes of rural families. Industrial growth at 11% too is because of the "base effect" of just 0.6% a year ago.

Finally, one more piece of the puzzle is the difference between nominal and real GDP growth. It is because of inflation, and the correction at the national level is done by the GDP deflator. This number has been reported to be just 1.6% indicating nearly no inflation at all. But surely that is a gross underestimate. If GDP growth is 8.4% then nominal GDP growth is expected to be at least 12 or 13%. It was only 10% higher in nominal terms during the December quarter, as compared to one year ago. The GDP deflator is too low.

Whether it is the gap between GDP and GVA growth rates, or between GDP and consumption spending, or the relatively low sectoral rates, or the very low deflator, all of these point to the need to triangulate the aggregate GDP data with more granular and high frequency sectoral data. This calls for a massive overhaul of the machinery that collects data on a real time basis.

The writer is a noted Pune-based economist.  
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India's GDP during the three months ending in December grew at 8.4%. This is the highest among all large economies of the world. It is extremely heartening to have the economy growing at a relatively healthy pace for three years in a row after the pandemic. It brings good cheer, and the stock markets responded resoundingly. The stock market index keeps attaining new peaks, indicating investor optimism. The slew of announcements, such as approval for setting up of 15 billion dollars of investment in semiconductor manufacturing speaks of the enthusiasm and confidence of a bright outlook for the economy.

It is important to go "below the hood" to understand the significance of the headline of 8.4% growth for the December quarter. This is particularly so, because the news of such high growth beat all expectations by a wide margin. For instance, the Survey of Professional Forecasters on Macroeconomic Indicators, conducted regularly by the Reserve Bank of India, had predicted a GDP growth rate between 6 to 6.9% for this year ending in March, very recently. The actual number for December quarter is nearly 2% higher than the annual forecast. Of course, forecasters go wrong quite often, but not by such a big margin. These forecasters are tracking the economy based on high frequency data all the time.

The other puzzle is the gap between GDP growth rate and that of Gross Value Added (GVA) for the same quarter. The latter gives a true measure of the real value of goods and services produced and sold. The world over it is the preferred indicator of economic health. The difference between GDP and GVA is usually minor and reflects the net effect of taxes minus subsidies. Indirect tax collection adds to GDP while subsidy outgo reduces GDP. These two mostly balance each other out. The GVA growth for December quarter is only 6.5%, nearly 2% lower

than GDP growth. This gap is the highest reported in the past ten years. It has been caused by a steep fall (more than 50%) in subsidy outgo, and a big increase in indirect tax collection. We need to probe deeper to understand whether these are one off spikes (both positive and negative) or whether such volatility will continue. GVA growth reported for past three quarters has been sliding down from 8.2% down to 6.5% now. Since the total growth rate for 2023-24 is around 7.3% or 7.5%, it means that the fourth quarter will likely report a GVA growth rate below 6%. That data is released only by the end of May.

Another puzzle apart from the GDP and GVA divergence is the growth rate of consumption expenditure. This constitutes more than 55% of GDP and forms the bulk. That is growing only at 3% and is at a multi-year low. High growth cannot be sustained without a big push from consumer spending. That in turn depends on the sentiment of consumers, their current spending and their plan for future spending (like on white goods, furniture, tourism travel, etc). Consumers feel optimistic about the future when their job prospects are bright. High unemployment rates, especially among the college ed-

ucated youth can discourage consumption spending. The recently released fact sheet on the household consumption survey gives a granular view of monthly spending on consumption. The survey came after a gap of 11 years, and over this period the growth on average has been 164% in rural areas, and 146% in urban areas. These numbers are in nominal terms i.e. they do not account for inflation adjustment. Adjusted for inflation, the real growth in consumption as per the survey works out to 40% for rural areas and 34% for urban areas, over a period of 11 years. Thus, the consumption growth based on National Sample Survey (NSS) is barely 3.5% over a long period. Of course, there has been this well-known discrepancy between consumer spending as revealed by NSS and as revealed by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO). And this gap is still too wide. But it is important to look at the data from these two lenses, and try to get some consistency, and remove defects in measurement if any. The fact is high GDP growth and low consumption spending growth do not sound consistent.

A third aspect when we look "under the hood" is the performance of industry and the



Ajit Ranade

ANOTHER PUZZLE APART FROM THE GDP AND GVA DIVERGENCE IS THE GROWTH RATE OF CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE

## Religion & Rhetoric

On the day the Opposition put up a big show of unity in Patna 3 March for fighting the coming Lok Sabha polls together, the Narendra Modi government unveiled the grand action plan of 'Vikshit Bharat 2047' in New Delhi. This 25 long years vision document for Developed India aims to focus on economic growth, ease of doing business, infrastructure development and such areas. There was detailed discussion on an action plan of 5 years and a 100 day agenda for quick implementation after formation of new government in May 2024. This betrays either overconfidence or bravado before facing elections. Whether it be accusations of EVM hacking or survey reports, maybe the BJP knows something that we commoners don't.

The meeting of the Union Council of Ministers in New Delhi was described as the last before the announcement of the Lok Sabha poll schedule which is to be made shortly. The whole show seemed to be intended to send the message across to the electorate that the ruling alliance is confident of retaining power for a third consecutive term for which the government can afford to chalk out its plan of action for the first 100 days of the new government as if the party has already won the contest.

Reports suggest during the day-long meeting, chaired by the Prime Minister, secretaries presented a vision document for Viksit Bharat 2047 and a detailed action plan for the next five years. The presentations outlined the vision for 'Viksit Bharat' of the PM that underlined, among other things, zero poverty, skill to every youth and 100 per cent saturation of welfare schemes. PM Modi was quoted as having told the top bureaucrats that they should work on preparing the future roadmap of the country during the elections. His exact words were - "aap chhutti mat samajhiye, kaam par lag jaiye (don't think you are on holiday, get down to work)." This is in keeping with the PM's proclivity for coining catchy phrases.

To give the rhetoric a veneer of credibility, facts and statistics were dished out with the claim that the roadmap for Viksit Bharat is a result of over two years of intensive preparation involving all ministries and wide-ranging consultations with state governments, academia, industry bodies, civil society, scientific organisations and mobilisation of youth for seeking their ideas. It has been stated that over 2,700 meetings, workshops and seminars were held at various levels, while suggestions of more than 20 lakh youth were received for the purpose.

The roadmap is said to be a "comprehensive blueprint with clearly articulated national vision, aspirations, goals and action points." The target is to achieve economic growth, sustainable development goals (SDGs), ease of living, ease of doing business, infrastructure and social welfare. Critics have pointed out that in the past, people have seen a scandalous mismatch between words and actions of this particular government.

On the other side, the Opposition sought to put up a brave front in Patna that the partners are driven by the sole aim of ousting a "non-performing" government that is adept at whipping up religious passions through Ram temple construction and minority-bashing, while failing to lift the people from the morass of poverty and joblessness. But, they seem to have again fallen into the BJP's trap of harping on religion as a tool of capturing power. In his usual style, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad commented that PM Modi "is not even a Hindu as he did not shave his head and beard after the death of his mother." This would only help the BJP play its communal card with renewed vigour.

In any case, the Opposition has miles to go before it can present a credible alternative to the ruling dispensation despite its grand show of leaders of a host of parties sharing the dais in Patna. It is yet to hammer out a seat-sharing formula and electoral strategy to take on the BJP. These are the starting points for electioneering. The more the Opposition dithers and delays, the more the advantage goes to the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance.

### WISDOM CORNER

- If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude.** MAYA ANGELOU
- Through pride we are ever deceiving ourselves. But deep down below the surface of the average conscience a still, small voice says to us, something is out of tune.** CARL JUNG
- We are each made for goodness, love and compassion. Our lives are transformed as much as the world is when we live with these truths.** DESMOND TUTU

### THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1616:** Nicolaus Copernicus' revolutionary book De revolutionibus orbium coelestium is banned by the Catholic Church. In the book, Copernicus claimed that the Earth revolves around the sun. The Church maintained Ptolemy's geocentric system. The book is considered a milestone in the history of astronomy.
- 1770:** Harassed by a mob, British troops on this day in 1770 opened fire, killing Crispus Attucks and four others in the Boston Massacre, an event that galvanized anti-British feelings in the lead-up to the American Revolution.
- 1798:** Napoleon invaded Switzerland and occupied Bern, ending the ancient ruling system of that country, the Confederation of the Thirteen Cantons.
- 1960:** Alberto Korda takes his famous picture of revolutionary Che Guevara. The iconic photograph, called Guerrillero Heroico, was taken at a memorial service for the victims of the La Coubre explosion.
- 1970:** The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty enters into force. Nuclear powers China, Russia, US, UK, and France initiated the treaty in 1968. It has since been ratified by 190 nations around the world.
- 1979:** The US space probe Voyager 1 flew by Io, the innermost of Jupiter's satellites, and observed nine active volcanoes on its surface.

### LOL

**Two men hiking**  
There were these two guys out hiking when they came upon an old, abandoned mine shaft. Curious about its depth they threw in a pebble and waited for the sound of it striking the bottom, but they heard nothing. They went and got a bigger rock, threw it in and waited. Still nothing. They searched the area for something larger and came upon a railroad tie. With great difficulty, the two men carried it to the opening and threw it in. While waiting for it to hit bottom, a



goat suddenly darted between them and leapt into the hole! The guys were still standing there with astonished looks upon their faces from the actions of the goat when a man walked up to them. He asked them if they had seen a goat anywhere in the area and they said that one had just jumped into the mine shaft in front of them! The man replied, "Oh no. That couldn't be my goat, mine was tied to a railroad tie."

### SPECTRUM CLIMATE ACTION

## End fossil-fuel subsidies

In Christopher Nolan's 2010 film Inception, the line between reality and illusion becomes increasingly blurred. When it comes to fossil-fuel subsidies, life imitates art. Distinguishing between their perceived benefits and actual impact has proven to be a critical global challenge. While such subsidies may appear beneficial in the short term, they mask the profound environmental and economic consequences of our dependence on fossil fuels. Given the interconnected threats posed by climate change, the question remains: Can we come to terms with reality and make decisions that genuinely benefit both ourselves and our planet?

Despite the international pledges made at the G20 summit in 2009 and the COP26 in 2021, along with the EU's Green Deal and its eighth Environment Action Program, fossil-fuel subsidies remain entrenched. According to the European Environment Agency, annual subsidies in EU hovered around \$61 billion between 2015 and 2021, with only a few member states taking steps to phase them out. To be sure, the lack of action is not limited to the EU. The International Energy Agency re-

cently reported that global fossil-fuel subsidies skyrocketed to more than \$1 trillion in 2022, a spike largely attributed to geopolitical shocks like Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which significantly disrupted energy markets.

The IMF paints an even bleaker picture: accounting for the insufficient taxation of carbon dioxide emissions implies that fossil-fuel subsidies surged to a record \$7 trillion in 2022. This figure, the equivalent of 7.1% of the world's GDP, surpasses global spending on education and nearly matches worldwide health-care expenditures.

While subsidies are often viewed as a means to address social inequalities and offer relief to poorer households through reduced food and energy prices, they often have the opposite effect. In reality, these subsidies disproportionately benefit wealthier households and perpetuate unequal access to energy. Moreover, they divert crucial public funds from more effective investments that could reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and improve infrastructure, social protection, and healthcare services, all of which offer greater benefits to low-income communities.

By contrast, the IMF estimates

that eliminating these subsidies could prevent 1.6 million premature deaths annually, generate \$4.4 trillion in revenues, and accelerate progress toward global climate goals. By maintaining energy subsidies initially designed as temporary measures, we risk perpetuating our dependence on fossil fuels.

But given that tackling social inequalities requires a phased approach, a balanced long-term climate strategy must include targeted financial support to vulnerable populations. Similarly, low- and middle-income countries must pursue structural reforms to enhance economic stability, deepen financial markets, and strengthen their institutions, thereby improving their credit ratings and reducing their borrowing costs.

The Green Climate Fund underscores the crucial role of blended finance in helping developing countries decarbonise. Created under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Fund currently manages 216 projects with a combined value of \$12 billion. When accounting for co-financing, its overall assets exceed \$45 billion. The next few years will be critical for the global transition to net-zero emissions,

with technological innovations playing a vital role. The EU's plan to achieve energy independence and a 55% reduction in greenhouse-gas emissions by 2030, for example, depends heavily on the development of a thriving climate-tech sector.

A future of sustainable growth is within reach if we acknowledge the real costs of fossil fuels and adjust our financial and political priorities accordingly. By redirecting funds currently allocated to fossil-fuel subsidies, governments could meet their climate targets by 2030 and accelerate the shift to a net-zero economy.

As climate change worsens, it is increasingly evident that ignoring the devastating consequences of our dependence on fossil fuels is no longer an option. Achieving net-zero emissions requires bold policies such as the phaseout of fossil-fuel subsidies, as well as investment in technological innovation and a global commitment to a fair and equitable energy transition.

Günther Thallinger is a member of the Board of Management of Allianz SE. Ludovic Subran is Chief Economist at Allianz.  
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Günther Thallinger & Ludovic Subran

BY MAINTAINING ENERGY SUBSIDIES INITIALLY DESIGNED AS TEMPORARY MEASURES, WE RISK PERPETUATING OUR DEPENDENCE ON FOSSIL FUELS

### AI & elections

Sir, AI's influence on elections is a double-edged sword. On the positive side, it can streamline processes like voter registration, ballot counting, and fraud detection, contributing to more efficient and secure elections. However, the dark side emerges in the form of deepfakes and synthetic media, allowing the creation of deceptive content that can manipulate public perception and potentially disrupt the democratic process. A notable example is the use of an AI-generated video by the Republican National Committee to criticise Joe Biden, emphasising the need for vigilance against malicious applications of AI in political contexts. Micro-targeting and personalisation, driven by AI's data analysis capabilities, enable political campaigns to tailor messages to specific voter groups. While this enhances campaign efficiency, it also raises ethical concerns about privacy, potential manipulation, and the creation of echo chambers that contribute to increased polarisation. Misinformation and disinformation, propagated by AI-generated content on social media, pose a significant threat to the reliability of information, eroding trust in democratic institutions. This underscores the importance of addressing the challenges associated with AI's role in disseminating false or misleading information. Furthermore, the risk of cyberattacks and hacking is heightened with AI, as malicious actors can exploit its capabilities to compromise electoral systems. From infiltrating voter databases to tampering with voting machines, the potential threats demand robust cybersecurity measures.

Amarjeet Kumar; HAZARIBAGH

### Illicit consignment

Sir, We must commend the Mumbai port customs officials in India for intercepting a nuclear shipment from China bound for Pakistan. The shipment was sent on 9 January aboard the merchant vessel CMA CGM Attila, a ship flagged in Malta. It departed from Shekou Port in China and was en route to Karachi Port, with Cosmos Engineering as the recipient. Experts from the Defence Research and Development Organisation examined the consignment. The seizure reinforces concerns that Pakistan is still engaged in the illicit trade of missiles.

NJ Ravi Chander; BANGALORE

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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

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



# COMMUTING MADE COMFORTABLE

In order to provide citizen-friendly infrastructure with quality amenities to passengers at bus stands across every block of Odisha, along with a proper way to retain the operation and maintenance of these bus stands as well as upkeeping of public amenities, the Ama Bus Stand (ABS) scheme was launched by the Govt of Odisha in 2023. The other purpose of the scheme is ensure efficient and effective asset monitoring, monetization and enforcement of ABS, safeguarding of government assets as well as better stakeholder co-ordination, data management, and to provide better public service in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Besides providing better public transport to all, the move – seen as a milestone in transport sector – would generate employment opportunities for scores of people and help empower lakhs of women self-help group (SHG) members of the state. The ultramodern bus stands also have facilities for drivers and all staffers in bus transportation sector.

As of now, 43 of Ama Bus Stands are operational under this scheme. The government aims to build or re-

novate the bus stand in all blocks of Odisha under ABS scheme.



Transport has a major role in boosting economic activity of a region. Our goal is to improve the transport system between villages and cities. The ST initiative is focused on improving infrastructure and public transport system. The villages are also being connected to the blocks under LAccMI public transport system  
NAVEEN PATNAIK | CHIEF MINISTER

### OTHER SALIENT FEATURES AT AMA BUS STANDS

- CCTV CAMERAS
- PIS/PAS SYSTEM
- GREEN BUILDING TECHNOLOGY
- UNIVERSAL ACCESSIBILITY
- EV CHARGING FACILITY
- PROVISION OF COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR SHGS
- 24X7 SERVICEABLE



### FACILITIES IN EACH BUS STAND

- COMMERCIAL SHOPS
- CAFETERIA
- OFFICE SPACE
- WAITING LOUNGE
- DORMITORY
- CLOAK ROOMS
- PUBLIC TOILET
- INFORMATION/ TICKET COUNTER

### List of Operational Ama Bus Stands

District	Block	Location
Balangir	Bangomunda	Bangomunda
Balangir	Loisingha	Loisingha
Boudh	Kantamala	Kantamala
Jharsuguda	Kolabira	Kolabira
Kalahandi	Dharmagarh	Dharmagarh
Kalahandi	Junagarh	Junagarh
Kendrapara	Garadapur	Garadapur
Koraput	Kotpad	Kotpad
Nayagarh	Gania	Gania
Subarnapur	Binika	Binika
Subarnapur	Ullunda	Ullunda
Gajapati	R. Udaygiri	R. Udaygiri
Gajapati	Gumma	Gumma
Kandhamal	Tikabali	Tikabali
Kendrapara	Marshaghai	Marshaghai
Kendrapara	Aul	Aul
Keonjhar	Ghasipura	Ghasipura
Keonjhar	Ghatagaon	Ghatagaon
Keonjhar	Telkoi	Telkoi
Mayurbhanj	Betnoti	Betnoti
Nabarangpur	Kosagamuda	Kosagamuda
Nabarangpur	Dabugaon	Dabugaon
Puri	Kakatpur	Kakatpur
Angul	Bhimakanda	Bhimakanda
Angul	Pallahara	Pallahara
Balasore	Kachuapada	Kachuapada
Balasore	Dehurda	Dehurda
Boudh	Purunakatak	Purunakatak
Dhenkanal	Nijigarha	Nijigarha
Gajapati	Nuagada	Nuagada
Kendrapara	Baghabuda	Baghabuda
Kendrapara	Sanabada, Gopalpur	Sanabada, Gopalpur
Keonjhar	Harichandanpur	Harichandanpur
Keonjhar	Anandpur	Anandpur
Keonjhar	Gorandijodi	Gorandijodi
Koraput	Kaki	Kaki
Nayagarh	Ranapurgarh	Ranapurgarh
Nayagarh	Khandapada	Khandapada
Nuapada	Rajpura	Rajpura
Rayagada	Kolnara	Kolnara
Rayagada	Muniguda	Muniguda
Sambalpur	Jjumura	Jjumura
Subarnapur	Jharkumunda	Jharkumunda



- STRENGTHEN PUBLIC TRANSPORT NETWORKS
- GREEN BUILDING CONCEPT
- LOCAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
- A MILESTONE IN TRANSPORT SECTOR
- UNIVERSAL ACCESSIBILITY
- COMFORTABLE, WELL DESIGNED WAITING AREA



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grievance@osrtc.org

# SILENT PERFORMER

Today is Panchayati Raj Diwas, which also marks the 108th birth anniversary of former Odisha Chief Minister Biju Patnaik, widely regarded as one of the country's greatest leaders. The day is equally significant because Naveen Patnaik, who prefers to talk less and work more, has accomplished an outstanding feat by completing his 24th year as Chief Minister while pursuing his father's aspirations. On this occasion, **OrissaPOST** takes a close look at some of Naveen's notable achievements

in India in fiscal management from its earlier performance of making overdraft for 28-days to pay the salaries to employees. It has also carved a niche for itself by becoming the revenue surplus state in the last few years. Odisha has made remarkable progress in agricultural production by becoming the fourth highest rice producing state in the country. Odisha first put a way forward by encouraging millet cultivation in hilly areas where water availability is less and now the whole country has adopted it.

The UN has also given its acceptance to millet cultivation which has helped protect the life and livelihood of tribals. Odisha has achieved rapid strides in irrigation in these years. Many big projects like Gangadhar Meher Lift Irrigation Project in Bargarh and Lower Suktel Irrigation Project in Bolangir have been a boon for lakhs of people, especially the farmers. Odisha has also become the number one state in infrastructure construction. Fulfilling its election promise of 2014, it has completed the construction of major roads.

The construction of Biju Expressway has benefited residents of Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Bargarh, Nuapada, Kalahandi and Nabarangpur. It will pave the way for economic development of the districts and more employment opportunities for the people as various companies have expressed their interest for setting up their plants by this expressway. Odisha has become the number one state

in steel and aluminium production while the maximum phosphate fertiliser is also being produced in the state.

Industrial houses from country and abroad have invested over ₹10 lakh crore during the Make in Odisha Conclave. Infrastructure development has prompted firms like Deloitte, Accenture, Cognizant, IBM and PwC to open their branches in Odisha.

The state has constructed industrial estates, MSME parks and food parks to attract more investments from industrial houses to Odisha. The CM has taken

treatment in all hospitals to crores of people. Odisha is set to provide Nabin BSKY cards to those who have been left out of the ambit of the BSKY.

The state has increased the number of medical college and hospitals in these years.

Odisha government's initiatives like interest-free loans have helped over 70 lakh Mission Shakti women SHG members become self-reliant. Odisha has built a Mission Shakti Bazaar in Bhubaneswar and it aims at covering all districts in few years now.

Government's initiatives have helped in reduction of infant



Odisha to a new height in development of educational infrastructure during last 24 years.

Smart classrooms, e-libraries and modern science laboratories have been built in thousands of schools under school transformation programme. Appointments are being made in phases to fill up the vacant positions in all departments. Odisha has implemented 'Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY)' which has been providing cashless

mortality from 91 to 36 (per 1000) while the maternal mortality has reduced from 450 to 119 (per one lakh). Earlier, low voltage problem and power cut were acute in the state but large scale reforms brought in the power sector has helped stop undeclared power cuts.

Heritage Corridor Project, Samalei Project and transformation of major shrines have been helping crores of devotees have smooth darshan of deities.

**“In my dream of the 21st century for the State, I would have young men and women who put the interest of the State before them. They will have pride in themselves, confidence in themselves. They will not be at anybody's mercy, except their own selves”**

## A colossus, in every sense



**B**iju Babu's persona was so towering and multi-dimensional that it is a herculean task to describe his works in words. A pilot-cum-dare-devil nationalist, he collaborated with generations of leaders starting from Mahatma Gandhi, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das and Jawaharlal Nehru of the pre-Independence era to those of the 1990s, like Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Lal Krishna Advani, VP Singh, Chandrasekhar and Sharad Pawar.

On his 108th birth anniversary, Orissa POST makes a recap of what several national leaders said about Patnaik, unarguably one of the chief architects of modern Odisha.

### Jawaharlal Nehru

The biggest compliment for the legend came from a person no less than the first Prime Minister of Independent India. Affectionately calling him as the India's Buccaneer, Nehru said, "Biju Patnaik has the courage, dynamism, and zeal to work. So there is no blunder in giving more aid to Odisha." He said this on the floor of the Parliament when politicians from across the country opposed the first Indian premier as more funds were allotted to Odisha (then Orissa) for infrastructure development.

### Atal Bihari Vajpayee

The former Prime Minister, reflecting upon the irreparable loss to the nation following Biju Patnaik's demise, had said: "If a post falls vacant it is filled but the loss suffered by the nation because of the sad demise of Biju Patnaik will probably never be compensated. He liked playing

with fire and flying high in the sky, yet he was a responsible person. He had a jovial nature and it was his habit to call a spade a spade. But he never allowed anything between to take root in his mind." Vajpayee had a deep sense of regret, that he did not have the opportunity of being in his company when he was in Rohtak Jail during the Emergency.

### Sir Julian Huxley

Sir Julian Huxley, UNESCO'S First Director General and also a Kalinga Prize Winner, had described Biju Patnaik as a "remarkable Indian whose adventures would fill a book" and added, "It is worth writing about Biju Patnaik for at least two reasons. His long life can be read as something of a history of India back to the time when the country was run by the British. And he gave Indian politics a rare fresh of colour."

### Sharad Pawar

According to the Maratha

strongman, Biju Babu was a unique person, a freedom fighter and an efficient administrator. "Flying aircraft and facing the risks involved was a part of his nature. He had taken on this responsibility during the regime of Britishers but the spirit of attaining freedom for the country always remained alive in his heart," Pawar once said on the floor of the Parliament.

### Chandrasekhar

Admitting that he cannot describe Biju Babu's courage and enthusiasm in words, the former Prime Minister said: "Biju Babu's competence, bravery, spirit of sacrifice, patriotism and his vision of a new India will remain a source of inspiration to the people and leaders of the country." He also recalled Patnaik's role in revolutionary movement of 1942; democratic movement of Nepal and Indonesian struggle for independence.

**MARCH 5 IS THE BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF LEGENDARY LEADER AND ONE OF THE MAKERS OF MODERN ODISHA BIJU PATNAIK. ON THIS OCCASION, ORISSA POST BRINGS SOME RARE IMAGES THAT PERSONIFY THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE TALL MAN**



# WHEN BIJU ASKED KALAM: CAN YOU HIT BEIJING?

DEBI MOHANTY

**O**n a lazy afternoon in 1993, well before the scheduled time, senior DRDO scientific officer RK Sahoo along with his boss Chief Scientific Adviser to the Prime Minister and Secretary, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Dr APJ Kalam had entered the Odisha Secretariat in Bhubaneswar. They had an important meeting with the legendary CM Biju Patnaik.

Dr Kalam had gone through the Odisha bureaucracy for the Wheeler Island on the Bay of Bengal in Bhadrak district to build a missile testing facility.

"Even close to a year after, no reply was coming from the Odisha government," recalls Sahoo, who retired as Major General. He was also conferred the prestigious AVSM award. Sahoo carried all the relevant

documents which included a letter from PM Narasimha Rao addressed to Biju Babu. Incidentally, Dr Kalam had appraised the PM of the status of the project, so he had penned the letter.

"As soon as we reached his office, the tall leader walked up to the door and received Dr Kalam. Both Biju Babu and Dr Kalam had great respect for each other. Biju Babu addressed his boss as Dr Saab," narrates Sahoo.

Apart from the two great men and Sahoo, ex-IAS officer and Secretary to the CM, Aurobindo Behera was also present in the meeting. It's a lively meeting which lasted for less than half an hour.

An aviator par excellence, Patnaik had a great understanding of different subjects including space science, engineering and technology. "He was familiar with Odisha's coastline, knew everything



about it," says Behera. In the meeting, Biju Babu sug-

gested that Dr Kalam and his scientists "should develop some-

thing like long range missiles which can target China."

"I am not interested in fire-crackers," he joked. Seconds later, he asked, "Can you hit Beijing?"

"One day, we will fulfill your dream, Sir," promised a smiling Dr Kalam.

Biju Babu also suggested that the Olive Ridley's at Gahiramatha - the world's largest rookery of the endangered sea turtle - near the proposed site should not be disturbed at all. Dr Kalam promised to ensure that. Biju Babu also asked Dr Kalam to try and develop a floating (platform) launch pad.

In between the lively discussion, Sahoo had spread the map of the Wheeler Island on the CM's table. He also handed over the letter of the PM. "Biju Babu didn't pay a glance at the letter. While talking, he wrote on the map, approved," reminisces Sahoo.

After the meeting, Biju Babu

even saw off Dr Kalam at the door of his office.

"I had heard from many people that Biju Babu's a large hearted person, but that day I experienced it," claims Sahoo. "He's a statesman, could foresee things well in advance," adds Sahoo.

Even the same day, after this meeting, orders were issued to concerned bureaucrats to ensure that the island was transferred to the Defence Ministry in quick time.

"He grasped things very quickly and once he's convinced, nothing could stop him from doing the job," says Behera. "Extremely punctual and decisive, he wouldn't shy away from owning responsibility of his decisions, would never pass the buck on others. He always encouraged younger officers and trusted and backed them," adds Behera.



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# Vacate party office at Rouse Avenue by June 15: SC to AAP

The AAP had earlier denied that its offices at Rouse Avenue are an encroachment on land allotted to the Delhi High Court for judicial infrastructure and told the top court that it was officially allotted to it by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi



"In view of the impending general elections, we grant time until June 15, 2024, to vacate the premises so that land allotted to expand the district judiciary's footprint can be utilised on an expeditious basis."

Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for the city's ruling party, submitted that AAP is one of the six national parties in the country and it is entitled to land in New Delhi municipal area in accordance with its status.

"I'm given (land in) Badarpur, while everyone else is in better places. A particular government does not want me to be flourishing and working," Singhvi said. Calling AAP an "encroacher", Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the top court that the land allotment to the party was revoked in June 2017.

Advocate K Parameshwar, appointed as amicus curiae to assist the apex court in the matter, informed the bench that by a

communication dated June 13, 2017, the Public Works Department of the Delhi government apprised the National Secretary of the AAP that the allotment of Bungalow no.206 at Rouse Avenue stood revoked as per the directions of the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi.

"Far from being an instance of 'encroachment', the subject premises were officially allotted to the applicant by the Government of NCT of Delhi (GNCTD) December 31, 2015 for its state unit office and this was strictly in accordance with the party's entitlement" as a state party under the office memorandum dated October 14, 2015", the party said. While hearing a matter related to judicial infrastructure, the apex court was told February 13 by the amicus curiae that "a political party office" had encroached on land allotted to the HC.

AAP said a subsequent notice of cancellation of allotment was set aside by the High Court August 23, 2017 and added that "such allotment of office space for official party work is an essential element of public funding of elections in India and is designed to level the electoral playing field".

## ELECTORAL BOND DISCLOSURE

# SBI requests SC to extend deadline

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 4: State Bank of India Monday moved the Supreme Court seeking an extension of time till June 30 to disclose details of each electoral bond encashed by political parties.

In its verdict last month, the top court directed the SBI to furnish the details to the poll panel by March 6.

In an application filed before the top court, State Bank of India (SBI) contended that retrieval of information from "each silo" and the procedure of matching the information of one silo to that of the other would be a time-consuming exercise.

The plea submitted that due to stringent measures undertaken to ensure that the identity of the donors was kept anonymous, "decoding" the electoral bonds and matching donors to the donations made would be a complex process. "It submitted that the data related to the issuance of the bond and the data related to the redemption of the bond was kept recorded in two different silos. No central database was maintained. This was done to ensure that donors' anonymity would be

protected."

"It is submitted that donor details were kept in a sealed cover at the designated branches and all such sealed covers were deposited in the Main Branch of the Applicant bank, which is located in Mumbai," the plea said.

In a landmark judgement that delivered a big blow to the government, the Supreme Court February 15 annulled the electoral bonds scheme for political funding, saying it violates the Constitutional right to freedom of speech and expression as well as the right to information.

In its verdict months ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, the apex court ordered SBI to disclose to the Election Commission the names of the contributors to the six-year-old scheme. A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud directed that the SBI must disclose details of each electoral bond encashed by political parties.

The information should include the date of encashment and the denomination of the bonds and be submitted to the poll panel by March 6.

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** No. C-3225  
**e-Procurement Notice, Angul Municipality Office, Angul**  
Bid Identification No. - EO/AGLM-19/2023-24  
Bid Id No. 2024\_ORULB\_102096  
e-mail ID: angulmunicipality@gmail.com

No. 963 Date: 02.03.2024

- Number of Works : 1 (One) Number Building work and others
- Approximate Estimated Cost (put to tender) : Rs.75.70 lakhs
- Period of Completion : 06 (Six) Calendar Months
- Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal : Dt.04.03.2024 at 10.00 A.M.
- Last date/time for receipt of bid in the portal : Dt.27.03.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.
- Date of Opening : Dt.28.03.2024 at 11.00 A.M. (Technical Bid)
- Name and address of the Office Inviting Bid : Executive Officer, Angul Municipality, Angul
- The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>.

Sd./- P.K. Nayak  
Executive Officer, Angul Municipality

OIPR-13085/11/0057/2324

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For registration, please contact: Ranjit Mallik, Mobile: 99370 88035.  
Registration is compulsory.  
The registration time will be from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm.  
No walk-ins will be allowed.

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**"e" Procurement Notice**  
E-Mail ID: [rwd.padampur@yahoo.co.in](mailto:rwd.padampur@yahoo.co.in), Ph. No.: 9437255440  
Bid Identification No.: Online - 22 of 2023-24

- Name of the work : Building works (As per Annexure - 'A')
- Amount put to Bid Excluding GST : As per Annexure - 'A'
- Class of Contractor : "C" & "B"
- Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal : From Dt.07.03.2024 at 10.00 A.M.
- Last date & time for receipt of bids in the portal : Dt.16.03.2024 upto 05.00 P.M.
- Last date of seeking clarification : Dt.15.03.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.
- Date & time of bid opening : Dt.18.03.2024 at 11.00 A.M.
- Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Superintending Engineer, R.W. Division, Padampur, At/P.O.: Padampur, Dist.: Bargarh, PIN - 768036

1) Other details can be seen from DTCN available in website [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in).  
2) Corrigendum if any shall only be published in the above website.  
Sd./- Superintending Engineer  
Rural Works Division, Padampur  
OIPR-25069/11/0035/2324

## Kejriwal skips 8th ED summons

New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Monday skipped the eighth summons by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with the excise policy case and expressed readiness to appear before the agency through video-conferencing March 12, government sources said. Sources in the Enforcement Directorate (ED) said the agency was examining Kejriwal's response. The agency might not allow Kejriwal's request to appear virtually and might issue a ninth summons to him for questioning in the case, they said. Kejriwal, in a press conference, said it was written in law that ED proceedings are like judicial proceedings. "That means the agency is like a court. In a court, any party is allowed to be present through video conferencing," he said.

## Salman Khurshid's wife laundered govt funds: ED

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate Monday alleged that senior Congress leader Salman Khurshid's wife Louise Khurshid and two others "laundered" Rs 71.50 lakh in central government funds for their personal gain through a trust run by them for specially-abled persons. The federal agency, in a statement, also said that it has provisionally attached 15 agricultural plots located in the Farrukhabad district of Uttar Pradesh and bank deposits, worth a combined Rs 45.92 lakh, of the Dr Zakir Hussain Memorial Trust, under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The plots are valued at Rs 29.51 lakh and the amount kept in four bank accounts of the trust is Rs 16.41 lakh, it said. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) last month registered the statement of Louise Khurshid at its zonal office in Lucknow.

## 'Modi Ka Parivar' BJP's new poll pitch

Adilabad/New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday asserted that 140 crore Indians are "my family" as he mounted a counter-offensive over RJD's Lalu Prasad's "no family" jibe at him and the BJP rallied around its leader by launching the "Modi Ka Parivar" campaign to corner the opposition in the run-up to the Lok Sabha polls. Speaking at a rally in Telangana's Adilabad, Modi also slammed Opposition parties as "dynastic" and said they may have different faces but "hooht" and "loot" were common to their character. Hitting back at the opposition parties, Modi reiterated that his commitment was to the people of the country and that he had left home at a young age with the dream of serving the people.

## Pak issues 112 visas to Indian pilgrims

New Delhi: The Pakistan High Commission Monday said it issued 112 visas to a group of pilgrims from India to facilitate their travel to Shree Katas Raj temples in Punjab province's Chakwal district. Under the provision of a bilateral protocol on visits to religious shrines, Sikh and Hindu pilgrims from India visit Pakistan every year. Pakistani pilgrims also visit India every year under the protocol. "Pakistan High Commission has issued 112 visas to a group of Indian Hindu pilgrims for their visit to Shree Katas Raj Temples, also known as Qila Katas, in Chakwal district of Punjab from March 6 to 12," the high commission said in a statement. Pakistan High Commission's Charge d'Affaires Saad Ahmad Warraich wished the pilgrims a "spiritually rewarding yatra and safe journey", it said.

## Three held for pro-Pak slogans in K'taka Assembly

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, March 4: Three people have been arrested for allegedly raising 'Pakistan Zindabad' slogans in the Vidhana Soudha corridors February 27, police said Monday.

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah ordered an investigation by government-run Forensic Science Laboratory to check the veracity of the allegations. Based on the FSL report, the police arrested three persons. Police sources said one of the accused hails from RT Nagar in Bangalore, the second one from Byadagi in Haveri district and the third accused is from Delhi.

# Supreme Court restores Trump to ballot

AGENCIES

Washington, March 4: The Supreme Court Monday restored Donald Trump to 2024 presidential primary ballots, rejecting state attempts to hold the Republican former president accountable for the Capitol riot.

The justices ruled a day before the Super Tuesday primaries that states cannot invoke a post-Civil War constitutional provision to keep presidential candidates from appearing on ballots. That power resides with Congress, the court wrote in an unsigned opinion.

The outcome ends efforts in Colorado, Illinois, Maine and elsewhere to kick Trump, the front-runner for his party's nomination, off the ballot because of his attempts to undo his loss in the 2020 election to Democrat Joe Biden, culminating in the January 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol.

Trump's case was the first at the Supreme Court dealing with a provision of the 14th Amendment that was adopted after the Civil War to prevent former officeholders who "engaged in insurrection" from holding office again.

Colorado's Supreme Court, in a first-of-its-kind ruling, had decided that the provision, Section 3, could be applied to Trump, who that court found incited the Capitol attack. No court before had applied Section 3 to



a presidential candidate.

Some election observers have warned that a ruling requiring congressional action to implement Section 3 could leave the door open to a renewed fight over trying to use the provision to disqualify Trump in the event he wins the election. In one scenario, a Democratic-controlled Congress could try to reject certifying Trump's election January 6, 2025, under the clause. The issue then could return to the court, possibly in the midst of a full-blown constitutional crisis.

Both sides had requested fast work by the court, which heard arguments less than a month ago, February 8. The justices seemed poised then to rule in Trump's favour. Trump had been kicked off the ballots in Colorado, Maine and Illinois, but all three rulings were on hold awaiting the Supreme Court's decision.

The case is the court's most direct in-

## Haley scripts history

Washington: Indian-American presidential candidate Nikki Haley has won her first Republican nominating contest by trumping rival Donald Trump in Washington DC, injecting new life into her 2024 campaign ahead of the crucial Super Tuesday contest. With her win, Haley scripted history by becoming the first woman ever to win a Republican presidential primary. She is also the first Indian-American to have won either the Democratic or the Republican primaries. The three other previous Indian American presidential aspirants - Bobby Jindal in 2016, Kamala Harris in 2020 and Vivek Ramaswamy in 2024 - had failed to win even one primary. Haley, 51, received 1,274 votes (62.9 per cent) against 676 votes (33.2 per cent) received by her main rival and former President Trump.

volvement in a presidential election since Bush v. Gore, a decision delivered a quarter-century ago that effectively handed the 2000 election to Republican George W. Bush, and it's just one of several cases involving Trump directly or that could affect his chances of becoming president again, including a case scheduled for arguments in late April about whether he can be criminally prosecuted on election interference charges, including his role in the January 6 Capitol attack.

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At: Kandasar, P.O.: Nalco Nagar, Dist.: Angul, PIN-759145m,  
E-mail ID: [sbi.08279@sbi.co.in](mailto:sbi.08279@sbi.co.in)

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**Date & Time of E-Auction: 06.04.2024 from 11.00 A.M. to 03.00 P.M. with unlimited extensions of 10 minutes each.**

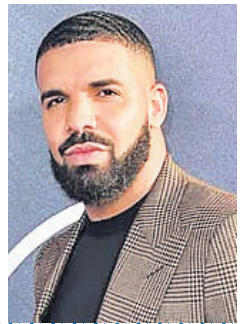
Sl. No.	Name & Address of Borrower (s) / Guarantor (s) / Mortgagor (s)	Property Details & Name of the owner of the property	Outstanding dues for recovery of which property/ies is/are being sold / Demand Notice date	Reserve Price EMD Bid Increment Amount
1.	Borrower: M/s. Omm Refrigeration, Prop.: Sri Deepak Kumar Behera, S/o- Ram Chandra Behera, At: Bonda, P.O.: Banarpal, Dist.: Angul, PIN-759128	All that part and parcel of the property situated at Mouza: Nuahata, Dist.: Angul, P.O.: Banarpal, KISSAM: Homestead, Khata No.: 1128/1870, Plot No.: 609/9403, Area: Ac.0.06dec., standing in the name of Sri Deepak Kumar Behera, Bounded by East/North/South: Suruchi Majhi, West: Plot No.: 580	₹16,92,015/- including interest up to 28.07.2021 with further interest & incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. / 28.07.2021	₹14,90,000/- ₹1,49,000/- ₹20,000/-
2.	Borrower: M/s. Bajaranga Steels, Prop.: Sricharan Muduli, S/o- Judumani Muduli, Sobhagyanagar, P.O./P.S.: Angul	All that part and parcel of the property situated at Mouza: Inkarbandha, Dist.: Angul, Khata No.: 265/147, Plot No.: 944, Area: Ac.0.29dec., standing in the name of Sricharan Muduli	₹14,69,503/- including interest up to 23.05.2023 with further interest & incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. / 23.05.2023	₹24,00,000/- ₹2,40,000/- ₹20,000/-

**Date & Time of inspection of the properties: 04.04.2024 between 11.00 AM to 04.00 PM**  
**STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE TO BORROWER/GUARANTORS FOR SUBSEQUENT SALE UNDER RULE 8(6) & 9(1) AS PER SARFAESI ACT 2002**  
Interested bidder may deposit Pre-bid EMD with MSTC before the close of E-Auction. Credit Pre-bid EMD shall be given to the bidder only after receipts of payment in MSTC's Bank account and updation of such information in the E-Auction Website. This may take some time as per Banking process and hence bidders, in their own interest, are advised to submit the Pre-bid EMD amount well in advance to avoid any last minute problem.

For detailed Terms & Conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in the State Bank of India, Secured Creditor Website: [www.sbi.co.in](http://www.sbi.co.in), <https://bank.sbi/web/sbi-in-the-news/auction-notices/sarfaesi-and-others>, <https://ibapi.in> and for auction login into: <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>  
For further details and any query please contact :  
Ashish Patra (Authorised Officer): Mob.: 7978149629

Date : 04.03.2024, Place : Sambalpur Sd/-Authorised Officer, State Bank of India, SARB, Sambalpur

# leisure



## DRAKE PROMISES TO PAY OFF HOME MORTGAGE OF A FAN'S LATE MOTHER

Grammy-winner Drake, at his recent concert in Kansas City, Missouri, pledged to cover a fan's late mother's home mortgage after receiving a note from them. He assured, "I'll pay off your mom's house mortgage," reports *people.com*.

## EMILY BLUNT: NOLAN LOVES TO GOSSIP

British actress Emily Blunt, known for her portrayal of Kitty Oppenheimer, wife of physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer, disclosed that her director Christopher Nolan enjoys gossip and isn't solely focused on intellect, often discussing topics like the film *Love Actually* and eagerly engaging in gossip on set.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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accuracy • reliability • trust  
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL \$5181\*

**ARIES**  
You will pay attention to the voice of your inner self today. This will help you implement all your plans perfectly. You will not only be jovial, but you will also not let disappointments cow you down. Ganesh says not only today, but you can summon this quality whenever you like.

**TAURUS**  
The competitive streak in you might relent today as you look for a lifestyle that is more relaxed and laid-back. The rat race is tiring and you will feel the urge to get away, far from the maddening crowd and the never-ending routine. Matters pertaining to your home may also occupy some of your time today, says Ganesh.

**GEMINI**  
Along with your house, family and business matters, you will also be busy with your social obligations today. You will be afforded the co-operation of those around you. New ways of thinking will flourish within you. Make full use of the opportunities you get today, says Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
Ganesh says that this will be a unique and auspicious day for you. You will get clue and hints of this from morning itself. A religious ceremony in the house, and thereby invitation to guests is indicated. The chance of shifting to a new house is indicated.

**LEO**  
Few and rare are the days when creativity takes flight. After all, even Picasso couldn't make a masterpiece every day. So make the most of this auspicious day, urges Ganesh, during which your imagination peaks and touches new heights.

**VIRGO**  
Today is a mixed bag of values and pragmatism, says Ganesh, and if there were to be a competition for the most humanitarian person, you would be likely to win hands down. You would do well to make plans to increase your productivity.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says today you will wish to spend more time with your beloved instead of your friends. This is a good day to express your innermost feelings and get varied opportunities. This is a good time to propose to your beloved and give them a happy surprise. Ganesh showers you with his blessings always.

**SCORPIO**  
It seems, the book, 'How to win friends and influence people' has left a great impact on your mind, bringing about a lot of change in your practical life too. As you switch to a new business venture, your efforts will be appreciated. In short, you are a personality that every one would take a note of.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
The pressing needs of your loved ones call for extra attention today. A small party at home may see a group of friends and relatives dine together. This may find you in a chatty mood. Ganesh says an intimate tête-à-tête with your better half would fare you well.

**CAPRICORN**  
Unless you be calm and patient, your tendency to act impulsively will get you into hot water, warns Ganesh. Your image on the minds of your colleagues and bosses will remain intact, though. You will keep on climbing up the ladder and come closer to success, but don't get too excited if everything is turning out as per the plan. Keep your focus on your target, so that you don't miss a step on the ladder.

**AQUARIUS**  
It is time to make addition in your possessions. Book your dream house or buy a vehicle, as today is a favourable day to do so. You, however, need to consider your financial resources before deciding anything because it will take a major chunk out of your savings, warns Ganesh. A major change is on the cards for you.

**PISCES**  
You will have frequent mood swings today but you will still manage to fix a work related goal. Your mood will be better if you focus on work. You might feel stressed about some personal matter, but Ganesh says it is not a matter to worry.

## 'Can't play the industry's game'

**Mumbai:** It's been seven years since *Bahu Hamari Rajni Kant* went off air, but actress Ridhima Pandit's portrayal of the humanoid Rajni remains a beloved character for many. While the actress owes her success to television, she has her eyes set on cinema and OTT now.

Ridhima said, "I didn't expect the show to become such a success. It's been many years since *Bahu Hamari Rajni Kant* ended, but the character has become my second identity."

She prefers to not go by any formula when it comes to foraying into mainstream cinema. "I think I'm taking time because I'm being myself and doing things that reflect my perception," she says, adding, "I cannot play the industry's game, but I think it's a matter of time before I crack it."

She also agrees that different platforms are generating opportunities, but the difference between being an actor and a star is still prevalent.

"The barrier between TV, OTT, and films is blurring, but there's still a difference between actors and stars. Right now, stars are driving films and the journey from being an actor to becoming a star takes time. If I am offered a role that's regressive on paper, I will take it up as long as there is a promise of it turning progressive at some point," she ends.

AGENCIES



Ridhima Pandit

## When Sonam revealed her rift with Ranbir

**Mumbai:** Actress Sonam Kapoor had mentioned that appearing on Karan Johar's talk show, *Koffee with Karan*, had a negative impact on her relationship with Ranbir Kapoor.

In 2010, Sonam Kapoor and Deepika Padukone appeared on the *Koffee With Karan* and were asked about Ranbir. During the episode, Karan asked the *Aisha* actress about her opinion on the *Besharam* actor, and she responded, "Ranbir is a great friend, but I don't know if he's a great boyfriend. I have known him all my life, and as a boyfriend, I don't know; I mean, she (Deepika) did a great job hanging onto him for so long." Deepika simply laughed and said, "Thank you!"

A year later, in a 2011 interview, she stated that her remarks on the show had caused strain in her friendship.

with her co-star from the movie *Saawariya*. The *Delhi-6* actress spoke to a magazine for an interview a year later, she said, "Honestly, I'm so fed up with this whole *Koffee With Karan* thing now that I don't want to discuss it. Yes, it has affected my relationship. Some people get away with saying something. Unfortunately, I didn't, and I have to bear the brunt of it."

AGENCIES



## Supriya: Hansa is my stressbuster



**Mumbai:** Veteran actress Supriya Pathak, who has essayed the iconic character of Hansa in the streaming comedy *Khichdi 2: Mission Paanthurkistan*, has called *Khichdi* franchise as a prescription and her character as a stressbuster.

"Comedy is much harder, and making people laugh is very difficult. I feel that with slapstick and two-layered jokes, you can, but keeping it clean and still making people laugh is very difficult," she said.

Talking about her character, she says: "*Khichdi* is like a prescription, and Hansa is my stressbuster. She is a part of me. It was a challenge to maintain the innocence of Hansa even after so many years. Having said that, I believe Hansa's character acts as a reminder that one doesn't have to be so bitter and it's not difficult to lead a life without having some innocence inside us."

Created by Jamnadas Majethia and Aatish Kapadia's Hats Off Productions, the show was made into a movie in 2010. *Khichdi 2: Mission Paanthurkistan* is available to stream on ZEE5 Global.

AGENCIES



## Crunchyroll Anime Awards Rashmika makes debut as presenter

**Mumbai:** Actress Rashmika Mandanna recently turned presenter at the Crunchyroll Anime Awards in Tokyo, which is one of the notable honours for anime work. She announced the nominees for the Best Art Design Award. The popular anime series *Demon Slayer*, which has a huge fanbase in India too, won the award.

The *Animal* actress took to social media to share pictures of herself in the stunning attire she wore for the event. She wrote a note about her experience and honour of being a presenter at the award ceremony. She wrote, "Japan was a place I've dreamt of going to for years. Since childhood, I never thought it would ever be possible. Let alone be a part of an award show giving an award to one of the creators of and in the anime world! And finally, it came true! Being able to meet everyone here, receiving the incredible love here, receiving such a warm welcome—the food, the weather, the place so clean, such lovely people. It's amazing!"

On the work front, Rashmika will soon resume the shoot for her much-awaited film *Pushpa: The Rule*, and she also has *Rainbow*, *The Girlfriend*, and *Chaava* in her kitty.

AGENCIES

### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



### FUN post CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6
7			8		
9			10		
11	12			13	
			14		
15		16		17	18
			19		
20				21	22
23				24	

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**Across**  
7 Sullen  
8 Small fry  
9 Half-moon tide  
10 Greenland caribou  
11 Clever manoeuvre  
13 Quartet member  
15 Sherlock's word  
17 Gab

**Down**  
20 Medical fear  
21 Clump  
23 Missive  
24 Dice roll

**Down**  
5 Sheltered nook  
6 Cheerleading need (3-3)  
3 Concealment  
4 Up and about

5 Shower aftermath  
6 Loyal (4-4)  
12 Kind of lamp or camera  
14 Pullet  
16 Quirk  
18 Sway  
19 Wise guy's smile  
22 Bend

### SUDOKU

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

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

### SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

RECLUSE	TOMES
IRRN	AIU
PSYCHO	CROCUS
ES	ENCRP
NET	ARTICHOKE
ALHAWC	
POLITE	IMPACT
LPHAITV	
AMARYLLIS	ELF
YLAND	EOE
BRANDY	CLEVER
OICU	EER
FIELD	MASONRY

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# business

## of the day quote

Advisory is aimed at the significant platforms and permission seeking from Meity is only for large platforms and will not apply to startups. Advisory is aimed at untested AI platforms from deploying on the Indian Internet

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR | MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND IT

This MoU marks a significant milestone in fostering collaboration and synergy within the hospitality and amusement park industries. By working together, we can unlock new opportunities for growth and innovation, ultimately benefiting our members and the industry at large

PRADIP SHETTY | PRESIDENT, FHRAI

The renewable energy sector in India continues to witness remarkable growth. We have high-quality solar assets in our portfolio, further solidifying our commitment to driving positive change in India's energy sector

NEERAJ NANAVATI | CEO, BLUPINE ENERGY

## SHORT TAKES

### Ola's S1 Pro gets PLI certification

**Bangalore:** Ola Electric's S1 Pro electric scooter has received the domestic value addition (DVA) certification under the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for the automobile and auto component industry, the Centre said Monday. The S1 Pro scooter met the stringent minimum localisation criteria of 50 per cent, as mandated by the Ministry of Heavy Industries. The International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT), Manesar, one of the divisions of the National Automotive Board (NAB) under Ministry of Heavy Industries, awarded its first PLI-automotive certificate to Ola Electric. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government introduced the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) 2020 to realise the goal of 'Green Mobility'. This plan sets out the goals and time frame for the nation to manufacture and adopt electric vehicles (EVs).

### Nayara exports dip

**New Delhi:** Nayara Energy, India's largest private fuel retailer, saw petroleum product exports drop by 10 per cent in 2023 as it supplied more products domestically to meet the fuel demands of a growing economy, sources said. Nayara, which operates a 20 million tonne a year oil refinery at Vadinar in Gujarat and a network of over 6,500 petrol pumps, exported 6.21 million tonne of petroleum products, including jet fuel, gasoil (diesel) and gasoline (petrol) between January 2023 and December 2023, down 10 per cent year-on-year. This was primarily because of larger consumption at home. The company is catering to the domestic market through institutional business, sales to other oil companies and its own retail chain.

### Sugar output drops

**New Delhi:** The country's sugar production declined 1.19 per cent to 25.53 million tonne so far in the ongoing 2023-24 marketing year, industry body ISMA said Monday. Sugar production stood at 25.84 MT till February in the year-ago period. Sugar marketing year runs from October to September. In its second estimate, the Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) has projected sugar output to decline by 10 per cent to 33.05 MT in the current 2023-24 marketing year as against 36.62 MT in the previous year.

## SUPERVISORY CONCERNS

# RBI bars IIFL Fin from disbursing gold loans

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, March 4:** The Reserve Bank Monday barred IIFL Finance Ltd from disbursing gold loans, with immediate effect following multiple supervisory concerns, including serious deviations in assaying and certifying the purity of the yellow metal.

A leading financial services provider, IIFL Finance offers a range of loans and mortgages. The latest directions from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) pertain to only the gold loan business.

In a statement, the RBI said it has directed IIFL Finance Ltd "to cease and desist, with immediate effect, from sanctioning or disbursing gold loans or assigning/ securitising/ selling any of its gold loans".

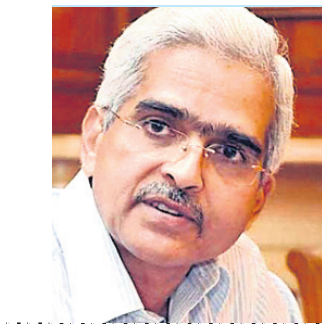
The company can, however, continue to service its existing gold loan portfolio through the usual collection and recovery processes, it added.

The supervisory restrictions will be reviewed upon completion of a special audit to be instituted by the RBI and after rectification by the company of the special audit findings and the findings of RBI Inspection to the satisfaction of the central bank, it added.

Giving details, the central bank said an inspection of the company was carried out by it with reference to its financial position as of March 31, 2023.

Certain material supervisory concerns were observed in the gold loan portfolio of the company.

The concerns include serious deviations in assaying and certifying purity and net weight of the gold at the time of sanction of loans and at the time of auction upon default; breaches in Loan-to-Value ratio; significant disbursement and collection of the loan amount in cash far in excess of the statutory limit; non-adherence to the standard auction process; and lack of transparency



The interoperable payment system for internet banking is expected to be launched this year to facilitate quicker settlement of funds for merchants

SHAKTIKANTA DAS | GOVERNOR, RBI

## D-St scales fresh lifetime highs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, March 4:** Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty settled at new record high levels Monday in a highly volatile trade following buying in energy and banking shares as Moody's upgraded 2024 India GDP growth forecast on "better than expected" economic data.

Extending its rally to the fourth session in a row, the 30-share BSE Sensex rose by 66.14 points or 0.09 per cent to settle at an all-time high of 73,872.29. During the day, it jumped 183.98 points or 0.24 per cent to record intra-day high of 73,990.13.

The broader Nifty rose by 27.20 points or 0.12 per cent to close at a lifetime high of 22,405.60 points. During the day, it hit a record intra-day level of 22,440.90.

In the four-day record-breaking spree, Sensex rallied 1,567 points or 2.15 per cent while Nifty shot up 454 points or around 2 per cent.

Analysts said though benchmark indices closed at record levels, the market traded in a range. Gains were driven by buying in banks, energy and pharma shares while IT, FMCG and auto shares retreated, analysts said.

"The market traded in a range-bound manner due to weak global cues, while investors turned stock-specific due to the prevailing caution on broader indices. Further, the tepid consumption data influenced investors to refrain from FMCG and discretionary stocks," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

The global sentiment is likely to be cautious ahead of FED chair testimony and ECB policy later this week, Nair added.

Among Sensex shares, NTPC rose the most by 3.5 per cent. Power Grid gained 2.63 per cent, Reliance Industries by 1.03 per cent and Axis Bank by 0.90 per cent.

Bajaj Finserv, Tech Mahindra, ICICI Bank, Bharti Airtel and IndusInd Bank were also among the major gainers.



in charges being levied to customer accounts.

"These practices, apart from being regulatory violations, also significantly and adversely impact the interest of the customers," the RBI said.

The central bank said it was engaged with senior management and the statutory auditors of the company on the deficiencies over the last few months, however, no "meaningful corrective action" has been evidenced so far.

"This has necessitated the imposition of business restrictions with immediate effect, in the overall interest of customers," the central bank said.

The business restriction is without prejudice to any other Regulatory or Supervisory action that may be initiated by the RBI against the company, it added.

IIFL Finance is one of the leading players in the financial services space in India. Together with its subsidiaries - IIFL Home Finance, IIFL Samasta Finance Limited and IIFL Open Fintech, it provides a diverse range of loans and mortgages.

These include home loans, gold loans, business loans including loans against property and medium & small enterprise financing, microfinance, developer and construction finance and capital market finance, catering to retail and corporate clients.

The company has over 2,600 branches across over 500 cities.

# Tata Motors splits business

The auto major is set to demerge passenger, commercial business into two separate listed entities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, March 4:** Tata Motors Monday announced the demerger of its commercial and passenger vehicle segments into two separate listed entities to better capitalise on growth opportunities.

The commercial vehicles business and its related investments would be housed in one entity while the passenger vehicle business, including electric vehicles, Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) and its related investments, would be part of the second entity, the auto major said in a regulatory filing.

Tata Motors Chairman N Chandrasekaran said that Tata Motors has scripted a strong turnaround in the last few years. "The three automotive business units are now operating independently and delivering consistent performance. This demerger will help them better capitalise on the opportunities provided by the market by en-



The demerger would lead to a superior experience for customers, better growth prospects for employees and enhanced value for shareholders

N CHANDRASEKHARAN | CHAIRMAN, TATA MOTORS

hancing their focus and agility," he added.

According to the proposal approved by the company board in a meeting Monday, the demerger will be implemented through an NCLT scheme of arrangement and all shareholders of Tata Motors shall continue to have identical shareholding in both the listed entities.

Chandrasekaran said the scheme of arrangement for the demerger shall be placed before the company board for approval in the coming months and will be subject to all necessary share-

holder, creditor and regulatory approvals which could take a further 12-15 months to complete.

"The demerger will have no adverse impact on employees, customers, and our business partners," Chandrasekaran stated.

The auto major stated that the demerger is a logical progression of the subsidiarisation of PV and EV businesses done earlier in 2022.

The move shall further empower the respective businesses to pursue their respective strategies to deliver higher growths

## AKASA AIR TO TRIM BUDGET

Akasa Air, which is all set to start international services this month, has decided to trim its budget for the next financial year starting April as part of cost control measures, according to two sources. The airline has decided to reduce its budget for 2024-25 fiscal and the reduction could be up to 20 per cent compared to the current financial year



# Commitment, quality most important: Bagai

Established in 1991, Khata Mitha is one of the leading caterers in Bhubaneswar. The well-known establishment acts as a one-stop destination for exceptional services. The belief that customer satisfaction is as important as their products and services has helped this brand garner a vast base of customers, which continues to grow by the day. The man behind this successful venture, Anup Kumar Bagai, managing director of Khata Mitha, started his journey from a fast-food centre and made this brand into one of the leading caterers of the city. In a conversation with OrissaPOST, Bagai shares his experience in the hospitality sector. Excerpts....



■ What is the specialty of Khata Mitha brand?

■ The attributes that differentiate our brand in the market is honesty towards customers, commitment to promises and quality of services. Our clients hold a very important place for us. They trust us and it is our responsibility to ensure that we give them our best service.

■ How do you face the growing competition in the hospitality industry?

■ Competition should make you better and not scare you. Healthy competition encourages quality in service. Although, I don't think I am in competition with anyone but myself. I am trying continuously to improve myself by taking feedback from my clients.

■ How do you maintain the quality and standard of your food? How do you manage the wastage of food?

■ Quality is an essence of any business. To maintain the quality and standard of food, we ensure that we use

good quality ingredients, keep our kitchen clean and use safe drinking water. To manage wastage, we cook food in required quantities only and if still any food remains, we donate it to the poor and needy.

■ There must be varying expectations of customers from your firm. How do you tackle their demands and complaints?

■ In my experience, customers expect quality and value

for money. So we try and respond to their demands by giving them flexible options. When you have all the cards on the table it is easy to choose. Taking feedback, both positive and negative, helps to provide better services. We try and minimise complaints by being responsive and giving our clients desired results by taking their feedback and working on it.

■ Your journey started from a fast-food centre and now you are a successful entrepreneur. As the managing director of your company, what suggestions do you have for the new entrants in this industry?

■ The 30 years of my journey in this industry has taught me two very important policies - commitment and quality and I try and maintain both with utmost honesty. I still consider myself a learner as continuous learning is a life-long process. My only two cents for the new entrants would be - work hard with all your heart as there is no shortcut to success. Give your best and leave the rest to the Almighty and most importantly be patient.



# India gets first green hydrogen project of stainless steel sector

GEN PLANT IN STAINLESS STEEL SECTOR

BY JYOTIRADITYA M SCINDIA

Minister of Civil Aviation and Airports



## THE PROJECT IS SET UP BY JINDAL STAINLESS IN HARYANA TO CUT CARBON EMISSIONS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, March 4:** Union Minister Jyotiraditya M Scindia Monday inaugurated the country's first green hydrogen project of the stainless steel sector in Hisar, Haryana set up by Jindal Stainless Ltd.

The green hydrogen facility, which has been set up by JSL in collaboration with Hygenco, aims to reduce carbon emissions by around 2,700 metric tonne per annum and 54,000 tonne of CO2 emission over 20 years.

"JSL has been at the forefront of innovation. I commend JSL and Hygenco for the first hydrogen-based steel facility with both rooftop and floating," said Steel and Civil Aviation Minister Scindia while virtually inaugurating the project in presence of

Steel Secretary Nagendra Nath Sinha, Jindal Stainless Managing Director Abhyuday Jindal, and other senior officials.

The waterbody inside the facility has floating solar panels which will also help in reducing water evaporation, the minister said.

In his address, Jindal said green hydrogen is an essential element of stainless steel manufacturing and the generation of hydrogen through conventional processes helps in reducing CO2 emissions. The green hydrogen plant (both renewable and gas plant) has been developed in partnership with Hygenco Ltd on a long-term build-own-operate-transfer (BOOT) basis.

The green hydrogen will be used by JSL in stainless steel manufacturing processes at the Hisar unit.

## Union Bank holds Mega Retail Expo

**Bhubaneswar:** Mega Retail Expo 2024 was organised by Union Bank of India, Regional Office Bhubaneswar in the office premises. The expo was inaugurated by Sarvesh Ranjan Zonal Head, Bhubaneswar Zone in the presence of R Devraj, Deputy Zonal Head; Ranjit Singh, Deputy Zonal Head; Niranjan Barik Regional Head, Bhubaneswar; Ashok Mishra, Deputy Regional Head Bhubaneswar; Jeetendra Kumar Samal, Deputy Regional Head Bhubaneswar; Hareram Shah, MLP Head Bhubaneswar; Hare Krishna Pahi, Branch Head RLP Bhubaneswar; Branch Heads of various Bhubaneswar city branches, other executives and customers of the bank. In the event 11 reputed builders who are operating in and around city, 7 car and vehicle dealers, 2 educational and VISA consultancy firms, 1 Tata roof top solar vendor, Star Union Dai-Ichi Life Insurance, India First Life Insurance Company, Care Health Insurance, ManiPalCigna Health Insurance, UBI Services Ltd have attended the expo.



BIZ BUZZ

## Moody's raises 2024 growth hope

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, March 4:** Global rating agency Moody's Monday raised India's growth forecast for 2024 calendar year to 6.8 per cent on "stronger-than-expected" economic data and said that the country will remain the fastest growing among G20 countries.

In its Global Macroeconomic Outlook for 2024, Moody's Investors Service said with global headwinds fading, the Indian economy should be able to register 6.7 per cent real GDP growth comfortably. For 2025, the GDP growth is estimated at 6.4 per cent. Moody's had projected a

6.1 per cent growth for 2024 earlier.

"India's economy has performed well and stronger-than-expected data in 2023 has caused us to raise our 2024 growth estimate to 6.8 per cent from 6.1 per cent. India is likely to remain the fastest-growing among G-20 economies over our forecast horizon," Moody's said.

India's real GDP expanded by 8.4 per cent year-on-year in the fourth quarter of calendar year 2023, resulting in a 7.7 per cent growth for full-year 2023. The GDP grew by 8.2 per cent in the April-June quarter and by 8.1 per cent in the July-September quarter.

# Root heaps praise on Ashwin

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bangalore, March 4:** Mighty impressed with Ravichandran Ashwin's range, aggressive mindset and relentless pursuit of wickets, senior England batter Joe Root has said that the veteran Indian off-spinner is a constant threat who hardly believes in the concept of wearing the opposition down.

Ashwin, who recently went past the 500-wicket milestone in the traditional format becoming only the second Indian after Anil Kumble to do so, will play his 100th Test during the fifth match against England, starting March 7 at Dharamsala.

"Ashwin is always trying to find ways of getting you out rather than trying to wear you down, over long periods of time," Root said on Sky Sports cricket podcast hosted by former England captains Mike Atherton and Nasser Hussain.

Root, who along with his teammates is currently enjoying a break in the series, said the infinite variety that Ashwin has in his bowling keeps the batters guessing.

"He uses creases differently from traditional off-spinners. He uses over-spin, side-spin, can get really tight to the stumps, can go wider and he has got the carrom ball, you know, a lot of different tricks."

"So, you will have to be really wary of different threats that he poses and make sure that you have very good skill sets to counter (him) and be on top of him," said the ex-England skipper.

Giving an insight into the way Ashwin operates, Root said the Tamil Nadu man often bowls six different deliveries in an over. "Ashwin is making sure that you don't play the previous ball. He is very good at trying to drag you across the crease and get your

head to one side of it and beat both edges quite frequently," he said.

Root said Ashwin poses different threats while bowling with new and old balls. "There are different things to contend with because of his seam position and how cleverly he can move around the shiny side that has got some extra skid."

"So, you have to make sure that you are in position a little bit quicker. He can also drift the ball away and bring the slip fielder into play," he explained.

Root also offered a comparison between Ashwin and Nathan Lyon, the other

premier off-spinner of this generation. The 36-year-old Australian has taken 527 wickets from 128 Tests.

"With Lyon it is all about, I think, especially in the first half of the Test match, to get over the top of the ball, get the bowl bounce, knee roll high, in between and try to bring short leg and leg slip into the game as much as he can."

"Then just slowly, get slower with his pace and drift wider into that. There are those footmarks, you know, Mitchell Starc has so kindly done for him for

such a long period of time," added Root.

England's much-talked-about 'Bazball' approach has not really worked in this series against India, where the visitors are currently trailing 1-3. But Root said frustration has not seeped into the England camp as yet.

"Don't think there is too much frustration within the team. Our top order has been far more consistent than it has been for long, long years. But this part of the world can be quite tricky to do that (attacking batting), especially in the second innings."

"But the bigger picture is not about how we can blast ahead but to find the best in our game. There will be times when we need to play a bit pragmatic, but this team does not regret and we need to learn from every opportunity," he detailed.

Jonny Bairstow, who is set to play his 100th Test in Dharamsala, has struggled with the bat, managing just 170 runs from four Tests and he is yet to score even a fifty.

However, Root backed his fellow Yorkshire man to come good sooner than later. "I came across him when he was 12 at a Yorkshire scholarship programme with the rest of the boys. He was a superstar even then and had this tough task of living up to the name of his father (former England wicketkeeper David Bairstow). But Jonny has always excelled and went from strength to strength. He wears his emotions on his sleeve," said Root.



# Green likely to focus on Tests against India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Wellington, March 4:** Australia batter Cameron Green is likely to skip the white-ball series in Pakistan later this year and instead play Sheffield Shield to prepare himself for the big-ticket home Test series against India in December, according to head coach Andrew McDonald.

He was not included in the recent T20 series against the West Indies and New Zealand and instead earmarked him for West Australia's Sheffield Shield fixture against Tasmania in Hobart, where he struck an unbeaten 103 to provide an ideal warm-up for the first Test against the Kiwis.

"It's a big decision to leave anyone out of international cricket when they're potentially in the best eleven, so I'm glad he (Green) embraced that when we had that conversation with him, and the return on it is pretty immediate," McDonald said.

"The next stress point on that will be next summer, leading into the Indian Test series where we've got Pakistan in ODI cricket and T20 cricket. I'd like to probably err on the side of preparing him through red-ball - we know how good a white-ball player he is, so you put a priority on what it looks like next summer."

"The white-ball cricket's important, but geez that Test summer's important, so I think with the results he's had (at Wellington) he'll probably come to us and say 'can you give us a couple of Shield games before the first Test against India?'"

Australia will tour England in September for five ODIs and three T20s, followed by a white-ball series in Pakistan where they play three ODIs and three T20s in November. This will be followed by the five-Test series



for the Border-Gavaskar trophy in Australia in December 2024-January 2025.

Australia have not beaten India in a Test series for a decade, which includes India's past two visits to Australia in 2018-19 and 2020-21.

"He's become an all-three format player and we thought his greatest challenge was flipping between the formats," McDonald said of Green's increasingly vital all-round asset.

"We felt that by keeping Cam (Cameron Green) in one format for a period of time gave him the best chance, and that won't always be the case with everyone. Other players can go (more readily) from one-day international cricket into Test cricket, and it's probably the more experienced players who have done it over a period of time."

Even though Australia are also preparing for a T20 World Cup later this year, for which Green remains in the selection mix, it was deemed more valuable for him to play Shield cricket than in recent T20s given he will be exposed to plenty of 20-over cricket in his upcoming IPL stint.

# MSD's post about 'new role' in IPL puzzles fans



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, March 4:** Barely two weeks before the start of the IPL, the enigmatic MS Dhoni sent speculation into overdrive by claiming that a "new role" awaits him in the "new season" in a viral social media post Monday.

The former India captain, who led the Chennai Super Kings to their fifth IPL title last season, however, neither mentioned the league nor elaborated on the new role, leaving everyone guessing.

"Can't wait for the new season and the new 'role'. Stay tuned!," Dhoni wrote in a rare social media post on Facebook. Speculation is rife that this season will be Dhoni's final one as a player.

Last year, the 42-year-old

mostly came out to bat towards the fag end of CSK innings. He has not yet clarified on whether he will captain CSK in IPL 2024.

At the post-match ceremony after winning the final last year, Dhoni was asked if he will retire on a high, but the Ranchi dasher, in his inimitable style, deflected the query by saying that it would amount to taking an easy way out. He went on to add that he would try to come back next season as CSK captain if his body allowed him.

The wicketkeeper batter, who was spotted at Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant's pre-wedding celebrations in Jamnagar recently, has not yet arrived at the CSK training camp that got underway in Chennai. CSK are set to take on Royal Challengers Bangalore in their tournament opener March 22.

# Smriti, Perry fashion RCB win

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bangalore, March 4:** Engaging fifties by skipper Smriti Mandhana and star all-rounder Ellyse Perry formed the foundation of Royal Challengers Bangalore's convincing 23-run win over UP Warriorz in their Women's Premier League (WPL) match here Monday.

Mandhana (80, 50b, 10x4, 3x6) and Perry (58, 37b, 4x4, 4x6) added 95 runs off just 64 balls for the second wicket as Royal Challengers made a formidable 198/3. The Warriorz's chase did not have much to write home about except a fifty (55, 38b, 7x4, 3x6) by captain Alyssa Healy as it ended at 175/8. This was also the last game of WPL's Bangalore leg as the caravan now rolls to New Delhi from Tuesday.

But the visitors made a cracking beginning to their innings scoring 47 in just 4.2 overs as Healy and Kiran Navgire (18) tore into RCB bowlers after a first-over maiden by pacer Renuka Singh. Healy mounded two sixes off pacer Sophie Devine (2/37) in the second over to start the run glut, and then hammered Renuka for 24 runs in the next over as Navgire also took part in the fun with a four and six. But Devine ended that partnership when she ousted Navgire and her dismissal cooled down the run-collection rate.

The ever-mounting asking rate forced the UP batters to go after big shots as they lost Chamari Athapathuthu (8), in-form Grace Harris (5) and Shweta Sehrawat (1) while adding 26 runs between



the seventh and 10th over.

At 90/4 after 10 overs, the burden of taking the UP outfit past the target was entirely on Healy and she tried gamely with a 34-ball fifty. But left-arm spinner Sophie Molineux (2/29) curtailed her stint as Healy failed to connect a tossed-up ball on middle and leg and Richa Ghosh did the rest behind the stumps.

Deepthi Sharma (33, 22b, 4x4, 1x6) Poonam Khemnar (31, 24b, 4x4, 1x6) added 41 runs for the sixth wicket but they had one too many runs to scale down.

Earlier, RCB promoted Sabbhineni Meghana (28) as opener in place of Devine looking to get out of a two-match losing streak and the move paid off. Meghana and Mandhana added 51 runs in 5.3 overs to give RCB a strong platform and the hosts ended the powerplay at 57/1, their best in WPL 2. Mandhana and Perry opti-

mised that start as the UP bowlers wilted under double barrel firing. The left-hander's timing was stunning as she played shots all around the park and treated spinners with disdain. It will give her a lot of confidence as she often tends to get stuck against the tweekers.

Mandhana, who was dropped on 28, was holed out at deep mid-wicket following a slog-sweep of off-spinner Deepthi (1/30). However, Perry and Richa Ghosh (21 n o) added 42 runs off 18 balls for the third wicket as RCB motored on to a strong total.

## BRIEF SCORES

**RCB Women 198/3** (Smriti Mandhana 80, Ellyse Perry 58; Sophie Ecclestone 1/22) **beat UP Women 175/8** (Alyssa Healy 55, Deepthi Sharma 33, Poonam Khemnar 31; Sophie Molineux 2/29, Asha Sobhana 2/29) **by 23 runs.**

# Sai Praneeth retires from international badminton

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, March 4:** World Championships bronze medallist B Sai Praneeth Monday announced his retirement from international badminton, bringing down curtains on a successful career during which he won the Singapore Open and also represented India at the Tokyo Olympics.

The 31-year-old from Hyderabad decided to hang his boot after battling nagging injuries since the Tokyo Games. "With a mix of emotions, I pen down these words to bid farewell and announce my retirement from the sport that has been my lifeblood for over 24 years," he posted on his Instagram account.

"Today (Monday), as I embark on a new chapter, I find myself overwhelmed with gratitude for the journey that brought me here. Badminton, you have been my first love, my constant companion, shaping my character and giving purpose to my existence. The memories we've shared, the challenges we've overcome, will forever be etched in my heart."

Praneeth will be beginning a new innings now as he is set to join as a head coach of Triangle Badminton Academy in USA next month. "I will be joining April mid. I will be the head coach of the club, so I will be overseeing all the players there. Ofcourse, once I am there, we



will discuss elaborately about the role," he told PTI.

In over a two-decade long international career, Praneeth had some fine moments but the 2017 Singapore Open Super Series win and the bronze medal at the 2019 World Championships in Basel, Switzerland were his crowning moment.

Praneeth reached a career-best ranking of world number 10 and qualified for the Tokyo Olympics but couldn't make a mark, losing all the matches to make a shock exit at the group stage.

"A heartfelt thank you to Pullela Gopichand anna, the Gopichand Academy, and the entire coaching and support staff. I also thank my coaches from childhood Arif sir, and Govardhan sir," said the 2010 world junior bronze medallist after thanking his family.

# Blow for CSK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Wellington, March 4:** New Zealand opener Devon Conway is all but ruled out of the upcoming IPL due to a left thumb injury that will take eight weeks to heal, dealing a blow to his franchise Chennai Super Kings. Conway sustained the injury during the T20I series against Australia last month.

The 32-year-old will undergo a surgery on his left thumb which got injured during the second T20I in Auckland February 23. The IPL is scheduled to start March 22, with defending champions CSK taking on Royal Challengers Bangalore at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai.

# Indian TT teams script history, qualify for Paris Olympics

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, March 4:** The Indian men's and women's teams Monday scripted history as they qualified for the Olympics for the first time ever based on their world rankings.

After the conclusion of the World Team Championships Finals in Busan last month, which served as the last qualifying event for the Paris Olympics, seven spots in the team events remained, which have been awarded to sides based on their rankings.

"The highest-ranked teams not yet qualified in the latest World Team Ranking booked their ticket to Paris 2024," ITTF said.



In the women's event, India, ranked 13, Poland (12), Sweden (15), and Thailand have secured their passage to Paris. While Croatia (12), India (15), and Slovenia (11) have secured their

spots in the men's team event. "Finally!!!! India qualifies for the team event at the Olympics! Something I have wanted for a long long time! This one is truly special, despite it being my fifth

appearance at the Olympics! Kudos to our Women's Team who also secure a historical quota!" veteran Sharath Kamal tweeted.

This marks a significant milestone for Indian table tennis history, as it will be the first time the nation competes in the team event at the Olympics since its inception at the Beijing 2008 Games.

Both the Indian teams had missed Olympic berths at the ITTF World Team Championships Finals after making pre-quarterfinals exits. The men's table tennis team, led by veteran Sharath were blanked 0-3 by South Korea, while the Manika Batra-led women's team lost 1-3 to Chinese Taipei.

# BARCELONA, GIRONA FAIL TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF REAL'S STUMBLE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Madrid, March 4:** Barcelona and Girona failed to take advantage of Real Madrid's stumble in the Spanish league. Defending champions Barcelona were held 0-0 at Athletic Bilbao Sunday, while Girona lost 0-1 at Mallorca.

The Catalan clubs missed their chance to make up ground on league leaders Madrid, who drew 2-2 at Valencia Saturday. The weekend's results meant that Madrid increased their lead over second-placed Girona to seven points and stayed eight points ahead of third-placed Barcelona.

Fourth-placed Atletico Madrid did cut into Madrid's lead with

a 2-1 win over Real Betis, though Diego Simeone's team remained fourth and 11 points behind their city rivals after 27 matches.

Barcelona lost two of their top players because of injuries, with Pedri and Frenkie De Jong having to be replaced before half-time in Bilbao.

Athletic remained in fifth place, five points behind the last Champions League place. Before the match, the club paid tribute to a fan who died after suffering a stroke during the Copa del Rey match against Atletico Thursday. The victory at the Metropolitan Stadium left Atletico three points behind Barcelona and four points behind Girona.