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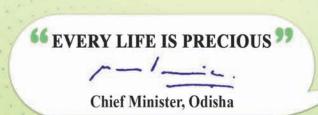




HEALTHY ODISHA, HAPPY ODISHA



LAUNCHING OF NEW BSKY NABIN CARD







Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha

6TH MARCH 2024 | 11:00 AM

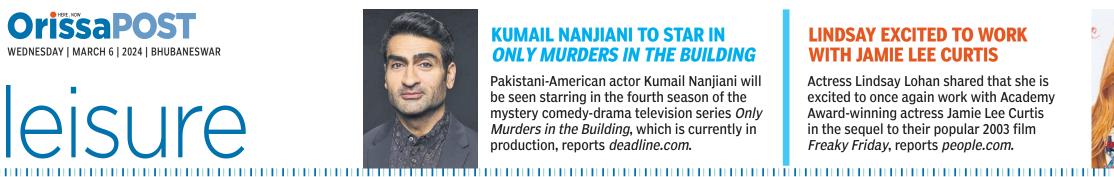
HEALTH ASSURANCE FOR OVER 3.8 CRORE PEOPLE IN EMPANELLED PRIVATE HOSPITALS

ANNUAL COVERAGE OF RS. 5 LAKH FOR ALL FAMILY MEMBERS AND RS. 10 LAKH FOR WOMEN MEMBERS OF FAMILY IN PRIVATE HOSPITALS

800+ HOSPITALS EMPANELLED ACROSS THE COUNTRY

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

leisure



KUMAIL NANJIANI TO STAR IN ONLY MURDERS IN THE BUILDING

Pakistani-American actor Kumail Nanjiani will be seen starring in the fourth season of the mystery comedy-drama television series Only Murders in the Building, which is currently in production, reports deadline.com.

LINDSAY EXCITED TO WORK WITH JAMIE LEE CURTIS

Actress Lindsay Lohan shared that she is excited to once again work with Academy **Award-winning actress Jamie Lee Curtis** in the seguel to their popular 2003 film Freaky Friday, reports people.com.





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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

You will be torn between work and family as both trv to grab your attention. You may reserve the evening for having fun. You crave to become famous and are likely to accomplish your ambition shortly. You have Ganesha's blessings to support you.

TAURUS

Ganesha sees you happily engaged in attending to day to day affairs. The day will turn out to be a hectic one. Do not expect too many time outs or even small breaks. Fortunately you will not be too uncomfortable with your tight schedule and will feel as fresh and easy at cease work as you had been at the beginning of the day.

GEMINI

An auspicious day awaits you. You will pay more attention to your family than to your career or at the work-front. This will mean the resolution of some long pending issues and projects at home. An enjoyable time with your family and children awaits you, says Ganesha

CANCER

Ganesha says that this is good day to buy new house or car. It is likely that you shift to a new house shortly. So be prepared for a ceremony like housewarming. You will achieve tranquil mind through voga and meditation. It will radiate a new

You will have to bear more responsibilities in the office. You need to carefully weigh your alternatives before making a decision. On the personal front, you wil need to watch against minor conflicts with your partner cropping up. You will be able to take part in entertaining and fun activities, says Ganesha.

VIRGO

Today you will find yourself delving deep into your inner self. You will reap a lot of monetary rewards, and will be generous in spending it on your near and dear ones. Ganesha says that you may make up for the pressures at work by entertaining vourself with material pleasures. You will seek the company of someone with whom you can have an intimate chat

If there's a knock on your door today, there's a very strong possibility it might be a marriage proposal. Don't get startled, and grab opportunities that come knocking (literally!). The stars send you a partner who shall be your match in every way. Have a long and happy married life, says Ganesha.

SCORPIO

You may deviate a little from mundane chores and take up creative activities like cooking and gardening. Today, according to Ganesha, you wish to do smart work and not just hard work. Family joys and pleasures will replace work satisfaction.

SAGITTARIUS

Today is a curiously interesting day for you. While you are always wellgroomed, today, you may take that extra bit of care to look best and attract a lot of praise for that too, especially from those glam hounds around you. That immaculate charm you are carrying today will enhance your business fortunes.

CAPRICORN

If wasteful expenditure has left your bank balance a tad below what you had anticipat ed, you will have reasons to rejoice today, says Ganesha. Cash inflow — and a substantial amount of it — is likely and will make you feel nice about your finances. Work will go on as usual. The only change may be a discernible change in the work ambience; it may get a little more comfortable.

AQUARIUS

Do you wish to have a new car or any other property? Make the bookings today, as it is favourable day to make such purchases. You will prioritise your needs and consider available finances so that you can have your dream car or house. In the evening, you will find solace in temple or any other religious places, says Ganesha.

PISCES

Sometimes you are so kind and charitable that you sacri fice your own well-being and happiness for the sake of others. This streak within you may emerge as you engage in a selfless deed. You will have a strong desire to do something for your family and your home.

Mumbai: Actress Huma Qureshi, who is gearing up for Maharani Season 3. has referred to herself as a defender

of the Hindi film industry while reflecting on her journey. In a recent interview, she addressed the political discrimination in the industry, stating that it is a universal problem and should not be singled out against Bollywood in particular.

While speaking with a media agency, she stated that every industry has its downside, and politics exists in every field. Favouritism and a lack of opportuni-

ties are common occurrences everywhere. "If we start exposing every industry, it would be like opening a can of worms," she

added. She emphasised that

Huma's stance on industry

> interview, she also discussed the opportunities she missed and the struggles she faced. According to her, no place is perfect. She has been in Mumbai for more than 12 years and has faced numerous struggles. "I would even no money, and borrowed it is normal for anyone

human nature is the main cause of complications, and one cannot expect a utopian world where everything is perfect with equal oppor-

tunities. In the same

be refused auditions, had from friends. But all of starting out. But at the end of the day, this in-

dustry has given me so much. I would forever be grateful,' the Tarla concluded.



films like Animal and Pushpa, delves into the ongoing debate between the South and North Indian film industries, shedding light on the evolving landscape of the Indian film fraternity. In a recent interview, she reflected on her journey, noting the com-

pletion of her 22nd film, a milestone that symbolises her perseverance and growth. Despite the challenges encountered along the way, she feels grateful, self-assured, and relieved, recognising the trust she has garnered from audiences for her portrayal of significant characters and compelling narratives, thus assuming the role of a storyteller who brings solace to others. Regarding her forthcoming venture, $Pushpa\ 2$, slated

for release on Independence Day, Mandanna disclosed that production is progressing smoothly, with nearly 50 days already invested in filming. She assures audiences of an enhanced cinematic experience, attributing this to the meticulous attention to detail and character development evident throughout the project.

The actress, who has successfully straddled both Hindi and South Indian cinema, stresses her pan-Indian appeal, advocating for the dissolution of distinctions between the two industries. She advocates for the industry to be recognised as the Indian film industry, underscoring the unity within the nation's entertainment sector and celebrating the collaborative spirit that transcends linguistic boundaries. She also expresses her joy in contributing to this positive shift towards inclusivity and cooperation within the industry. AGENCIES

recently graced

Frames 2024

event in

went on to

Hindi film in-

Hailing com-

mercial hits, the

Black actress shared.

'I'm truly thrilled that

Mumbai,

laud

dustry.

FICCI

the

the



the theatrical business is back, led by entertainers like Pathaan, Jawan, Gadar 2, Tiger 3, Animal, Leo, Salaar, Jailor, and RDX. They have all created box office history in a single calendar year and pulled audiences into theatres. Pathaan was released at a time when the single-screen theatre business was shutting down. I want to congratulate my industry for showing the

world that Hindi cinema cannot fall prey to social media trolling.' Noting the contribution of content-driven cinema, she added, "It was also the year when the underdogs won: those who challenged the status quo won. The fact that everyone was made to believe that contentdriven films wouldn't do well theatrically

and were restricted to OTT was busted by

films like Mrs. Chatterjee vs. Norway, 12th Kerala Story, Oh My God 2, Baaipan

BhaariDeva, Kabuliwala, Kathal, etc.' 'The past year in cinema shattered

ing with evolving audiences who seek unique and disruptive content. Cinema's diverse emotions and narratives continue to unite and inspire globally, marking a dis-

Hindi cinema,

actress.

AGENCIES

concluded the





SRK'S COMMENT AT AMBANI EVENT **SPARKS ROW**

Jamnagar: Actor Shah Rukh Khan has sparked controversy following a remark he made about *RRR* actor Ram Charan during Anant Ambani's pre-wedding celebration, where he was dancing with Salman Khan and

The comment, made two days after the event, drew criticism, with some accusing it of containing racial undertones. Even Charan's makeup artist, Zeba Hassan, expressed dis

The incident unfolded as Shah Rukh Khan, Salman, and Aamir at tempted the hook step of the song for his appearance in the original song alongside NTR Jr. in the movie RRR. However, his choice of words specifically, "Bhend idly vada Ram

Toversy.

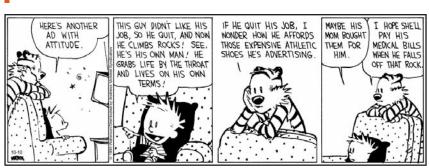
Zeba Hassan shared the video on her Instagram stories, stating, "I walked out after this So disrespect."

The pre-wedding festivities hoste steemed guests such as pop sta Rihanna, business magnates, and world leaders, alongside cinema leg-ends like Shah Rukh Khan, Amitabh Salman Khan, and Aishwarya Ra Bachchan, at the residential township near Reliance Industries Ltd's (RIL) petroleum refinery in Jamnagar.

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES

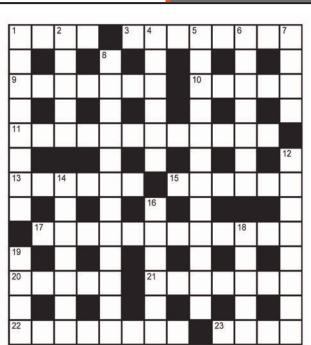


BREVITY



FUN

CROSSWORD



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Acre	OSS	22	Using a cuss
1	Scratch		word
3	Teacher	23	Roman wrap
9	Apparition		
10	Dialect	Dov	<u>vn</u>
11	Protecting	1	Fraud
13	Mystery	2	Husk
15	Dealer	4	Humiliate
17	Formal wear	5	Young talent
	(7.5)		(5.7)

20 Winery process

21 Certain blankets

(5,7)6 Diluted

7 Incline

12 Arm of the North Atlantic (5,3)14 Bill

8 Theatre

(5,7)

supervisor

16 To no avail (2,4)

18 Muse of poetry 19 Summer coolers

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

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.

	5		7	4				9
	3				1			
8				3			4	2
4				1		9		
		3	8			95		
				9	2			
					7		1	5
				6	5	3	8	
6								

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWOR AFOOTCH PA 6

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

SUDOKU

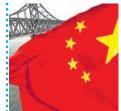
1 8 3 5 6 4 8 3 7 8 5



Nabin Odisha Magic Card

CM Naveen Patnaik launches Nabin Odisha Magic Card web portal on the birth anniversary of legendary leader Biju Patnaik, Tuesday

STATE | P3



Boost to defence

China increases its defence budget by 7.2 per cent to USD 232 billion as it continues with the massive modernisation of its military

INTERNATIONAL | P8



Google relists apps

Google begins reinstating Indian apps it had delisted from Play Store as it caved in to government criticism

BUSINESS | P9



Chahar crashes out

Lakshya Chahar becomes the 4th Indian boxer to crash out in the opening round of the first World Olympic Boxing Qualifier

SPORTS | BACK PAGE

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SHORT TAKES

Two minor boys meet watery grave

Dhamnagar: Tragedy struck Naurigadia village under

while taking bath in a pond.

were studying in Class V.

Bhandaripokhari block in Bhadrak

district Tuesday afternoon, when

two minor boys met watery grave

The deceased were identified as

Hemanta Biswal, son of Alekha

Biswal, and Kartik Biswal, son of Basudev Biswal of the village. Both

The duo had gone to Gohiratikiri

Mutt to collect berries and then

they proceeded to take bath in a

Khallikote: Two persons were killed

while another sustained injuries as the motorcycle on which they were

Bania-Chikili road under Khallikote

travelling hit a utility pole near

police limits in Ganjam district.

Pintu Pradhan and Ganesh

Pradhan, both residents of

Kalinjipalli village under Chikili

panchayat of Ganjam district.

According to sources, three youths

were on their way back home after

attending a wedding ceremony at

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

SC has ended your immunity. But, I

know a party that you can join for ful

immunity from media, ED, CBI...

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35.2°€

VARIATION

1 ₹0.00

1 ₹261

CTC

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INDEX

DOLLAR **82.97**

SILVER ₹ 73,410

EURO

GOLD

WEATHER

Max Temp

Min Temp

Humidity

Light rain/

thundershowers

very likely to occur

Bania village when the mishap

The deceased were identified as

pond. While taking bath, they

drowned in the waterbody.

2 die in Ganjam

road accident

BHUBANESWAR | WEDNESDAY MARCH 6 2024



MK Stalin's son Udhayanidhi's 'Sanatana Dharma' diatribe stirred a controversy, DMK found itself in a tight spot Tuesday over senior party leader A Raja's remarks that 'India has never been a nation', inviting sharp criticism from BJP, and INDIA ally Congress, among others

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



In the video, Raja also purportedly said that when the Bilkis Bano case convicts walked out of the prison after the Gujarat government released them, BJP workers raised 'Jai Sri Ram' and 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' slogans to greet them. He asked if they (BJP workers) were not ashamed to do so.

He said for him, his party and leaders, including late DMK patriarch M Karunanidhi, there was no anger against God if it was all about showing love and compassion and serving the poor.

"Ĥowever, if the 'Jai Sri Ram' and 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' slogans meant fundamentalism, we will never accept that Jai Sri Ram and



Bharat Mata, Tamil Nadu will never accept that," he said.

Without naming the BJP, Raja indicated that he was not concerned even if he and his party were to be dubbed as 'enemies of Lord Ram' for making this statement (that they will not accept Jai Sri Ram and Bharat Mata Ki Jai) and went on to elucidate his stand by quoting from the Kamba Ramayana.

Lashing out at the Opposition parties' INDIA bloc over purported remarks of Raja, the BJP said insulting India's ethos publicly and humiliating Hindu gods has become the hallmark of their political agenda.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi, senior party leader and former Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad noted that Raja, a Lok Sabha member, in his latest speech in Tamil has said "India is not a nation. Understand this well. India is never a nation. One nation means one language, one tradition, one culture. Then, only it is a nation. India is not a nation but a sub-continent". "This is Maoist ideology," Prasad alleged.

Bombay High Court acquits GN Saibaba in Maoist link case

AGENCIES

New Delhi, March 5: The Bombay High Court Tuesday acquitted former Delhi University professor G N Saibaba in a case in which he was accused of having links with the banned CPI (Maoist). Later in the day, the Maharashtra government moved the Supreme

Court challenging the order. Earlier, the Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court acquitted Saibaba, noting that the prosecution failed to prove the case against him.

The high court also set aside the life sentence imposed on Saibaba, 54, and acquitted five other accused in the case.

"The prosecution has failed to prove beyond reasonable doubt the case against the accused persons," a division bench of Justices Vinay Joshi and Valmiki

SA Menezes said. It held as 'null and void' the sanction procured by the pros ecution to charge the accused under anti-terror law, the

Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). FRESH ADVISORY FOR

INDIANS IN ISRAEL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jerusalem, March 5: The Indian Embassy in Israel issued an advisory Tuesday, urging its nationals to move to safer areas in the country, a day after a missile fired from Lebanon killed one Indian and injured two others.

"In view of the prevailing security situation and local safety advisories, all Indian nationals in Israel, especially those working in or visiting border areas in the north and south, are advised to relocate to safe areas within Israel,' the mission said in an advisory posted on various social media platforms. "The embassy remains in touch with the Israeli authorities to ensure the safety of all our nationals," the advisory added.

At 11am Monday, an anti-tank missile hit a plantation in Margaliot, a Moshav (collectiveagricultural community), in the Galilee region in north of Israel.



laying of various projects at Chandikhole in Jajpur district, Tuesday

BJP-BJD bonhomie

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's silence over the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) while sparing no words for Congress during his back-to-back public appearances in Jajpur district Tuesday, which coincided with the birth anniversary of late Biju Patnaik, has given rise to speculations that the BJP is in no mood to open its cards till the eleventh hour before the announcement of Lok Sabha and Assembly poll dates. The speculations stem from the fact that over the weekend the BJP state leadership had made it clear that the party will have no truck with the BJD, sentiments quickly echoed by the BJD. Making matters more intriguing, the old bonhomie between PM Modi and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik - who is also the BJD president - was writ large on and off the stage. For observers it nevertheless, came as a disappointment as neither spark, nor did smoke fly in Modi's speeches. Modi slammed the Congress, alleging that the party and its allies only focused on filling their coffers before 2014, when they

Bharat'. Sharing dais with Modi at the launch of multiple development projects worth over ₹19,600 crore at Chandikhole, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik lauded the former for his efforts to make India an 'economic powerhouse' and said that development has given a new identity to Odisha.

PNN & AGENCIES

Jaipur, March 5: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday attacked the Congress, alleging that the party and its allies only focused on filling their coffers before 2014, when they were in power at the Centre.

Modi also charged the Opposition leaders with making personal attacks on him as he worked for the 140 crore people of the country whom he considered his family.

Addressing a rally at Benapur in Jajpur district which is considered a stronghold of the ruling BJD, the prime minister said the Central government wants Odisha to become the gateway for 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India).

Overwhelmed at the massive turnout at his public meeting which he described as the blessings of Lord Jagannath, Modi

said it reflects the mood in the East and Odisha's resolve which is 'Ab Ki Baar, 400 Paar' (this time, NDA will get over 400 Lok Sabha seats).

Later in the day, Modi launched multiple development projects worth over ₹19,600 crore in the district.

The projects that were launched are related to different sectors, including Oil & Gas, Railways, Road, Transport & Highways and Atomic Energy.Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Union ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and Bishweswar Tudu were also present on the occasion. Modi also paid tribute to former Odisha chief minister Biju Patnaik on

his birth anniversary. Lauding Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his efforts to make India an 'economic powerhouse', Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik asserted that development has given a new identity to the state

"The prime minister has set a new direction for India. He is taking India on an accelerated drive to make it an economic powerhouse. India is now the fifth largest economy and is marching forward to become the number 3 in a few years," the chief minister said. MORE P3

No Indian troops after May 10: Muizzu

Male, March 5: Stepping up his anti-India rhetoric, Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu has affirmed that no Indian military personnel, not even those in civilian clothing, would be present inside his country after May 10, a media report said Tuesday.

Muizzu's statement comes less than a week after an Indian civilian team reached the Maldives to take charge of one of the three aviation platforms in the island nation, well ahead of the March 10 deadline agreed by the two nations for the withdrawal of Indian military personnel.

Addressing the Baa atoll Eydhafushi residential community during his tour across the atoll, the President stated that due to his government's success in expelling Indian troops from the country, people who spread false rumours, are attempting to twist the situation, a news portal Edition.Mv reported.

"That these people [Indian military are not departing, that they are returning after changing their uniforms into civilian clothing. We must not indulge such thoughts that instil doubts in our hearts and spread lies,"



the portal quoted Muizzu, widely regarded as a pro-China leader, as saying.

"There will be no Indian troops in the country come May 10. Not in uniform and not in civilian clothing. The Indian military will not be residing in this country in any form of clothing. I state this with confidence," he said, on a day when his country signed an agreement with China to receive free military aid.

Earlier last month, after a high-level meeting in Delhi February 2 between the two sides, the Maldivian foreign ministry said India would replace its military personnel operating the three aviation platforms in the Maldives by May 10 and the first phase of the process would be completed by March 10.

In his maiden address to Parliament February 5, he made

France's mystery 'Invader' marks cities with art

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, March 5: For the Paris Olympics, it could almost be a new sport: Score points by hunting down mosaics that a mystery artist who calls himself 'Invader' has cemented to walls across France's capital, the world and even had carried aloft to the International Space Station.

Vincent Giraud, one of the artist's Parisian fans, is already an avid player. He downloaded Invader's addictive 'Flash Invaders' mobile-phone game that awards points to users who find and photograph the colorful and quirky pieces of pixelated art.

Quickly hooked, Giraud has in

just a year already tracked down 1,565 of them, accumulating so many points that he has rocketed into the leaderboard's top 1,000, out of more than 360,000 players.

were in power at the Centre,

while asserting that the Central

government wants Odisha to be-

come the gateway for 'Viksit

"In a few months I found and flashed all those in Paris," says Giraud, game-name Vince-Vader. Hunting for Invader mosaics, looking up and around for them on walls, pavements, bridges and even atop the Eiffel Tower, is 'another way of discovering the city.

Put simply: When Olympic visitors flock in their millions to Paris for the July 26-Aug. 11 Games, they'll be crowding onto the turf of France's most international, invasive and intriguing contemporary street



artist. It will be one invasion coming face-to-face with another. Like Banksy, the British street

tective of his anonymity and operating on the margins of illegality. He comes, glues, and artist he is sometimes likened to, disappears into the night, leav-Invader is elusive, fiercely proing behind his signature pixelated mosaics made mostly with small ceramic and glass tiles.

Most resemble the aliens from the Space Invaders arcade game. Others are wonderfully elaborate, such as still lives of fruit or, in New York, portraits of Lou Reed and Andy Warhol. Some reference pop culture -Spiderman, Star Wars, Bugs Bunny, Ninja Turtles, pizza and the like. Some hint at deep research, including a portrait of guitarist Django Reinhardt facing the house where he lived, south of Paris in Samois-sur-Seine. Since the first catalogued mosaic of a blue Space Invader

went up on a Paris street in 1998.

numbered PA_01, Invader has

colonized the world. There are

now more than 4,000 of his mosaics in cities and towns on all continents except Antartica.

London, Tokyo, Los Angeles and other cities were invaded in 1999; New York, Geneva and more in 2000; Hong Kong in 2001; Berlin, Bangkok, Melbourne. On and on.

The 4,000th mosaic was glued to a brick wall in Potosi, 4,000 meters (13,100 feet) up in the Bolivian Andes, in 2021. The European Space Agency installed Invader's Space2 mosaic aboard the International Space Station in

In Paris — by far his most invaded location — the artist's footprint is larger than ever as the Olympics loom.

'OUHS should address health issues vigorously'



OF HEALTH SCIENCES **OBSERVES ITS FIRST** FOUNDATION DAY

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, March 5: Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena ous efforts on part of Odisha University of Health Sciences (OUHS) to address health issues related to climate change. The university should also act as a regulator while addressing various challenges faced by the

He was speaking as the chief guest on the occasion of university's first Foundation Day on its campus here, Tuesday.

Jena addressed the employees and Dean-cum-Principals of affiliated medical and health science institutions of the university. He lauded the progress made by the university during

the last one year. He also praised the university authorities working with commitment by giving importance to quality health educa-

The university vice chancellor Datteswar Hota, in his address, informed that the university, on completion of its first year, has attained the objective of bringing all colleges imparting medical and allied health science courses under one university, and to streamline the quality of education in respective field of studies.

He said that the university has instituted 31 under-graduate and post-graduate courses offering 91 specializations including broad and super specialty and has formulated its regulations in conformity with apex regulatory bodies wherever exists.

He emphasised on the planned research ecosystem in the medical institutions affiliated to the

The Odisha University of

POLITICKLE by MANJUL

country's 17th health university, came into existence through an Act in 2021 and was founded March 5 last vear.

As many as 300 colleges / institutions of the state offering medical, dental, ayurvedic, homoeopathy, nursing, pharmacy and allied paramedical courses were affiliated to this university from the academic session

Among the dignitaries present on this occasion were State Development Commissioner-Cum-Additional Chief Secretary, Water Resources, and Planning & Convergence department Anu Garg, Commissioner-Cum-Secretary, Health & Family Welfare department, Shalini Pandit and Commissioner-Cum-Secretary, Higher Education department, Arvind Agarwal.

Garg, while speaking, stressed on the need to provide variety of useful training and research through the university in coordination with the department of Higher Education, department of Skill Development and Technical Education, department of H&FW among others which will greatly benefit the students pursuing health and medical education.

University registrar Santoshi Sahoo presented the annual report, and Comptroller of Finance Goutam Pradhan proposed vote



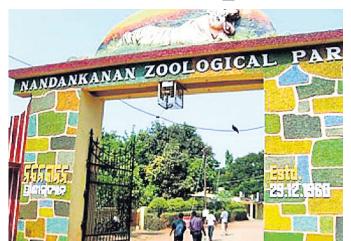
SHOW OF STRENGTH: Rapid Action Force personnel participate in flag march, as part of preparation, for upcoming elections in Puri, Tuesday

Nandankanan to keep animals 'cool'

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN,OP

Bhubaneswar, March 5: Ahead of the summer season, the Nandankanan Zoological Park Tuesday, undertook fresh initiatives to provide a favourable environment to birds and animals. For this, the Zoological Park has decided to avail roundthe-clock sprinklers in the enclosures of tigers, lions, leopard, and jackal among others to provide them respite against the sweltering heat.

Deputy Director Nandankanan Zoological Park Sanath Kumar informed that during the peak hours of the day, the Zoological Park would ensure that water in the pools is in running condition. The feeding



cells would have straw thatched roofs to keep the animals cool." This apart, the twin water

and the black kraals would be fixed soon for water storage, he

Furthermore, the zoo officials would provide a shed in the water pools to prevent them from getting overheated.

The zoo officials have also decided to undertake regular drainage of water in the pools which would reduce silt accumulation and thereby making it infection-free.

Besides, the zoo would induct air coolers inside the primate enclosures (Chimpanzees), and fill them with water at regular

Moreover, Kumar said that the zoo officials have been given instructions to prevent animals from exposure to soaring tem-

perature, especially when it ex-

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, March 5: SNM Group chairman Pradipta Mohanty was elected chairman of Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) Odisha State Council and Sunil Gupta, COO Aluminium sector and CEO of Vedanta Aluminium and Power Ltd. was elected the vice chairman for the year 2024-25 at the CII Odisha State Annual Day organised here Tuesday.

Mohanty is renowned in the field of mining, manufacturing, power, infrastructure development and solar power generation. "Working for 21 years



as the senior deputy director of National Productivity Council (NPC), Mohanty has also served as a governing body member of Sponge Iron Manufacturing Association and has held other positions like the vice chairman of CII Odisha State Council," one CII member said.

On the other hand, Gupta helms strategic operations of his company's aluminium busi-

CII Odisha State Council gets new office bearers ness across its plants at Jharsuguda, Lanigarh as well as the mines business. "With over 29 years of diverse experience, he has played a crucial role in steering Vedanta Aluminium towards growth. His key areas of focus include expanding production and reducing carbon footprint to align with Vedanta's goal of being net zero carbon by 2050 and net water positive by 2030," said

> With its annual meeting, CII Odisha also organised a Session 'Odisha: Exploring Opportunities on a Faster

Moderate rain likely over parts of state

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 5: The regional office of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Tuesday predicted light to moderate rainfall in some places of Odisha for the next four days while the weather is likely to remain

dry in other places of the state. According to the weather office, light to moderate rain occurred at a few places in north coastal Odisha during the last 24 hours. Most of the rain occurred in Bahanga (Balasore), Kantamal (Boudhgarh), Athmalik (Angul), Nh5 Gobindpur (Balasore), Soro (Balasore), Bolangir (Bolangir), Champua (Keonjhargarh), Anandpur (Keonjhargarh), Khaira (Balasore), Gania (Nayagarh), Bhadrak (Bhadrak), Nilgiri (Balasore), and

Khajuripada (Kandhamal). The maximum temperatures observed appreciable fall at one or two places in north Odisha and south interior Odisha while no large change was seen elsewhere

Addressing inequalities key to fight against climate change_

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, March 5: Costs of ecological distress and clitionately borne by those positioned at the lowest rung of class, caste, and gender hierarchies and the fight against climate justice requires to focus on these inequalities, vulnerabilities and the need for participation of such communities, concluded experts here at a 3-day workshop on 'fostering people's empowerment for urban climate

Organized by the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research, Yong India and ActionAid Association, the workshop saw participation of fifty delegates from five states of eastern India: Bihar, Jharkhand, West

Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Odisha. The participants visited Banafula, a nearby slum, to un-



derstand how climate change and extreme weather events like cyclones and floods are exacerbating the already vulnerable conditions in which urban poor communities live. The residents of Banafula were relocated about ten years ago due to expansion of railway infrastructure on their inhabited land.

"The relocation has not only increased the residents' distance from existing livelihood options, public schools, anganwadi centres and public hospitals, but the new area is also in a low lying area due to high rise construction in the surrounding areas leading to perpetual water logging," said one participants.

"With changes in rainfall patterns due to climate change, the residents face increased intensity and frequency of urban looding, which increases health issues and impacts livelihood days and children's school attendance," he added.

NA Shah Ansari, founder of Young India, spoke about the distress people are facing due to coastal erosion in different districts of Odisha.

Sudarshan Chhotoray, veteran journalist, BN Durga, senior programme manager at Piramal Foundation, Sujit Mohapatra, chief executive of Bakul Foundation, Sadashiv Swain, secretary of Center for Child and Women Development and Bratindi Jena, a climate change researcher, also addressed the participants on various issues relating to climate change and its impact on

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

In the Court of District Magistrate, Bhadrak I, Duryodhan Das, alias Ghandra Das, aged (56), S/o. Lt. Khusali Das, At:Nuagaon, P.O. Baulajoda, P.S.-Chandbali, Dist-Bhadrak, declare that Duryodhan Das and Ghandra Das, S/o. Khusali Das is one and same person.



new artificial intelligence (AI) model that accurately identifies tumours and diseases in medical images by explaining each diagnosis with a visual map. The unique transparency of the model, described in the journal IEEE Transactions on

tors to easily follow its line of reasoning, double-check for accuracy, and explain the results to patients, the researchers said.

"The idea is to help catch can-

cer and disease in its earliest stages

Medical Imaging, allows doc-

-- like an X on a map -- and understand how the decision was made," said Sourya Sengupta, a graduate student at Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology in the US.

'Our model will help streamline that process and make it easier on doctors and patients alike," said Sengupta, the study's lead author.'

The process of decoding medical images looks different in different regions of the world.

"In many developing countries, there is a scarcity of doc-



tors and a long line of patients. AI can be helpful in these scenarios," Sengupta said.

When time and talent are in high demand, automated medical image screening can be deployed as an assistive tool -- in no way replacing the skill and expertise of doctors, Sengupta said.

Instead, an AI model can prescan medical images and flag those containing something unusual -like a tumour or early sign of disease, called a biomarker -- for a doctor's review. This method saves time and can even improve the performance of the person tasked with reading the scan.

These models work well, but they leave much to be desired when, for example, a patient asks why an AI system flagged an image as containing (or not containing) a tumour.

The new AI model interprets itself every time -- that explains each decision instead of blandly reporting the binary of 'tumour versus non-tumour,' Sengupta said. The researchers trained their model on three different disease diagnosis tasks including more than 20,000 images.

First, the model reviewed sim-

ulated mammograms and learned to flag early signs of tumours. Second, it analysed optical coherence tomography (OCT) images of the retina, where it practiced identifying a buildup

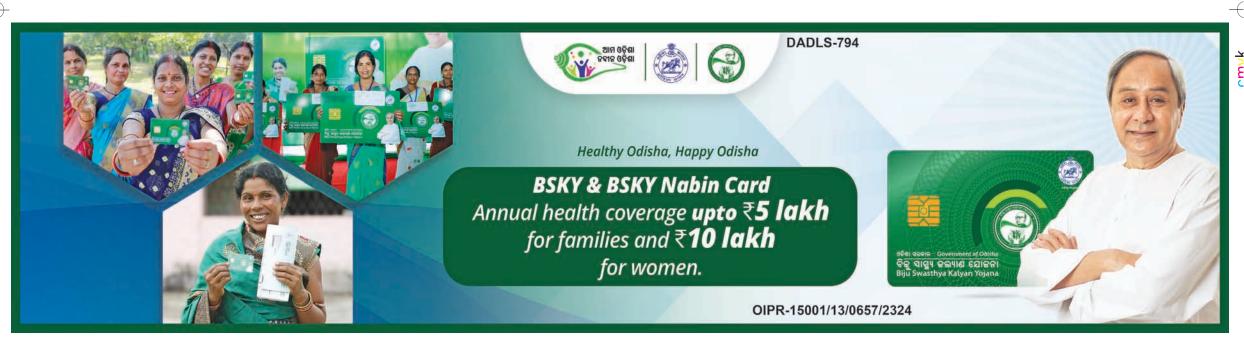
called Drusen that may be an early sign of macular degeneration.OCT is a non-invasive imaging test that uses light waves to take cross-section pictures of the retina. Third, the model studied chest X-rays and learned to detect cardiomegaly, a heart enlargement condition that can lead to disease.

Once the mapmaking model had been trained, the researchers compared its performance to existing AI systems - the ones without a selfinterpretation setting.

ENTS CONTACT OUR CLASSIFIED AD BOOKING STAT

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.

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



Building relationship is our USP: Agarwal

Sun Honda, a top player in the motorcycle dealership category, is located in Baripada, Mayurbhanj. Over the course of its journey, the dealership has established a firm foothold in the industry.

The man behind this venture is a young entrepreneur, Anesh Agarwal, proprietor of Sun Automobiles (Sun Honda).

He has done MBA and later worked in IP Morgan Chase for two years in Bangalore but had to quit the job to join his family business. With a vision to do something all by himself, he opted for a Honda two-wheeler dealership and has been running this business successfully for over a decade. In an interaction with

Orissa POST, Agarwal shares his entrepreneurial journey. Excerpts...

- The two-wheeler market in India is on a roll riding on the back of rural sales growth. Are you also witnessing this surge in sales in the Odisha market?
- It is a known fact that a big share of two-wheeler sales comes from the rural market. Mayurbhanj, being a rural district, has a unique potential for growth in its economy. So yes, the market has witnessed a surge in sales. But factors like change in cultivation and weather changes have their effects on the rural market. So we cannot just depend on the rural background, there are loads of other factors that need to be considered.



- What are the leading challenges that the industry is facing?
- Honda family in the last two years has witnessed a huge crunch in supply on account of which the supply couldn't meet the demand. In this scenario, it was challenging to maintain the leading position in the market. Also, availability of skilled manpower, evolving customer needs and inflation are key challenges the industry is fac-
- Last year, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India unveiled its EV roadmap. What are your views about electric vehicles and how excited are you regarding this green transition?
- The roadmap is a blueprint for developing EV business structure in India, which includes new EV technologies and infrastructure. Of course, I am eagerly waiting for the launch of Honda EV. This green transition is a much required step for the world as it has benefits like lower running cost, low maintenance, zero tailpipe emission, less air-pollution, less noise and many more.
- How has been your journey so far? What do you think is your USP? How important is customer satisfaction in this line of business?

My journey so far has been really amazing. I have garnered a lot of knowledge working in this field and am still learning. As far as our USP in concerned, I believe in relationship building. One has to consider every customer's requirement and try to fulfill their needs as much as possible. Customer satisfaction is the most critical challenge in this line of business. At the time of servicing, we take proper care which in return cements the trust in customers' hearts that they are at the best place and that they can rely on us for

EMINANCE

AWARDS

As an entrepreneur, why did you choose to enter this line of business? What advice will you give to new en trants in the two-wheeler

further services.

Rice milling and trading in rice is my family business. So as discussed earlier, with a vision to do something by myself and different from my family business, I opted for Honda due to the quality of products. For new entrants, I will suggest developing an appropriate business module. Marketing is one of the most crucial aspects to prepare the complete layout and strategies to attract customers with unique features. You can offer discounts and deals to influence customers to make purchases. Most importantly having a friendly relation with the media is essential running a successful business.



RICH TRIBUTES: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik pays tributes to legendary leader and former CM Biju Patnaik on his birth anniversary in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

5 GET LIFE TERM FOR MURDER

Kendrapara, March 5: A local court here Tuesday sentenced five people to life imprisonment for killing a 65-year-old widow in the district in 2020.

They were also convicted for injuring the woman's son and daughter-in-law critically. The incident took place May 29, 2020 at Similia village under Pattamundai Model Police Station over a longstanding land dispute, Additional Public

Prosecutor Sanjay Kumar Jena said. A land dispute was going on between Kusuma Swain, the victim, and a fellow villager, Parikhita Swain. On the fateful day, the family members of Parikhita attacked Kusuma, her son and daughter-inlaw with sharp-edged weapons.

All three sustained critical injuries and were rescued by the locals. They were rushed to a nearby hospital where Kusuma succumbed to her injuries.

Devpt has given new identity to Odisha: CM-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jajpur, March 5: Lauding Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his efforts to make India an 'economic powerhouse', Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday asserted that development has given a new identity to

Patnaik was speaking at a function at Chandikhole in Jajpur district, where the PM laid the foundation and dedicated to the nation various development projects worth over ₹19,600 crore.

"The prime minister has set a new direction for India. He is taking India on an accelerated drive to make it an economic powerhouse. India is now the fifth largest economy and is marching forward to become



the chief minister said.

'It is a matter of happiness that the PM has launched several projects for Odisha including Chandikhol-Paradeep national highway, expansion of several other NHs, a de-

minal at Paradip, a gas pipeline project, and a new train line.' he said. Patnaik thanked the PM for his focus on the devel-

opment of Odisha. Stating that Odisha is going to become a major manufacturing

hub of eastern India, Patnaik said the state has witnessed transformation through the development of both social and physical infrastructure.

"Women members of Mission Shakti are becoming entrepreneurs. Odisha has also received the second-highest investment in the country," he claimed.

"Development has given a new identity to Odisha. But still much more has to be done," he added.

He said the ambitious Srimandir Parikrama Project and Samalei Project have been inaugurated. Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan thanked the PM for launching several developmental projects for Odisha and also conferring Padma Awards on 49 Odias in the last 10 years.

Future Tech, Dining Etiquette

Artificial Intelligence, Desigr Thinking, Jumpstart Espanol

Dining Etiquette,

REVAMPED BJD WEBSITE

Bhubaneswar, March 5: BJD supremo and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the revamped citizen-centric website of the party on the occasion of the birth anniversary of legendary leader and former Odisha CM Biju Patnaik,

The website (bjdodisha.org.in) showcases multiple pillars of 5T-led transformation across sectors such as women empowerment, inclusive development, tribal welfare, youth & sports, agriculture, IT and investments, BJD MP Manas Mangaraj said in a statement.

5T is a governance model in Odisha, based on teamwork, transparency, technology and time leading to transfor-

The website (*bjdodisha.org.in*) showcases multiple pillars of 5T-led transformation across sectors such as women empowerment, inclusive development, tribal welfare, youth & sports, agriculture,

The website underscores the party's commitment towards strengthening people's voices, making them a partner in the state's progress

IT and investments

The website also underscores the party's commitment towards strengthening people's voices, making them a partner in the state's progress, Mangaraj said.

A separate section is dedicated to citizen welfare, where the party has listed all state government schemes, the MP said. The BJD organised cycle rallies and walkathons in different Assembly constituencies across the state to remember the legendary leader.

The party leaders paid floral tributes to the statues of the statesman.

The leaders also distributed fruits in hospitals and old-age homes. Biju Patnaik served as Odisha chief minister twice and was also a Union minister. His son Naveen Patnaik founded the BJD following his death in 1997 and has been the state's chief minister since 2000.



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Class I-III	12-20 March	Skating, Swimming	Mexican Art & Craft, Mexican Dance	Jumpstart Espanol, MasterChef, Artificial, Intelligence, Science Project			
Class IV-V	12-20 March	Skating, Swimming	Bhutanese Art & Craft, Bhutanese Dance	Spanish, Design Thinking, Dining Etiquette, Future Tech, Science Project			
Class VI-VII	12-20 March	Skating,	Origami & Quilling	Ideate Hub, Spanish,			

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Science Project

NABIN ODISHA MAGIC CARD WEB PORTAL LAUNCHED

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 5: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched Nabin Odisha Magic Card web portal on the occasion of the birth anniversary of legendary leader Biju Patnaik, 5T and Nabin Odisha

Chairman Kartik Pandian, as per the direction of the CM, attended the Nua-O Scholarship distribution programme at Sports Complex in Malkangiri, where he interacted with students from all over the district. On the occasion, Pandian dis-

tributed ₹5.19 crore worth Nua-O Scholarship sanction orders to 5,069 students of 10 colleges of the district. Launching the Nabin Odisha Magic Card web portal, Patnaik said youths are the wealth of the nation.

"The state government's objective is to help youths realise their true potential and contribute towards the society and the nation. To achieve this, the government has launched Nua-O programme and Nua-O



Scholarship. The Nabin Odisha Magic Card is a revolutionary step in the endeavour towards youth empowerment. This will go a long way to help students in personality development and reduce the financial burden on parents as well," Patnaik said.

Later in the day, Pandian attended the Nua-O Scholarship distribution programme at Utkal University, Rama Devi Women's University and (Autonomous) College in Bhubaneswar. The Nabin Odisha Chairman distributed Nua-O Scholarship sanction orders

worth ₹8.53 crore among 8,480 students of the three premier educational institutions.

He said undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate (PG) students are eligible to register for the Nabin Odisha Magic Card by visiting

www.magiccard.odisha.gov.in beginning Tuesday. The card distribution will begin August 15, Pandian said. On the occasion, Pandian elab-

orated on the Nabin Odisha Magic Card, a point-system based smart card which will engage and empower the youth.



Whenever in your life, you meet with a hardship, take it as a boon from the Divine's Grace and it will become so.

THE MOTHER



Gagging The Premier

The world media is stunned by a development in China that can be described as yet another example of the autocratic behaviour of China's President Xi Jinping. He seems to be sending out the message to both his own people and the world that he alone stands out as the country's main figure. Nothing else can explain the sudden announcement that for the first time in three decades the Chinese Premier will not host a Press conference at the end of the annual parliamentary sessions, which began in Beijing March 4. The customary media interaction will also be scrapped for future years of the current National People's Congress' term, barring exceptional circumstances, declared Lou Qinjian, spokesman for the NPC, China's top legislative body.

The Press conference - first held in 1988 and established as a standard practice from 1993 – is one of the annual events media across the world look forward to for a direct interaction with a topmost leader of China, its Prime Minister. It is one of the rare occasions when such a high ranking Chinese leader takes questions from local and international media. Though questions are often tightly scripted and chosen in advance, yet the occasion offers the outside world a chance to get first hand information from the top leadership on policy directions. It has especially been regarded as a platform for China to indicate its diplomatic priorities in terms of the questions selected as well as which country's media they come from. It also gives an opportunity to the world to interact with a familiar face in Chinese leadership since the President and Communist Party secretary seldom talk directly to outside media.

The specious plea made for scrapping the Press conference is that the leadership after a review had come to the conclusion that it is redundant as it often overlapped with similar events during the two sessions. Premier Li Qiang will only deliver the government work report to the NPC followed by two written reports from the National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Finance outlining plans

To defend this decision, the Chinese leadership has gone to the length of explaining that government reports have specifically addressed society's main concerns and these will be shared with the media and the public "can learn about their content easily." But, it is one thing to access official reports and another to get them directly from the mouth of the Chinese Premier and ask for clarifications from him. The media as well as the ruling establishment anywhere know the difference. The Chinese leadership cannot feign ignorance of the im-

Observers, however, say the change is rather in line with China's political development and concentration of power in the hands of Xi. The party's leadership has been firmly established and the State Council's role is now mainly about implementing the party's decisions. The role and status of the Premier, who heads the State Council, is therefore ad-

It also reflects the change in power dynamics in China. The Premier's job is now mainly to do with the economy and social affairs. But the media use the Press conference to ask questions on foreign affairs and China's grand strategy than on its internal economy. It is here that Xi seems to be extra-cautious as foreign affairs are increasingly centralised in his own hands. He can ill afford to let Li take questions on foreign affairs and slip up, which may have far reaching consequences for China trying to become the world's number one economic power.

Certainly, the new fiat may have a negative impact since live televised interaction with foreign media gives a chance to everyone interested in China, especially foreign investors, to hear directly from the Chinese leadership. It will also be an opportunity missed for China to explain itself. Now more than ever, the perception of China's lack of transparency is getting confirmed. This will further impact China's image to the outside world when it comes to openness.

Of course, Xi, like any other autocrat now strutting the world stage,

does not seem to care.

WISDOM CORNER

Every moment there is creation, every moment destruction. There is no absolute creation, no absolute destruction. Both are movement

ΡΑΜΑΝΑ ΜΑΗΑΡΟΗ

All fixed set patterns are incapable of adaptability or pliability. The truth is outside of all fixed patterns.

It is important to expect nothing, to take every experience, including the negative ones, as merely steps on the path, and to proceed

THIS DAY **IN HISTORY**

- 1475: Italian Renaissance artist Michelangelo—who exerted an unparalleled influence on Western sculpture, painting, and architecture and whose works rank among the most famous in existence was born in the Republic of Florence.
- 1857: U.S. Chief Justice Roger B. Taney announced the Dred Scott decision, making slavery legal in all U.S. territories.
- **1899:** The German company Bayer trademarked the name Aspirin for its drug made from acetylsalicylic acid. Acetylsalicylic acid was first isolated in 1897 by German chemist Felix Hoffmann. Today, the medication is sold by Bayer and is on the World Health Organization's list of essential medicines.
- 1924: King Tut's tomb opened. On this day in 1924, the Egyptian government opened the mummy case of King Tutankhamen, ruler of Egypt in the 14th century bce, whose burial chamber had been discovered in 1922 by renowned British archaeologist Howard Carter.
- 1957: Ghana becomes the first African country to gain independence from colonial rule. Ghana emerged as a sovereign state from the former British colonies Gold Coast and Togoland. Kwame Nkrumah was the country's first leader.
- 1964: American boxer Cassius Clay took the name Muhammad Ali, which was given to him by his spiritual mentor, Elijah Muhammad, leader of the Nation of Islam.



Visit the barber

man and a little boy entered a Abarbershop together. After the man received the full treatment shave, shampoo, manicure and haircut - he placed the boy in the

"I'm goin' to buy a green tie to wear for the parade," he said. "I'll be back in a few minutes."



When the boy's haircut was completed and the man still hadn't returned, the barber said, "Looks like your daddy's forgotten all about you." "That wasn't my daddy," said the boy. "He just walked up, took me by the hand and said, 'Come on, son, we're gonna get a free haircut!"

FOCUS BIG TECH

ALGORITHM & ITS DISCONTENTS



Mariana Mazzucato **AI-POWERED ALGORITHMS** WILL INFLUENCE **NOT JUST WHAT** WE CONSUME, **BUT HOW WE PRODUCE AND**

CREATE

n a new lawsuit in the US against Meta, 41 states and the District of Columbia argue that two of the company's social-media products -Instagram and Facebook – are not just addictive but detrimental to children's well-being. Meta is accused of engaging in a "scheme to exploit young users for profit," including by showing harmful content that keeps them glued to their screens. According to one recent poll, 17-year-olds in the US spend 5.8 hours per day on social media. How did it come to this? The answer, in a word, is "engagement." Deploying algorithms to maximise user engagement is how Big Tech maximises shareholder value, with short-term profits often overriding longerterm business objectives, not to mention societal health.

Although Facebook started as a basic service that connected friends and acquaintances online, its design gradually evolved not to meet user needs and preferences, but to keep them on the platform and away from others. In pursuit of this objective, the company regularly disregarded explicit consumer preferences regarding the kind of content users wanted to see. their privacy, and data sharing.

Putting immediate profits first means funneling users toward "clicks," even though this approach generally favours inferior, sensational material, rather than fairly rewarding participants from across a broader ecosystem of content creators, users, and advertisers. We call these profits "algorithmic attention rents," because they are generated by passive ownership (like a landlord) rather than from entrepreneurial production to meet consumers' needs.

Mapping rents in today's economy requires understanding how dominant platforms exploit their algorithmic control over users. When an algorithm degrades the quality of the content it promotes. it is exploiting users' trust and the dominant position that network effects reinforce. That is why Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram can get away with cramming their feeds with ads and "recommended" addictive content. The Meta suit is ultimately about its algorithmic practices that are carefully con-



Deploying algorithms to maximise user engagement is how Big Tech maximises shareholder value, with short-term profits often overriding longer-term business objectives, not to mention societal health

structed to maximise user "engagement" – keeping users on the platform for longer and provoking more comments, likes, and reposts. Often, a good way to do this is to display harmful and borderline illegal content, and to transform time on the platform into a compulsive activity, with features like "infinite scroll" and nonstop notifications and alerts (many of the same techniques are used, to great effect, by the gambling industry).

Now that advances in artificial intelligence already supercharge algorithmic recommendations, making them even more addictive, there is an urgent need for new governance structures ori ented toward the "common good" (rather than a narrowly conceived notion of "shareholder value") and symbiotic partnerships between business, government, and civil society. Fortunately, it is well within policymakers' power to shape these markets for the better.

First, rather than relying only on competition and antitrust law, policymakers should adopt technological tools to ensure that platforms cannot unfairly lock in users and developers. One way to prevent anti-competitive "walled gardens" is by mandating data portability and interoperability across digital services, so that users can move more seamlessly between platforms. depending on where their needs and preferences are best met.

Second, corporate governance reform is essential, since maximisation of shareholder value is what pushed platforms to exploit their users algorithmically in the first place. Given the wellknown social costs associated with this business model – optimising for clicks often means amplifying scams, misinformation, and politically polarising material - governance reform requires algorithmic reform.

A first step toward establishing a healthier baseline is to require platforms to disclose what their algorithms optimise for, along with how their users are monetised. In a world where tech executives descend on Davos every year to talk about "purpose," proper disclosures will pressure them to do what they say, as well as help policymakers, regulators, and investors distinguish between earned profits and unearned rents. Third, users should be given

greater influence over the algorithmic prioritisation of information shown to them. Otherwise, the harms from ignoring user preferences will continue to grow as algorithms create their own feedback loops, pushing manipulative clickbait on users and then wrongly inferring that they prefer it.

Fourth, the industry standard of "A/B testing" should give way to more comprehensive long-term impact evaluations. Faulty data science drives algorithmic short-termism. For example, A/B testing may show that displaying more ads in a feed will have a positive short-term

impact on profits without overly harming user retention; but this ignores the impact on acquiring new users, not to mention most other potentially harmful long-term effects.

Good data science shows that optimising recommender systems for long-term, delayed rewards (such as customer satis faction, retention, and new-user adoption) is the best way for a company to drive long-term growth and profitability - assuming it can stop focusing primarily on the next quarterly earnings report. In 2020, a team within Meta determined that fewer intrusive notifications would be better for both app usage and user satisfaction over a longer period of time (one year). Long-term effects differed sharply from short-term effects.

Fifth, public AI should be deployed to evaluate the quality of algorithmic outputs, particularly advertising. Given the considerable harms arising from platforms lowering the standard of acceptable ads, the UK's advertising watchdog will now use AI tools to scrutinise ads and identify those making "dodgy claims." Other authorities should follow suit.

Creating a digital environment that rewards value creation from innovation, and punishes value extraction from rents (especially in core digital markets), is the fundamental economic challenge of our time. Safeguarding the health of Big Tech's users and the entire ecosystem means ensuring that algorithms are not beholden to shareholders' immediate profit concerns. If business leaders are serious about stakeholder value, they should accept the need to create value in a fundamentally different way - drawing on the five principles above.

Meta's forthcoming trial cannot undo past mistakes. But as we prepare for the next generation of AI products, we must establish proper algorithmic oversight. AI-powered algorithms will influence not just what we consume, but how we produce and create; not just what we choose, but what we think. We must not get this wrong.

> The writer is a Professor at University College London. @PROJECT SYNDICATE

IN JEST THIS

Men need more exercise than women



Melvin Durai **MEN SHOULD GET PRIORITY ON ALL**

THE TREADMILLS!

women: you need to exercise about half as long as men do to realise the same health benefits. That's what a scientific study has shown. So if you happen to be living with a man, make sure you get him to do most of the work around the house. Keep him moving. Tell him it's because you care about

Husband: "Hey, why did you switch channels?"

Wife: "It's my turn to watch TV. From now on, I'm going to watch TV twice as much as you do.' Husband: "Why's that?"

Wife: "Because you need twice as much exercise as I do. Which reminds me: when was the last time you did any mopping?"

For the scientific study, researchers focused on aerobic activity and strength training, so household cleaning would only qualify if you keep moving nonstop for a few minutes, and periodically lift the refrigerator to clean under it.

The study, based on data from more than 400,000 adults aged

rere's some good news for 27-61, found that women needed only 140 minutes (under 2.5 hours) of moderate aerobic activity per week to reduce their risk of premature death by 18 per cent. Men needed 300 minutes for the same health benefit. With vigorous exercise, women needed just 57 minutes per week to reduce their risk by 19 per cent, while men needed 110 minutes!

It's important to get the word out about this. I especially want to get the word out to all the women at my gym who are hogging the treadmills. Men should get priority on all the treadmills!

The results of the study were published in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology. My gym, unfortunately, does not subscribe to this journal. I'll have to forward the results to the manager, recommending that she displays the following sign prominently: "Attention ladies: if you see a man walking toward an exercise machine, please step aside. He needs it more than you do.'

It's not just the cardio machines that men need more, it's also the strength-training ones.

Indeed, the study found that three weekly sessions of muscle strengthening exercise gave men their greatest mortality benefit, reducing their risk of early death from all causes by 14 per cent. But what did women need to do to get the same benefit? Just one session per week!

What's more, men who did strength training reduced their risk of a cardiovascular-related death by 11 per cent, whereas women reduced their risk by a whopping 30 per cent!

Men, as you can imagine, are not too thrilled about these find-

Thirty-something man: "Did you hear that men need exercise more than women?'

Male friend: "That can't be true. I definitely need women more than exercise."

Man: "No, I mean, men need to exercise more. I need to exercise twice as much as my wife to get the same health benefits. That's so unfair!'

Friend: "Would you like to trade places with her?' Man: "Yes, definitely. In a sec-

Friend: "What about childbirth?"

Man: "I think I can survive that.'

Friend: "You'd also have to endure menstrual pain.

Man: "I think I can handle that. I'd take lots of ibuprofen." Friend: "You'd have to pee sitting down.

Man: "Heck, no! I didn't think of that! I'd rather exercise more.' The results of the scientific study can be seen in two ways.

of course. It's not just about men having to exercise more than women, it's also about women gaining significant health benefits by just exercising a little. "Even a limited amount of

regular exercise can provide a major benefit, and it turns out this is especially true for women,' said Dr. Susan Cheng, a cardiologist at Cedars-Sinai, Los Angeles, and co-author of the study

That's truly good news for women. Just remember, ladies: you don't need to spend an eternity on the treadmill.



TO THE EDITOR Readers of Orissa POST

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

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Baffling claim

Sir, It is baffling that State Bank of India, the sole handler of anonymous donations to political parties through the means of electoral bonds, has sought time from the Supreme Court till 30 June to make the details public. The SBI's claim of "decoding data and matching donors to the donations is a complex process is strange given the fact that living in digital India, everything is computerised and any required data is available with a click of the mouse. Also, SBI seeking more time to submit the data is unacceptable, since big donations to political parties, palpably haven't been made on a daily basis to make it difficult to compile the data in a short time. It is more than clear that the SBI, at the behest of the government, is not willing to share the data by 6 March, the SC's set deadline, as any immediate disclosure of the same before the general elections will be a huge embarrassment and a blow to the ruling party at the Centre, being the biggest beneficiary of the scheme.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Stressed medicos

Sir; Between 2018 and 2022, as many as 64 MBBS students reportedly took their own lives and 58 post graduate students followed suit, ostensibly due to severe anxiety and depression. Also, 1270 students discontinued their studies midway. These are unwanted numbers not only for the students, who nurse high hopes of becoming doctors, but also for the government and the society that face an acute paucity of qualified doctors. The National Medical Commission (NMC) has put in place a 15member task force to address the issue. It has rightly asked the task force to study existing literature and data on mental health and suicide incidents among medical students apart from analysing the factors contributing to the trend and come out with a plan to combat the issues. At present, both the UG and the PG students are overburdened with syllabus and work. A high prevalence of anxiety, depression, fear of failure and suicidal thoughts are common among them.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

DADLS-795







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UP gets four new ministers

With these four additions, the total strength of the UP's council of ministers will reach 56

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, March 5: SBSP chief Om Prakash Rajbhar, RLD's Anil Kumar and two BJP leaders were sworn in Tuesday as Yogi Adityanath expanded his council of ministers, weeks ahead of the Lok Sabha polls.

They were sworn in as ministers by Governor Anandiben Patel at the Raj Bhavan in the presence of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Apart from SBSP's Rajbhar and RLD's Kumar, Dara Singh Chauhan and Sunil Kumar Sharma from the BJP are the new entrants into the state Cabinet, in what is being seen as an attempt by the BJP to consolidate its position in several regions of the state ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

While Rajbhar represents the assembly constituency of the Ghazipur district, Anil Kumar is an MLA from Purkazi (SC) in Muzaffarnagar. Sunil Kumar Sharma is the BJP MLA from Sahibabad assembly constituency in Ghaziabad district.

Dara Singh Chauhan is a member of the UP Legislative Council. This is the first Cabinet expansion in Adityanath's second term as Chief Minister.

The Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) and the Suheldev Bharativa Samai Party (SBSP) are now a

part of the ruling NDA. Prior to the expansion, the council of ministers had 52 bers -- 18 Cabinet ministers, including the chief Minister, 14 Ministers of State (independent



Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath with newly sworn-in cabinet ministers at Raj Bhavan in Lucknow

charge) and 20 MoSes. With these four additions, the total strength of the UP's council of ministers will reach 56

Accordingg to provisions, Uttar Pradesh can have a maximum of 60 ministers. Chief Minister congratulated the newly-inducted ministers.

There is full confidence that all of you will play an important role in realising the resolve of 'Developed Uttar Pradesh' by implementing 'Modi's Guarantee' at the ground (level). My best wishes to all of you for your bright tenure!," he said in a post on X in Hindi

Speaking to reporters after taking oath, Dara Singh Chauhan thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP chief JP Nadda, Union Home minister Amit Shah and Chief Minister Adityanath.

'I will try my level best to fulfil their expectations. We will work diligently, and win 80 out of the 80 Lok Sabha seats in UP," Chauhan said.

Rajbhar told reporters there has been no riots in the state during the seven years the Adityanath government and no curfew has been imposed.

"During the rule of the SP and the Congress, riots used to take place in the state. Today, there is rule of law in the state In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. we will win 80 out of the 80 seats from UP, and the BJP will register

wins on 400-plus seats in the

country," Rajbhar said. RLD's Anil Kumar thanked party president Jayant Chaudhary, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Adityanath.

"I have got a huge responsibility, and I will discharge it with full honesty and allegiance. We will work to win all the 80 out of the 80 Lok Sabha seats in the state, and fulfil the call of (winning) 400plus seats (for the NDA) given by the Prime Minister," he said.

Last week, Jayant Chaudhary met Home Minister Shah and BJP president Nadda in Delhi and formally joined the ruling National Democratic Alliance. On Monday, the RLD declared its candidates from Bijnor and Baghpat for the general elections.

Dara Singh Chauhan, who lost the Ghosi assembly by-election after returning to the BJP last year, was elected to the UP Legislative Council this year in

Rajbhar also re-joined the BJP-led NDA last year in 2023.

Rajbhar, who separated from the BSP and founded the SBSP in 2002, is a native of Varanasi district. The Rajbhar community to which he belongs has a good following in the districts of eastern Uttar Pradesh. SBSP had fought the 2017 UP Assembly elections in alliance with the BJP and four of their MLAs won. Om Prakash Rajbhar was made a cabinet minister (Backward Class Welfare) in Yogi's first government, but the party parted ways with the alliance before the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, and resigned from the minister's post

The SBSP contested the 2022 UP Assembly elections in alliance with SP, and won six seats.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 5: The Delhi government Monday constituted a Child Safety Monitoring Committee to check the 'Minimum Standards of School Safety', a comprehensive school-safety checklist, a circular from the Directorate of Education said.

OIPR-15001/13/0659/2324

Delhi govt announces

child safety committee

On November 10 last year, the Delhi High Court ordered the city government to inspect schools in the national capital, including classrooms and toilets, to ensure minimum standards of safety for students.

"In pursuance of a Delhi High Court order, a Child Safety Monitoring Committee has been constituted to monitor the

implementation of minimum standards of school safety. In view of this, the heads of all schools in Delhi are hereby directed to fill the checklist and keep it ready to facilitate the visiting inspection team," the circular from the Directorate of Education said.

The deputy directors of education (districts) have been directed to ensure that the DDE (zone) concerned are present during the inspection of schools in their areas. "All the DDEs (Districts) are requested to ensure that the concerned DDE (Zone) within whose jurisdiction the school falls which is to be inspected has to remain present at the time of inspection of schools," the circular stated

PUBLIC NOTICE

now residing in rented house of Asit Parija, Plot No. 4D/1124, CDA, Sector-10 P.S. CDA, Phase-II, Cuttack has lost the Original Regd. Sale Deed No. 3014. Dt. 17.05.2005 which executed by Sadhabi Sahoo in favour of Jyostnamaye Mohapatra in respect of Khata No. 1162/396, Plot No.-1906/4189 under Mo Bhanapur for which she has lodged a F.I.R. on 03.03.2024 before the L.I.C., CDA Phase - II. Police Station, Cuttack. However Leelabati Nayak has applied for a housing loan before the LIC Housing Finance Ltd. Cuttack by offering mortgage of

Therefore all concerned having any claim over the aforesaid purchased property under Regd. Sale Deed No. 3014, Dt. 17.05.2025 and Original R.O.R. (PATA) relating to Plot No. 1906/4189, Khata No. 1162/396 are required to file any their claim with the undersigned within 15 (Fifteen Days) from the date of publication of this notice, falling which it will be presumed that the property having link with the said documents is free from encumbrances and any claim against the applicant mortgagor and the company as the mortgagee shall be void and ineffective after the

Pravata Kumar Rout (Advocate) L.I.C. Housing Finance Ltd. Cuttack Bran Link Road, Cuttack Mob. 9861515731

Cuttack, Dt. 06.03.2024

DEMAND NOTICE

'Road rage, fuel prices top anxieties among car owners

New Delhi, March 5: Road rage, pending challans and fuel prices are the top anxiety triggers among car owners while driving on Delhi-NCR roads, according to a survey report. The survey was conducted by Park+

-- a utility app for car owners -- and involved 18,000 car owners in Delhi-NCR. The survey sheds light on mental wellness and anxiety triggers faced by those navigating roads in the regions.

According to the survey, road rage is the primary cause of anxiety among car owners in Delhi-NCR.

Frequent traffic jams, restricted road conditions, two-wheelers manoeuvring through traffic, and people disregarding traffic rules are the main factors contributing to road rage, the survey has found. Pending challans and fuel prices are two other pain points for car owners.

lenges arise when car owners neglect online checks or have outdated contact information, resulting in fines and vehicle impoundments.

Fuel prices, which make up 30-40 per cent of maintenance costs, are also a major concern, particularly with city driving limiting efficiency to 12-14 kilometres per litre. This causes substantial monthly expenses for regular commuters, the survey found.

Park+ founder Amit Lakhotia said, "We aim to enhance the car ownership experience and have launched 'Offence Reporter' for digital challan settlements and partnered with Indian Oil for affordable petrol.'

As car owners in Delhi-NCR navigate through the maze of urban commuting, the findings of this survey not only shed light on their daily struggles but also catalyse a movement towards more sustainable and stress-free vehicular

Painted stork population soars at zoo

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 5: The population of painted storks soared at the zoo here this season as their numbers doubled over the last seven months which officials attributed to procreation in the National Zoological Park's waterbodies.

This year, the zoo has become a nesting haven, with approximately 450 nests established around ponds and in trees," Director of Delhi Zoo Manoj Kumar told PTI. Painted storks, scientifically known as 'Mycteria leucocephala', comes from the Himalayan foothills and are not migratory birds. However, they make shortdistance movements in response to changes in weather, food availability, or

breeding. Kumar said that around 1,000 painted storks arrived in first week of August in 2023. The entire population will fly back from the national capital March approaches, he said. Their breeding season begins in the winter months shortly after the monsoons.

"August to October marks the peak breeding season for painted storks, who stay in Delhi until March before flying away with their chicks. This year around 1,000 painted arrived but around 2,000 of them will fly back this month," Kumar said. The zoo is one of the few places in Delhi where painted storks nest and breed, making it a prominent birding spot, zoo official Akansha Mahajan said.

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Manual offers are not allowed against this ender, and any such manual offer receive Complete information including e-Tende

ents of the above e-Tenders is available n website http://www.lreps.gov.ln Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer(P), Carriage Repair Workshop, PR-1144/0/23-24 Mancheswar

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Advertised Value: ₹11,45,64,801.15, EMD: 77,22,800/-, Cost of Tender Document ₹11,800/- Completion Period:24 Months Bidding Start Date: 06.03.2024, Date & time of Tender Closing: 20.03.2024,

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documents of the above e-Tenders is available n website http://www.ireps.gov.in Sr. Coaching Depot Officer R-1145/0/23-24

इंडियन बैंक **Indian Bank**

Zonal Office Indian Bank Building, B-2 (East),

Demand Notice 13(2) of the securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 issued by the ndian Bank as secured creditor against the following Borrower(s) / Mortgagor(s) of our Branch:

Branch / Name & Address of Borrower / Mortgagor	Loan Amount	Outstanding Amount	Notice Date/ NPA Date	Details of Mortgaged Property
(1) Shri Saroj Kumar Das (Borrower &	I De 10 00 000/ I	Rs.9,49,154/- as on 23.02.2024	08.02.2024	Residential House on Plot no. 2103, Khata No. 826 measuring Ac.0.030 Decimal in Mouza: Samanga, PS: Puri
Mortgagor), S/o: Mr Gobinda Chandra Das, Pathuria Sahi, Puri- 752001 . (2) Smt Latan . Kumar Das, Pathuria Sahi, Puri- 752001 .	Town, Tahasil: Puri, Dist: Puri, Odisha belongs to N Saroj Kumar Das .			

You have committed default in repayment of outstanding loan amount, mentioned, above, with further interest at the agreed rate availed from our Branch as mentioned above. The Bank has issued notice under the said Act to you to repay the outstanding amount in the above mentioned table. Due to irregularity in repayment of outstanding dues, the debt has been classified as Non-Performing Asset on above mentioned dates. By this notice You are hereby called upon to discharge the entire liabilities as on date with future interest thereon in the above account to us as Secured Creditor within 60 days from the date of this notice failing which Bank will be constrained to exercise all or any of our rights conferred under section 13(4) and other provision of the above Security Interest Act, 2002. You are required to note that in terms of Sec. 13(13) of the said Security Interest Act, you shall not, after receipt of the notice, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, any of the secured assets above referred to without prior written consent of our Bank . This notice is issued without préjudice to any other right/remedy available to the Bank including initiation of legal action

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 05.03.2024



Date: 05.03.2024

REGIONAL OFFICE (SAMBALPUR REGION),

1st Floor, At: Christian Para, G.M. College Chowk, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha, PIN - 768001, Mob.: 7752050804

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 6(2) and 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to be held on 21.03.2024 from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM

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

> PROPERTY INSPECTION DATE AND TIME: 19.03.2024 time 11.00 AM to 1.00 PM. Contact persons - Authorized Officer and Contact No.: Deogarh, Mob: 7752050832, Status of Possession of Properties: Physical, Encumbrance Known to Bank - NIL

Last Date of Submission of online payment of EMD : 20.03.2024 latest by 2.00 P.M

The linking of interested property started after 5.00 P.M. on 20.03.2024 till 2.00 P.M. on 21.03.2024, The scheduled date of Auction to be held on 21.03.2024 from 2.00 P.M. to 6.00 P.M.

	SI. No.	BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrowers / Guarantors & Legal Heirs	Description of the Properties & the Owner	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increase Amount	Total Dues (Type of Possession)
		Nirakar Kerketta, At: Khadia Sahi, Deogarh - 768108, Odisha, / Guarantor: Mrs. Premashila Kerketa, W/o.: Nirakar Kerketa.	Equitable Mortgage of Land under Plot No.: 340/2253, Area: Ac.0.10 Dec., Hal Khata No.: 375/772 of Mouza: Deogarh Town, Unit No.: 3, P.S/Tahasil: Deogarh, Dist: Deogarh recorded in the name of Mrs. Premashila Kerketa, W/o.: Nirakar Kerketa, Bounded by West: Kasi Mistri	₹19,80,000.00 / ₹1,98,000.00	₹ 16,39,409/- plus further interest and charges, legal expences thereon from 06.03.2024 till full payment (Physical)
ı		Scan here for more			

https://www.bankofbaroda.com/e-auction.htm and https://ibapi.in

Also prospective bidders may contact the Authorized Officer on Mob:7752050804 STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE TO THE BORROWER/GUARANTOR/MORTGAGOR FOR SUBSEQUENT SALE UNDER RULE

6(2), 8(6) AND 9(1) AS PER AMENDED SARFAESI ACT 2002 This may also be treated as notice under rule 6(2), 8(6) AND 9(1) of security interest (Enforcements)Rules, 2002 tr

the Borrowers / Guarantors of the said loan about holding of E-Auction sale on the above mentioned date

Authorised Office







Cong slams 'Modi ka Parivar' drive

Bhubaneswar, March 5: The Congress Tuesday sought clarification from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) whether fugitive businessmen Nirav Modi and Vijav Mallva were also in "Modi ka Parivar"

Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera raised the issue at a press conference here after BJP leaders suffixed "Modi ka Pariyar to their names on their social media profiles, a day after RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav took a jibe at him for having no family

Khera asked, "Were not Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, Pawan Singh, Nirav Modi, and Vijay Mallya also Modi ka Parivar?'

Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh is a BJP MP and former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief, who is accused of sexually harassing women wrestlers.

Pawan Singh is a Bhojpuri singer-actor who withdrew his name as BJP Lok Sabha poll candidate from West Bengal's Asansol seat Sunday. West Bengal's ruling TMC alleged that many of his songs were crude and depicted women in a vulgar way.

"(PM Narendra) Modi has completed 10 years in office and his associate Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has completed 24 years in Odisha. We want to ask the PM what action has been taken on the chit fund scam and mining scam in Odisha," Khera said ahead of the Prime Minister's visit to the state.



Vijay Mallya also Modi ka Parivar PAWAN KHERA | CONGRESS

Claiming that lakhs of people in Odisha have been affected by the 'multi-crore scams', the Congress leader alleged that none has got back their money.

Despite recommendations made by a commission, no CBI probe was conducted in the mining scam and no one was arrested. Khera claimed.

He said, "Whenever there is a corruption or scam in the state, the BJP comes to BJD's rescue. Recently, the BJD has allotted one Rajya Sabha seat to the BJP."

Khera asked the Prime Minister to disclose the kind of relation the BJP has with the BJD. "Earlier, there was an invisible relation between the two parties, but now, it has become visible to all," he said.

Kehra said that the Congress. after coming to power, will take strong action against persons involved in the chit fund and mining scams.

"Valuable land and forests of Odisha are being sold to outsiders. The rights of the people of the state are being provided to outsiders. One non-Odia man became king of the state and has been roaming in choppers," he alleged without naming anyone. Now, Odisha is ready for change and the Congress will bring the change for them, he said.

He claimed that Congress' vote share in Odisha is going to increase by 30 to 35 per cent in upcoming Lok Sabha and Assembly polls.



RUSH FOR TICKETS: BJD's Amaresh Jena (left), former Bhubaneswar mayor Mihir Mohanty (middle) and Biranchi Narayan Mahasupakar (right) on their way to Naveen Niwas seeking tickets for the upcoming elections, Tuesday

KOREI ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

Party hopping headache for BJD

Jajpur, March 5: Even though the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) is making all-out efforts to win the upcoming elections in Jajpur district, especially Korei Assembly segment, the recent crossover by former Bari MLA Debasis Nayak to BJP and possibility of defection by some other leaders have become a cause of concern for the regional party.

The party has started preparing for Assembly elections after the panchayat elections got over in Jajpur district. BJD leaders are leaving no stone unturned to quell any form of dissidence and rebellion that might crop up like the one that occurred during panchayat polls.

However, Debasis Nayak defecting to BJP has raised the political temperature in Jajpur district. After Bari, all eyes are now on Korei Assembly segment, a crucial constituency in the district. This constituency has hit the headlines after Jajpur MLA Pranab Prakash Das aka



Bobby announced that development of Korei is his responsibility. Bobby, who is also the organisational secretary of BJD, made this announcement while attending a felicitation programme at Malaanandpur Square, February 25.

This one-liner by Bobby sparked concern among the party workers and ticket aspirants for Korei seat. Chatters were abuzz that the ruling party might give the ticket to Das and field him from Korei constituency. Speculations are rife that a new political equation might be formed for Korei and Jaipur

Meanwhile, BJP has been holding merger meetings at various places in the district after the panchayat elections. The saffron party's rise in strength after the panchayat elections has encouraged the aspirants, party workers and leaders On the other hand, the ruling

BJD is also pulling out all the stops to prevent the BJP from gaining further strength. It is trying to create a political environment so that the saffron camp does not become an alternative for the rebels.

On the other hand, ticket aspirants from BJP Biswajit Nayak and Alexander Das are taking every step to exhibit the strength of the saffron party.

Recently, Das had conducted a meeting in Vyasanagar which was attended by over 5,000 people. The show of strength by BJP has concerned the BJD. The ruling party has realised that BJP is not that weak like Congress.

The ruling party has launched

and trying to scuttle its forward march. The state government declaring Panikoili as a notified area council (NAC) is one such move by BJD to stop the forward march of the saffron party.

Bobby's 'excessive concern' for Korei has concerned the incumbent MLA Ashok Bal, former MLA-cum-Mo College chairperson Akash Dasnayak and former Vyasanagar Municipality chairperson Sabita Rout. Sources said that they apprehend that they would lose the race if the party decides to field Bobby from Korei.

Speculations are rife that given the situation many influential BJD leaders are preparing to defect to BJP if the saffron party assures them of a ticket.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Chandikhole, Tuesday, has boosted the morale of BJP workers and leaders. In the given situation, Korei politics will become more fascinating if some dissident BJD leaders and workers decide to defect to BJP.

More aspirants for BJP as vote share increases



KHIROD PARIDA



POST NEWS NETWORK

Jagatsinghpur, March 5: A rise in vote share for the BJP in last general and panchayat elections has led to an increase in the number of aspirants in the saffron party in Balikuda-Erasama Assembly segment of Jagatsinghpur district, a report said.

The candidate of the ruling BJD had won this seat in 2009. 2014 and 2019 elections. The BJP, buoyed by an increase in vote share, has launched preparations to perform even better in the 2024 elections. The rise in vote share during the last general and panchayat elections has led to an increase in the number of candidates aspiring for tickets from the saffron party.

The 2019 election had created an opportunity for BJP while there was a nationwide wave for the party. Senior BJD leader Dr Damodar Rout had then switched over to BJP and contested from this seat. It was then said that Rout will win the election by influencing the majority of voters with his political acumen and experience which he had earned over the years. However, this remained a pipedream as he failed to secure even the second position.

In 2009 elections, BJP received 3.78 per cent votes while it received 2.05 per cent votes in 2014 elections. The vote share went up

sharply in 2019 when the saffron party polled 19.5 per cent votes

or 37,611 votes in the election. The ruling BJD received 53.83

BALIKUDA-ERASAMA ASSEMBLY SEGMENT

per cent votes while the Congress candidate secured 25.53 per cent votes. The political equation in the constituency started changing since then. Later, Rout left BJP but that failed to have any impact in the party's position in the constituency. This was reflected in the 2022 Zilla Parishad election as more votes were cast for the saffron party candidates.

Party leaders and workers claim that the public opinion is in favour of BJP. Political analysts claim that this might be the reason for which the number of aspirants is increasing in BJP. Party workers attributed the role of party leader Khirod Chandra Parida in the increase in vote share for the saffron party.

Parida is known as a good organiser in the constituency. He was in RSS since 1980 and with ABVP from 1982. Parida joined BJP and is now working as a whole timer for the party after retiring from government service in 2021.

He is also working as the coordinator of the party organisation in Balikuda-Erasama constituency. Parida said that he expects to get ticket and become the party candidate from this Assembly constituency in the 2024 election.

District executive member Sibabrata Das is another aspirant for the party ticket from this constituency. He left Congress during the last election and joined the saffron party. He was earlier a Zilla Parishad member of the Congress party and a known personality in Balikuda area.

Similarly, special invitee member of BJP's state executive Sanjay Mohanty is another aspirant for the party ticket. He joined BJP during the 2019 election. The district executive member Sashikant Parida is also another aspirant for the party ticket while Satva Sarathi Mohanty who lives in Haryana has also joined the race for the party ticket. Satya Sarathi reached the constituency around three months back and started works to galvanise the party organisation.

He somehow became disputed in some incidents. A merger meeting was scheduled to be held at Erasama January 29 but was cancelled later. Later, the merger meeting was held at Balikuda instead of Erasama March 3 but BJP's state president Manmohan Samal stayed away from the meeting. This has been giving a different message to the voters.

Koraput villagers warn of poll boycott

Koraput, March 5: Residents of five villages under Sadar police limits in this district have warned of boycotting the upcoming polls over lack of an underpass under the railway line passing near Ghatamundar and Tiadiputa villages, a report said Tuesday.

The matter came to the fore after villagers staged a rail roko on the railway track near Ghatamundar and Tiadiputa villages. The agitation disrupted rail services on the route with many trains remaining stranded at Koraput and Suku railway stations The villagers relented after



the railway authorities assured to construct an underpass following the intervention of the district Collector V Keerthi Vasan.

While leaving, they warned to boycott the upcoming polls if the railway authorities do not construct an underpass before

The villagers alleged that the Kolab river flows on one side of their villages while the rail route passes on the other side. Their miseries multiply during the rainy season.

They said that the residents of the five villages have to cross the railway line everyday to attend to their work or tend to their livestock on the grassland opposite the track. Many villagers and livestock die or are rendered critical while crossing the track. They have been demanding construction of an underpass for a long period but their pleas have fell on deaf ears of the railway authorities.



Workers and leaders of various parties join BJD at a merger meeting at Bonai in Sundargarh district, Tuesday



Congress leaders and party workers at an organisational meeting of the party at Paschima Simulia village under Gadpada panchayat of Basta block in Balasore district, Tuesday

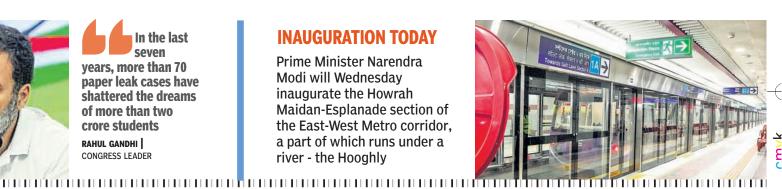
national

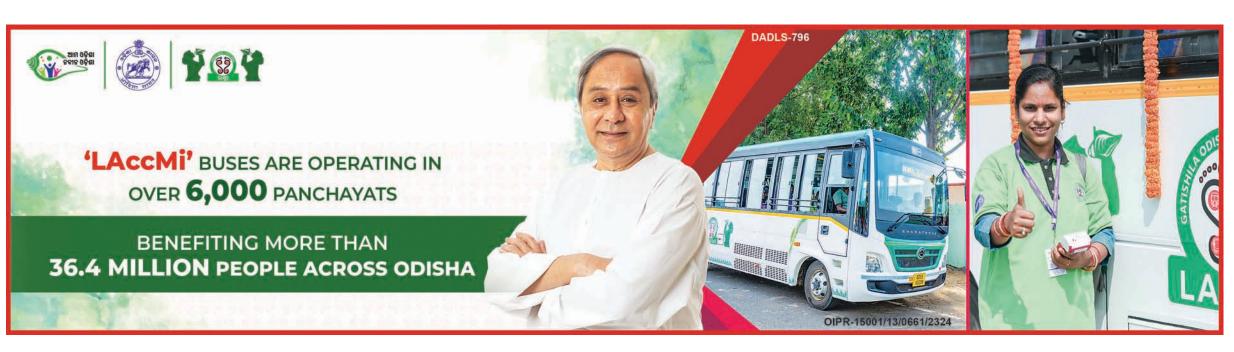


years, more than 70 paper leak cases have shattered the dreams of more than two crore students RAHUL GANDHI CONGRESS LEADER

INAUGURATION TODAY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will Wednesday inaugurate the Howrah Maidan-Esplanade section of the East-West Metro corridor, a part of which runs under a river - the Hooghly





SHORT **TAKES**

Restaurant manager held

Gurugram: The Gurugram police has arrested the manager of a local restaurant from where five people were taken to hospital after they were allegedly served dry ice instead of a mouth freshener. officials said Tuesday. The five diners, who are friends, began vomiting and suffered bleeding in the mouth after consuming the dry ice served to them in an apparent mix-up at the La Forestta cafe-cumrestaurant in Sector 90.

Paper leak: UP govt takes action

Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh government Tuesday removed Renuka Mishra as the chairperson of the UP Police Recruitment and Promotion Board amid allegations of the question paper of a constable recruitment examination being leaked. Mishra has been put on the "wait list" after her removal from the post and Director Vigilance Rajiv Krishna given the additional responsibility of the board, official sources said.

Karnataka govt gets bomb threat

Bangalore: Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar Tuesday said that he and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah have received an email threatening to cause explosions in the State if they don't pay up \$2.5 million (Rs 20.7 crore). The state Congress chief also said that he has forwarded the email to the police officers who are now on the iob to trace the sender. "I and the Chief Minister Siddaramaiah received the mail three days ago. It is in my phone and I have sent it to the police for investigation," he said. According to him, the sender is Shahid Khan10786, who has also shared another email ID for future communication.

BIG RELIEF FOR **SHIVAKUMAR**



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Bangalore, March 5: In a relief to Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, the Supreme Court Tuesday quashed a 2018 money laundering case against him and another accused in the matter.

Shivakumar thanked the top court for dismissing the money laundering probe against him, and said the central agencies are planning to file an appeal against the order but he is equally prepared for it.

The Congress leader had moved the top court against the 2019 order of Karnataka High Court that refused to quash the Enforcement Directorate (ED) summons issued to him in an alleged case of money launder-

ing.
A bench of justices Surya
Kant and K V Viswanathan set aside the High Court order and allowed the appeals filed by Shivakumar and Karnataka Bhawan (Delhi) employee A Hanumanthaiah."Appeals are allowed, the proceedings initiated against the appellants under the PMLA are hereby quashed," the

bench said. Shivakumar, who is also the Karnataka Congress chief, said he would soon let people know how the CBI targeted him. "I got

information about the relief from the Supreme Court. I learnt that the cases framed against me were found wrong. Today is a day of joy after many difficulties in life," he said in Bangalore.

When asked whether he felt that the journey is now easy, Shivakumar said he never felt the journey was difficult."I went to jail confidently. The more they trouble me, I will only rise politically," he said."I prostrate before the judges in the Supreme Court from here. I have been saying that I did nothing but yet I faced numerous problems," he

Shivakumar was booked along with Haumanthaiah for alleged offences under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The case dates back to August 2017 when the Income Tax department had carried out searches at multiple premises in Delhi as part of its alleged tax evasion probe against Shivakumar, his alleged business associate and liquor trader Sachin Narayan, another associate Sunil Kumar Sharma who operated a fleet of luxury buses, Karnataka Bhawan employee Hanumanthaiah and former state government employee and caretaker posted at the Karnataka Bhawan Rajendra N.

Govt using SBI as shield to hide dubious dealings: Cong

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 5: The Congress Tuesday attacked the Centre over the State Bank of India moving the Supreme Court to seek more time to disclose electoral bond details, alleging that the Modi government is using the country's largest bank as a shield to hide its "dubious dealings".

The State Bank of India (SBI) Monday moved the Supreme Court seeking an extension till June 30 to disclose details of each electoral bond encashed by political parties. In its verdict last month, the top court directed SBI to furnish the details to the Election Commission of India by March 6.

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge said the party's position on the electoral bonds scheme is that it is "opaque, undemocratic and destroyed the level playing field"."The (Narendra) Modi government is using the largest bank of our country as a shield to hide its dubious dealings through electoral bonds," he

No less than the Supreme Court of India had struck down the Modi government's "black money conversion scheme" of electoral bonds, holding it "unconstitutional", "violative of RTI" and "illegal" and asked SBI to furnish donor details by March

6, he said. "But the BJP wants it to be done after the Lok Sabha elections by June 30, Kharge said, adding that the tenure of the Lok Sabha will end June 16. Alleging that the BJP was the main beneficiary of the "fraudulent" electoral bonds scheme, Kharge said, "Isn't the government conveniently hiding the BJP's shady dealings where contracts of highways, ports, airports, power plants etc were handed over to Prime Minister



THE STATE BANK OF **INDIA MONDAY MOVED THE SUPREME COURT SEEKING AN EXTENSION TILL JUNE 30 TO DISCLOSE DETAILS OF EACH ELECTORAL BOND ENCASHED BY POLITICAL PARTIES**

Narendra Modi's cronies in lieu of these opaque electoral bonds?"

"Experts say that the 44,434 automated data entries of donors can be divulged and matched in just 24 hours. Why does SBI then need four more months to collate this information?" he said. He alleged, "The Congress was crystal clear that the electoral bonds scheme was opaque, undemocratic and destroyed the level playing field. But the Modi government, PMO (Prime Minister's Office) and the FM (finance ministry) bulldozed every institution - RBI, Election Commission, Parliament and the opposition to fill the BJP's coffers.'

"Now a desperate Modi government, clutching on straws, is trying to use SBI to bulldoze the Supreme Court's judgment!" he said. Supriya Shrinate, a Congress spokesperson, said during a press conference at the AICC headquarters that the Supreme Court's historic decision was enthusiastically welcomed by the entire country and hailed as the most decisive step against the use of black money in elections and the illegal participation of capitalists in power.

The ruling BJP, which is the single-largest beneficiary of the electoral bonds scheme, was uneasy after the Supreme Court decision. All political parties put together received more than Rs 12,000 crore till last fiscal since the introduction of the electoral bonds scheme in 2017. The BJP alone got Rs 6,566.11 crore, which is 55 per cent of all electoral bonds, while the Congress got a measly 9 per cent at Rs 1,123.29 crore, Shrinate said.

She claimed that the BJP has been "afraid" that as soon as the information about its donor friends becomes public, its "unholy nexus with select corporates" will be exposed.

Calcutta HC judge to join BJP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, March 5: Abhijit Gangopadhyay announced Tuesday that he is joining the BJP, hours after he resigned as a judge of the Calcutta High Court.

Addressing a press conference, he alleged that the TMC was "synonymous with corruption" and he would fight it till the end."I will be joining the BJP, possibly on March 7. I am joining the BJP as it is a national party, which is fighting against the corruption of the TMC in Bengal," he said.

Gangopadhyay, whose rulings on various education-related matters stirred political debates, refrained from giving a direct reply on whether he would contest the Lok Sabha polls."It is for the BJP leadership to decide whether they want me to fight. Whatever they decide I will accept," he said.

Gangopadhyay said he would

fight against the "injustice" and "corruption" of the TMC."TMC leaders have been using derogatory language against me for quite some time. If they don't like a judgment, then they can't just verbally attack a judge. Such instigations only helped me to take the decision to join politics and fight the TMC, which is synonymous with corruption in Bengal," he said. "The days of the TMC are numbered in West Bengal. The CPI (M)-led Left Front was decimated in the 2009 Lok Sabha polls, ultimately leading to their defeat in the 2011 assembly polls. The TMC will also face the same fate." he claimed. On joining the BJP, he said the decision was taken over the last few days.

"I was on leave for the last few days and got in touch with the BJP. They also contacted me. I felt this is the right platform to fight against the TMC." he said. Asked about the allegations of corruption against Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari of the BJP, Gangopadhyay said it was "a cooked up case to frame him and other TMC leaders" to pave the way for a top TMC leader's accession in the party's power structure.



Members of Bharatiya Kisan Union raise slogans during a protest outside the Deputy Commissioner's office in support of farmers' demands in Amritsar ртгрното

Six disqualified **Himachal Congress** MLAs move SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 5: Six Congress MLAs, who were disqualified after they cross-voted in the recent Rajya Sabha polls in Himachal Pradesh, moved the Supreme Court Tuesday against their disqualification.

The ex-MLAs have filed a plea against the February 29 decision of the state Legislative Assembly Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania. These Congress rebels, who had voted in favour of BJP nominee Harsh Mahajan in the Rajya Sabha polls February 27, later abstained from voting on the Budget, defying a party whip. Senior Congress leader Abhishek Singhvi lost the Rajya Sabha election owing to cross voting by the rebels.

The ruling Congress had sought their disqualification on the ground that they abstained from voting on the Budget, defying a party whip. The disqualified MLAs are Rajinder Rana, Sudhir Sharma, Inder Dutt Lakhanpal, Devinder Kumar Bhutoo, Ravi Thakur and Chetanya Sharma.

ED ATTACK CASE: CBI REGISTERS FIR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 5: The CBI has taken over the investigation into the attack on Enforcement Directorate officers by a mob in Sandeskhali January 5, registering an FIR Tuesday hours after the Calcutta High Court directed the state police to hand over the case to the central agency, officials said.

The CBI promptly acted on the orders of the High Court which had directed Tuesday that the central probe agency be handed over the case and the custody of suspended TMC leader Shajahan Sheikh by 4:30 pm.

A CBI team reached the CID office in Kolkata with paramilitary forces to take custody of Sheikh, who was arrested by the state police February 29 in connection with the attack, but he was not handed over to the agency

by the West Bengal police. We have not handed him over as the state government has moved the Supreme Court (against the HC order)," an official said in Kolkata. Earlier in the day, the High Court slammed the West Bengal Police for "totally biased" conduct and said every attempt is being made to delay the probe

to "protect" the accused. A team of ED officials was attacked by a nearly 1,000-strong mob January 5 when they went to raid the house of Sheikh, who allegedly has close links with arrested former state food minister Jyoti Priya Mallick, in connection with the multicrore ration distribution scam in West Bengal.

"There can be no better case than the case on hand which requires to be transferred to be investigated by CBI," a High Court division bench headed by Chief Justice T S Sivagnanam ruled Tuesday.

Within hours of the HC acceding to the Enforcement -Directorate's request, the West Bengal government moved the Supreme Court challenging the order but an apex court bench refused an urgent listing of the plea and asked its counsel tomention the matter before the Registrar General.

international



Our defense spending goes to too many different weapon systems, primarily **bought from outside**

MARGRETHE VESTAGER EU COMMISSION VP

HUNT FOR 'SPY' BALLOON

Polish media reported Tuesday that three unidentified objects looking like weather balloons have been found in the country's northeast, and some of them had Cyrillic inscriptions



India and South Korea have a responsibility to actively contribute to the reshaping of the global order

S JAISHANKAR EAM OF INDIA

We have got the mandate to improve the economy of the country and that is the top priority of our government. Our

government will work hard to promote investment in the country and provide facilities to the business SHEHBAZ SHARIF PAKISTAN PM



hospitals, and likely even more children in the north unable to obtain care at all ADELE KHODR UNICEF REGIONAL DIRECTOR

FOR THE MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

SHORT TAKES

Parag Agrawal sues Musk

San Francisco: Indian-origin Parag Agrawal, former CEO of Twitter (now called X), and three other employees have sued Elon Musk for about \$128 million in unpaid severance. Agrawal, along with ex-chief financial officer Ned Segal, former Twitter head of legal and policy Vijaya Gadde and former Twitter General Counsel, Sean Edgett, have filed the lawsuit against the billionaire. Musk Tuesday reacted with just an emoji, when a follower posted: "Parag Agrawal is suing Elon Musk claiming that he did in fact get a lot done that week". The lawsuit claimed that the Tesla CEO showed "special ire" towards them by "publicly vowing to withhold their severance payments of around \$200 million", when he took over Twitter in 2022 for \$44 billion.

2 killed in midair plane collision

midair above the Nairobi National Park, sending the smaller plane crashing in the park and killing two people, police said Tuesday. The bigger plane, a Dash 8 operated by Safarilink Aviation airline with 44 on board, including five crew members, was heading to the coastal resort town of Diani when crew reported a loud bang soon after takeoff from Wilson Airport and decided to turn back, the airline reported.

US warship enters Jeju naval base

Seoul: A US Navy destroyer arrived at a naval base on the southern island of Jeiu Tuesday for a replenishment purpose, the South Korean Navy said. The USS Higgins Arleigh Burke-class destroyer entered the base to replenish supplies and for crewmembers rest, a day after South Korea and the US began their annual combined Freedom Shield exercise for an 11-day run. Yonhap news agency reported.

India hits out at Pak

United Nations/Geneva: India has slammed Pakistan as it raised the issue of Jammu and Kashmir at the UN Human Rights Council, saying it should introspect on its own appalling human rights record and "deserved global reputation" as the "world's terrorism factory". Under Secretary in India's Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva Jagpreet Kaur exercised the country's Right of Reply at the General debate at the 55th Regular Session of the UN Human Rights Council Monday after Pakistan, speaking on behalf of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), raked the issue of Jammu and Kashmir in its statement.

Amid tensions, China hikes defence budget

IN RECENT MONTHS, TENSIONS SIMMERED BETWEEN CHINA AND THE PHILIPPINES AS MANILA, BACKED BY THE US, STEPPED UP EFFORTS TO ASSERT ITS RIGHTS OVER THE PART OF THE SOUTH CHINA SEA FIRMLY RESISTED BY THE CHINESE COAST GUARD SHIPS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, March 5: China Tuesday increased its defence budget by 7.2 per cent to \$232 billion as it continues with the massive modernisation of its military amid prevailing tensions over Taiwan, the South China Sea, border frictions with India and increasing rivalry with the US.

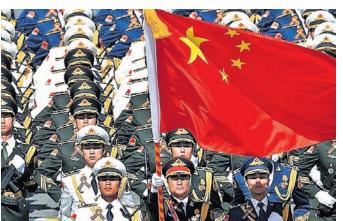
China, which is the second highest spender on defence after the US, has allocated 1.67 trillion yuan (about \$232 billion) for defence spending. The US defence budget for the last year amounted to \$886 billion.

The increase in terms of the percentage of China's defence budget was the same as last year. China last year hiked its defence budget by 7.2 per cent to 1.55 trillion yuan (about \$225 billion), marking the eighth consecutive year of increase in its military spending.

Like its previous budgets, this year's defence budget of China was almost three times higher than that of India.

India's defence allocation this year amounted to Rs 6,21,541 crore (about \$74.8 billion). While hiking the defence budget, China proposed a modest around five per cent target this year for the growth of its economy which is in a slowdown mode.

China is yet to resolve fully the eastern Ladakh standoff with India in May 2020 as a result of the action by its military which



disputes with some of its neighbours

China views Taiwan as a rebel province that must be reunified with the mainland, even by force

Beijing claims most of the South China Sea, while the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan have counterclaims

caused the Galwan Valley clash that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades.

Proposing the defence budget hike in the National People's Conference (NPC), China's Parliament, Premier Li Qiang said the armed forces will strengthen all-around military training and combat readiness. make well-coordinated efforts to improve military preparedness and devote great energy to training under combat conditions, to firmly safeguard China's national sovereignty, security, and development interests.

"We will modernise the military governance system, ad-

vance military development as outlined in the 14th Five-Year Plan, and speed up the implementation of major defence-related projects," he said in his first work report submitted to the NPC Tuesday attended by President Xi Jinping.

Also, China's current proceeding of the NPC in which substantial Chinese military personnel are delegates, is keenly watched this year due to recent purges of the military carried out by Xi, who heads the powerful Central Military Commission (CMC) the overall high command of the People's Liberation Army (PLA). Last October, China abruptly dismissed Defence

China vows to work with Maldives

China Tuesday vowed to work with the Maldives to build a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership with the island nation and underlined that normal cooperation between the two does not "target" any third party and will not be disrupted by any 3rd party. Asked for her comments on China's military agreement with the Maldives at a press briefing here, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning referred the media to "competent Chinese authorities" for details. "More broadly, China is committed to working with the Maldives to build a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership," she said.

Minister Gen Li Shangfu reportedly for corruption. Before becoming the Defence Minister, Li headed the country's Rocket (missiles) force, a key organ of the military.

After that, nine generals, including top commanders, from the rocket force have been removed from the NPC for suspected "violations of discipline and the law" - usually a euphemism for corruption.

Observers say while there is no imminent plan of war for China to expand its defence budget, Beijing is expected to continue "buying time", meaning steady growth in military spending to build up capacity so that it can achieve its goal of reunification with self-ruled Taiwan, and to narrow the military power gap with the United States. But the budget is also expected to take into account the risk of an armed conflict triggered by something "unpredictable", with more military encounters in the disputed South China Sea, Taiwan electing a new independence-leaning president in January, and a possible comeback of Donald Trump (as president) in the US, a report in the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post said.

The PLA has a target of 2027 - the year of its centenary – to achieve its costly modernisation goals, paving the way for it to become a "world-class" military power by 2049.

Li said the government will consolidate and enhance the integration of national strategies and strategic capabilities, refine the system and layout of defence-related science, technology, and industries, raise public awareness concerning national defence, and strengthen national defence mobilisation and readiness of reserve forces, he said in a statement. On Taiwan, Li said: "We will implement our Party's overall policy for the new era on resolving the Taiwan question, stay committed to the one-China principle and the 1992 Consensus. and resolutely oppose separatist activities aimed at "Taiwan independence" and external interference".

Prachanda allies agree on power-sharing deal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, March 5: Nepal's Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' and his allies Tuesday struck a power-sharing deal that includes sharing of the premier's position, reviving the left alliance in the politically fragile country following his dramatic move to terminate an alliance with the Nepali Congress

Prachanda, a former guerilla leader, forged a new alliance with the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) - the second-biggest party - led by former premier KP Sharma Oli on Monday following which three ministers took the oath of

A meeting of the top leaders of the Maoist Centre, UML, the Rashtriya Swatantra Party and the Janata Samajbadi Party agreed on an eight-point deal signed by Prachanda along with UML chair Oli, RSP chairperson Rabi Lamichhane and Samajbadi Party chief Upendra Yadav, the Kathmandu Post newspaper reported.

"The [new] coalition has been formed among like-minded parties for good governance, development, social justice and prosperity. The government will be led by Maoist Centre chair Pushpa Kamal Dahal," reads the first point of the agreement

The Prime Minister's post would be divided between Prachanda and Oli, the__

Trump aims to trounce Haley



Fort worth, Texas, March 5: Donald Trump will aim to deliver a Super Tuesday knockout blow to his lone challenger for the Republican US presidential nomination, Nikki Haley, as 15 states hold Republican contests on the biggest voting day of the primary season.

The former President, who has dominated the Republican campaign from the start despite his litany of criminal charges, has swept all but one of the contests so far, winnowing a sprawling Republican field of candidates down to two.

While Trump cannot win enough delegates Tuesday to formally clinch the nomination, another dominant performance would essentially end any remaining sliver of suspense. Tuesday's contests will award more than one-third of Republican delegates - and more than 70% of the number needed to secure the nomination.

A third consecutive nomina-

tion for Trump would set up a rematch with Democratic President Joe Biden in November's election. Biden is expected to win Tuesday's Democratic contests easily, though activists opposed to Biden's Israel policy are calling on Muslim Americans and progressives to vote "uncommitted" in Minnesota in protest.

Haley, a former UN ambassador under Trump, has faced mounting questions about how long she will continue her long-shot campaign, particularly after losing her home state of South Carolina 10 days ago.

She has not made any promises beyond Super Tuesday, and her campaign has not scheduled any public events Tuesday or beyond.

"As much as everybody wants to go and push me out, I'm not ready to get out yet," she told Fox News in an interview Tuesday morning.

Trump was leading Haley in every Super Tuesday state where public polling data was available, according to poll tracking

The former president. who has dominated the Republican campaign from the start despite his litany of criminal charges, has swept all but one of the contests so far, winnowing a sprawling Republican field of candidates down to two

percentage points.

But Haley allies see a narrow window of opportunity to eke out a win in states including Virginia, Massachusetts and Vermont, college-educated voters who tend to support her candidacy.

Those three states are also Edison Research.

Asked if he would reach out to Haley after Tuesday's results, Trump said his focus was

"I think we're going to win every state tonight," he told *Fox*



website 538. In California and Texas, which together account for more than 300 delegates. Trump was ahead by an average of more than 50

which have more of the wealthy,

among several on Super Tuesday that do not require primary voters be registered Republicans. Independent and moderate voters have favored Haley over Trump in early voting states, according to exit polls from

on Biden.



An Uber Eats food delivery robot crosses a street during its demonstration for media in Tokyo, Japan. Uber Eats Japan plans to launch the robot delivery service in a neighborhood in Tokyo, Wednesday

TIDBITS

Small plane crashes, kills 5

Nashville (US): A single-engine plane crashed near a highway in Nashville, Tennessee, just a few miles short of the airport it had tried to reach for an emergency landing, killing five people aboard, authorities said. The pilot made an emergency call to John C Tune Airport around 7:40 pm Monday. reported engine trouble and was given clearance to make an emergency landing, Metro Nashville Police Department spokesman Don Aaron said. A short time later the pilot radioed that the aircraft would not reach the airport, he said.

Doctors face license suspensions

Seoul: Thousands of striking junior doctors in South Korea faced proceedings to suspend their medical licenses Tuesday, while authorities pushed for police investigations into leaders of the walkouts that have disrupted hospital operations. Nearly 9,000 of South Korea's 13,000 medical interns and residents have been refusing to work for the past two weeks to protest a government plan to enroll thousands more students in the country's medical schools in coming years. The government ordered them to return to work by February 29, citing a threat to public health, but most have defied the threats of license suspensions and prosecutions.

FB, Insta back online after global outage

Washington: Meta-owned Facebook and Instagram were back up Tuesday after a more than two-hour outage that was caused by a technical issue and impacted hundreds of thousands of users globally. The disruptions started at around 10:00 am ET (1500 GMT), with many users saying on rival social media platform X they had been booted out of Facebook and Instagram and were unable to log in. "We are aware of the incident and at this time, we are not aware of any specific malicious cyber activity at this time," a spokesperson for the White House National Security Council said.

Child malnutrition 'particularly extreme' in North Gaza: WHO

AGENCIES

Geneva, March 5: United Nations organisations said Tuesday that child malnutrition levels in northern Gaza were "particularly extreme" and about three times higher than in the south of the Palestinian enclave where more aid has been available.

Richard Peeperkorn, WHO representative for Gaza and the West Bank, said that one-in-six children under two years of age were acutely malnourished in northern Gaza.

"This was in January. So the situation is likely to be greater today," Peeperkorn added, referring to when the data was recorded. UNICEF spokesperson James Elder said malnu-

trition rates for children under five in northern Gaza, where access to aid has been highly limited since the start of the war between Israel and Hamas October 7, were three times higher than those in Rafah in the south Elder said this showed that

"when that trickle of aid can come in, it does make a life saving difference.

At least 15 children have died over the past few days from malnutrition and dehydration at Kamal Adwan hospital in northern Gaza, the health ministry in Gaza said Sunday.

Calls for Israel to do more to

address the humanitarian crisis

have grown louder since the

deaths of Palestinians lining up

for aid in Gaza last month.

Gaza health authorities said 118 people were killed, attributing the deaths to Israeli fire and calling it a massacre Israel, which says many

people were trampled or run over, has pledged to investigate. Adding to hunger, there is a growing risk from infectious

diseases, with nine-in-10

children under the age of five around 220,000 - falling sick over the last weeks, according to Elder.

"That becomes the spiral that we are so fearful of: infectious diseases, lack of food, a desperate lack of clean water and ongoing bombardment and incredulously still discussion of an offensive into Rafah, which is a

'Latest talks have ended with no breakthrough'

Cairo: Three days of negotiations with Hamas over a cease-fire in Gaza and the release of Israeli hostages ended Tuesday without a breakthrough, Egyptian officials said, less than a week before the start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, the informal deadline for a deal. The United States, Qatar and Egypt have spent weeks trying to broker an agreement in which Hamas would release up to 40 hostages in return for a monthlong cease-fire, the release of some Palestinian prisoners and an influx of aid to address the humanitarian catastrophe in the isolated territory. city of children," Elder told reporters in Geneva, referring to Israel's stated aim of rooting out Hamas battalions it says are

hiding there. "Rafah has about three quarters of a million children living there," Elder said in a

statement. Israel last month intensified its bombardment of Rafah, where about 1.5 million people are estimated to be crammed, most of them having fled their homes further north to escape Israel's

military onslaught.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has said that a quarter of the population - 5,76,000 people - are one step from famine, nearly five months after Israel's assault on Gaza began.

business



for India's future but I am also very conscious that...Unbridled focus on the opportunity without having the guardrails also runs the risk, and also too much guardrails will not get us there (developed nation) UDAY KOTAK I VETERAN BANKER

I feel very very optimistic

30 BANKS JOIN RBI UDGAM

The Reserve Bank of India Tuesday said 30 banks are facilitating people to search their unclaimed deposits/accounts through UDGAM portal, and the remaining banks are in the process of getting onboarded.





India happens to be market number five for relevance and importance it serves

not only today, but also for the future of the Mercedes Benz brand

SAGREE SARDIEN | MERCEDES-BENZ AG HEAD

With the opening up of the space sector, the common man has been able to witness the launch of mega space events like Chandrayaan-3 or Aditya

JITENDRA SINGH UNION MINISTER OF STATE Women play a

vital role in fueling driving growth and transformation. At

Airbnb, we are committed to creating an inclusive, diverse, equitable community for our women hosts and guests

AMANPREET BAJAJ | AIRBNB INDIA GENERAL MANAGER

SHORT **TAKES**

Coal production reaches 881MT

New Delhi: India produced

880.72 million tonne (MT) of coal in April-February this fiscal and is now just 119.28 MT away from its 1 billion tonne coal production target for FY24. In 2022-23, India's total coal output was 893 million tonnes (MT). For the ongoing 2023-24 fiscal, the government has a target to produce 1 billion tonne (BT) of coal. The cumulative coal production in April-February 2024 grew over 12 per cent to 880.72 MT (provisional) compared to 785.39 MT during the same period of FY23, the Ministry of Coal said in a statement Tuesday. The country's coal produced rose 12 per cent to 96.60 million tonne (MT) in February against 86.38 MT a year ago. In February, the production of state-owned giant Coal India Ltd (CIL) rose 8 per cent to 74.76 MT (provisional) from 68.78 MT in February 2023, the ministry said.

Swiggy to deliver at 4 rail stations

New Delhi: Swiggy will offer food delivery services to passengers at Bangalore, Bhubaneswar, Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada railway stations beginning March 12. The food delivery services will be extended to 59 more railway stations in the coming weeks, Swiggy said in a statement. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) for delivering pre-ordered food on trains was signed between Swiggy Food Marketplace and Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) Tuesday. Passengers can avail pre-ordered food services via Swiggy once they input the PNR on the IRCTC app and select the preferred station for food delivery.

Boeing, AIESL to collaborate

New Delhi: Aircraft maker **Boeing and AI Engineering** Services Ltd (AIESL) will collaborate to enhance aircraft training activities in India. As part of the collaboration, Boeing will provide training materials, aids, and instructor support to help ensure the standardisation of AIESL training programmes. "AIESL will provide infrastructure and instructors, while securing Civil Aviation Regulation (CAR) 147 approval from the Indian regulatory authority to conduct maintenance training for customers," Boeing said in a release Tuesday. According to Boeing's 2023 Pilot and Technician Outlook, the country will require almost 33,000 pilots and 34,000 maintenance technicians through 2042.

Google relists apps after govt criticism

New Delhi, March 5: Google Tuesday began reinstating about 250 Indian apps it had delisted from its Play Store over a billing dispute as it caved in to government criticism, but the squabble may not yet be over.

The matrimony, dating and other apps were being allowed back on the Play Store but Google will continue to bill the companies a service fee of 11 per cent to 26 per cent on in-app payments during the 3-4 months period the two sides will sit across to resolve the dispute.

Telecom and Information & Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, who got Google and the startups to the negotiating table, said the US tech giant has been supporting India's technology development journey.

"Google and the startup community have met with us, (and) we have had very constructive discussions...Google has agreed to list all the apps," he said.

In a brief statement, Google said, "in the spirit of cooperation, we are temporarily reinstating the apps of the developers with appeals pending in the Supreme

"We will invoice our full applicable services fees in the interim and are extending payment timelines for these companies. We look forward to a collaborative effort to find solutions that respect the



needs of all parties," the tech giant said.

App developers said that the battle hasn't yet been won as they still have to find a sustainable long-term solution.

Google Friday removed from its Play Store apps from a dozen of developers, including popular ones by Matrimony.Com and job search app Naukri, for non-compliance with its in-app payment

As the government took strong exception to the removal, calling it unacceptable, Google beginning Saturday restored some apps that agreed to comply with its guideline to pay the fee on in-app payments or do financial transactions outside of the app.

Vaishnaw and Minister of State for Information and Technology Chandrasekhar held multiple rounds of discussions with Google and the app owners Monday in a bid to find a solution to the crisis that was being labelled as a dark day for the in-

Indian firms look to bet big on coal-fired power

Singapore/ New Delhi, March 5: Private Indian firms have expressed interest in building at least 10 gigawatts (GW) of coalfired power capacity over a decade, four sources familiar with the matter said, ending a sixyear drought in significant private involvement in the sector.

Adani Power, JSW Group and Essar Power are among the companies that have told India's power ministry they would be keen to expand old plants or develop stalled projects facing financial stress, according to the sources and a government presentation seen by Reuters.

The potential investments, which have not been previously reported, could cumulatively cost billions of dollars and demonstrate renewed appetite in an industry seen by many as financially unattractive. But they also threaten to undermine progress made by the world's No.3 greenhouse gas emitter in weaning its economy off carbon.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government, which has cited energy security concerns and low per-capita emissions to defend India's coal dependence, has been trying to attract private investment to boost its coalfired capacity by 80 GW by 2032.

Coal-fired power plants currently account for half, or about 215 GW of India's total installed capacity of 430 GW, with renewables accounting for 135 GW and hydro making up 47 GW.

A spokesperson for the power ministry said the private sector

had agreed to invest in the coalfired power sector "in line with the energy requirements of the nation," adding that India was ahead of international commitments to cut emissions.

"The private sector is now expressing interest because of financial viability and assurance that payments will be made on time," he said.

The companies did not respond to requests seeking comment.

India's Association of Power Producers (APP), which represents coal-fired power developers, told Power Minister RK Singh its members were eager to boost capacity, according to a December 4 letter reviewed by

Among the new proposals, Adani Power plans to add 4.8 GW and JSW 1 GW, according to three sources and a government presentation dated November 21 reviewed by Reuters

Essar Power plans 1.6 GW of new domestic coal-based power generation in Gujarat by 2029, one of the sources said. Another source said Vedanta will add 1.9 GW of capacity.

The sources - two government officials and two industry executives - declined to be named as the discussions are not public.

The presentation, made by an arm of the power ministry in November, estimates that the plants would be commissioned

PRIVATE FUNDING DROUGHT

In the five years to March 2018, private sector investments drove 56 GW, or over 60% of new coalfired power, government data shows. That dwindled to 1.5 GW, or 5% of additions, in the next five years as projects faced financial stress, shifting the investment burden onto state and

A total of 24 private sector projects totalling over 23 GW, or over 10% of current Indian coalfired capacity, are on hold or unlikely to be commissioned due to financial stress, according to power ministry data.

federal governments.

However, higher coal dependence in the last three years due to slower renewable installations, heavy power demand, and new emergency laws enabling higher tariffs have made coal-fired power attractive again, boosting profits and pushing shares of generators to record highs.

Services sector growth eases in Feb



New Delhi, March 5: The services sector growth in India moderated in February amid softer expansions in business activity, sales and jobs, a monthly survey said Tuesday.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Services Business Activity Index registered 60.6 in February, down from 61.8 in January.

In Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

"India's services PMI suggests that the pace of expansion in the services sector eased in February from January," said Ines Lam, Economist at HSBC.

According to the survey, the business activity index eased in February, but remained historically strong.

New business from abroad placed with services firms in India rose for the thirteenth successive month. Survey participants reported gains from Australia, Asia, Europe, the Americas and UAE.

Business confidence regarding the year-ahead outlook for activity weakened in February. Still, around 26 per cent of companies foresee a growth and only 2 per cent anticipate a fall.

"Due to a slowdown in growth in new orders and output, services companies' outlook for future business activity, while remaining strongly positive, weakened slightly," Lam added.

Lam further noted that prices charged for services rose at the slowest rate in 24 months **Business confidence** regarding the year-ahead outlook for activity weakened in February. Still, around 26 per cent of companies foresee a growth and only 2 per cent anticipate a fall

as input prices inflation mod-

On the employment front, companies created jobs on the back of rising workloads, but the easing of capacity pressures and lower confidence towards the outlook dampened employment

Meanwhile, the HSBC India Composite PMI Output Index slipped from a six-month high of 61.2 in January to 60.6, indicating a softer but sharp rate of expansion.

Composite PMI indices are weighted averages of comparable manufacturing and services PMI indices.

Growth of private sector sales likewise remained sharp in spite of softening since January, the survey said.

Rates of expansion were broadly similar at manufacturers and services firms, though the former registered an acceleration and the latter a slow-

Sensex snaps 4-day winning run on losses in IT, FMCG



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, March 5: Benchmark Sensex declined by 195 points while Nifty slipped below the 22,400 level Tuesday, snapping the four-day gaining streak due to losses in IT and FMCG shares amid weak global trends and foreign fund outflows

Taking a breather after a record-breaking rally, the 30share BSE Sensex declined by 195.16 points or 0.26 per cent to settle at 73,677.13 due to profit taking. During the day, the barometer tanked 460.04 points or 0.62 per cent to a low of 73,412.25.

The broader Nifty declined by 49.30 points or 0.22 per cent to

close at 22.356.30. Sensex and Nifty closed at lifetime high levels Monday after a four-day winning run which saw the indices rising by around 2 per cent. Among Sensex firms, Bajaj Finserv and Bajaj Finance fell by over 4 per cent each. Nestle, Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, Wipro, UltraTech Cement, HCL Technologies, Larsen & Toubro and Hindustan Unilever were the other major

panies that follow the top 500 in

terms of revenue or other cri-

teria. These companies are often

called 'The Next 500' or 'Fortune

Bharti Airtel, State Bank of India, Sun Pharma and NTPC were among the gainers.

Tata Motors, which announced the demerger of its passenger and commercial vehicle businesses into two listed entities, closed higher by 3.52 per cent after rallying to a 52-week high in intraday trade.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge declined 0.63 per cent and midcap index dipped 0.17 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, IT fell by 1.61 per cent, FMCG dipped 1.02 per cent, teck by 0.89 per cent, capital goods by 0.37 per cent and consumer durables by 0.36 per cent.

Consumer Discretionary, energy, telecommunication, utilities and auto were among the gainers.

Among Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and Hong Kong settled lower while Shanghai ended in the green. European markets were trading lower.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.21 per cent to USD 82.63 a barrel.

Unemployment rate dips to 3.1% in 2023

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 5: Unemployment rate for persons aged 15 years or above declined to 3.1 per cent in 2023, the lowest in the last three years, as per a report of National Sample Survey Organisation under the statistics ministry.

According to Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for calendar year 2023, the unemployment rate came down to 3.1 per cent in 2023 from 3.6 per cent in 2022 and 4.2 per cent in 2021.

Joblessness, or unemployment rate, is defined as the percentage of unemployed people in the labour force.

As per the data, employment situation is improving after the pandemic hit the country in March 2020, which forced authorities to impose lockdown to curb the spread of deadly coronavirus.

The data also showed the improvement in buoyancy in economic activities after lifting of lockdown by the Centre and states. The survey showed that unemployment rate among females also declined to 3 per cent in 2023 from 3.3 per cent in 2022 and 3.4 per cent in 2021.

Similarly for males, it came down to 3.2 per cent in 2023 from 3.7 per cent in 2022 and 4.5 per cent in 2021.

The overall rate of unemployment also declined in urban areas to 5.2 per cent in 2023 from 5.7 per cent in 2022 and 6.5 per

Only 1.6% of Fortune India 500 firms have women at helm

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 5: A mere 1.6 per cent of companies listed on the Fortune India 500 have women at the helm, while the figures stand at 5 per cent for the Fortune India Next 500, according to a study.

The study - 'Enhancing Women Leadership in India Inc' -- conducted jointly by Fortune India and SP Jain Institute of Management and Research sheds light on the persistent gender gap in leadership roles within Indian industries

Supported by the Women and Child Development Ministry and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the study engaged 130 industry leaders, with a representation of 54 per cent female and 46 per cent male CEOs, in 16 roundtable discussions across Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Bangalore.

Additionally, a survey questionnaire was distributed to Fortune 500 companies for their

insights. and Child Women Development Minister Smriti Irani unveiled the findings of the study Monday.

A key finding of this study is the industry leaders' recognition of the government's decadelong efforts to promote women in the corporate sphere and admitting that the responsibility now lies with the industry to implement measures that foster women's leadership, she said.

Despite advancements in various sectors, the study reveals a stark reality: only a minuscule percentage of companies are led by women MDs/CEOs across different tiers of corporate India.



Fortune India publishes an annual list of the top 500 corporations in India by revenue. This list is similar to the Fortune 500 but focuses specifically on Indian companies.

While Fortune India 1000 is an extended list that includes both the Fortune India 500 and The Next 500, encompassing the top 1000 corporations in India by various metrics.

India Next 500'.

The study identifies several root causes contributing to this gender disparity. One significant factor is the 'leaky pipeline' phenomenon, where a substantial portion of women employees exits the workforce upon entering middle management due to familial responsibilities.

"Over 30-40 per cent of women employees quit the workforce by the time they enter middle management. This is the time when they invariably get married or have a family. They take maternity leave and the return post childbirth gets challenging," it said.

Also, the study said maternity leaves and caregiving duties often disrupt their career progression, leading to a severe shortage of women groomed for leadership roles

Moreover, inherent biases prevalent in corporate mindset further exacerbate the problem, the study pointed out.

"Organisations shy away from hiring a woman in mid-management roles as they know there could be a six-month 'maternity leave' in the offing. It is paid leave and most organisations don't want — smaller ones can't 🔌 afford — to make that investment," it said.

Stereotypes regarding women's commitment, willingness to relocate, or capability to handle P&L roles hinder their advancement opportunities, according to the study.





Ashwin recalls 'nervy' 2012 Jemimah, Lanning help' Delhi outplay Mumbai



Ravichandran Ashwin (2nd left) points out something as his teammates look on during India's training, Tuesday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dharamsala, March 5: On the cusp of completing 100 Tests, India's premier off-spinner R Ashwin on Tuesday said he would not have become the bowler that he is now without the learning from an underwhelming home series against England in 2012, at the end of which he was a "bit nervy"

That series loss remains India's last defeat at home and Ashwin's performance in the four-match rubber left a lot to be desired as the likes of Alastair Cook and Kevin Pietersen played him with ease. Twelve years later, Ashwin looked back at the turning point of his remarkable career, which now features 507 Test wickets.

"It is a pretty big occasion. More than the destination, the journey has been very special. It is a journey of ups and downs and a lot of learnings," said Ashwin, who will become only the 14th Indian to reach the 100-Test milestone when the final Test begins here Thursday.

"One of the turning points of my life was the England series when Cook came here and made all those runs. It has been talked about a lot but to me that and what led to the next home series against Australia (changed a lot for me).

"There was lot of noise about me being left out of the team, one of the selectors had a chat with me. At that time I was a bit nervy though I don't know where it came from as I had done well previously," he recalled.

The criticism of his performance - 14 wickets at an average of 52.64 in four Tests – is still fresh in his mind but more

importantly, he hasn't forgotten the lessons.

'When I went back and reflected on it after all those articles written about me, it dawned upon me that what was wrong with me. That is a wonderful lesson that has been kept with me all these years down the line.

"When I look back it, it taught me what I had to correct. Some of those questions were raised by me largely," said the 37-year-old. One of his finest spells

A majority of Ashwin's 507 wickets (354 to be precise) have come in favourable conditions and perhaps that is why he cherishes his effort in Birmingham on the 2018 tour of England. Ashwin picked up seven wickets in that Test, including the important ones of England runmachine Cook and Joe Root.

"It is Test wins that always

RARITY IN CRICKET Dharamsala: Test cricket will see two players

featuring in their 100th game together for only the fourth time when India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin and England batter Jonny Bairstow take the field here Thursday The first such occasion was when former England captain Michael Atherton and Alec Stewart reached the landmark against the West Indies at Old Trafford back in 2000. The second instance involved three players as

It means a hell of a lot. Every

young kid that sets out on a

journey playing professional cricket wants to try and play

100 Tests. You look back to

2012 when I made my

debut at Lord's, if 12

matches, you'd snap

your hand off for one but also pinching yourself as

well. I'll be going out there,

chest out and trying to have

a good time with the other

10 blokes out there

South Africa's Jacques Kallis, Shaun Pollock and Stephen Fleming played their 100th Test in the South Africa-New Zealand game in Centurion in 2006. The third was Alastair Cook and Michael Clarke in the England-Australia Ashes contest in Perth in 2013. Just a day after the India-England game begins, New Zealand captain Tim Southee and his predecessor Kane Williamson will play their 100th Test together during the second match against Australia.

but I actually don't. It does **The 100th Test match** means a lot to my wife

excited than I am. It's just a number. Zaheer Khan could not play 100 Test, MS Dhoni could have rode on his (success) and played 100

stand tall. After having given it

a thought, one of the finest spells

that I have bowled has to be

Birmingham, 2018. I bowled in

both the innings, I bowled on

the morning of day three and got

thought I had almost bowled

India bowled to victory but did-

n't happen," he said referring

to the game India lost by 31 runs.

"Then it was a Test match in

Bangalore, where I bowled a spell

on day two morning not for many

rewards. Day one, Centurion in

2018-19 again, got a four for and

could have been six for. These

Due to his superior batting

skills, Ravindra Jadeja has been

preferred over him at times in

are the spells that stand out."

"I got seven in the game and

three wickets.

overseas conditions but the champion spinner has now made peace with the past.

"It's always disappointing to not play a particular game for your country, especially when you were doing well. But you got to make peace with it because it was in the best interest of the team. I don't think any captain or player wants to leave out a player that they feel can be of use in that particular game.

"Not many teams in the world has what India has got. Ravindra Jadeja has been batting pretty well and if you see his averages, you can see that's where he has outscored me. Bowling might not be a big factor given the pitches that we play on in England and South Africa." he reasoned

New Delhi, March 5: Skipper Meg Lanning and Jemimah Rodrigues smashed commanding fifties as Delhi Capitals thrashed Mumbai Indians by 29 runs in a top-of-the-table clash of the WPL here Tuesday.

Sent in to bat, Lanning fired at the top with a 38-ball 53 (6x4, 2x6), while Jemimah hit an entertaining 33-ball 69 not out (8x4, 3x6) to provide the late acceleration as DC racked up a massive 192/4 after the WPL juggernaut moved to the national capital amid lukewarm response.

Mumbai Indians' chase never took off, ending up with a 163/8 despite Amanjot Kaur's 42 off 27 balls (7x4) and Hayley Matthews' 29 off 17 as the defending champions crashed to their second defeat in five matches and only second against DC in WPL history.

This was Delhi's fourth win on the trot as they moved two points clear of Mumbai with eight points from five matches. DC thus consolidated their position at the top with the win which will act like a balm for the home team, which had suffered a heartbreaking last-ball loss to the MI in the tournament opener.

Returning after missing the last game, Marizanne Kapp once again did the damage in the powerplay, taking two wickets -Yastika Bhatia (6) and Harmanpreet Kaur (6), while fellow pacer Shikha Pandey cleaned up Nat Sciver-Brunt (5) to leave MI on shaky grounds.

Opener Matthews got off to a flying start before being dismissed by left-arm spinner Jess Jonassen (3/21), while 19-year-old pacer Titas Sadhu removed Amelia Kerr (17) as MI lost half

their side in ninth over. The 23-year-old Amanjot gave a tinge of hope but once she was castled by Jonassen, the required run-rate kept piling up and it

became too tall a task. Earlier, opener Lanning hit her third WPL half century, and added three useful partnerships to anchor the DC innings for the most part. Later, Jemimah powered DC close to the 200-mark. Shafali Verma (28) and Alice Capsey (19) too chipped in with quick cameos.

Pacer Shabnim Ismail, who

had missed last two games, was put under the pump by Shafali, who clobbered her for back-toback sixes but the bowler had her caught behind as Delhi reached 56/1 in six overs. Capsey added 31 with Lanning before getting out. Lanning carried on as DC crossed the 100-mark. The skipper completed her fifty in 36 balls but perished a ball later with Amelia Kerr claiming the vital catch. Mumbai tried to pull things back thereafter but Jemimah upped the ante as DC scored 69 in last five overs.

BRIEF SCORES: DC Women 192/4 (Jemimah Rodrigues 69 n o, Meg Lanning 53, Shafali Verma 28; Pooja Vastrakar 1/20) beat MI Women 163/8 (Amanjot Kaur 42, Hayley Matthews 29; Jess Jonassen 3/21, Marizanne Kapp 2/37) by 29 runs.



in rust with a 6-0 rout



Arsenal players celebrate a goal, while a Sheffield player looks dejected

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sheffield (UK), March 5: Arsenal delivered another statement win in their English Premier League (EPL) title challenge by thrashing last-placed Sheffield United 6-0 to stay in touch with Liverpool and Manchester City.

Some home fans left their seats and were seen heading to the exits inside Bramall Lane after 25 minutes when Kai Havertz made it 4-0 Monday, adding to strikes from Martin Odegaard and Gabriel Martinelli either side of an own-goal by Jayden Bogle.

With supporters in the away end singing "We're gonna score in a minute," Declan Rice slotted home a fifth in the 39th minute.

It meant the Gunners scored five goals in three straight away league games — after West Ham (6-0) and Burnley (5-0) — and tied the record for most goals scored in the first half of a league game.

The visitors weren't finished there, with right back Ben White becoming the sixth different scorer when lashing a left-foot shot into the far corner in the 58th.

At that stage, Arsenal looked a good bet to threaten the most goals scored by a team in a league game and the competition's biggest margin of victory, with

three clubs — Liverpool, Leicester and Manchester United (twice) — having won 9-0 down the years.

However, Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta's decision to make a raft of substitutions — including removing Bukayo Saka at halftime and others like Rice and Jorginho later on broke his team's rhythm and the Blades could breathe slightly easier.

Still, it was a good night for Arsenal's goal difference, which is now far superior to that of Liverpool and Man City. Arsenal stayed in third place, two points behind Liverpool and a point adrift of City, and has won seven straight games in the league.

The only negative on the night was the sight of Martinelli being helped off with a right ankle injury in the 64th. Arteta said Martinelli sustained a cut, while Saka was removed because he was feeling sick.

Arsenal could climb into first place — if only briefly — by beating Brentford Saturday, ahead of Liverpool hosting Man City Sunday. Sheffield United, who have already lost 8-0 to Newcastle and 5-0 to Brighton at home this season, stayed in last place, 11 points adrift of safety with 11 games remaining in their first season back in the top-flight.

Gunners leave Blades Paris Olympics unveils art deco-style posters

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, March 5: Vibrant colours and striking landmarks illuminate posters for the Paris Olympic Games in an art deco style inspired by the city's flam-

The posters were unveiled Monday at the Musée d'Orsay - a former railway station transformed into an imposing museum stretching along the Seine River — in the presence of Paris 2024 director of design Joachim Roncin and the artist behind them, Ugo Gattoni.

"I don't want it to be something dull like only a poster with only a logo and a date on it, which they usually are. I want to tell a story," Roncin told The Associated Press in an interview from the artist's studio prior to the unveiling.

"I want it to be something very happy, because it's going to a huge party. I want it to be very joyful. Hopefully people will be inspired by these posters."

"It's the art deco style," Roncin said. "I wanted something very flamboyant, very rich, very colorful. It's typical of Paris, when you look at various restaurant styles, you can see the art deco



style. When you look at the entrance on the subways, you can see the art nouveau style.

No coincidence that it has this feel, perhaps, since these Games mark the centenary of the 1924 Olympics in Paris. Everywhere you look, even amid a blur of colors, the details are intricate

and precise. Roncin said 15,000 to 30,000 posters for the July 26-August 11 Paris Games and the August 28-September 8 Paralympics will be sold. Prices range from 20 euros (USD 22) for the smallest size (30x40 centimeters/12x16 inches), 30 euros (USD 33) for the medium (50x70 centimeters/20x27 inches) and 40 euros (USD 43) for the largest (60x80 centimeters/24x32 inches).

The posters will also appear on billboards all over Paris from Tuesday. It will be a relief to purists that no AI (artificial intelligence) was used to design the posters, which is part of the reason why Roncin selected Gattoni.

"It was very important to work with Ugo because he's a manual artist, he works with his hands. Nothing is digital assisted. Today we live in the world where there

EYE-CATCHING IMAGES TO ABSORB

ne of the poster's most captivating scenes is an athlete standing on a diving platform with arms outstretched, the Olympic dove softly perched on his left arm

The most striking scene is the Eiffel Tower piercing through the Stade de France.

As if forming a giant cake mixing together two crucial ingredients: Paris' most famed landmark and its national stadium

ectators on the posters have expressions on their fresh faces that are perfect It's like they are frozen in time, enjoying a giant and timeless party somewhere: On a balcony admiring ballroom dancers, or guests at a grandiose fête thrown by the Great Gatsby himself

n the background, one can see the Olympic flame arriving on a three-mast tall ship into the French port of Marseille, having sailed from Greece, and the highrolling waves representing surfing events in Tahiti

loser up, some of Paris' monuments which will be used during both Games Colympics and Paralympics – such as Les Invalides, which holds former French emperor Napoleon Bonaparte's tomb; the imperious Grand Palais; the Arc de Triomphe, and the Chateau de Versailles, whose resplendent gardens will host equestrian and pentathlon events

is a lot of AI," Roncin said. "I wanted to bring this savoir-faire à la française (French know-how): to do these hand-drawn posters and colors as well, with the hand."

It took six months to decide which colors to use and Gattoni has spent more than 2,000 hours working on the posters. "It has this fresh feel ...an atmosphere of good vibes," said Gattoni, whose work also included studying all the previous Olympic posters. "Just like the 1924 poster, this poster has to work in 100 years' time. For me this is super important."

The first official Olympics poster appeared for the 1912 Games in Stockholm and was chosen through an artistic competition. Since then posters have been the responsibility of or-

ganizers in the host city. "The Olympic Games is meant to be a period of world peace,' Gattoni said. Nine years ago, Roncin invented the "Je suis Charlie" slogan, which became a worldwide rallying cry, posting it on Twitter after the January 2015 murderous attack on satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo.

INDIAN BOXERS' HORRID RUN CONTINUES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Busto Arsizio (Italy), March 5: Reigning national champion Lakshya Chahar became the fourth Indian boxer to crash out in the opening round of the first World Olympic Boxing Qualifier here.

Competing in the men's 80kg event, Chahar was knocked out in the third round by 2021 Asian Championships silver medallist Gheshlaghi Meysam of Iran here

Having lost the first round 2-3, Chahar got himself back in the game by taking the second round 3-2. He was level on three cards heading into the final three minutes. However with 20 seconds left for the bout to end, Meysam, who was playing in close proximity, connected a powerful right hook to knockout the Indian.



All four Indian boxers, who have taken the ring here, have failed to move to the second round. World Championships bronze medallist Deepak Bhoria (51kg), Asian Games bronze medallist Narender Berwal (+92kg) and Commonwealth Games bronze medallist Jaismine Lamboria (60kg) all lost their

respective first rounds. Five Indian boxers, including world championships bronze medallist Mohammed Hussamudin and six-time Asian Championships medal winner Shiva Thapa, are still in the fray for earning Paris Olympic quotas here. A semifinal finish will

ensure a quota here. India have secured four 2024 Olympic quotas so far with Nikhat Zareen (50kg), Preeti Pawar (54kg), Parveen Hooda (57kg) and Lovlina Borgohain (75kg) clinching their entry to Paris at the Asian Games last year. India had nine boxers com-

peting in the Tokyo Olympics. Boxers who fail to earn quotas here will get a final chance to seal their passage to the Paris Games during the second World Olympic Boxing Qualifier, scheduled to be held in Bangkok from May 23 to June 3.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Satwik-Chirag, Treesa-Gayatri, Sen win

Paris: The World No.1 pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty advanced to the second round of French Open Super 750 badminton tournament with a hard-fought 21-13, 24-22 win against Malaysia's Ong Yew Sin and Teo Ee Yi here Tuesday. They will next face another Malavsian pair of Man Wei Chong and Kai Wun Tee in the next round, Lakshva Sen came from behind to eke out a 15-21, 21-15, 21-3 win over Japan's Kanta Tsunevama to set up faceoff with third seed Li Shen Feng in the preguarterfinals. Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand also progressed to the second round after claiming a 16-21, 21-19, 21-17 win over Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto. However, it was curtains for Priyanshu Rajawat who suffered a 8-21, 15-21 defeat to top seed Victor Axelsen.

Praggnanandhaa crushes Abdusattarov

PRAGUE: Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa defeated overnight sole leader Nodirbek Abdusattarov of Uzbekistan to stake his claim for the top honours at the Prague Masters chess tournament here. Winning with the black pieces, Praggnanandhaa came within striking distance of the sole leader in the ten-player round-robin event that still has three rounds remaining. Abdusattarov continued to rule the roost with 4 points and he is now followed by Praggnanandhaa, Richard Rapport of Romania and Maghsoodloo who all have 3.5 points apiece. D Gukesh had a hard day as he went down to tail-ender Mateusz Bartel. Vidit Gujrathi was up against another shocker as he went down to Vincent Keymer of Germany.

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