

Death of KIIT student FOCUS ON INFRA, AGRI sparks diplomatic tension

OST NEWS NETWORK

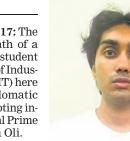
Bhubaneswar, Feb 17: The alleged suicidal death of a 20-year-old Nepalese student at Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) here escalated into a diplomatic issue Monday, prompting intervention from Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli.

Following reports of Nepalese students being forcibly evicted from their hostels after staging protests, Oli deputed two officials to counsel affected students and coordinate with Indian authorities.

The deceased, identified as Prakriti Lamsal, was a thirdvear BTech (IT) student at KIIT. She was found hanging in her hostel room Sunday, in what authorities claimed to be a case of suicide.

Tensions flared on campus as news of her death spread, with students-particularly from the Himalayan country-staging demonstrations, demanding justice. In response to the unrest, KIIT authorities allegedly evicted several Nepalese students from their hostels and transported them to Cuttack railway station without making any arrangements for their travel.

According to some students, they were left without food, water, or money, forcing many to board trains in general compartments without reservations. Taking cognizance of the situation, Oli issued a statement on Facebook, expressing concern over the incident.



Accused Advik Srivastav

in Odisha and that Nepali students have been forcibly evicted. The government is addressing this matter through diplomatic channels and remains in contact with the concerned authorities," Oli wrote.

Subsequently, two officials from the Nepali Embassy in New Delhi were sent to counsel the affected students. The embassy also coordinated with the university to ensure that Nepali students had the option to either return to their hostels

or travel home safely. Following Oli's intervention, KIIT authorities appealed to the evicted students to return to campus and assured them that their academic activities would not be disrupted.

The incident took a more serious turn after the deceased student's cousin filed a complaint at Infocity police station alleging that she had been blackmailed by a male student, which may have led to her suicide. Bhubaneswar DCP Pinak

"We have received infor- Mishra confirmed that a mation that a Nepali student case had been registered has died at KIIT University under Section 108 (abetment

AGENCIES



Police have seized the deceased's mobile phone, laptop, and other electronic devices as part of their investigation. "We have taken the accused into custody and are conducting a scientific investigation into the matter," said Mishra. As tensions escalated, hundreds of students gath-

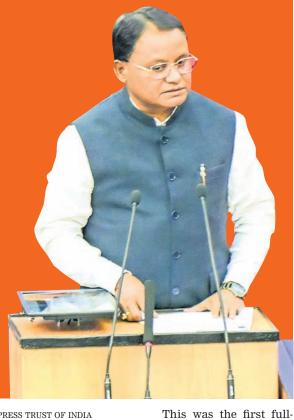
ered on campus, demanding justice. KIIT administration held discussions with protestors but later sent many Nepalese students home, citing concerns over law and order. In a statement, KIIT justi-

fied the evictions, claiming that despite over 10 hours of counseling and dialogue, some protestors refused to cooperate and blocked a major public road, worsening the situation.

'To ensure an unbiased investigation, Nepalese students were advised to return home temporarily with the help of local guardians. They are encouraged to return once the inquiry is completed. Their academic interests will be safeguarded," the university stated.

Following the temporary suspension of academic classes and hostel accommodations, normalcy was restored. The university later lifted the suspension and assured that the move was solely to maintain peace and ensure justice. To prevent further unrest, two platoons of police force were deployed on campus. MORE P3

ODISHA BUDGET 2025-26



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

fledged Budget of the BJP government after the party Bhubaneswar, Feb 17: Chief Minister Mohan Chacame to power in Odisha last ran Majhi, who holds the year. Majhi had presented Finance portfolio, Monday an interim Budget of ₹2.65 presented ₹2,90,000 crore lakh crore for the 2024-25 state Budget for the 2025-26 fiscal in July last year. fiscal with focus on infrastructure, agriculture and sions of the Budget, he said irrigation.

an outlay of ₹1,70,000 crore Majhi said the Budget's was meant for programme special thrust is on transexpenditure, which is more than 58.62 per cent of the toformative sectors like infrastructure, urban develtal Budget size. The capital outlay was ₹65,012 crore, opment, agriculture and irrigation. capital investwhich is 6.11 per cent of the ment, port-led development, GSDP. "The proportion of industrialisation and sports. capital expenditure to total

Budget is the highest among **₹ comes from** all major states in the country," Majhi claimed.

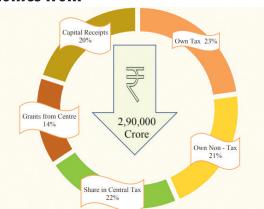
'The revenue surplus is projected at 3 per cent of the GSDP, while the fiscal deficit is projected at 3.2 per cent of the GSDP. Year-end debt stock is expected to remain at 12.7 per cent of the GSDP. Therefore, the annual Budget is fully Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) compliant," he said.

Among sectors, education received (₹41,273 crore), followed by rural development (₹39,221 crore), agriculture and allied (₹37,838 crore), social security (₹24,250 crore) and healthcare (₹23,635 crore).

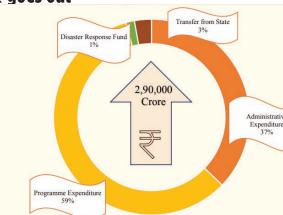
Noting that around 48 per cent of the state's workforce depends on agriculture and 80 per cent of people live in rural areas, Majhi said his government has allocated ₹37,838 crore for the agriculture and allied sectors, about 12 per cent increase over the previous year.

Among departments, Finance got the maximum allocation of ₹63.511.91 crore. followed by School & Mass Education (₹31,185.47 crore), Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water (₹28,451 crore), Health & Family Welfare (₹22,741 crore), Women & Child Development (₹15,223 crore) and Water Resources (₹14.894 crore).

This is the second Budget of the people's government. Our government has embarked on the journey of 'Samrudhha Odisha' by 2036. By 2036, we aspire to be a \$500 billion economy. Our vision of 'Viksit Odisha' is based on Hon'ble PM's Purvodaya strategy. We envision Odisha as a growth engine for 'Viksit Bharat' at 2047 MOHAN CHARAN MAJHI CHIEF MINISTER







initiatives in the Budget, which include ₹30-crore Shree Jagannath Darshan Yojana for devotees with limited financial resources. "Such devotees can travel to Puri, Majhi announced 16 new visit Srimandir and have the

Mahaprasad free of cost. Majhi said. Other new initiatives include, Antyodaya Gruha Yojana (₹2,603 crore), Subhadra Surakhya Yojana (₹153 crore) and Samrudha Sahara (₹400 crore). MORE P3

A very large sum of money from the last Budget hasn't been spent. Industrial growth is declining, and so are state's finances. It seems the double-engine government is going in reverse gear

NAVEEN PATNAIK BJD PRESIDENT



EARTHQUAKE JOLTS NCR IRREGULAR by MANJUL 36,420 women, 8,403 children missing in 5 years, CM says AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Feb 17: A total of 36,420 women and 8,403 children went

apada, Bargarh, Kalahandi, Sambalpur and Jharsuguda, he said. Awareness campaigns

to prevent trafficking incidents are being organ-

investigation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Speaking on the provi-

New Delhi. Feb 17: Elec-New Delhi, Feb 17: Strong tion Commissioner Gyanesh tremors were felt in the na-Kumar was appointed as the next Chief Election Commistional capital and adjoining sioner (CEC) Monday, the regions as an earthquake of 4.0 magnitude struck the re- Law Ministry said. gion early Monday.

Kumar is the first CEC to



Gyanesh Kumar new CEC

polls in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, which are also due in 2026. Kumar, who played a key role in imple menting decisions following the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution in Jammu and Kashmir during his stint in the Union Home Ministry,

Do I need a train ticket to wash away my sins and attain moksha, or will a platform ticket do?

₹ FALLS 17 PAISE

Mumbai: The rupee depreciated 17 paise to close at 86.88 against the US dollar Monday, weighed down by significant foreign fund outflows and a recovery in the dollar index from intraday lows. Forex traders said the Indian rupee is trading with a negative bias as foreign banks went on a dollar-buying spree and importers scrambled to secure dollars

missing in the state over the past five years, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi informed the Assembly Monday. Majhi said 421 women

were trafficked to other states through middlemen. leading to the arrest of 453 people.

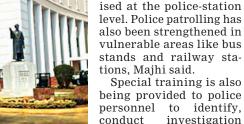
The police have been immediately registering cases on the basis of complaints and it has taken action to trace the trafficked women, he said in a writ-

ten reply to the House. During 2020-2024, a total of 1,417 women and 1,857 children who had gone missing were traced, the CM said. Besides, the state



cued 784 child labourers. Elaborating on the steps taken to prevent women and child trafficking in Odisha, Majhi said 36 Integrated Anti-Human Trafficking Units (IAHTUs) have been created.

IAHTUs have been made contact points to deal with government has also ressuch cases in Bolangir, Nu-



and avoid the recurrence of such incidents. In another written reply, the CM informed that 6,437 cases of kidnapping/abduction of women were registered in different police stations of the state during 2024, and 413

cases.

reports of any damage or injuries. Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged people in the region to stay calm and follow safety precautions while keeping alert for possible aftershocks.

Modi said in a post on X, 'Tremors were felt in Delhi and nearby areas. Urging

There were no immediate

everyone to stay calm and follow safety precautions, staying alert for possible aftershocks. Authorities are keeping a close watch on the situation."

The epicentre of the quake was in the Jheel Park area of Dhaula Kuan and there people have been arrested were some reports of people in connection with these hearing a loud sound as the ground shook. MORE P8

be appointed under the new law on the appointment of the members of the Election Commission (EC). The term of Kumar, a 1988-batch Kerala Cadre IAS officer, will run till January 26, 2029, days before the EC is expected to announce the schedule of the next Lok Sabha election.

Harvana-cadre IAS officer. has been appointed as an Election Commissioner.

During his tenure as the 26th CEC, Kumar will oversee the Bihar Assembly polls later this year and the Kerala and Puducherry Assembly polls in 2026. Similarly, he will oversee the Assembly

Commissioner March 15, 2024 His appointment came hours after the Congress asked the government to defer its decision on the new CEC till the Supreme Court con cludes its hearing on a petition challenging the composition of the selection panel.

took charge as an Election



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Taiwan bounty hunters kill invading iguanas

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Taipei. Feb 17: Armed with a slingshot, Taiwanese bounty hunter Wu Chenghua bends sideways and aims his lethal weapon up at a green iguana, one of tens of thousands in the crosshairs of a government cull.

Taiwan's iguana population has exploded since the giant lizards were introduced from Central and South America more than 20 years ago as exotic pets.

Many escaped, or were dumped, and have bred rapidly in the warm climate of the island's south, invading neighbourhoods and ravaging farmers' crops.

After Wu finishes his shift at a breakfast eatery, he joins a group of hunters hired by the Pingtung Coun- necks as they scan the thick ty government, which pays forest for iguanas, which



up to NT\$500 (US\$15) per iguana. "Sometimes we've been lucky and caught 300 iguanas in a day," Wu, 25, 'Sometimes we were not so lucky and caught two,

three or a dozen.' Carrying harpoon slingshots used for spearfishing and wearing rubber boots, the hunters crane their

told AFP.

live in the canopy. There are more misses than hits as the men fire their stainless steel darts at the prehistoric-looking creatures high up in the trees

and shielded by leaves and branches AFP journalists watch as

an iguana plunges several metres to the ground and runs for its life. Another is shot multiple times before it is pulled out of the tree still alive. The men bind the legs of the captured iguanas to stop them escaping and leave them on the ground as they carry on hunting.

'A perfect storm'

Taiwan began culling iguanas nearly 10 years ago and this year's target has been set at more than 100,000.

Experts and government officials say the effort is unlikely to eradicate the reptiles, which have also become pests in other countries, including the United States.

Some estimates put Taiwan's green iguana population at 200,000. A female iguana breeds once a year, laying dozens of eggs at a time

'Climate anomalies' have fuelled iguana numbers in recent years, said Chen Tien-hsi, a wildlife expert

at the National Pingtung University of Science and Technology

> and unusually warm winters have increased hatching and survival rates of the young, which Chen said had created 'a perfect storm for explosive population

Pingtung County has partment director-general Cheng Yung-yu said.

But Cheng said more effective 'removal strategies' were needed.

"Despite significant manpower and resources being spent on their removal annually, their population continues to grow almost exponentially," he said.

brighter future A lack of seasonal rain

NBA Accredited Programmes









growth'.

from a few hundred a year in the beginning to 48,000 last year, Agriculture De-

ramped up its iguana cull



ISUre

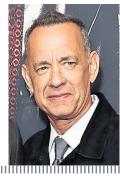


WINSLET'S DIRECTORIAL DEBUT **GOODBYE JUNE FOR NETFLIX**

Hollywood actress Kate Winslet will make her directorial debut with Netflix's Goodbye June, in which she will also act and produce. The film, featuring Toni Collette and Helen Mirren, is a drama about siblings uniting during tough times.

HANKS REVISITS PROBLEMATIC ACTS, **GIGS OF SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE**

The recent episode of the sketch comedy show *SNL50* was the one for pondering and being selfcritical. In the episode, Hollywood royalty Tom Hanks deadpanned the opening of what seemed to be an in memoriam segment.



NE FORECAST

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A new acquaintance will make you feel happy today. You must remember that things don't have to be expressed explicitly; a word or a song from deep within can make a bigger impact. Ganesha says today is the right time to do something which will be more rewarding in the long-term.

TAURUS

This day you will be inclined to

act tough and pick up a fight with everyone whom you are likely to encounter, warns Ganesha Those who know you well will be at a loss to make anything out of your belligerent attitude and may not be able to keep up with you for too long. You'll simply be making a lot of enemies alienating a lot of good friends.

GEMINI

tic mood today.

You will feel the need to pursue your passions today. You will give more time to your family and will spend as much time as possible with your children and will bestow your love and affection on them. You will be in an imaginative and roman

CANCER

Sometimes acting a little eccentric and adopting an approach that you will usually not helps

you redefine your style, says Ganesha. Go ahead and do that today! Although you will be open to adapt and bring in some revolutionary changes, you will make sure to follow a proper pattern.

Financial gains will make you happy today. You will have the opportunity to participate in social functions. All your work will get completed as per schedule. You will be able to channel your energy effectively, says Ganesha

You are born with a talent for business. Your organisational skills too are flawless. Ganesha advises you to use all your creativity, innovative ideas and ability to motivate others to make progress in your business.

Ganesha advises you not to take stress about small issues or matters. To avoid tension and to gain mental peace it is advised you perform yoga or meditation. There will be pressure put on you regard-ing certain matters at the work-front.

Priyanka gets nostalgic

Mumbai: Actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas who was recently in India for her brother Siddharth's wedding, is getting nostalgic. On Monday, the actress took to her Instagram, and dropped a bunch of pictures from her childhood, teens and initial phase of her career.

She also penned a long note in the caption and told the story behind each photograph. One of the pictures also shows her in the company of Bollywood superstar Ajay Devgn and the late actor Dilip Kumar.

She wrote, "As I was clearing up my photo library, I found some fun snippets of my life. 1: Fash-

ion first. Moms sunnies, Dads bike (make was Rajdoot I think) 1983 2: As I said Fashion first. Always been a Desi girl 1982 3: it was my Birthday party but I had a bad asthma attack 1987 4: fashion stole my smile. Another birthday another year 5: My happiest place. Traveling with my family. Leh 1994 6: Camphor hospital grounds Bariellv".

One of the pictures also shows her holding a python.

She further mentioned, "Lanky teenager at 13 was allowed a cola! of course in a fancy glass. 1995 8: Boston. major upgrade in confidence 1997 9: 90s baby. Stylin' with @irf.ahm 1997 10: my first modelling shoot in Bareilly. Hair and makeup by me 1999. See you soon with some more nostalgia".

AGENCIES

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UTTAR PURUSHA'S 3-DAY THEATRE FEST

The members of Uttar Purusha, one of the oldest drama troupes in Odisha, staged the Odia play Sagara Manthan on the inaugural evening of the event at Rabindra Mandap, Bhubaneswar, Monday. Adapted from JB Priestley's English play An Inspector Calls by legendary playwright Manoranjan Das into Odia, the drawing room drama was directed by the troupe's president, Prasanna Kumar Mishra. The play emphasized the importance of both personal and social responsibility. Debadatta, Chakradhar, Rajkumar, Ketan, Mithun, Pranati, and Dipti were among the artistes who performed on stage. PIC' BIKASH NAYA

Film

Yami's

career

Mumbai: In A Thursday, Yami Gautam played a schoolteacher who orchestrates a hostage situation with her class of toddlers. This portrayal challenged traditional female roles in Bollywood, showcasing her ability to take on complex characters. The film's gripping narrative offered a thrilling cinematic experience while addressing critical social issues.

Reflecting on its impact, Gautam had shared earlier, "A film that changed the course of my career, all over again. that turned A Thursday is very close to my heart for more reasons than one. It makes me sure as an actor to take many such

challenging and edgy characters in the future.³ For Gautam, the film was more than just a project; it reignited her passion for acting and provided her with a platform to explore challengng roles she had yet to embrace.

Celebrating the three-year anniversary of A Thursday, the film marked a pivotal moment in Yami Gautam's career. It reshaped her trajectory and showcased her willingness to take on challenging roles. Looking ahead, Gautam continues to ex- plore diverse projects embracing roles that push cre ative boundar ies



breaking story Bond (1992). The actress revealed how while working in close proximity, often actors end up being together but the love soon fizzles out, albeit it does leave an impact on young minds. In a candid conversation, Sheeba opened up about developing a 'friendship' with the Khiladi star and also revealed how she took her own time to cool down from the impact of a breakup.

APPO -----Sheeba was quoted by a entertainment portal saying, "When you are young and working in close proximity, ho jata hai ishq (love happens)." Further talking about how their families too shared a bond, the actress continued, "Both fitness-crazy people... And family friends. My nani and his mom would play cards together." However, she continued to insist that she doesn't remember much about the breakup. "We were both kids. I don't even talk about it. I find it so funny. What's there to talk about it? I don't even remember much stuff from that time. It's been over three

SCORPIO

You go on a shopping spree and that too with your beloved. This may be quite ther apeutic for your for your relationship. You may be just happy to use your bargaining skills to the optimum. Spending lavishly. first on shopping and then on sumptuous dinner to treat your taste buds.

SAGITTARIUS

Tedious day in store for you as hectic work is likely to keep you one toes; this is not-so-good-news. And well, it's time for some good news now. You will do so much running around for your work, that you will actually shed a few kilos of weight. Celebrate by treating your tastebuds, but with low-cal food!

Pain and fun, both are the two sides of a coin and today, you will experience both of them in equal amount. You may have to slog your self to earn money, but be careful and don't drain yourself out, advises Ganesha. You will get what you have wished for, however, you need not try your luck too much.

.

AQUARIUS

You will receive some good news today. Whatever has been in the pipe line may come out in the open and you'll see the desired output, feels Ganesha. Courageous and patient, you can deal with the toughest of challenges with an ease and Ganesha gives a pat on your back for that. It will be a good day for people asso-ciated with Stock Market and finance.

PISCES

Your day today will be like a tug-of-war competition. Try to come out on top in this competition. Ganesha advices you not to underestimate your enemies. It is advisable to find a solution or avoid conflict so that you don't need to waste your energy in this.



decades," she maintained

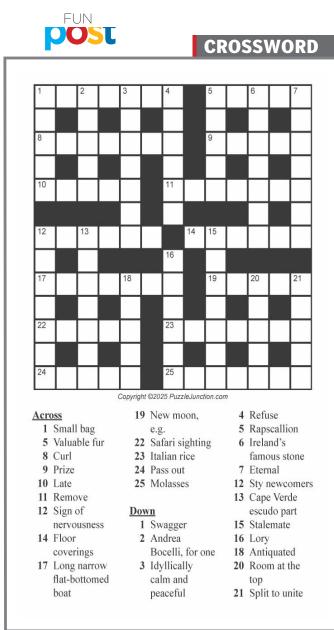
CALVIN AND HOBBES



PEANUTS

BREVITY





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.

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		8	4		3			
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SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU

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



owntown

RAISING VOICE

Members of OSE **Employees Federation** stage a protest at **OPTCL** headquarters in Bhubaneswar Monday over their charter of demands



CM: 582 Maoist cadres surrendered since 2006



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Feb 17: A total of 582 CPI (Maoist) cadres have surrendered in Odisha from 2006 up to January 2025, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi told the state Assembly Monday. While replying to a question

by Congress MLA Mangu Khilla, the chief minister said out of 582 militias, 364 eligible surrendered persons have been provided the surrender benefits. A total of ₹9.62 crore has been spent in this regard, he said.

The state government has been implementing a "Surrender and Rehabilitation Policy' in the state since the year 2006 to bring back cadres, who have

joined the CPI (Maoist) outfit and are involved in armed conflict with the state and the administration.

Different benefits have been extended to the surrendered Maoist cadres as per the eligibility criteria of the policy, Majhi said.

Under the policy, the state government has been providing financial assistance up to ₹2.50 lakh, assistance of ₹25,000 for homestead land, and house-building assistance of ₹45,000, he said.

In case the surrendered CPI (Maoist) cadre is interested to pursue study, the government provides educational assistance of ₹3,000 to him/her, he

364 eliaible surrendered persons have been provided the surrender benefits, CM adds

added. As per the provision, the state also provides vocational training to the surrendered CPI (Maoist) cadre at the rate of ₹6.000 per month for a maximum period of 36 months.

If the surrendered CPI (Maoist) cadre opts for marriage and there is no surviving spouse, an incentive of ₹25,000 is being provided for his/her marriage, he pointed out.

The CM further said the Surrender and Rehabilitation Policy is one of the important components of the composite anti-Maoist action plan for which the Maoist menace has been remarkably contained in the state and the unprecedented turnaround in the situation in Swabhiman Anchal (earlier known as hotbed for Maoists) in Malkangiri district and Narayanpatna-Bandhugaon axis of Koraput district can be taken as success story in

this regard.



ENTICING DANCE: A peacock spreads its feathers at Peacock Valley in Munduli, Cuttack Monday

Bus hits ambulance; **5** seriously injured

Pipili: Five people were seriously injured after a bus hit an ambulance on the Puri National Highway near Madhuban square, Pipili, under Satasankha Police Outpost, Monday. According to reports, the ambulance, which was carrying a patient and his relatives from Bhubaneswar's Nilachal Medical to Brahmagiri, was hit from the rear by the bus near Madhuban. As a result of the crash, the patient, two relatives, and a two-year-old child in the ambulance, along with the ambulance driver sustained serious injuries. Local residents helped rescue the injured and they were initially taken to the Mangalpur Community Health Centre for treatment. Due to the severity of their injuries, the victims were later transferred to Bhubaneswar for further medical care. Authorities, including

Viral videos bring to light student unrest POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 17: The alleged mistreatment of students at KIIT University became public only after several videos surfaced on social media, showing heated arguments between the university authorities and the students, the latter agitating over the authorities' alleged inaction that led to the tragic death of the 20-year-old B Tech student from Nepal

Netizens decried the authorities of the university over their alleged highhandedness.

A purported video that triggered outcry on social media shows a female faculty telling protesting students, "KIIT offers free education to 40,000 students cutting across the globe, with its rich 30-year-old legacy. The economic capacity to run the mission outweighs the budget of Nepal. The university does not run only for you. If this upsets you, you should pack your bags and leave. Else, the police will drag you out of your hostel rooms." Earlier in the day, KIIT re-



leased a notice, declaring Sine Die for every international student from Nepal. "They are hereby directed to vacate the university campus immediately today on 17th February, 2025.it mentioned. This allegedly led to thousands of students pouring into the Capital City's streets, staging demonstration against the varsity. A second-vear B Tech student

room when security personnel slammed the door, ordering to pack their bags in five minutes, and leave the campus. "I am a native of Haryana. Till now, I have not made any train tickMinister Suryabanshi Suraj said "India and, in particular, Odisha enjoys a very cordial relation with Nepal. Today's incident in KIIT University is unfortunate. The state government had taken action, arresting the suspect behind the incident. Besides, the victim's belongings have been seized." He added that the government has ordered for revocation of sine die, and bring the students immediate

ly to the campus. The deceased student's uncle, Nishan Kanel, reached the City Monday evening, along with her parents to receive her body. Speaking to Orissa POST, Nishan said, "Prakriti broke into tears a few days ago while speaking with my daughter. Upon enquiry. Prakriti expressed that her boyfriend Advik has been harassing her, threatening to make her private photos viral.

'Double-engine' going in reverse direction: LoP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Feb 17: Leader of Opposition (LoP) and BJD president Naveen Patnaik Monday criticised the BJP government's first full-fledged Budget for 2025-26, claiming that the 'double engine' administration is moving in reverse.

Reacting to the state budget presented by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Patnaik said, "A very large sum of money from the last Budget hasn't been spent. Industrial growth is declining, and so are state finances. It seems the double-engine government is going in reverse gear."

Patnaik further alleged that the economic growth of the state had decreased under the double-engine government. He also pointed out the lack of development in the farms and fields since the BJP came to power, stating that farmers are suffering and dying by suicide while rising costs are hitting the general public.



Patnaik noted the increasing unemployment rate and the distress among women members of Mission Shakti.

He questioned the purpose of the Budget if funds are not being utilised, saying, "Spending is very low. What is the meaning of the Budget if you are unable to spend money?" Meanwhile, Congress Legisla ture Party leader Rama Chandra Kadam termed the Budget a "po litical document," asserting that it had little to do with economics. He criticised the Budget for not addressing major issues such as unemployment, price rise, and farmers' problems.

Satasankha outpost OIC Prakas Mallick and Pipili Police Sub-Inspector Narayan Behera arrived at the scene and seized both the bus and the ambulance involved in the accident. The bus driver has been detained and an investigation into the incident is underway, said a police official

at the university, who wished to remain anonymous fearing action, said he was asleep in his

et reservations to travel back home. Besides, I do not have money to make last-minute arrangements" he said while standing with his friends outside Bhubaneswar railway station.

Meanwhile, reacting to the incident, Higher Education

Nishan added that during the conversation. Prakriti requested the formers daughter to not reveal before family members, fearing embarrassment.

'Focus on growth, but gaps in some sectors'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 17: People from various walks of life in the City reacted variedly to the Budget for FY 2025-26 of the BJP state government which was presented in the Assembly by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Maihi Monday

In the ₹2,90,000 crore Budget, special thrust has been given on transformative sectors, like infrastructure, urban development, agriculture & irrigation, capital investment, port-led development, industrialization and sports.

While a majority of citizens who Orissa POST spoke to lauded the government's efforts in pushing sectors like agriculture. communication, education, infrastructure, healthcare and IT in the Budget, some were critical of, what they said, the lesser allocations to some sectors like tourism and issues like distress migration.

Sakyasingha Mohapatra, an entrepreneur, said the Budget emphasises growth across sectors. with a special focus on building an Innovation Corridor to boost research, technology, and startups. He said the key allocations for infrastructure, agriculture, healthcare, and education will help drive industrial growth and job creation.

STATE BUDGET 2025-26



ic progress and inclusive development," he said

ognised distress migration as an issue in Odisha. "Good that the

government has recognised the issues, formed a taskforce and made budgetary provision for the issue," he said.

He however, added that the ₹12 crore is not sufficient to arrest distress migration. "We need more efforts in terms of mapping migrant population, tracking movement, family-based intervention to prevent distress migration, illegal trafficking of laborers," he said.

Health expert Amrit Pattojoshi said the government has allocated ₹21,200 crore in the Budget for public healthcare which is an increase of about 30 per cent over the previous financial year. "It amounts to eight percent of the state Budget, which matches with the normative allocation for the sector as per recommendation of the 15th Finance Commission. This will give a boost to the sector," he said.

Welcoming the Budget, social activists Sudarshan Chhotoray said, " It focuses on infrastructure development both in rural and urban context. However, the focus on tourism is minimal with just ₹800 crore allocation.

He said the government could have invested more on building climate resilient and disaster resilient infrastructure, so as to make people survive future environment and climate threats in terms of natural disasters.













OrissaPOST

TUESDAY | FEBRUARY 18, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR

downtown



5-state regional review conference held in City

ress of MoSJE initiatives,

identify obstacles, and explore

new strategies for inclusive

growth and social justice.

The inaugural session was

addressed by MoSJE Secretary

Amit Yadav, Chief Secretary

Manoj Ahuja, and ST & SC

Development, Minorities &

Backward Classes Welfare de-

partment Principal Secretary

Sanjeeb Kumar Mishra.



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 17: A one-day regional review conference, involving five states—Odisha. Jharkhand. West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, and Kerala—was held in Bhubaneswar Monday. The event, organised by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE), Government of India, and supported by the Odisha government, focused on reviewing the implementation of welfare schemes and addressing key challenges.

The conference provided a platform to discuss the prog-

wide range of responsibilities, including the welfare of Scheduled Castes (SCs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs). transgender individuals, senior citizens, and marginal ized communities. He stressed the core pillars

of empowerment—education, social inclusion, and economic support—and discussed financial assistance programs such as scholarships and economic grants.

Ahuja addressed the need for access to quality education, healthcare, and housing for marginalised communities, aligning with Odisha's vision of becoming a "Viksit State." He also underscored the importance of promoting entrepreneurship and skill development to create sustainable livelihoods and self-reliance for SC communities.

The conference reaffirmed Yadav emphasised the imthe collective commitment to portance of structured diaenhancing coordination and logue between central and ensuring effective execution state governments to ensure of social justice and empowerment initiatives, aligned effective implementation of with the national vision of social justice schemes. He highlighted the ministry's inclusive growth.

DELIBERATIONS: Khurda Collector Chanchal Rana, Ekamra-Bhubaneswar MLA Babu Singh and BMC Mayor Sulochana Das attend the preparatory meeting ahead of Maha Shivratri at Circuit House in Bhubaneswar, Monday PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

Urgent appeal for Olive Ridley protection

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 17: Environmentalist Soumya Ranjan Biswal has called for immediate intervention by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Maihi to address the growing crisis at Devi River Mouth, where thousands of Olive Ridley turtle carcasses have been found. In a letter to the Chief Minister, Biswal expressed deep concern over the alarming situation and highlighted the urgent need for conservation measures.

The Olive Ridley turtle, which is protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, faces increasing threats due to weak enforcement of protective measures. However, Biswal noted that while conservation efforts



at the first two sites have been consistent, Devi River Mouth has largely been neglected, resulting in severe consequences for the turtles.

Biswal explained that every vear, thousands of Olive Ridlev turtles migrate from the

Sri Lankan coast to Odisha for breeding and nesting. Unfortunately, due to unregulated fishing activities, illegal trawling, and unmonitored marine traffic, many turtles are becoming entangled in nets or harmed in other ways. He urged the Chief

Minister to take decisive ac tion to address these threats.

The environmentalist emphasized the need for a personal inspection by the Chief Minister to assess the situation tion firsthand. He also called for stronger enforcement of marine protection laws, par ticularly around the 20 km restricted zone during nesting seasons, and better coordination between the Forest and Fisheries departments.

Biswal further stressed the importance of transparent scientific monitoring to track turtle mortality and conservation efforts. Lastly, he recom mended engaging with local fishing communities to provide alternative livelihoods, which would help reduce their dependence on illegal fishing practices.

High faecal coliform Odisha gears up for in Mahakumbh waters Mining Expo 2025

RESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 17: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) was informed on Monday that water quality at various locations in Prayagraj during the ongoing Mahakumbh was failing to meet bathing standards due to high faecal coliform levels. Faecal coliform, a marker of sewage contamination, should not exceed 2,500 units per 100 ml, as per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

The NGT bench, consisting of Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava, Judicial Member Justice Sudhir Agarwal, and expert member A Senthil Vel, was addressing concerns about sewage discharge into the Ganga and Yamuna rivers.

A CPCB report, dated February 3, revealed that water quality at monitored locations did not meet primary bathing standards, particularly with respect to faecal coliform levels.

The report noted that the high number of bathers during the Mahakumbh Mela, espe-



RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, Feb 17: The two-day Odisha Mining and Infrastructure Expo 2025 is scheduled to take place here from March 7 to 8, focusing on collaboration, innovation, and knowledge exchange in the mining and infrastructure sectors.

In a key step towards the event, the invitation and brochure were officially unveiled at a launch ceremony Monday presided over by Industries department Additional Chief Secretary Hemant Sharma. The event saw participation from industry leaders and policvmakers.



growth. This expo will serve as a platform for collaboration and knowledge exchange, positioning the state as a global leader in mining and infrastructure," he said.

Former Nalco CMD Tapan Kumar Chand highlighted Odisha's evolving role in the mining industry, while Futurex Group CMD Swami Prem Anveshi stressed the event's global outreach. "This expo will bring together national and international stakeholders

BJP tops national party income with ₹4,340.47cr

New Delhi, Feb 17: The BJP reported the highest income among national parties for FY 2023-24, earning ₹4.340.47 crore. according to the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR). This accounted for 74.57 per cent of the total income of six national parties. The BJP spent ₹2.211.69 crore, or 50.96 per cent of its income. In comparison, Congress declared ₹1,225.12 crore in income and spent 83.69 per cent of it, amounting to ₹1,025.25 crore.

A large part of party incomes

'Greater awareness needed about NEP'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 17: Governor Hari Babu Kambhampa ti stressed the need for greater awareness about the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 among faculty members and teaching staff in educational institutions during a review meeting of the Higher Education department at Raj Bhavan here Monday.

The meeting saw the participation of Higher Education Minister Suryabanshi Suraj, along with senior officials such as Commission-



He also outlined the significant challenges faced by the higher education sector, such as infrastructure gaps and the need for enhanced digital learning initiatives.

One of the key points raised by the Governor was the need for more widespread knowledge of NEP 2020 among educators. Kambhampati noted that many faculty members remain unfamiliar with the policy's scope and objectives, which could hinder its effective implementation. He called for targeted train-

ing programmes aimed a bridging this gap and ensuring that faculty members are fully equipped to adopt the policy's recommendations.

In addition to the NER awareness, the discussions also covered critical issues such as faculty recruitment the modernisation of curricula to align with industry needs, and strengthening the collaboration between academia and industry.

Agrawal highlighted the government's vision to bolster university governance, promote high-quality research. and foster skill-based educa tion to better prepare students for the evolving job market. Kambhampati commended the department's ongoing efforts and reiterated the need for continuous reforms to build a more robust and inclusive education system in Odisha.

cially on auspicious bathing days, contributed to the contamination.

The tribunal also pointed out that the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB) had not fully complied with earlier directives to submit a comprehensive action report, only providing a covering letter with some water test results.

The UPPCB's report confirmed high levels of faecal and total coliform at various locations. The tribunal has scheduled the next hearing for February 19, where UPPCB authorities are required to appear virtually

ASSIFIED

LOS

I. Narayan Mishra, aged about 69 years, Son of Krishna Chandra Mishra, resident of Badaraghunath pur, PS - Jatani, Dist.-Khordha, Odisha, stated that, I am lost my original Registered Sale Deed vide No. - 644, dtd.12.04.1999. Hence I am not responsible if the deed mis used some where.

Sharma emphasised the expo's role in attracting investments and fostering technological advancements. "Odisha's mining sector holds immense

to unlock new opportunities in mining and infrastructure," Anveshi noted.

With over 300 domestic and global companies expected to participate, the expo will show case cutting-edge technologies, foster industry partnerships, and promote sustainability initiatives.

came from electoral bonds. The BJP received the most at ₹1,685.63 crore, followed by Congress with ₹828.36 crore, and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) at ₹10.15 crore.

Collectively, these three parties raised 43.36 per cent of their income through electoral bonds, which were declared unconstitutional by the SC in May 2024.

er-cum-Secretary Aravind Agrawal.

Agrawal presented a comprehensive overview of the department, providing insights into the current status of universities, government, and government-aided colleges, as well as student enrollment figures.

W 947th coronation of Eastern Ganga king celebrated Μ

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 17: The 947th coronation anniversary of Eastern Ganga king Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva was commemorated with grandeur by heritage enthusiasts at the historic Sri Mukhalingam Temple in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh Monday.

The celebration aimed at reviving and honoring the rich legacy of the Eastern Ganga dynasty was jointly organised by Rediscover Lost Heritage (RLH), Apanna Parichha Smruti Sansad (APSS), Odia Bhojana (OB), and Kalinga Epigraphical Research Society (KERS).

The event commenced in the morning with a group of nearly 20 heritage enthusiasts embarking on a journey from the Gajapati Palace Square in Paralakhemundi to the Mad-

hukeswara Shiva Temple in



Mukhalingam. This historic location is believed to have been the early capital of the Eastern Ganga dynasty before King Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva shifted his capital to present-day Cuttack, known historically as Abhinaba Baranasi Kataka, following his conquest of Utkala. Speaking on the significance

of the event, Deepak Kumar

Nayak, a founding member of RLH, highlighted Mukhalingam's historical importance. 'Mukhalingam, identified as 'Kalinga Nagara', played a pivotal role as the early capital of the Eastern Ganga dynasty. The coronation of King Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva is confirmed to have taken place here on February 17, 1078 CE, as evidenced by the Korni copper

plate grants of the king," said Navak.

He further noted that although the coronation day had been celebrated in Puri in previous years, Mukhalingam holds special relevance due to its historical association with the king and his dynasty. Many relics and inscriptions related to Chodaganga Deva are still found in Mukhalingam, adding to its historical richness.

Bishnu Mohan Adhikari, a member of KERS, elaborated on the vast expanse of Chodaganga Deva's empire. "During his reign, the Kalinga kingdom stretched from the River Ganges in the north to the Godavari River in the south. He remains a revered figure among Odias, being the architect of the present-day world-famous Sri Jagannath Temple at Puri. His integration of Kalinga and Utkala into a unified empire laid the

foundation for the present-day state of Odisha," said Adhikari.

The heritage enthusiasts and history lovers who participated in the event, appealed to the governments of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh to officially recognise and celebrate this day. They also urged the authorities to erect statues of King Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva at prominent locations such as Puri, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, and Mukhalingam as a tribute to his contributions to the region's history and culture.

Mahodaya, Prabhakar the executive officer of Sri Mukhalingam Temple, assured the attendees that such celebrations would continue in the future, further promoting awareness and appreciation of the historical and cultural significance of the Eastern Ganga dynasty.

WEATHER										
	BBSR	СТС								
Max Temp	33.6°	32.8°								
Min Temp	21.4°	17.2°								
Humidity	85%	85%								
Rainfall	Nil	Nil								
FORECAST mainly clear sky later.										

N	MARKET WATCH								
11	NDEX	VARIATIO	ON						
RSES	SENSEX	75996.86	•	57.65					
B		22959.50	•	30.25					
ENCY	DOLLAR	86.95	4	0.15					
CURR	DOLLAR EURO	91.2250	4	0.18					
SES	GOLD	₹ 84,738	4	₹407					
BOURSES	SILVER	₹ 95,384	¥	₹29					

BOOKING ST ASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR FOR CL

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state

Forest dept rolls up sleeves to tame Similipal forest fires

8,128KM OF FIRE LINES ESTABLISHED; 28 ALL TERRAIN VEHICLES DEPLOYED



POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Feb 17: Similipal Wildlife Sanctuary is facing an increasing threat from forest fires during the dry season each year. In order to protect the sanctuary, which is home to a unique and growing tiger population under the tiger conservation project, the Forest department has rolled up its sleeves to tame wild fires and initiated extensive measures ahead of the summer season, when fires spread quickly.

To safeguard both wildlife and forest areas from the spread of fire, a coordinated effort is underway involving Forest officials, firefighters, forest protection committees, and local residents. Awareness campaigns are also actively being conducted to prevent wildfires.

Similipal Biosphere Reserve includes the Similipal Tiger Reserve, which is divided into northern and southern divisions, along with the Baripada, Karanjia, and Rairangpur forest divisions. Of the sanctuary's 2,750 sq km area, 1,200 sq km lies within the core zone of the tiger reserve.

In recent years, forest fires in Similipal have raised national and international concerns. As per official sources, 599 fire points were identified in 2020, with 474 in the buffer zone and 125 in the core zone. In 2021, the

number surged to a whopping 2,861 fire points, including 1,933 in the buffer zone and 928 in the core zone. 319 fire points were detected in 2022, including 243 in the buffer zone and 76 in the core zone, followed by 1,456 fire points in 2023, including 1,170 in the buffer zone and 286 in the core zone. In 2024, authorities identified 520 fire points, with 392 in the buffer zone and 128 in the core zone.

Notably, 32 per cent of the fires were reported in the core zone in 2021, whereas in 2023, this figure dropped to 20 per cent, according to data from the Forest department.

From February 1 to 17 this season, 64 fire points have been identified across seven forest divisions under Baripada Forest Circle. These include 51 in Baripada division, two in Karanjia division, five in Rairangpur division, one in Balasore division, and five in Keonjhar wildlife division. Authorities have successfully brought these fires

under control. To combat wildfires this year, the Forest department, in collaboration with the district administration, self-help groups, and local representatives, has launched an exten-

sive awareness campaign. According to Prakash Chand Gogineni, Regional Chief Wildlife Warden and Field Director of the Similipal Tiger Reserve, forest personnel have been de-

ployed across all ranges and instructed to remain vigilant. In Similipal, 54 fire control squads have been established across five forest divisions, employing 290 personnel. Additionally, 40 patrolling vans have been provided to monitor and control fire outbreaks.

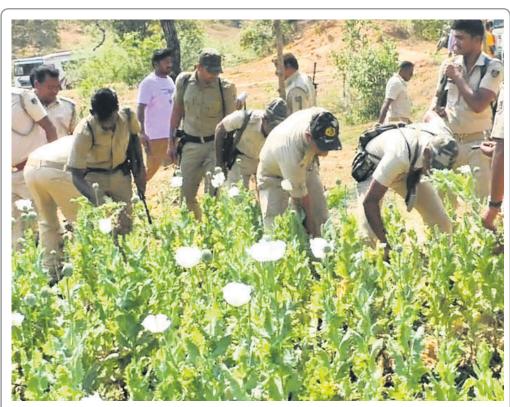
To tackle blazes in remote areas, 28 all-terrain firefighting vehicles have been deployed, including 20 Thar jeeps and eight Tata firefighting vehicles. These vehicles are equipped with water tanks capable of spraying up to 200 metres.

Furthermore, 8,128 km of fire lines have been prepared using 973 blower machines. Each forest range has been provided with fire extinguishers, new recruits, specialised boots, uniforms, protective glasses, and fire drills for field staff.

The Forest Survey of India is supplying real-time fire alerts, and 15 additional satellite systems have been integrated to enhance early warning capabilities. In core areas, five high-resolution AI-powered surveillance cameras have been installed at an estimated cost of ₹1.5 crore. These 360-degree cameras can detect smoke or fire within a 15-km radius and immediately relay alerts to the control room, improving response time compared to the 12-hour satellite data updates. To prevent manmade wild-

fires, awareness campaigns are being conducted in villages on the fringes of Similipal Wildlife Sanctuary. Additionally, financial incentives ranging from ₹5,000 to ₹10,000 are being provided to local residents to discourage fire incidents.

The Forest department remains optimistic that this year's efforts will significantly improve wildfire control compared to previous years.



CRACKING THE WHIP: Excise and police personnel destroying poppy plants, cultivated for opium in Podadiha, Hudisahi area inside Similipal Wildlife Sanctuary under Kaptipada police limits in Mayurbhanj district, Monday ор рното

Security guard's body found at mega water project; kin cry foul

Keonjhar/Hatadihi: A security guard posted at a mega drinking water project near Anandpur in Keonjhar district was found dead near the rear gate of the facility along the bank of Baitarani river Monday morning. The deceased was identified as Sukadev Sahu. a resident of Padmapur village under ward number 2 in Anandpur area. Family members said Sahu left home Sunday evening on his bicycle for duty. However, he did not return home, raising concerns among his kin. Colleagues discovered his body and informed authorities Monday morning. Upon arriving at the scene, family members and villagers alleged that Sahu was murdered, pointing to suspicious circumstances surrounding his death. Following their complaint, police launched an investigation. The mysterious death of Sahu sparked tension in the area as relatives and villagers staged a road blockade on National Highway 53 demanding justice.

Pipe falls from Joda flyover; biker injured

POST NEWS NETWORK

Joda, Feb 17: State's longest flyover at Joda in Keonjhar district which has been making headlines for all the wrong reasons, was again in the news after a large drainage pipe fell from the flyover and crash-landed on a biker passing underneath Monday afternoon.

The injured motorcyclist. identified as Badri Narayan Kar, was taken to a local health centre for treatment.

Reports said Kar was on his way to a bank when a rainwater drainage pipe fell from pillar number 55 and struck him on his shoulder. The incident led to brief unrest in the area, which subsided after he was admitted to a hospital.

Expressing his frustration Kar noted that despite the flyover being relatively new, incidents like falling pipes, dislodged concrete chunks, and exposed iron rods have become common. He criticised local authorities for failing to address these safety concerns.

Local youth leaders, including Jagannath Panigrahi, Samir Das. Ramesh Chandra Mohapatra, and Kamakshya Patra, voiced concerns over the safety of road users. They blamed the instability of the pipes on substandard materials used in construction and vibra-

Man arrested for killing neighbour

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sorada. Feb 17: A man was arrested Monday for allegedly killing his neighbour at Netaji Sahi under this police limits in Ganjam district.

The deceased was identified as Dhoba Gauda and the ac cused has been identified as Tarini Maharana, both residents of the same locality.

According to locals, Dhoba, an auto-rickshaw driver, was an alcoholic and used to verbally abuse people, including Maharana. This had led to en mity between the two.

The incident occurred after an argument broke out between them Sunday. During the scuffle Tarini attacked Dhoba with an iron rod and struck on the head rendering him unconscious. Villagers immediately took Dhoba to the Sorada Community Health Centre (CHC), where he was further referred to MKCG Medical College and Hospital at Berhampur for further treatment. However, he succumbed to his injuries on the way.

Dhoba's mother Renu Gauda lodged a formal complaint at Sorada police station, alleging that Tarini was responsible for her son's death. Acting on the complaint, police registered a case (79/25) and after seizing the body sent it for post-mor tem. Police also arrested the accused and began an investigation into the matter.

Bear electrocuted

NILGIRI: A female bear died after coming in contact with a live electric wire near Sindurgaura on Mitrapur-Ayodhya Road under this block in Balasore district. As per reports, the mother bear carrying her cub ventured into Mitrapur area in search of food Sunday night from the nearby protected forest. It

climbed a large banyan tree in search of honey after finding a bee hive. While climbing down with the help of the utility pole of a transformer near the tree.



the bear accidentally came in contact with live wire and got electrocuted. Local residents discovered the carcass Monday morning and informed the Forest department. On being informed, Forest department officials reached the spot, retrieved the carcass from the transformer and sent it for post-mortem. The Forest department has launched an investigation into the incident to determine the cause of death.

VEDANTA'S AAF TO UPGRADE 100 AWCs IN RAYAGADA



RAYAGADA: In its ambitious initiative to enhance early childhood care and education in Rayagada district, the Anil Agarwal Foundation (AAF) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the district administration to transform 100 Anganwadi centres into state-of-the-art "Nand Ghars" that could cater to the needs of women and child development. Prominent among others, the significant MoUsigning ceremony was graced by Parul Patawari, Collector and District Magistrate, Rayagada and Minati Deo, District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO). As part of this initiative, 15 Anganwadi centres in Kashipur block will be upgraded to "Nand Ghars" in the first phase ensuring enhanced infrastructure support and services, while the remaining 85 centres will be upgraded across other blocks in different phases. Appreciating Vedanta's efforts, Rayagada DSWO Minati Deo remarked, "We welcome Vedanta's support

in transforming Anganwadi centres in the district. The "Nand Ghar" initiative is not just creating learning centres, but also safe spaces that nurture the holistic well-being of children and women. This MoU marks a significant step toward our shared goal of community empowerment." Emphasising the company's commitment to grassroots development, Sunil Gupta, Chief Operating Officer (CEO), Vedanta Aluminium, said, "We are dedicated to community development which is rooted in Vedanta's core values of creating a positive and lasting impact in and around the region it operates.



CIN: L67100MH1995PLC093797

Regd. Office: IIFL House, Sun Infotech Park, Road No. 16V, Plot No.B-23, Thane Industrial Area, Wagle Estate, Thane - 400604 Tel: (91-22) 41035000 • Fax: (91-22) 25806654 E-mail: reach@iifl.com • Website: www.iifl.com

PUBLIC NOTICE OF E-AUCTION OF GOLD ORNAMENTS

It is hereby notified to all concerned borrower(s) in specific and the public, in general, that we, IJEL Finance Limited ("IJEL") are auctioning gold ornaments of defaulted customers who neither regularized their loans nor paid the outstanding amount despite being informed through registered auction notices and repeated reminders. Public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the following loan accounts will be conducted online through Shriram Automall India Limited on their online auction platform https://gold.samil.in on 22.02.2025 between 02:00 P.M to 05:00 P.M. Change in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at the auction center. If for any reason the E-Auction cannot be held on the date mentioned herein or the auction does not get completed on the same day, IIFL reserves the right to conduct or proceed with the said auction on any subsequent date on the auction platform and/or auction center with same terms and conditions. The unauctioned gold ornaments shall be auctioned on subsequent working days after displaying the details on auction platform and/or auction center. In case the auction at Branch level fails, the same will be re auctioned on 05.03.2025 at the specified district centre. If for any reason, the district level auction cannot be held on the date mentioned herein or the auction does not get completed on the same day, IIFL reserves the right to conduct or proceed with the district level auction on any subsequences of the same day o date with same terms and conditions. If the customer is deceased, then all the conditions pertaining to auction will be applicable to nominee/legal heir

District Centre: CHANDIKHOL-CHANDIKHOL GL - IIFL FINANCE LTD, CHANDIKHOL PO-SUNGUDA, PS-BADACHANA, NEAR ODISHA GRAMYA BANK ODISHA, PIN-754296

Branch Name: CHANDIKHOL-CHANDIKHOL GL, Taluka - Darpan

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL23702279, GL23769968, GL23837334, GL30884581, GL30905352, GL31398319, GL31786633, GL32783197, GL33269670, GL33294159, GL33821332, GL33826563.

Branch Name: JAJPUR-JAJPUR ROAD JENA COMPLEX, Taluka - Jaipur Road

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL23955689, GL26428409, GL27970738, GL28031540, GL30024166, GL30266148, GL30569526, GL30874652, GL30904301, GL31219598, GL31227182, GL31283540, GL31534909, GL31555059, GL31597972, GL31606293, GL31619246. GL31629184. GL32376439. GL32667720. GL32676141. GL32686769. GL32690037. GL32765292. GL32772533. GL32812399, GL32833908, GL32845734, GL32857202, GL32963074, GL3296581, GL32979718, GL32979718, GL32984571, GL32984221, GL32985228, GL3298897, GL32989243, GL33090894, GL33133381, GL33148602, GL33161716, GL33186996, GL33196228, GL33228126, GL33228767, GL33231741, GL33233424, GL33274889, GL33295359, GL33300262, GL33305723, GL33319565, GL33322776, GL33336160, GL33352808, GL33365997, GL33366458, GL33408832, GL33413282, GL33426580, GL33432648, GL33494629, GL33598891, GL33618053, GL33655453, GL33659625, GL33678140, GL33715575, GL33718819, GL33785388, GL33786345, GL33797198, GL33806860, GL33841810, GL33865537, GL33867532, GL33870775, GL33880528, GL33891075 GL33908349, GL33919435, GL33923894, GL33924906, GL33925215, GL33939040, GL33943223, GL33963861, GL33984937, GI 33989978

Branch Name: JAJPUR-MANGALPUR SOHO GL, Taluka - Jajpur

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL3077162, GL3001749, GL31205709, GL31210844, GL31216952, GL31227395, GL31229608, GL31356791, GL31364990, GL31377897, GL31411409, GL31449473, GL31458333, GL31471555, GL31644941, GL32183776, GL32754414, GL33000590, GL33659535.

Date: 18.02.2025

Place: JAJAPUR

Branch Name: JAJPUR-TOWN GL, Taluka - Jajpur Gold Loan A/C No. : GL22707778, GL24028171, GL29897180, GL30818607, GL30836620, GL30854712, GL30878391, GL30905736. GL31311526. GL31395794. GL31417981. GL31804309. GL31806352. GL31809812. GL31810791. GL32324189. GL33192297, GL33198659, GL33340419.

The E-Auction shall be conducted on "AS IS WHERE IS". "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis and IIFL does not make any representation or warranties regards quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments. The E-Auction process and the sale (if any) pursuant to such E-Auction shall be subject to terms and conditions as IIFL may at its sole discretion deem fit to impose. IFL, at its absolute sole discretion, may either postpone or remove, any of accounts from auction list and any proceedings without prior notice and without assigning any reason therefor and to reject any or all the bids or offers without assigning any reason for the same. Details of defaulting borrower(s), pledged ornaments and other details have been displayed at the respective branch. The defaulter borrower(s) have an option to repay the entire dues including up to date interest and all applicable charges and close or regularize their loan account even after publication of this notice but in any case, till the date of auction, failing which the pledged gold ornaments will be sold and balance dues (if any) will be recovered with interest and costs. However, the defaulter loans which are closed or regularized on or after this publication, will have to bear the proportionate publication charge. Borrowers are requested to submit/update their latest bank account details to enable timely refund of excess auction proceeds, if any.

For detailed information, terms and conditions, contact the concerned branch office of IIFL Finance Limited.



Sd/-AUTHORISED SIGNATORY **IIFL FINANCE LIMITED** FINANCE

CIN: L67100MH1995PLC093797 Regd. Office: IIFL House, Sun Infotech Park Road No. 16V, Plot No.B-23, Thane Industrial Area, Wagle Estate, Thane - 400604 Tel: (91-22) 41035000 · Fax: (91-22) 25806654 E-mail: reach@iifl.com • Website: www.iifl.com

PUBLIC NOTICE OF E-AUCTION OF GOLD ORNAMENTS

It is hereby notified to all concerned borrower(s) in specific and the public, in It is hereby notified to all concerned borrower(s) in specific and the public, in general, that we, IFL Finance Limited ("IFL") are auctioning gold ornaments of defaulted customers who neither regularized their loans nor paid the outstanding amount despite being informed through registered auction notices and repeated reminders. Public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the following loan accounts will be conducted online through Shriram Automal India Limited on their online auction platform https://gold.samil.in on 22.02.2025 between 02:00 **PM to 05:00 PM.** Change in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at the auction center. If for any reason the E-Auction cannot be held on the date mentioned herein or the auction does not get completed on the same day. IFL reserves the right to conduct or proceed with the said auction on any subsequent date on the auction platform and/or auction center with same terms and conditions. The unauctioned gold ornaments shall be auctioned on subsequent working days after displaying the details on auction platform and/or auction center. In case the auction at Branch level fails, the same will be re auctioned on **05.03.2025** at the specified district centre. If for any reason, the district level auction cannot be held on the date mentioned herein or the auction does not get completed on the same day. IFL reserves the right to conduct or proceed with the district level auction on any subsequent date with same terms and conditions. If the custom deceased, then all the conditions pertaining to auction will be applicable to nominee/legal heir

District Centre: RAYAGADA-RAYAGADA GL - IIFL FINANCE LTD, 1ST FLOOR, NEW COLONY, 2ND LINE, NEAR BANK OF INDIA, RAYAGADA ODISHA - 765001

Branch Name: GUNUPUR-GUNUPUR GL, Taluka - Gunupur

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL24008973, GL30994153, GL31012945, GL31257805, GL31270650, GL31276507, GL31279719, GL31475050, GL31492635, GL31640783, GL31653660, GL31681388, GL31689028, GL31705966, GL31785032, GL31798639 GL32026480, GL32041475, GL32223898, GL32601043, GL32612035, GL32624426, GL32635822, GL32720586, GL32993601, GL33017066, GL33069944, GL33086231, GL33178700, GL33450331, GL33460047, GL33662931, GL33681247, GL33921142, GI 33922948. GL33930087. GL33943392. GL33943631, GL33973181, GL33997072 Branch Name: MUNIGUDA-MUNIGUDA GL, Taluka - Muniguda

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL33307512, GL33322496. Branch Name: RAYAGADA-RAYAGADA GL, Taluka - Rayagada

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL25660033, GL30803208, GL30825980, GL31263618, GL31277910, GL32844779, GL33101883, GL33122412, GL33312824, GL34175403.

The E-Auction shall be conducted on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis and IIFL does not make any representation or warranties regards quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments. The E-Auction process and the sale (if any) pursuant to such E-Auction shall be subject to terms and conditions as IIFL may at its sole discretion deem fit to impose. IIFL, at its absolute sole discretion, may either postpone or remove, any of accounts from auction list and any proceedings without prior notice and without assigning any reason therefor and to reject any or all the bids or offers without assigning any reason for the same. Details of the transmission of the same and the same are the same and the same are all the bids or offers without assigning any reason for the same. Details of the same are all the bids or offers without assigning any reason for the same. Details of the same are all the bids or offers without assigning any reason for the same. Details of the same are all the bids or offers without assigning any reason for the same. Details of the same are all the bids or offers without assigning any reason for the same. Details of the same are all the bids or offers without assigning any reason for the same. Details of the same are all the bids or offers without assigning any reason for the same. Details of the same are all the bids or offers without assigning any reason for the same. Details of the same are all the bids or offers without assigning any reason for the same are all the bids or or all the bids or ofters without assigning any reason for the same. Details of defaulting borrower(s), pledged ornaments and other details have been displayed at the respective branch. The defaulter borrower(s) have an option to repay the entire dues including up to date interest and all applicable charges and close or regularize their loan account even after publication of this notice but in any case, till the date of auction, failing which the pledged gold ornaments will be sold and balance dues (if any) will be recovered with interest and costs. However, the defaulter loans which are closed or regularized on or after this publication, will have to bear the proportionate publication charge. Borrowers are requested to submit/update their latest bank account details to enable timely refund of excess auction proceeds, if any.

For detailed information, terms and conditions, contact the concerned branch office of IIFL Finance Limited.



Sd/· Date: 18.02.2025 AUTHORISED SIGNATORY Place: SUNDERGARH **IIFL FINANCE LIMITED**

PUBLIC NOTICE OF E-AUCTION OF GOLD ORNAMENTS

tions caused by heavy vehicles.

the Odisha Bridge and Con-

struction Corporation (OB-

CC) of neglecting the issue

and appealed to the state gov-

ernment to investigate alleged

irregularities in the flyover's

CIN: L67100MH1995PLC093797

Regd. Office: IIFL House, Sun Infotech Park, Road No. 16V, Plot No.B-23,

Thane Industrial Area, Wagle Estate, Thane - 400604

Tel: (91-22) 41035000 · Fax: (91-22) 25806654

E-mail: reach@iifl.com • Website: www.iifl.com

construction.

FINANCE

Additionally, locals accused

It is hereby notified to all concerned borrower(s) in specific and the public, in general, that we, IIFL Finance Limited ("IIFL") are auctioning gold ornaments of defaulted customers who neither regularized their loans nor paid the outstanding amount despite being informed through registered auction notices and repeated reminders. Public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the following loan accounts will be conducted online through Shriram Automall India Limited on their online auction platform https://gold.samii.in on 22.02.2025 between 02:00 P.M to 05:00 P.M. Change in venue or date (if any) wil auction platform https://goid.samii.in on 22.02.2025 between 02:00 PM to 05:00 PM. Change in venue or date (ir any) will be displayed at the auction center. If for any reason the E-Auction cannot be held on the date mentioned herein or the auction does not get completed on the same day, IIFL reserves the right to conduct or proceed with the said auction on any subsequent date on the auction platform and/or auction center with same terms and conditions. The unauctioned gold ornaments shall be auctioned on subsequent working days after displaying the details on auction platform and/or auction center. In case the auction at Branch level fails, the same will be re auctioned on 05.03.2025 at the specified district centre. If for any reason, the district level auction cannot be held on the date mentioned herein or the auction does not get completed on the same day, IIFL reserves the right to conduct or proceed with the district level auction on any subsequent date with same terms and conditions. If the customer is deceased, then all the conditions pertaining to auction will be applicable to nominee/legal heir.

District Centre: ROURKELA-UDIT NAGAR GL - IIFL FINANCE LTD, AT- 1ST FLOOR, PANI MARKET COMPLEX, PLOT NO. 307, AMBEDKAR CHOWK, UDITNAGAR , ROURKELA, ODISHA , PIN-769012.

Branch Name: RAJGANGPUR-PADMAVATI COMPLEX SOHO GL, Taluka - Rajgangpur Gold Loan A/C No. : GL31621422, GL31629414, GL31657132, GL31680210, GL32844507, GL33308563, GL33563181, GL33652949, GL33653804, GL33931218, GL33957318.

Branch Name: ROURKELA-FERTILIZER TOWNSHIP GL, Taluka - Raurkela Industrial Township (ITS) Gold Loan A/C No. : GL31113176, GL31124134, GL31610492, GL33751864, GL33902557.

Branch Name: ROURKELA-KOEL NAGAR GL, Taluka - Raurkela (M) Gold Loan A/C No. : GL23834063, GL27086590, GL27167315, GL27952391, GL28392268, GL28494767, GL31166038, GL31176222, GL31258505, GL31303700, GL31323323, GL31552581, GL31748302, GL31928086, GL31955362, GL31961428, GL32676773, GL32935534, GL32944971, GL32958676, GL33033612, GL33496853, GL33517764, GL33626690, GL33631095, GL33645112, GL33732551, GL33749099, GL33764497, GL33767576, GL33771479, GL33771852, GL33783446, GL33794804 GL338424038, GL33824088, GL33949325, GL33974519, GL3377344, GL33994728.

Branch Name: ROURKELA-SRIRAM COMPLEX, Taluka - Rourkela Steel City

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL23908601, GL25238148, GL26411399, GL30877601, GL30905088, GL31486070, GL31495787, GL31574625, GL31689200, GL31694450, GL31698064, GL31708631, GL31785954, GL31799611, GL32058695, GL32467942, GL32968473, GL32989179, GL33050355, GL33130949, GL33145473, GL33165420, GL33176046, GL33404379, GL33446771 GL33462054, GL33525728, GL33875510, GL33880190, GL33891377, GL33893344, GL33958925, GL33964201, GL339599376, Branch Name: ROURKELA-UDIT NAGAR GL, Taluka - Raurkela Industrial Township (ITS)

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL23649481, GL23955497, GL24536820, GL24631212, GL25038346, GL25190980, GL25457485 GL2570532, GL27270617, GL27815666, GL28004717, GL28020006, GL28175679, GL29943441, GL29960546, GL309652548, GL30967961, GL30969264, GL30989794, GL31282204, GL31294957, GL31528353, GL31532896, GL31724196, GL32454545, GL32566155, GL32598231, GL32610445, GL32709844, GL32713134, GL32752803, GL32775754, GL32822711, GL32829105, CL33132745745, GL33167061, GL33177114, GL33365899, GL33502929, GL33518398, GL33694747, GL33745723, GL33945205. Branch Name: SUNDERGARH-AAMBA TOWER GL, Taluka - Sundargarh Gold Loan A/C No. : GL23820717, GL23855462, GL27224991, GL27374117, GL30126309, GL31639309, GL31640320,

GL31652277, GL31718951, GL32510172, GL32529175, GL33494900, GL33627704, GL33716018, GL33725241, GL33744402 GL33753052, GL33759078, GL33805510, GL33874581, GL33926650, GL33948138, GL33970496.

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AUTHORISED SIGNATORY **IIFL FINANCE LIMITED**

Date: 18.02.2025 Place: RAYAGADA



power post

FOCUS CURRENCY

True knowledge is not attained by thinking. It is what you are; it is what you become. **SRI AUROBINDO**



Indo-Bangla Vision

here is no reason to be overjoyed, as many in India feel, over US President Donald Trump's remark during a joint Press conference he held with Prime Minister Narendra Modi that he left the current state of affairs to be dealt with by the latter. This is more so after Trump's right hand man, Elon Musk, sounded so enthusiastic over an invitation extended to him by the chief adviser of Bangladesh's caretaker government Mohammad Yunus to visit his country and invest in his Starlink project. In fact, what Trump said was equivocation at its best. He said: "I will leave Bangladesh to the Prime Minister (Modi)." In simpler words it could imply that India is left alone to deal with its problem and not expect any help from the US. Trump was asked a question on his administration's stance on the ongoing turmoil in Bangladesh and the atrocities on minority Hindoos and Christians in the country. His assertion that the US "deep state" was not interfering in the affairs of Bangladesh, as alleged by the ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, does mean much as he is restating his Hands Off policy. To those, who believe what Trump meant was that India is free to act whichever way it thinks fit vis-à-vis Bangladesh, are taking a too charitable view of Trump's remark.

In fact, Yunus' attempt to bring Musk's satellite internet service to his country is a well-calculated strategic move to seek US support to his fragile interim government. Musk has a highly visible White House role as President Trump's right-hand man, where his meetings with foreign leaders have raised questions over the blurring of his official roles and business interests. During their lengthy video call, Musk and Yunus discussed the possibility of bringing Starlink, which provides internet access to remote locations by low Earth orbiting satellites, to Bangladesh. They emphasised that the service would create new opportunities for "Bangladesh's enterprising youth, rural and vulnerable women, and remote communities," a statement from Yunus' media office said.

The unrest in Bangladesh and the subsequent attacks on minority Hindoos were among the topics discussed by Modi with Trump. But, at the Press conference, Trump chose his words carefully to actually mean the US would not intervene in the political landscape in Bangladesh, which has undergone several changes following violent student-led unrest, leading to the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government. The most likely interpretation of his remark that he would leave the matter of Bangladesh to India would be that instead of him, Modi should take a call on the issue, since he does wish to get involved. In fact, the issue did not feature in the joint statement at all.

The upshot of this is that Trump has no intention to be convinced by Modi to take a strong public stance critical of Bangladesh's interim government. This is music in the ears of Bangladesh since it is in tune with the enthusiasm shown by Musk to invest in Bangladesh.

Yunus and his colleagues have their jobs cut out. There is an increasingly urgent need for them to reach a consensus on the overall reform package and timing of elections. The release of a UN report on the current state of affairs in Bangladesh stating the Opposition voice is being ruthlessly suppressed has already put Bangladesh in a spot of bother.

Significantly, Modi avoided addressing the issue and did not say anything about Bangladesh. He seemed to have realized about Trump's desire not to be dragged in to that issue and therefore thought it expedient to keep mum on the Bangladesh question. Observers would notice the earlier Trump-Modi warmth has completely evaporated in today's Trump 2.0 version.

Six months after the ouster of the Hasina government, Bangladesh is yet to have a stable political order. The lawlessness across the country was once again in full view on 5 February when a mob demolished the residence of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman following reports of Hasina, who is in exile in India, planning to broadcast a speech on the day. Protesters circulated their plan online to destroy the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum, Using excavators and bulldozers, they unleashed the attack on the building in the presence of security personnel, where the father of the nation was assassinated in 1975.

The complicity of the care-taker government in the vandalism was clear. One reason for the present administrators' confidence could be that they can get away with their failures to tame the fundamentalists at work in Bangladesh is the overt and covert support he is getting from the US, notwithstanding Trump's denial. If the future of Bangladesh gets murkier which it seems is very likely, it will be a constant reminder of the failure of India's foreign policy and also a persistent security threat.

THE DOLLAR HEGEMONY

S President Donald Trump's electoral victory last November was decisive and sweeping. He now has majority control over both legislative houses, i.e. the lower house called the Congress or House of Representatives, and the upper house called the Senate. Sometimes both houses together are also misleadingly called the "Congress". He has of course the control of the White House, and this is called a "governing trifecta," which is a sweet spot. He has already exercised his increased influence in the passage of 64 executive orders in barely three weeks of assuming office for the second time. Unlike his first term which began in 2017, he also has a two-third majority of the conservative judiciary. This might prove crucial if he

tries to deliver on his promise of no birthright citizenship. This cannot be merely done by an executive order, and might require a constitutional amend ment, which might in turn be challenged in the Supreme Court. The apex court could come to Trump's aid, although this is not guaranteed in this case of citizenship debate. Trump's popularity is also

supposed to be ten per cent higher than what he got from his voters, which means that even some of those who did not vote for him now support his policies. These policies cover tariff action against trading partners, stricter action against illegal aliens, withdrawing from expensive wars in distant theatres and making NATO allies pay more, and finally reducing the size of the government.

The President has threatened that America will charge reciprocal import tariffs, as a tit for tat strategy. In response, India has immediately reduced import duty on American bourbon whiskey from 150 to 100 per cent. The duty on Harley Davidson motorcycles was reduced earlier. India enjoys a trade surplus of about \$30 billion



Whenever there is global turmoil and uncertainty, investors rush to dollar assets, causing outflows from developing countries, and leading to a fall of their currencies

with the US, and it is this that Trump wants to reduce. The defence purchases of F35 fighters and other combat vehicles are on the cards, partly to assuage US sentiment.

Some of Trump's wishes seem contradictory. On one hand his desire to reduce the trade deficit and make the dollar cheaper is to increase American exports and jobs. On the other hand, he wants the dollar to remain the strong and dominant currency in the world. He threatened the BRICS nations, of which India is a member, that if they contemplate trading among themselves in non-dollar currencies, then he will impose 100 per cent import tariffs on them. You can't simultaneously ask for a weak and a strong dollar. The fact is that the dollar index, measured as DXY is close to being the highest it has been in the past twenty-five years.

So, what is the real source of the dollar strength and its hegemony? Is it due to Trump's political support and popularity? Or his enjoying the governance trifecta? Not really. Incidentally, the trifecta is still not good enough because in the upper house, the Senate, the bills need a 60 per cent majority to be passed as law which Trump does not have at this stage. There are some murmurs from within the Republican Party,

which indicate less than enthusiastic support for some of Trump policies, especially on downsizing government and cutting benefits.

Yet what is the real source of dollar's hegemonic status? The first is simply that there is no other candidate currency. Neither the pound sterling in terminal decline since the World War II, nor the euro born in 1999, nor the Chinese yuan are anywhere close to the dollar's unmatched supremacy. In terms of global trade, the US share is barely 11 per cent. But the US economy makes up one fourth of the global GDP and of course is the largest. Trump is upset about the trade deficit which is close to \$1 trillion. Mirroring that, the Chinese have a trade surplus of \$1 trillion. one third of which is with the US. Many countries including India have a trade surplus with America. So, what happens to all the surplus dollars held by export surplus countries? It is in the form of exchange reserves. A whopping sixty per cent of all reserves worldwide are held in dollar assets, i.e. US government issued bonds. So that is the real reason for dollar hegemony. It is due to the strong desire of the rest of the world to hold dollars. or dollar assets. This creates a strong demand for US bonds, which reduces the cost of borrowing for the US government. This is the enormous privilege

dominant status of its currency. To add to the privileges of dominance is another favourable factor, and it is that ninety per cent of all foreign exchange transactions worldwide are in dollars. It is the most preferred invoicing currency. Trump has already warned BRICS nations not to transact in non-dollar currencies. The preference for dollar invoicing is due to its inherent stability. And the belief that America will never default on its debt. This is tested from time to time, since the law and constitution does not allow the US government to pile on unlimited debt. It is currently about \$33 trillion. But the debt ceiling cannot be breached unless approved by the Congress, which sometimes leads to brinkmanship between the ruling party and the opposition. But invariably the debt ceiling is relaxed, until the new limit has to be relaxed again in

enjoyed by the US due to the

a few years. Whenever there is global turmoil and uncertainty, investors rush to dollar assets, causing outflows from developing countries, and leading to a fall of their currencies. This has happened to India as well. But the real reason is that implicitly the world has faith in the stability of America's financial system, its judiciary in resolving disputes speedily and fairly, its capability of resilience, and the US government's way of not passing too many irrational and isolationist laws and policies. Of course, none of this can be taken for granted. The rise of India and China in the twenty first century will surely challenge the hegemony of the dollar. India's rise is benign, while China's rise threatens the West. Their evolving bilateral relationship will surely shape world trajectory as well as affect the dollar's dominance. But for now, the dollar is king.

The writer is a noted economist. ©THE BILLION PRESS

SPECTRUM CLIMATE FINANCE

Getting the green investment he devastating effects of global warming are unfolding before our eyes. Uncontrollable fires ravage

the International Development Finance Club (IDFC, which we co-chair), but also those in the broader Finance in Common network – will play an essential

opment banks have an important role to play here. They are uniquely positioned to catalyze change by influencing public policies, strengthening local

whether these banks are multilateral, national, or subnational, they need the means to act, which requires expanding their capital base and facilitating their access to concessional resources. Last, but certainly not least, we must develop a global accountability framework that classifies financial flows according to their contribution to the green economic transition. Doing so would allow development banks to work in a systematic and coordinated manner. Responding to the climate emergency requires mobilizing the entire financial system. Public development banks are leading the way on this front, but they cannot devise comprehensive frameworks and set ambitious objectives by themselves. Solutions exist; we must implement them before time runs out.

Ajit Ranade **A WHOPPING SIXTY PER CENT OF ALL** RESERVES **WORLDWIDE ARE HELD IN DOLLAR** ASSETS

WISDOM CORNER

- There is no end to education. It is not that you read a book, pass an examination, and finish with education. The whole of life, from the moment you are born to the moment you die, is a process of learning. IIDDU KRISHNAMURTI
- The secret of life is to have a task, something you devote your entire life to, something you bring everything to, every minute of the day for the rest of your life. And the most important thing is, it must be something you cannot possibly do. HENRY MOORE
- If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen 66 the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality. DESMOND TUTU

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1836:** Hindu spiritual leader Ramakrishna Paramahansa, who founded a school of thought that united diverse mystical traditions into a single belief system, was born in Hooghly, Bengal state, India. His disciple and successor Narendranath Datta became the world-famous Swami Vivekananda and helped establish the Ramakrishna Order.
- **1930:** Pluto discovered by Clyde Tombaugh. Using a 13-inch (33-cm) telescope at the Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona, Clyde W. Tombaugh, a 24-year-old American with no formal training in astronomy, discovered the dwarf planet Pluto this day in 1930.
- 1943: The Gestapo arrests German resistance fighter Sophie Scholl and other White Rose activists. 21-year-old student Scholl and her fellow campaigners were executed for having distributed flyers criticizing the Nazi regime.
- **1977:** The Space Shuttle takes off on its maiden flight. The "Enterprise" was mounted on a Boeing 747 Shuttle Carrier Aircraft; the first free flight took place on August 12, 1977



Serge Ekué & Javier Díaz Fajardo

RESPONDING **TO THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY** REQUIRES MOBILIZING **THE ENTIRE FINANCIAL SYSTEM**

threaten to submerge Pacific islands. Droughts and floods in Africa, and hurricanes and typhoons in the Caribbean and Southeast Asia, are increasing in frequency and intensity. And yet the countries most affected by the climate crisis nearly all of them in the Global South - have some of the lowest greenhouse-gas emissions worldwide. Helping these vulnerable countries build resilience is no longer an option; it

the Amazon. Rising sea levels

is an imperative. The COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, concluded with the adoption of a New Collective Quantified Goal, with developed countries pledging at least \$300 billion annually, and all actors agreeing to scale up public and private finance for developing countries to \$1.3 trillion per year by 2035. While the Baku agreement has understandably been met with skepticism, we have no choice but to redouble our efforts to achieve these goals.

Public development banks especially the 27 members of role in reaching these targets.

Increasing green investment while considering the needs of low- and middle-income countries is no longer sufficient. Instead, the aim should be to redirect all financial flows toward the green transition within the framework of the Sharm el-Sheikh dialogue.

Achieving this goal will require overcoming three obstacles. First, we must stop funding projects and sectors that exacerbate global warming - a gargantuan task, given that the majority of financial flows remain incompatible with the Paris agreement's objectives. Second, we must start responding to the needs of the most climate-vulnerable countries, where adaptation and mitigation efforts are chronically underfunded. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, we need a radical overhaul of the global financial architecture.

This systemic transformation requires close collaboration between public and private actors. Public devel-

capacities, supporting sectoral transitions, and creating the conditions to mobilize private capital. Such financing is crucial for narrowing the gap between the commitments announced in Baku and the huge investment needed for climate-change mitigation and adaptation efforts in the developing world.

While IDFC members have invested significantly in the global energy transition, their ability to transform national and regional financial systems may be their greatest asset. Supporting the development of ambitious national climate agendas, helping businesses and communities execute their transition plans, and strengthening the capacity of local financial institutions will have a larger multiplier effect than any amount of direct spending. To unlock this potential, sev-

eral conditions must be met. First, all public development banks' mandates and business models must be strengthened to reflect these objectives. And

Serge Ekué is President of the West African Development Bank. Javier Díaz Fajardo is CEO of Bancoldex, Colombia's state-owned entrepreneurial development bank. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

Churn in Europe

Sir, This refers to "Translantic D_Rift," Orissa POST, February 17. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's call, too, for raising an "armed forces of Europe" is an acknowledgment that the European continent may no longer be the beneficiary of security guarantees provided by the US since the end of World War II, especially against the backdrop of emerging signals that President Donald Trump is intent on cutting a deal with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin. Zelenskyy was only reflecting a sentiment following comments by US vice president JD Vance at the Munich Security Conference that the old relationship between Europe and the US is "ending" and the region "needs to adjust to that." Besides the Russian-Ukraine war and Trump's politics of demanding that NATO members bear more security expenses, his recent conversations with Putin and his promise of ending the war without giving Kyiv a central role in the negotiations, as well as Vance's attacks on what are seen as long-standing European values reflect the churn and geopolitical flux in Europe, which is experiencing major changes for the first time since the Cold War's end. An inward-looking US poses multiple questions to the idea of a united Europe and should prompt the continent's leaders to forge a more independent path for their security and stability.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Ghastly incident

Sir, This refers to the news report "New Delhi Railway Station stampede toll reaches 18," Orissa POST, February 17. The ghastly incident at New Delhi Railway Station speaks volumes of the fact that there was no proper planning and effective management to control a huge number of passengers who were jostling for catching trains. The situation got went out of control when the Railway administration suddenly changed the scheduled platform. There was no adequate number of Railway police to manage the crowd. Will the Railway Minister take the moral responsibility for failing to ensure safety and security of pilgrims?

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA



TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa Post are most welcome to contribute letters (100 words), articles and columns (between 600-1000 (0) 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



B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010



















Impending drought looms large in Valley

ECOLOGICAL IMBALANCE

A large number of springs in Kashmir are on the verge of going dry

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Feb 17: As an unprecedented dry spell has hit Kashmir this winter, people are frightened by the dangers of drought looming over their heads. There has been just one major snowfall in the Valley this winter.

The question bothering people is -- Is Kashmir heading towards a drought in 2025?

When a heavy snowfall occurred December 28, 2024, hopes had been kindled of a bountiful summer. Those hopes were dashed to the ground with a completely dry January and a hitherto dry February. Elders are saying they don't have memories of this disaster in the making.

"In my lifetime, I have never seen the spring in our village

ly one outlet that works at the moment," said Fatima Bibi, 97,

who lives in Haripora village of Ganderbal district. The bad news is that a large number of springs in this district are on the verge of going dry. The famous Achabal spring in Anantnag district which was decorated with a large garden by Empress Noor Jahan in 1620, has

with such low water level. Small

outlets of water from this spring

have dried up and there is on-



ing water supplies of over 15 villages built on the waters of this spring.

Thousands of kanals of Paddy land depend on the waters of Achabal Spring for irrigation. The water discharge at the Verinag spring in Anantnag district is running very low. Verinag Spring is the source of the Jhelum River that runs through the middle of the Valley right from its source through Anantnag, Puldried up and so have the drinkwama. Srinagar. Ganderbal.

Bandipora and Baramulla districts till it crosses the Line of Control (LoC) and finally joins the Indus River at Mithankot in Pakistan. Before joining the Indus, Jhelum and Ravi join the Chenab River while Beas ioins the Sutlej River, and before meeting the Indus River, both Sutlej and Chenab join each other to form the Paninad River.

The entire agriculture and horticulture in Anantnag, Srinagar, parts of Ganderbal, Bandipora and Baramulla districts depend on the Jhelum River.

Villages where perennial water sources like springs existed for hundreds of years are being supplied potable water through water tanks by the local Jal Shakti department. People in some villages of Ganderbal district are presently receiving water tanks to sustain their drinking water needs. The worst news for the villagers in this district is that a large number of perennial springs have tested unsafe water because of the presence of hacteria

GULMARG, TANGMARG **NOW SMOKE-FREE ZONES**

JAMMU AND

KASHMIR

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SEVICE

Srinagar, Feb 17: The Jammu and Kashmir authorities Sunday declared the famous ski resort of Gulmarg and the tourist destination of Tangmarg as tobacco-free zones/smoke-free tourist spots.

An order issued by District Magistrate Baramulla said the use of tobacco is a prominent risk factor for six to eight cause es leading to death, and almost 40 per cent of the non-communicable diseases, including cancer, cardiovascular diseases and lung disorders, are attributable to tobacco use.

The Central government has enacted the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2003 or COTPA, 2003 which prohibits the advertisement and regulations of trade and commerce production, supply and distribution to protect the youth and the masses from adverse harmful effects of tobacco use and second-hand smoking.



OrissaPC

TUESDAY | FEBRUARY 18, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR

The COTPA envisages the protection of non-users from involuntary exposure to tobacco smoke, which specifically finds the mention in section 4 of the act that prohibits smoking in public places including all public offices, public workplaces, canteens etc, the order said.

"Spitting of tobacco etc leads to swine flu, tuberculosis, pneumonia, gastrointestinal disease. TB bacilli can survive

CIN: 1 67100MH1995PI C093797

in spit for an entire day which causes health problems to the public or nuisance to people in general and whereas section 270 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) stipulates that a person is guilty of a public nuisance, who dies any act or is guilty of an illegal omission which causes any common injury, danger or annovance to the public or to the people in general," it said.

TOUGH PROJECT

Inauguration of Vande Bharat train service to Kashmir postponed

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, Feb 17: The inauguration of Vande Bharat train service to Kashmir Vallev has been postponed, officials said Sunday.

Earlier reports, which the officials said were unconfirmed, had said that the Vande Bharat train service between Udhampur, Srinagar and Baramulla would he inaugurated February 17 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi

The authorities have not given any official date for the inauguration of the train service while announcing the postponement.

The ambitious Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) is the most challenging railway project ever built by the Indian railways.

It is also one of the world's most challenging railway projects technologically. It is a gigantic infrastructure project built by the Indian railways.

The project includes the country's first cable-staved Anii Khad Bridge with a 331-metre-high pylon.

The world's tallest railway bridge, taller than the Eiffel Tower of Paris, the Chenab Railway Bridge is 359 metres above the river bed. There are over a dozen tunnels on the railway route between Udhampur and Srinagar.

MP bans alcohol sale in religious cities

In a first, Madhya Pradesh to see new Low Alcoholic **Beverage Bars**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, Feb 17: For the first time, "Low Alcoholic Beverage Bars" will come up in Madhya Pradesh from the next fiscal starting April 1, while the sale of liquor will be restricted in 19 places, including 17 holy cities under the new Excise Policy, an official said.

As per the new policy released Sunday, only beer, wine and ready-to-drink alcoholic beverages with a maximum alcohol content of 10 per cent V/V (volume on volume) will be allowed for consumption in these new bars.

The consumption of spirits will be strictly prohibited in such bars, a government release stated.

Currently, 460 to 470 liquorcum-beer bars exist across MP. The number of bars will shoot up with these new outlets, an excise department official told PTI.

A composite shop comprises an Indian Made Foreign Liquor and a country liquor outlet.

Some of the holy cities where the liquor sale ban will kick in are Ujjain, Omkareshwar, Ma-



Chief Minister Mohan Yadav announced the liquor sale ban January 23 after the new excise policy was cleared. The move will cause the state government to lose about Rs 450 crore in excise rev-

enue. However, no penalty will be imposed for fetching booze from outside and drinking it individually in such areas as prohibition law is not in force in Madhya Pradesh, officials explained.

To prohibit carrying and consuming liquor where outlets will be closed, a law akin to the Bihar Prohibition Act 2016 is needed.

Besides Bihar, Gujarat has a prohibition law in place, officials said, adding that MP has only the Excise Act in force.

bars, etc. There is no individual restriction. People can possess liquor and consume it individually, not collectively," an official said.

The government statement said that under the new excise policy for the next fiscal, liquor shop renewal fees have been hiked by 20 per cent.

However, the Heritage Liquor and Wine Production Policy will remain unchanged. Heritage liquor manufacturers will continue to be exempt from Value Added Tax (VAT).

Under the state's Grape Processing Policy, fruit processing and horticulture expansion will be promoted to increase farmers' income. In addition to grapes and jamun, wine production will be allowed from other fruits and honey produced and collected in Madhya

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not get completed on the same day IIFL reserves the right to conduct or proceed with the district level auction on any equent date with same terms and conditions. If the customer is deceased, then all the conditions pertaining to auction

District Centre: BALASORE-POLICE LINE SQUARE, IIFL FINANCE LTD, GROUND FLOOR, PLOT NO 388, POLICE LINE

Gold Loan A/C No.: GL30933342, GL31220232, GL32793301, GL32801209, GL32836903, GL33490153, GL33517776,

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL23957087, GL30561972, GL31483247, GL31545294, GL31560846, GL31631399, GL31636103,

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL23940124, GL23954757, GL30869394, GL31027230, GL31048712, GL31713048, GL32430889,

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL25017485, GL29947174, GL29962531, GL31231875, GL31283668, GL31364652, GL32206344,

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therefor and to reject any or all the bids or offers without assigning any reason for the same. Details of defaulting borrower(s), pledged ornaments and other details have been displayed at the respective branch. The defaulter borrower(s) have an option to repay the entire dues including up to date interest and all applicable charges and close or regularize their loan account even after publication of this notice but in any case, till the date of auction, failing which the

pledged gold ornaments will be sold and balance dues (if any) will be recovered with interest and costs. However, the

defaulter loans which are closed or regularized on or after this publication, will have to bear the proportionate publication charge. Borrowers are requested to submit/update their latest bank account details to enable timely refund of excess



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District Centre: BHADRAK-GUPTA COMPLEX - IIFL FINANCE LTD, 1ST FLOOR, GUPTA COMPLEX, SALANDI BYPASS BHADRAK-756100.

Branch Name: BHADRAK-BASUDEVPUR GL, Taluka - Basudebpur

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL33766570. GL33816820. GL33867252. GL33882485. GL33901205. GL33920379

Branch Name: BHADRAK-DHAMNAGAR SOHO GL, Taluka - Dhamnagar Gold Loan A/C No. : GL30847478. GL31101639. GL31123692. GL31750246. GL32009426. GL32131110

Branch Name: BHADRAK-GUPTA COMPLEX, Taluka - Bhadrak Rural

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL20313778, GL20774345, GL20792180, GL30845900, GL32969494, GL32984958, GL33670399

GL33683836, GL33791611, GL33799537, GL33910219.

Branch Name: BHADRAK-KACHERI BAZAAR GL, Taluka - Bhadrak Rural Gold Loan A/C No. : GL23975473, GL31762629, GL31783022, GL33153586, GL33308425, GL33317644, GL33658524 GL33681177, GL33828422, GL33863561, GL33882968, GL33902602, GL33987719, GL33995673.

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under the liquor sale ban in 19 places, including 17 holy cities, starting April 1

47 composite alcohol shops will shut down

heshwar, Mandleshwar, Orchha, Maihar, Chitrakoot, Datia, Amarkantak and Salkanpur.

'In a purely legal sense, it restricts the points of sale and consumption in terms of sitting in Pradesh.

FINANCE

vill be applicable to nominee/legal heir

SQUARE, OT ROAD, BALASORE-756001

GL33977476, GL33993843.

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL33587957.

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL33736150.

auction proceeds, if any.

Branch Name: BALASORE-JANUGANJ GL, Taluka - Balasore

Branch Name: BALASORE-POLICE LINE SQUARE Taluka - Balasore

GL32677676, GL32899914, GL33270312, GL33305452, GL33322869.

Branch Name: BALIAPAL-BALIAPAL SOHO GL, Taluka - BALIAPAL

Branch Name: JALESWAR-BADABAZAR GL, Taluka - Jaleswa

Branch Name: JALESWAR-BHOGRAI GL, Taluka - Bhograi

GL32217680, GL32569701, GL32939430, GL32959499, GL33551223, GL33977970.

GL32732840, GL33212581, GL33283449, GL33713892, GL33834239, GL33835879, GL33863688

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL31083387, GL31099908, GL31158301, GL33851342, GL33863409.

Branch Name: BALASORE-NILAGIRI GL, Taluka - Nilgiri

Branch Name: BALASORE-SORO GL, Taluka - Soro

CIN: L67100MH1995PLC093797



Date: 18.02.2025

Place: BHADRAK

CIN: L67100MH1995PLC093797 Regd. Office: IIFL House, Sun Infotech Park, Road No. 16V, Plot No.B-23, Thane Industrial Area, Wagle Estate, Thane - 400604 Tel: (91-22) 41035000 · Fax: (91-22) 25806654 E-mail: reach@iifl.com · Website: www.iifl.com

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District Centre: ANGUL-OM TOWER GL - IIFL FINANCE LTD, OM TOWER , GROUND FLOOR, SANKER CINEMA ROAD, NEAR ICICI BANK, GANDHI MARG, ANGUL- 759122, ODISHA

Branch Name: ANGUL-OM TOWER GL, Taluka - ANGUL

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL23487384, GL23611476, GL23974196, GL25779789, GL30519204, GL30522277, GL31116762, GL31124635, GL31153591, GL31161389, GL31177552, GL31178070, GL31269680, GL31279167, GL31592957, GL31633914, GL31653222, GL31657421, GL31659920, GL31670750, GL31677773, GL31685577, GL31696367, GL31697453, GL31710660, GL3167171833, GL31714833, GL31714834, GL31739093, GL31757940, GL3175748, GL31794549, GL3180802, GL31808418, GL31808453, GL31811032, GL31811314, GL32140366, GL32538240, GL32554168, GL32594065, GL32610419, GL32785430, GL32799540, GL32811359, GL32832385, GL32905950, GL32908717, GL32923643, GL32924705, GL32944042, GL32956333, GL3201946, GL33020014, GL33076122, GL33088014, GL33137032, GL33187395, GL33270773, GL33275443, GL33290900, GL33385730 GL33449965, GL33459884, GL33472703, GL33473335, GL33483844, GL33504526, GL33515371, GL33551690, GL33542332, GL33550457, GL33569499, GL33579519, GL33581476, GL33588327, GL33593660, GL33502812, GL33604532, GL33618492, GL33632613, GL33646713, GL33684177, GL33691556, GL33711821, GL33712967, GL33718362, GL33766794, GL33817257, GL33817350, GL33871636, GL33872615, GL33875303, GL33880989, GL33885273, GL33892360, GL33894443, GL33901206, GL33907678, GL33919259, GL33943269, GL33972189, GL33974087, GL33980026, GL33985532, GL33994131, GL33995400, GL33996806

Branch Name: BANARPAL-NUAHATA GL, Taluka - ANGUL

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL24013749, GL30941499, GL30953634, GL31180453, GL31201904, GL31395874, GL31417987, GL31809711, GL32043433, GL32127063, GL32717594, GL33090642, GL33097385, GL33217866, GL33220825, GL33283577, GL33629649, GL33639323, GL33852154, GL33862158, GL33884200, GL33977880.

Branch Name: TALCHER-BYPASS CHHAK GL, Taluka - Talcher Sadar

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL23828526, GL24074976, GL24195948, GL30955647, GL31023474, GL31033371, GL31047456, GL31047504, GL3132688, GL31344792, GL31638082, GL31716697, GL31792056, GL31792037, GL31807303, GL31811504, GL32839468, GL32859814, GL32911996, GL33044959, GL33057682, GL33344078, GL33355466, GL33356257, GL33557739, GL33599844, GL33618228, GL33684180, GL33712060, GL33750506, GL33901342, GL33901507, GL33915881, GL33916050 GL33945821, GL33949225, GL33955267, GL33968115, GL33968456, GL33968996

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District Centre: DHENKANAL-GANESH BAZAR GL - IIFL FINANCE LTD, PLOT NO.2903, 1ST FLOOR, GANESH BAZAR, DHENKANAL, ODISHA-759001.

Branch Name: DHENKANAL-GANESH BAZAR GL, Taluka - Dhenkanal Sadar Gold Loan A/C No. : GL23773895, GL31130863, GL31147267, GL32722658, GL32744952, GL32845027, GL32859837, GL32883056, GL32891776, GL33092148,

GL33120944, GL33241212, GL33244477, GL33261006, GL33261406, GL33407671 GL33411407, GL33430633, GL33434529, GL33502770, GL33505496, GL33517807, GL33518335, GL33528788, GL33528745, GL33639217, GL33659498, GL33659642, GL33750833, GL33773162, GL33921864, GL33922184, GL33928649, GL33943007 GL33943858, GL33956977

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For detailed information, terms and conditions, contact the concerned branch

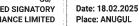
office of IIFL Finance Limited. Date: 18.02.2025 Place: DHENKANAL

Sd/ AUTHORISED SIGNATORY **IIFL FINANCE LIMITED**

Date: 18.02.2025 Place: BALESWAR

For detailed information, terms and conditions, contact the concerned branch office of IFL Finance Limited.

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Foreign Minister Dr S Jaishankar must clarify. Since Friday, two more US Military flights have landed in India carrying deported Indians. On both flights, Indians were put in handcuffs and leg shackles. Some reports claim that Sikhs were not even allowed to wear their turbans

SAKET GOKHALE | TRINAMOOL CONGRESS MP

BGB DELEGATION LANDS IN DELHI

A high-level delegation of the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), the border guarding force of the neighbouring country, reached Delhi Monday for bi-lateral talks on issues like fencing and attacks on BSF personnel and civilians by Bangladeshi miscreants, officials said



Next Delhi CM likely to take oath Feb 20

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 17: The next chief minister of Delhi along with the council of ministers is likely to take oath at the Ramlila Maidan February 20, party sources said Monday.

The oath ceremony is likely to be held around 4.30 pm February 20, which is expected to be attended by top BJP leaders, including chief ministers from the party-ruled states, the sources said.

A BJP legislative party meeting, which was to be held Monday, has been postponed to most likely Wednesday when the party will finalise on the candidate for the chief minister's post, the sources said.

The details of the oath ceremony will be discussed at the meeting, they added.

The BJP returned to power in Delhi after more than 26 years by sweeping the recent Assembly polls, the results of which were announced February 8.

Waste disposal at **Pithampur comes** under SC scanner

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi. Feb 17: The disposal of hazardous waste of 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy, which claimed 5,479 lives, near Indore came under the Supreme Court's scanner Monday which sought responses from the Centre. Madhva Pradesh and its pollution control board.

The hazardous waste of around 377 tonnes of the now defunct Union Carbide factory was shifted to Pithampur industrial area in Dhar district. 250 km away from Bhopal and around 30 km from Indore.

The top court took note of a plea raising the seminal issue of right to health and the risk to the inhabitants of nearby areas. including the city of Indore.

Highly toxic gas methyl isocyanate (MIC) leaked from the Union Carbide factory during the intervening night of December 2-3, 1984, eventually killing 5,479 people and maiming more than five lakh others. It is considered to be among the worst industrial disasters in the world.

A bench of Justices BR Gavai and Augustine George Masih agreed to hear a plea challenging the December 3, 2024 and January 6 this year orders of the Madhya Pradesh High Court.

'NOT PARTY'S VIEWS' **Cong distances from Pitroda's China remark**

Congress says China 'remains our foremost foreign policy, external security, as well as economic challenge'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 17: The Congress Monday distanced itself from its leader Sam Pitroda's remarks on China, saying they are not the views of the party and that China remains India's foremost external security and economic challenge.

Pitroda, chairman of Indian Overseas Congress, was reported to have said that he does not understand the threat India faces from China, claiming that it is often blown out of proportion.

"The views reportedly expressed by Mr Sam Pitroda on China are most definitely NOT the views of the Indian National Congress.³ AICC general secretary, communications, Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X. "China remains our foremost foreign policy, external security, as well as economic challenge. The INC has repeatedly raised questions on the Modi Govt's approach to China, including the PM's public clean chit to it June 19, 2020. Our most recent statement on China was 28th January, 2025," he said.

"It is also extremely regrettable that Parliament is being denied an opportunity to discuss the situation and express a collective resolve to meet these challenges effectively," Ramesh said. The BJP has at-



The BJP has attacked the Congress over Pitroda's remarks, saying that what **Pitroda has said** symbolises the mindset of the **Congress and said Pitroda's remarks** are in line with its leaders' statements in support of China

tacked the Congress over Pitroda's remarks, saying that what Pitroda has said symbolises the mindset of the Congress and said Pitroda's remarks are in line with its leaders statements in support of China.

In his statement January 28, Ramesh had said the Congress notes the announcement by the Modi government of normalisation of ties with China at a time when there are still many unanswered questions about the disengagement agreement of October 21, 2024.

The statement had come after New Delhi and Beijing agreed to restore commercial and cultural ties including direct flights between the two capitals, resumption of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra. liberalised visa regime and other measures following the recent Beijing visit of the foreign secretary.

The Modi government has not yet satisfactorily explained to the country why this is the right time to normalise relations with China.^{*}

"Ever since the Chinese occupied 2,000 sq km of territory in eastern Ladakh that had been accessed by Indian patrols until May 2020, the people and the Armed Forces of the country have held that the Government of India must insist on a restoration of the status quo ante as it stood prior to that," Ramesh had said in his statement, while posing a set of questions to the government.

Residents jolted as quake hits Delhi-NCR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 17: Many Delhi residents were startled by strong iolts after a 4.0-magnitude earthquake struck the national capital and adjoining regions Monday morning.

The strong tremors triggered by the earthquake prompted several residents of Delhi to rush out of



side," Kumar said. "I am a heart patient, so I panicked even more.' he added. The epicentre of the quake was in the Jheel Park area of Dhaula Kuan and there were some reports of people hearing a loud sound as the ground shook. Another Sita Ram Bazar resident, Sundar Lal, initially mis-

took the noise for monkeys on the terrace. "At first, we thought there were monkeys on our terrace making noise but then we realised it was an earthquake, so we all ran outside," he said. "It was a very strong earthquake, and we were all terrified. But thankfully it didn't last long," he added.

The National Center for Seismology said the earthquake struck at a focal depth of five kilometres at 5:36 am. There were no immediate reports of any damage or injuries. A CCTV footage from the Budh Vihar area showed that as soon as the earthquake struck, a car's horn blew as its alarm went off.

26/11 TERROR ATTACK Rana became part of conspiracy in 2005

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Feb 17: Tahawwur Hussain Rana became part of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks conspiracy in 2005 as a member of Lashkar-e-Taiba and HUJI and was closely engaged with Pakistan-based conspirators, officials said.

US President Donald Trump announced Thursday that his administration has approved Rana's extradition to India, referring to him as "one of the plotters and very evil people of the world.'

The 64-year-old Rana, a Pakistan-born Canadian national and a close associate of Pakistani-American terrorist and one of the main conspirators David Coleman Headley, is serving supervised detention at a metropolitan detention centre in Los Angeles after completing a 14-year sentence in 2023.

Once extradited, Rana would be the third person to be sent on trial in India in the case after Ajmal Kasab and Zabiuddin Ansari alias Abu Jundal. In November 2012, Kasab, the lone surviving Pakistan terrorist, was hanged to death in Pune's Yerawada Jail.

Rana, a member of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Harakat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami (HUJI), had entered into a criminal conspiracy for executing the Mumbai carnage around the beginning of



2005 along with other co-conspirators based in Pakistan, as per the NIA chargesheet. Rana's role as a co-conspirator of the Mumbai terror attacks surfaced during the National Investi gation Agency (NIA) probe.

Arrested by the FBI October 27, 2009, Rana was chargesheeted by the NIA in 2011 under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and Section 6(2) of the SAARC Convention on Suppression of Terrorism. Rana had as sisted Headley in obtaining a visa for India and established 'Immigrant Law Centre' in Mumbai, which acted as a front, an official said Rana had visited Hapur Delhi Agra Ko chi, Ahmedabad, and Mumbai with his wife Samraz Rana Akhtar between November 13 and November 21, 2008. His initial planning includes the attack on Chabad Houses located in different cities.



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PUBLIC NOTICE OF E-AUCTION OF GOLD ORNAMENTS

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District Centre: SAMBALPUR-GOLE BAZAR GL - IIFL FINANCE LTD, 1ST FLOOR, SHOP NO-201, SAHEJ PLAZA, GOLE BAZAR, SAMBALPUR-768001, ODISHA.

Branch Name: SAMBALPUR-BUDHARAJA GL, Taluka - Sambalpur

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL26850419, GL26930854, GL27184092, GL32876421, GL32895030, GL32973716, GL32990654, GL33026069, GL33056245, GL33102852, GL33121337, GL33336990, GL33352402, GL33487753, GL33151871, GL33529300, GL335141902, GL33809950, GL33813374, GL33825598, GL33871552, GL33892102, GL33920599, GL33931562, GL33936237, GL33941214, GL33944170, GL33981504.

Date: 18.02.2025

Place: SAMBALPUR

FINANCE

Branch Name: SAMBALPUR-GOLE BAZAR GL, Taluka - Sadar Gold Loan A/C No. : GL31205515, GL31226395, GL31616336, GL31861880, GL32070983, GL32291772, GL32311906, GL33626326, GL33635025, GL33648131, GL33735441, GL33896217, GL33982367, GL33995001.

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their homes.

Anil Kumar, a resident of Sita Ram Bazar, said he never experienced such tremors before. "I felt a strong vibration and got scared. My wife and I immediately woke up our child and rushed out-

For detailed information, terms and conditions, contact the concerned branch office of IIFL Finance Limited

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CIN: L67100MH1995PLC093797

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District Centre: BHAWANIPATNA-BHAWANIPATNA GL - IIFL FINANCE LTD, AT-1ST FLOOR, PLOT NO-1077, MAHAVEER PADA, BHAWANIPATNA, KALAHADI, PIN-766001

Branch Name: BHAWANIPATNA-BHAWANIPATNA GL, Taluka - Dharamgarh

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL31187380, GL31202662, GL31280229, GL31294895, GL31312125, GL31384159, GL31527177, GL31540763, GL31560922, GL31823484, GL32367481, GL32729986, GL33394096, GL33839156, GL34296152.

Branch Name: DHARAMAGARH-DHARAMAGARH GL, Taluka - Dharamagarh

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL25961511, GL22563356, GL32584967, GL33500878, GL33509861, GL33774597, GL33786499, GL33803793, GL33854237, GL33945960, GL33971242, GL33973573, GL33978673, GL33995273, GL33996102, GL33997031. Branch Name: JAIPATNA-KALAHANDI SOHO GL - Taluka - Jaipatna

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL30930206, GL30952610, GL30963400, GL30968080, GL31154129, GL31178803, GL31258126, GL31611878, GL31628345, GL31630873, GL31652979, GL31666546, GL31772645, GL31783696, GL33139340, GL33152399, GL33332780, GL33353387, GL33876598, GL33893207, GL33944635, GL33968689, GL33984399, GL33996798, GL34076461.

GL33332780, GL33353387, GL3357696, GL3557207, GL3594003, GL3554005, GL3554055, GL31140, GL3110, GL31124816, GL31194613, GL3156060, GL31569362, GL316044, GL32728897, GL32738677.

Branch Name: KESINGA-KESINGA GL - Taluka - Kesinga Gold Loan A/C No. : GL33257305, GL33263364, GL33356263, GL33412284, GL33431793, GL33971696.

Branch Name: MADANPUR RAMPUR-MADANPUR RAMOUR GL - Taluka - M.Rampur Gold Loan A/C No. : GL31287827, GL31294305, GL31348794, GL31666372, GL31680264, GL33652105, GL33682330

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District Centre: BARGARH-GL - IIFL FINANCE LTD, 1ST FLOOR, KHAJUR TIKRA WARD NO-8, INFRONT OF SWAYANSIDDHA BHAWAN,NH-6 BARGARH,ODISHA, PIN-768028

Branch Name: Bargarh-GL, Taluka - Bargarh

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL23812211, GL31587060, GL33563429, GL33569976, GL33578729, GL33593069, GL33665305, GL33674182, GL33681351, GL33757768, GL33770744, GL33928313, GL33928430, GL33942003, GL33952878, GL33967930, GL33979805, GL33995340.

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Date: 18.02.2025 Place: KENDRAPARA

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District Centre: KENDRAPARA-COLLEGE CHAK GL - IIFL FINANCE LTD, AT- BHRAMARADIA PATNA, COLLEGE CHAK, NEAR BPCL PETROL PUMP, PO+PS+DIST = KENDRAPARA , ODISHA , PIN - 754211

Branch Name: KENDRAPADA-KAKAT CHHAK GL, Taluka - Kendrapara Gold Loan A/C No. : GL23526024, GL23702978, GL24846018, GL25189295, GL25318826, GL28385024, GL29248587, GL29624212, GL29864594, GL29978022, GL30917643, GL30928490, GL31062005, GL31103898, GL31121792, GL31632967, GL31649057, GL31763516, GL31805964, GL31810507, GL32450299, GL32710286, GL32718286, GL32723788, GL32743777, GL33096377, GL33054740, GL33154740, GL33168899, GL33177663, GL32250283, GL3255987, GL3275953, GL33255587, GL32255987, GL32255987, GL32255987, GL32255987, GL32255987, GL3255987, GL32555987, GL32555987, GL32555987, GL32555987, GL32555987, GL32555987, GL32555987, GL32555687, GL32555587, GL32555887, GL3255587, GL325 GL33312052, GL33319201, GL33322156, GL33337402, GL33354725, GL33362627, GL33409550, GL33434105, GL33468851 GL33486879, GL33517056, GL33781038, GL33791005, GL33797306, GL33881073, GL33935311, GL33946471

Branch Name: KENDRAPARA-COLLEGE CHAK GL, Taluka - Kendrapara

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL23608373, GL25760035, GL27825243, GL30842924, GL30849109, GL31859383, GL32793771 GL33155107, GL33244416, GL33264271, GL33497035, GL33515012, GL33521909, GL33541877, GL33714450, GL33744223 GL33945873.

Branch Name: PATTAMUNDAI-GL - Taluka - Pattamundai

Branch Name: PA1 TAMUNDAI-GL - Taluka - Pattamundal Gold Loan A/C No. : GL23702012, GL26859206, GL29086820, GL29099403, GL30652843, GL30827249, GL30847880, GL31164603, GL31246062, GL31536411, GL32020631, GL32040200, GL32590091, GL32608964, GL32759523, GL32771039, GL32901403, GL32923204, GL33025689, GL33033577, GL33054982, GL33093448, GL33104317, GL33121002, GL33121238, GL33142020, GL33192116, GL33631075, GL33330990, GL33346032, GL33353000, GL33380802, GL33381629, GL33581187, GL336621336, GL33634288, GL33644187, GL33657792, GL33098715, GL33702621, GL33703358, GL337119008, GL33791907, GL33795037, GL33845734, GL33863913, GL33878545, GL33927192.

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Date: 18.02.2025 **IFL FINANCE LIMITED** Place: Bargarh



Sd/

AUTHORISED SIGNATORY









Deeply anguished by the tragic death of two persons at Billawar, Kathua. My thoughts and prayers are with their families during this difficult time. My office is in touch with the local MLA and the concerned officers have been asked to investigate the cause of these deaths OMAR ABDULLAH | CHIEF MINISTER, JAMMU AND KASHMIR

RARE GESTURE: MODI RECEIVES AMIR OF QATAR AT AIRPORT

Extending a rare gesture of hospitality, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday went to the airport to receive Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, who arrived here on a two-day a visit to India this evening. The Amir is scheduled to meet President Droupadi Murmu and hold talks with Modi Tuesday.



Junction following the New

Delhi Railway Station stam

pede Saturday night. Railway

and district administration of

ficials are on high alert due to

the rising number of pilgrims travelling to Prayagraj for the

District Magistrate Chan

dra Prakash Singh and DIG

Senior Superintendent of Po

lice Shailesh Kumar Pandey

conducted an inspection of the

station at midnight, advising

pilgrims to avoid rushing and

not to believe in rumours.

Maha Kumbh.

WORSHIP ACT 1991 SC hearing pushed to April Pilgrim narrowly escapes death at Mathura station PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Following the incident, pas-Security measures heightened at the Mathura

SC irked over many fresh pleas on 1991 places of worship law, lists pending ones in April

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 17: Expressing displeasure over filing of several pleas on the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, the Supreme Court Monday said a three-judge bench will hear in April the pending post-notice petitions related to the 1991 law which mandates the religious character of a place to be maintained as it existed August 15, 1947.

The top court, however, granted liberty to the petitioners like Samajwadi Party leader and Kairana MP Igra Choudhary, who have filed the pleas recently and notic-

assion and politics take

ime, both building and

spending. And wise is

the one who peppers the

future with salt from the past.

Courting dust, after all, is no

threat to the phoenix re-born

from the ashes. But to do so, it

The Indian National Congress

has undergone this process ma-

ny a times since its formation by

a group of 72 people December

28, 1885 in Bombay. Nine years

later at its 11th convention when

the strength crossed 1500 dele-

gates, there was great jubilation.

Turned into a mass movement

by Mahatma Gandhi, it spear-

headed the fight for Indepen-

dence, secured it and ruled the

country up to 1977. Defeated by

a Janata coalition, it returned

to power in 1980 and ruled un-

til 1989 when it was once again

defeated. The party formed the

government at the head of a

United Progressive Alliance(U-

PA) coalition in 1991 as well as

in 2004 and 2009. The BJP came

to power in 2014 and is into its

third term in office. Lots have

Three swallows do not a sum-

mer make. Yet for now, messiahs

of the media have pronounced

their unequivocal verdict. The

Congress is headed back to crit-

ical care. The Lok Sabha election

resurgence of 2024 was a one-

changed since then.

must first burn.



es have not been issued on them, to file applications for intervention in pending ones by citing new legal grounds.

Dismissing fresh petitions, on which notices were not issued yet, a bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Saniav Kumar said. "The writ petitioners can file an (intervention) application rais-

ing new grounds."

'We are constrained to pass this order after taking note of the number of fresh petitions filed. The pending writ petitions, which have no notices, stand dismissed with liberty to file an application raising additional grounds, if any. The new IA will only be allowed if there is any new point or new

TAKING THE ROAD LESS TRAVELLE

legal issue that has not been raised in the pending petitions." the bench said.

It then listed the batch of petitions and cross ones pertaining to the 1991 law in the week commencing April 1 before a three-judge bench.

At the outset, the CJI said, "People keep on filing fresh petitions alleging that they have raised new grounds...It will become impossible for us to deal with the petitions besides what ever has already been filed."

Senior advocate Dushyant Dave agreed to the bench and said no fresh plea be allowed on the issue.

Another senior advocate Vikas Singh, appearing for one of the old petitioners, raised the issue of non-filing of the response by the Centre to the petitions and said the last opportunity be given to the government for this purpose.

Mathura (UP), Feb 17: A young pilgrim from Kanpur narrowly escaped death as he got pushed by a crowd while deboarding a train at the Mathura railway station, officials said Monday.

The pushing caused him to fall unconscious on the platform, following which he was rushed to a hospital for treatment Sunday night, they said. He later said his mobile phone and money were stolen.

The incident comes close on the heels of a stampede at the New Delhi Railway Station which claimed lives of over a dozen people amid rising passenger traffic for the Maha Kumbh.

Government Railway Police (GRP) in-charge Yadram Singh said here, "Rajkumar, a resident of Girsi in Kanpur and son of Bhuri Singh, fell and sustained injuries due to the pressure of the crowd while getting off the train.

sengers at the station immediately alerted railway staff. Raikumar later recounted, 'Someone pushed me from behind as I was stepping off the train, causing me to fall on the platform."

He suffered serious injuries to his head and arm. He also mentioned that after losing consciousness, his mobile phone and money went missing.

GRP in-charge Singh said Rajkumar is receiving treatment at the hospital and efforts are underway to locate his missing mobile phone.



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District Centre: BOLANGIR-BANSITA COMPLEX GL - IIFL FINANCE LTD. BANSITA COMPLEX , GROUND FLOOR, RAMAI TAKIES ROAD INFRONT OF HOTEL MAHAL- 767001.

Branch Name: BOLANGIR-BANSITA COMPLEX GL, Taluka - Balangi

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL24077215, GL25675963, GL30734534, GL30839839 GL30980984, GL31067847, GL31155390, GL31178314, GL31205584, GL31228900 GL31630063, GL31652840, GL31747508, GL31764274, GL31783145, GL31794087 GL31800997, GL32592203, GL32511360, GL33080551, GL33186706, GL33286379 GL33369995, GL33373562, GL33600681, GL33628770, GL33645983, GL33715835 GL33742670, GL33767544, GL33896520, GL33915105, GL34320784, GL34330674 Branch Name: PATNAGARH-PATNAGARH SOHO GL, Taluka - Patnagarh Bold Loan A/C No. : GL33737732. Branch Name: TITILAGARH-TITILAGARH GL, Taluka - Kantabanji

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL31361657, GL31586359, GL31605349, GL31688626 GL31707017, GL32695074, GL32784358, GL32799535, GL33154686, GL33486632

GL33515761, GL33985801, GL33995712. Branch Name: TUSURA-TUSURA SOHO GL, Taluka - Tusra

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL31376674, GL31496973.

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Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (I.N.D.I.A.), the 28-party Opposition grouping, is in shambles and Rahul Gandhi's leadership of both is a train bound to nowhere. All in all, the Opposition is a basket case and the Narendra Modi-led BJP the lord and master of all that it surveys.

Doomsday prophecies, however, have been in vogue since the time of India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. It began with a concerned, "who after Nehru?" to questioning his governing abilities in the aftermath of the 1962 Chinese aggression. Lal Bahadur Shastri who followed Nehru was initial ly laughed at for his unassuming humility but left the world wrapped in national respect and a great deal taller than his physical build. Mrs Indira Gandhi who succeeded him began her stint with the ridicule of being a 'gungi-gudiva' (dumb doll) and ended up making mincemeat of the old guard within her own party while splitting Pakistan, taking measure of the US Seventh fleet and the strong- armed. US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, in the

The Congress changed nomenclatures - Congress (I) - Congress (R) - as she ruthlessly did away with the old guard to infuse

Richard Nixon Presidency.



the Congress was markedly in its failure to evaluate the threat perception emerging from Narendra Modi, particularly after he took over as chief minister of Gujarat. He had clearly made known his plans in his first meeting with his party legislators when he said "I am not here

to play a five-day test match". From day one, he locked horns with the Congress ruled Centre taking the plea that it was targeting Gujarat and defaming it, something that the Opposition ruled states are shouting themselves hoarse about today. The Congress committed the strategic blunder of playing on a field set by the wily Gujarat politician. He would pick on sundry remarks even conjure them up and then reply to it thus setting the narrative. He even added historic parallels of how injustice was done to sonof-the soil, Vallabhbhai Patel by Nehru and the family was just continuing the tradition.

Vested interests within the



scuttled the move which is yet to pick up momentum. In fact, one time BJP leader Shankersinh Vaghela who had rebelled against the Keshubhai Patel government in 1995, split the party, formed his own regional outfit to come to power in Gujarat with Congress support had lots to say. Vaghela had subsequently joined the Congress and gave examples of his mounting frustration as old congressmen made things difficult for him. The "Shakti-dal" which he had successfully created as an effective counterfoil to the Bajrang Dal of the BJP had to be disbanded under pressure from the Congress old guard. The Sewa Dal, according to him, was too docile and decrepit a body

to take on such a robust force.

Vaghela had demonstrated the 'force' of the Shakti dal when he had contested the by-election from Radhanpur in north Gujarat as he was required to be elected within six months of taking over as chief minister. Modi was then the BJP candidate's election-incharge.

Rahul Gandhi's strategy of taking the Congress back to its Gandhian roots as distinct from the BJP's politics under Narendra Modi is a step in the right direction. The voting populace now has a clear choice between two distinct political entities. Secondly the decision to take the road less travelled has provided the people a chance to see things for themselves first hand. The result of the Lok Sabha elections of 2024 which has the BJP government now on regional crutches is proof enough that it is on the right path. What is needed is the ruthlessness of his grandmother to get old guard spoilers out of the way and an energetic youth cadre to fill the breach. Modi can be outwitted only through hard-nosed groundwork. The BJP is fast imbibing the ills of the Congress of old, it is time to forge a new futuristic Congress with natural baseline intelligence.

As the old saying goes 'Birth, rebirth, as the waiting die. Old love, new love sprouts wings to fly'.

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E-mail: reach@iifl.com · Website: www.iifl.con

Road No. 16V, Plot No.B-23, Thane Industrial Area,

CIN: L67100MH1995PLC093797

Wagle Estate, Thane - 400604



In actual fact the decline of

time wonder. The Haryana and Delhi State Assembly elections have proved it beyond doubt. The

young blood in the ranks. Many of the veterans of today were political greenhorns of her time.

Congress also colluded. Rahul Gandhi's idea of the 'Vikas Khoj yatra by the youth congress in



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District Centre: NABRANGPUR-NABRANGPUR GL - IIFL FINANCE LIMITED, 1ST FLOOR, MTPL JUNCTION MAIN ROAD, NABRANGPUR, NEAR MTPL JUNCTION, **ODISHA, PIN -764059**

Branch Name: NABRANGPUR-NABRANGPUR GL, Taluka - Nabarangpu

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL27372885, GL27392951, GL29812563, GL29821044, GL29827224, GL29850102, GL30520763, GL30356981, GL31888797, GL31905862, GL32603066, GL32612099, GL32657657, GL32887875, GL33666795, GL33668880, GL33681753, GL33683589, GL33882530, GL34000355.

Branch Name: UMERKOT-UMERKOT SOHO GL, Taluka - Umerkote

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL33297835, GL33325033, GL33487604, GL33517624, GL34091793, GL34109433.

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Sd/ AUTHORISED SIGNATORY Date: 18.02.2025 IIFL FINANCE LIMITED Place: MAYURBHAN,



CIN: L67100MH1995PLC093797 Regd. Office: IIFL House, Sun Infotech Parl Road No. 16V. Plot No.B-23, Thane Industrial Area Wagle Estate, Thane - 400604 Tel: (91-22) 41035000 · Fax: (91-22) 25806654 E-mail: reach@iifl.com • Website: www.iifl.com

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District Centre: BARIPADA-GL - IIFL FINANCE LTD, GROUND FLOOR, NEAR HOTEL SAI BINAYAK COMPLEX, BARUNI ROAD, K.C CIRCLE, MADHUBAN, WARD NO - 9, MAYURBHANJ, BARIPADA, ODISHA-757001

Branch Name: BARIPADA-GL, Taluka - Baripada

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL23176759, GL30182791, GL30550172, GL30571467, GL30812123, GL30882325, GL31052615, GL31167040, GL31387884, GL31596436 GL31606426, GL31713410, GL31772820, GL33073225, GL33090149, GL33273350, GL33347109, GL33357548, GL33655379, GL33787574, GL33797140, GL33898788, GL33963716, GL33964265, GL34004280, GL34019841.

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District Centre: JEYPORE-BELL ROAD GL - IIFL FINANCE LIMITED, PLOT NO-588, 1ST FLOOR BELL ROAD, JEYPORE, KORAPUT, NEAR BANDHAN BANK, ODISHA, PIN-764001

Branch Name: BORIGUMMA-BORIGUMMA SOHO GL, Taluka - Borigumma

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL27740172, GL28664086, GL30384264, GL31284831 GL31536878, GL33126988, GL33128576, GL33149834, GL33286583, GL33583002, GL33728975, GL33808726, GL33896905, GL33915541, GL33928965, GL34068562.

Branch Name: JEYPORE-BELL ROAD GL, Taluka - Jeypu

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL27243904, GL30042655, GL31281279, GL31294954, GL31353532, GL31370246, GL32599019, GL32611733, GL32727591, GL32746611 GL33042407, GL33474252, GL33548602, GL33665507, GL33669456, GL33683676, GL33753769, GL33774566, GL33802581, GL33983980, GL33984204, GL33989870, GL33996702.

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Sd/

Date: 18.02.2025

Place: Jharsuguda

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IIFL FINANCE LIMITED



CIN: L67100MH1995PLC093797

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District Centre: JHARSUGUDA-JHARSUGUDA GL - 1ST FLOOR, BEHERA MAL, NEAR DRUGA TAMPLE, JHARSUGUDA, PO-INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, PIN-768203

Branch Name: JHARSUGUDA-JHARSUGUDA GL, Taluka - Jharsuguda

Gold Loan A/C No. : GL22489785, GL25420953, GL26557680, GL26592662, GL26977789, GL30141754, GL30525518, GL30883763, GL30901972, GL31125429, GL31141793, GL31329438, GL31342213, GL31350196, GL31368901, GL31383000 GL31392487, GL31501091, GL31516403, GL31593133, GL31604144, GL31689532 GL31739448, GL31802638, GL31972401, GL31989425, GL32048820, GL32336194 GL32369736, GL32378417, GL32409622, GL32490301, GL32506152, GL32527327, GL32619117, GL32629800, GL32637413, GL32651720, GL32663240, GL32717499, GL32744749, GL32762441, GL32779278, GL32929589, GL32956249 GL33038601, GL33046132, GL33046855, GL33054490, GL33107353, GL33118803 GL33213600, GL33219776, GL33231646, GL33234375, GL33258634, GL33336725 GL33354662, GL33387822, GL33436067, GL33452731, GL33459152, GL33520030 GL33541496, GL33577718, GL33591623, GL33633211, GL33736841, GL33784395, GL33818934, GL33923612, GL33950165.

The E-Auction shall be conducted on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis and IIFL does not make any representation or warranties regards quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments. The E-Auction process and the sale (if any) pursuant to such E-Auction shall be subject to terms and conditions as IIFL may at its sole discretion deem fit to impose. IIFL, at its absolute sole discretion, may either postpone or remove, any assigning any reason therefor and to reject any or all the bids or offers without prior notice and withou assigning any reason therefor and to reject any or all the bids or offers withou assigning any reason for the same. Details of defaulting borrower(s), pledged ornaments and other details have been displayed at the respective branch. The defaulter borrower(s) have an option to repay the entire dues including up to date interest and all applicable charges and close or regularize their loan account even after publication of this notice but in any case, till the date of auction, failing which the pledged gold ornaments will be sold and balance dues (if any) will be recovered with interest and costs. However, the defaulter loans which are closed or regularized on or after this publication, will have to bear the proportionate publication charge. Borrowers are requested to submit/update their latest bank account details to enable timely refund of excess auction proceeds, if any,

For detailed information, terms and conditions, contact the concerned branch office of IIFL Finance Limited

Sd/ AUTHORISED SIGNATORY **IIFL FINANCE LIMITED**







AUTHORISED SIGNATORY

IIFL FINANCE LIMITED

Date: 18.02.2025

Place: KORAPUT

Sd/-

Date: 18.02.2025



international

QUAKES CONTINUE

Athens, Feb 17: Greece will

soon set up an evacuation port

on the island of Santorini to fa-

cilitate the safe escape of people

in case a bigger quake hits the

popular tourist destination, a

Greek minister said Monday.

in the Aegean Sea, has been

shaken by tens of thousands of

mild quakes since late January,

forcing thousands of people

to flee, and authorities to ban

construction activity, and shut

Santorini, a volcanic island

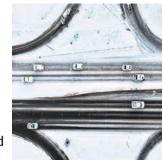
REUTERS



We urge the US to ... stop emboldening and supporting **Taiwan independence** and avoid further damaging China-US relations and the peace and stability of the Taiwan Strait GUO JIAKUN | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON, CHINA

WINTER BLAST BLANKETS US

Harsh weather moved west Monday as a polar vortex was expected to grip the Rockies and the northern Plains after winter storms pummelled the eastern US over the weekend, killing at least 10 people. The National Weather Service warned of "life-threatening cold" into Tuesday. Meteorologists said several states would experience the 10th and coldest polar vortex event this season



will build an evacuation port

for the safe docking of passen-

ger ferries until a new port in-

"Along with the new port in

Santorini which is being pre-

pared, there was a decision for

setting up an escape port on

the part of the island where

frastructure is in place.

Greece to build escape port on Santorini

schools and nearby islands. No

major damage has been reported

but scientists have said the seis-

mic activity was unprecedented

even in a quake-prone country

like Greece and have not ruled

They have identified the

main ferry port at the foot of

a precipitous slope and other

sites across Santorini as weak

links, although they have not

said they cannot be used in an

Civil Protection Minister

Vassilis Kikilias said Greece

out bigger tremors.

emergency situation.

Santorini, a volcanic island in the Aegean Sea, has been shaken by tens of thousands of mild quakes since late January, forcing thousands of people to flee



countries in the region can't figure that piece out, then Israel is going to have to do it

MARCO RUBIO US SECRETARY OF STATE

India is a ma jor maritime nation with a rich seafaring heritage. I look forward to engage ing with India's

of the day

maritime leaders and community on how we can work together to upskill and strengthen the global maritime workforce, unlock green growth and jobs, and make shipping more sustainable for all

ARSENIO DOMINGUEZ SECRETARY-GENERAL, IMO

The economy and national values were destroyed and democracy was stabbed in the back by a person

(Imran Khan)

NAWAZ SHARIF | FORMER PM. PAKISTAN

SHORT TAKES

Hearing against DOGE

Wilmington: A US judge has scheduled a rare holiday court hearing Monday, in a case brought by Democratic state attorneys general seeking to protect major federal agencies from Elon Musk's government cost-cutting team known as DOGE. US District Judge Tanya Chutkan in Washington, DC, Sunday called the hearing for Monday, the Presidents Day holiday when federal courts are closed. She did not say why she ordered the hearing, but on Friday she heard arguments by 13 Democratic state attorneys general for a temporary restraining order that would bar Musk's DOGE, or Department of Government Efficiency, team from accessing information systems at several government agencies including the departments of Labor, Education, Health and Human Services, Energy Transportation, Commerce, and the Office of Personnel Management.



their role in Ukraine's future after President Donald Trump's US administration, Kyiv's main military backer, announced it would sit down with Russia to seek an end to the three-year-old war

London, Feb 17: Britain said it was ready to send peacekeeping troops to back up any peace deal for Ukraine as European leaders gathered Monday to agree a unified strategy, while Russian and US officials prepared to meet for their own competing talks.

REUTERS

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer's comments Sunday reflect a growing realisation among European nations that they will have to play a bigger role in ensuring Ukraine's security. Washington has made clear to Europe it must stop relying on the United States for its defence.

A peacekeeping force would not only raise the risk of a direct confrontation with Russia but also stretch European armies, whose stocks have been depleted by supplying Ukraine and decades of relative peace. There are also difficult questions about how some European nations, whose public finances are already groaning, will pay for such efforts. Germany said Monday it "will not shy away" from contributing ground troops in an appropriate framework in Ukraine, against which Russia launched a full-scale invasion in 2022, but that no concrete agreements



Senior US, Russian officials head for talks in Saudi sans Ukraine Britain, Germany could send

Ukraine says it will not recognise talks held without it

were expected in Paris.

Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson also said there was "absolutely a possibility" of sending Swedish peacekeepers, if and when there was a clear mandate. Ukraine's neighbour Poland, which has NATO's third largest army, said it would provide logistical and physical help, but not troops.

Trump stunned Ukraine and European allies last week when he announced he had called Russian President Vladimir Putin, ostracised by the West. to discuss ending the war without consulting them.

Europe overcomes the challenges of the future in a strong and sovereign manner

national security adviser Mike Waltz and Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff, while the Kremlin said Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Kremlin foreign policy advisor Yuri Ushakov would take part.

As fighting rages on, with Russia making slow but steady advances, Lavrov ruled out ceding any of the 20% of Ukraine it now controls. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, visiting the United Arab Emirates, dismissed the talks in Saudi Arabia.

"Ukraine regards any negotiations on Ukraine without Ukraine as ones that have no result, and we cannot recognise . any agreements about us, without us," he told reporters. Trump's Ukraine envoy, Keith Kellogg, said Saturday Europe would not have a seat at the negotiating table. Instead, Washington sent a questionnaire to European capitals to ask what they could contribute to securi-

ty guarantees for Kyiv, and who

was ready to deploy troops.

for people to stay away from coastal areas and steep hillsides prope to landslides

"This story is not over," Costas Papazachos, a seismology professor, and a spokesperson for the Santorini quakes told public broadcaster ERT. "Both authorities and habitants should get used to a rather unpleasant situation for some time, it could be another two, three months." Santorini took its current shape following one of the largest volcanic eruptions

in history, around 1600 BC. Seismologists have said the latest seismic activity, the result of moving tectonic plates and magma, has pushed subsurface layers of the island upwards.

strike near a Lebanese army

checkpoint and Sidon's mu-

The original withdrawal

deadline was in late January,

but under pressure from Isra-

el, Lebanon agreed to extend

it to February 18. It remains

unclear whether Israeli troops

will complete their withdrawal

Since the ceasefire, Israel

has continued airstrikes in

southern and eastern Lebanon,

saying it is targeting military

sites containing missiles and

combat equipment. Israel and

Lebanon have exchanged accu-

sations of violating the cease-

nicipal sports stadium.

by Tuesday.

fire agreement

S'pore's PIO Oppn leader found guilty of lying in Parliament

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Singapore, Feb 17: Singapore's Indian-origin Leader of the Opposition Pritam Singh was Monday fined SGD 14.000 after a dis trict court found him guilty on two counts of lying under oath to a parliamentary committee.

Singh was fined a maximum of SGD 7,000 for each of his two charges. Speaking to reporters after the hearing, the Leader of the Opposition said he will be running for the general election which is due in November this year.

Deputy Principal District Judge Luke Tan convicted Singh on two charges of lying in the house relating to another lying case of a fellow former party member and MP Raeesah Khan in 2021.

Singh, 48, was found to have given false testimony to a parliamentary committee that was looking into the conduct of for mer Workers' Party MP Raeesah Khan, who had admitted to mak ing up a story about accompanying a sexual assault victim to the police station.

1st openly gay Muslim imam shot dead in SA

Cape Town: A man regarded as the first openly gay Muslim imam has been fatally shot while sitting in a car in South Africa in what many are calling an assassination because of his teachings. Muhsin Hendricks was killed Saturday in the southern city of Gqeberha after being ambushed by two men in a pick-up truck. Police said the men involved in the killing had thei faces covered. A security video of the shooting shows one of them jumping out of their vehicle, running up to the car Hendricks was in and firing a pistol multiple times through a side window Police have not established a motive for the killing, but political parties and LGBTQ+ organisations say Hendricks was targeted because he started a mosque in Cape Town for gay people and called for members of the LGBTQ+ community to be welcomed into Islam. Homosexuality is forbidden in the Islamic religion

Jerusalem, Feb 17: An Israeli drone strike in southern Lebanon Monday killed the head of Hamas' military operations in the country, Israel's army said. The Israeli military said it killed Mohammad Shaheen. the head of Hamas' operations

passenger ferries would be

able to dock in an emergency,

he said in an interview with

Although the tremors less-

ened over the weekend, local

authorities extended emergen-

cy measures for a third week

on Sunday and reiterated calls

The strike came on the eve

of the deadline for Israel's full

Lebanon under the ceasefire

14-month war between Israel

withdrawal from southern

agreement that ended the

and Hezbollah

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Israeli strike kills Hamas'

military chief in Lebanon

Greek ANT1 television.

department in Lebanon. The army accused Shaheen of "recently planning terror attacks, directed and funded by Iran. from Lebanese territory against the citizens of the state of Israel.

Hamas confirmed Shaheen's death but described him as a military commander.

Footage showed a car en gulfed in flames following the

peacekeeping troops to Ukraine

and with its back straight OLAF SCHOLZ CHANCELLOR, GERMANY

We have to make sure that

170 Pakistanis deported

Islamabad: Nearly 170 Pakistanis have been deported from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and other countries over the last two days, according to a media report Sunday. Saudi authorities deported 94 Pakistanis involved in begging, drug dealing, illegal residence, working without a sponsor, absconding from employment, and violating contractual agreements, Geo News reported quoting immigration sources. Some of them were also blacklisted. Another 39 Pakistanis were deported from the UAE in the past two days after serving sentences for illegal activities and other violations. Others were deported from Oman, Thailand, Iraq, the UK, Cyprus, Indonesia, Mauritania, Qatar, and Tanzania

41 former cops arrested

Dhaka: Police in Bangladesh have arrested 41 former officers who are among 1,059 ex-policemen accused of committing atrocities during the 2024 student-led movement that led to the ouster of prime minister Sheikh Hasina, officials and media reports said Monday. Hasina, the Awami League leader, resigned and escaped to India August 5 last year after anti-discrimination students protests against the quota system turned into a movement and ousted her 16year regime from power. Some 1,400 people lost their lives during the protests between July and August.

US, RUSSIA TO MEET IN SAUDI

Senior US and Russian officials will meet in Saudi Arabia Tuesday. The talks will be the highest-level in-person discussions in years between Russian and US officials and are meant to precede a meeting between Trump and Putin. US Secretary of State Marco

Rubio set off for Riyadh with



From left. Doreen Simpson, 87, a child evacuee, Ruth Barnwell, 100 year old former Wren, and Henry Rice, a 98 year old Normandy Vet, and Katie Ashby, founder and lead vocalist of D Day Darlings at the start of the 80-day countdown to VE Day 80 in front of a replica of a Spitfire at The Royal Albert Hall in London, Monday

Beijing prepares to benefit from Trump's disruption

ince Donald Trump's victory in the US presidential election last November, policymakers in Beijing have been approaching the next four years of US-China relations with caution. They anticipate that the Trump administration will adopt a hardline stance toward China, which could intensify the ongoing trade war, technology conflict, and tensions surrounding Taiwan. The general consensus is that China needs to brace itself for challenging times ahead in its interactions with the United States

This week, Trump's decision to impose a ten percent tariff on all Chinese imports seemed to validate existing concerns. In response, China quickly

announced its own tariffs on

select U.S. products, along

with restrictions on the ex-

port of essential minerals and

an antitrust investigation into

the American company Goo-

gle. However, despite having

various tools at its disposal,

China's ability to effectively

counter Washington in a tit-

for-tat scenario is constrained

by the United States' significant power and the large trade deficit it holds with China. Recognizing this challenge, Chinese policymakers have been strategizing beyond mere trade war tactics since Trump's first term. Over the past three months, they have been refining their approach to anticipate, counter, and mitigate the impacts of Trump's unpredictable policies. Consequently, a comprehensive initiative to strengthen China's domestic economy and enhance its foreign relations has been quietly progressing.

China's preparations roughly mirror the Biden administration's China strategy of "invest, align, and compete," which involved investing in U.S. strength, aligning with partners, and competing where necessary. Beijing's playbook for riding out the Trump years, meanwhile, focuses on making the domestic economy more resilient, reconciling with key neighbours, and deepening relationships in the global South. Trump may well be able to score

some short-term victories, but Beijing's plans look beyond him. Chinese leaders remain convinced of the country's historic destiny to rise and displace the United States as the world's preeminent power. They think that Trump's policies will undermine U.S. power and reduce U.S. global standing in the long run. And when that happens. China wants to be ready to take advantage.

Fortifying the home front has been a key element of Beijing's strategy. Expecting that Trump's presidency will

bring volatility in the form of trade, sanctions, and export controls, China has been introducing stimulus measures to boost the real economy and strengthen domestic consumption. On November 8, three days after the U.S. election, Beijing announced a program to distribute \$1.4 trillion to reduce local government debts over two years. The International Monetary Fund has estimated that Chinese local government debts total around \$9 trillion; addressing the problem represents a major push by the central

government to stabilize the economy and instill more confidence in the Chinese market. A month later, on December 9, Beijing pledged "more active fiscal policies and moderately loose monetary policies," which in practice entail more government spending, budgetary expansion, and lower interest rates. This marks a shift away from the belt-tightening policies that have been in place since 2010 and toward economic stimulus. In mid-December, China's Central Economic Work Conference, a key government meeting that determines the economic policy for the next year, reiterated those promises. Its recommendations included more government spending, interest rate cuts, and other policies meant to generate growth.

Beijing's push for reform is not just about fixing domestic economic problems, either. It is also an effort to open up new opportunities for international trade. China is also looking to diversify its trade options. Over the past few months, statements from the Chinese

foreign and commerce ministries have referred repeatedly to China's effort to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, the 12-member trade agreement that succeeded the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which stalled in 2017 after the United States withdrew.

Beijing thus sees Trump's second term as a potential opportunity for China to expand its influence farther and faster. In this view, competition with the United States is not in itself the driving force behind China's grand strategy. It is instead one component of a larger process: China's rise and displacement of the United States as the world's leading superpower, what Xi often describes as "changes unseen in a century." Beijing assumes that Washington's own policies will dismantle the foundations of U.S. global hegemony, even if it creates a lot of turbulence for other countries in the process. China's top priority, then, is simply to weather the storm. AGENCIES



Business



The luxury car industry in India is like a startup which is still growing but it's growing for sure but it is still very small

BALBIR DHILLON AUDI INDIA HEAD

GOLD RETREATS FROM ALL-TIME HIGH

Gold prices retreated from all-time level in the national capital Monday, with the precious metal declining ₹1,200 to ₹88,200 per 10 grams due to emergence of fresh selling from stockists and retailers. According to the All India Sarafa Association, the yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity had soared ₹1,300 to hit an alltime high of ₹89,400 per 10 grams on Friday.





We are at an inflexion point in our **NEV journey** and are ready to accelerate

into a new era with an exciting product pipeline PARTH JINDAL

JSW MG MOTOR INDIA DIRECTOR

We raised ₹6,000 crore through **Qualified Insti**tutional Placement (QIP) in

the December quarter. The fund raise has given a good solidity to the balance sheet and good abilitv to invest for growth PIROJSHA GODREJ | GODREJ PROPERTIES

The European Commission on December 16, 2024 announced the imposition of definitive

anti-dumping duty on all other Indian OFC manufacturers, reaffirming HFCL's exemption MAHENDRA NAHATA MANAGING DIRECTOR HFCL

SHORT TAKES

Gold imports up 40.79% to \$2.68bn

New Delhi: The country's gold imports in January rose by 40.79 per cent to USD 2.68 billion on account of increasing domestic demands, according to commerce ministry data. Gold imports stood at USD 1.9 billion in January 2024. Cumulatively, imports during April-January this fiscal year rose 32 per cent to USD 50 billion against USD 37.85 billion in the same period last fiscal year. The increase in imports also indicates strong investor confidence in the precious metal as a safe asset. The other reasons include asset

diversification towards gold due to global uncertainties, increasing demand from banks, and cut in customs duties.

Exports contract 2.38% in Jan Sensex, Nifty eke out TRADE DEFICIT WIDENS TO \$23BN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 17: India's exports declined for the third month in a row in January, falling by 2.38 per cent year-onyear to USD 36.43 billion, while the trade deficit widened to USD 22.99 billion in the month. Imports rose by 10.28 per

cent year-on-year to USD 59.42 billion in January due to an increase gold shipments, according to the Commerce Ministry data. The trade deficit was USD

Commerce Secretary Sunil

Barthwal told reporters that

despite economic uncertainties

in the world, India's exports are

doing better in both goods and

He said that sectors like elec-

tronics, pharma, rice and gems

services sectors.

month under review.

21.94 billion in December and USD 16.55 billion in January last year.

USD 800 billion in 2025-25. Total exports were worth USD 778 billion in 2023-24.

In January, gold imports rose to USD 2.68 billion from USD 1.9 billion in the same month last year. Gold imports were USD 4.7 billion in December 2024.

Crude oil imports fell to USD 13.43 billion from USD 16.56 billion in January 2024 and USD 15.27 billion in December 2024. The data showed that the esti-

and jewellery are registering mated value of services exports health growth rates during the for January 2025 was USD 38.55 "Despite conflicts, and tariff billion compared to USD 31.01 retaliation around the world, billion in January 2024. Imwe are doing well," Barthwal ports, on the other hand, are estimated at USD 18.22 billion said, adding India's goods and services exports would cross compared to USD 14.84 billion

in January 2024.



On the goods front, key export sectors, including petroleum, and chemicals, have registered negative growth during the month under review.

Petroleum product shipments declined by 58.66 per cent to USD 3.56 billion last month. However, textiles, electronics, engineering, rice and marine products recorded healthy growth in January this year.

Cumulatively, during April-January this fiscal, exports rose by 1.39 per cent to USD 358.91 billion and imports by 7.43 per cent to USD 601.9 billion.

Trade deficit, the difference

between imports and exports during the ten-month period widened to USD 242.99 billion. During the first ten months of this fiscal, petroleum product exports contracted by 24.76 per cent year-on-year to USD 53.06 billion.

Commenting on the data, Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) President Ashwani Kumar said the decline can be attributed to the volatility in commodity and metal prices, as well as ongoing trade disruptions such as the tariff war and currency fluctuations.

Kumar however said this surge in imports, coupled with the widening trade deficit, has raised alarms about potential impacts on domestic industries and the overall trade balance.

"The depreciating value of the Indian rupee, which has fallen by 1.4 per cent against the US dollar since the beginning of the year, further exacerbates the nation's trade challenges. he said adding the depreciation has contributed to higher import bills, especially since India meets 90 per cent of its oil de mand from overseas.

Govt may raise deposit insurance limit above ₹5L

Mumbai, Feb 17: The government is "actively considering" raising the deposit insurance limit beyond the current ₹5 lakh, a top finance ministry official said Monday.

Days after the New India Co-operative Bank scam came to light, Department of Financial Services Secretary M Nagaraju announced that such a proposal is in the works.

He, however, declined to speak on the crisis at New India Co-operative Bank, saying the RBI is seized of the matter.

gains in volatile session

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Feb 17: Stock markets snapped the eight-day losing run in a volatile session Monday with benchmark Sensex closing higher by 57 points on the back of value buying in blue-chip stocks HDFC Bank and Reliance Industries.

Helped by fag-end buying, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 57.65 points or 0.08 per cent to settle at 75,996.86. During the day, the barometer tanked 644.45 points or 0.84 per cent to 75,294.76.

The NSE Nifty rebounded 30.25 points or 0.13 per cent to 22.959.50.

Reports that the US and India will meet soon to decide on broad contours of a trade agreement for reducing tariffs supported buying in metal, pharma and financial shares, analysts said.

From the 30-share blue-chip pack, Bajaj Finserv, Power Grid, IndusInd Bank, Adani Ports, UltraTech Cement, HD-FC Bank, Zomato and Tata Motors were among the major gainers.

Mahindra & Mahindra, Bharti Airtel, Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys, ICICI Bank, and ITC were the biggest laggards. Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) offloaded equities worth ₹4,294.69 crore Friday, according to exchange data.

The total outflow by FPIs has reached ₹99,299 crore -- near ₹1 lakh crore -- in 2025 so far. data with the depositories showed. FPIs pulled out ₹21,272 crore in the first two weeks of this month, driven by global tensions after the US imposed tar-



iffs on imports. This came following a net outflow of ₹78,027 crore in January.

> "Markets eked out modest gains in late recovery in a highly volatile trade, but most importantly it managed to halt the 8-session losing streak. Positive Asian and European indices aided sentiment, while gains in select banking, oil & gas, metal and power stocks helped local benchmarks recover from their early lows," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

The BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.51 per cent, while smallcap index declined 0.56 per cent.

Among BSE sectoral indi ces, healthcare jumped 1.14 per cent, energy (0.89 per cent) services (0.82 per cent), metal (0.76 per cent), power (0.75 per cent), oil & gas (0.74 per cent).

Consumer Discretionary, industrials, IT, telecommu nication, auto, teck and BSE Focused IT were among the laggards.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and Shanghai settled in the positive territory while Hong Kong ended lower.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.21 per cent higher at USD 74.90 a barrel.



TENDER CALL NOTICE

No.E-762:Sealed tenders are invited from registered suppliers/agencies for Procurement of Ophthalmic Operating Microscope. Details regarding the item, terms & conditions and formats for submission of tender may be downloaded from the website: https://koraput.odisha.gov.in. The tenders should reach the office of the undersigned by 10.03.2025 till 5.00 P.M. The tender will be opened at 11.00 A.M. on 11.03.2025. The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd./- CDM & PHO-cum- District

Western supply chain crisis: Global aerospace companies turn to India fuelling growth across the aviation ecosystem, Air India CEO Campbell Wilson told Reuters.

REUTERS

Bangalore, Feb 17: Airbus, Collins Aerospace, Pratt & Whitney, and Rolls-Royce are expanding parts sourcing from India, driving growth in the country's emerging aerospace sector and pushing local firms to elevate their games, industry insiders say.

Bangalore-based Hical Technologies and JJG Aero are among those riding the wave. Hical, a supplier to Raytheon Technology and Boeing among others, aims to double revenue to 5 billion rupees (\$57.57 million) from its aerospace division in three years, said Yashas Jaiveer Shashikiran, joint man-

aging director. JJG Aero, also in Bangalore's industrial hub, took 12 years to hit \$2 million in revenue but soared to \$20 million in the last six, said CEO Anuj Jhunjhunwala.

main 3% and 4% lower, accord-

"Earlier, we were chasing cus-

tomers. Now, they are equally

interested in evaluating Indian

machine shops," Jhunjhunwala

said, adding that contracts were

being signed more quickly and

onboarding processes being do-

ne much faster than ever before.

parts for landing gear, wings,

fuselage, electrical switches

and motion control systems

essential for flight safety and

The companies produce

ing to Accenture Research.



want to source more from In-

"India is the best solution to supply chain challenges," Huw Morgan, senior vice president for aerospace procurement at Rolls-Royce, said last week at an industry event.

"Our engine volumes are growing at around 20% and the traditional supply chains

are just not able to support it,

Morgan said. "India is ... the

Although Indian firms have long supplied the \$180 billion global aerospace industry, they are now moving beyond basic manufacturing to higher-value

in a year to Indian suppliers.

dia to meet rising demand for air travel.

try held a meeting last week

work such as design, engineering, and system integration. Airbus in 2024 awarded its second aircraft door contract with-

"India is contributing more than 1 billion euros currently in the overall Airbus supply chain and we expect to double that. Every commercial aircraft of Airbus today has some part or component that is made in said Michel Narchi, India." head Of international operations at Airbus said. **INDUSTRY EFFORTS**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

'The point about increasing insurance... that is under active consideration. As and when the government approves, we will notify it,' he told reporters at a press conference in the presence of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

SBI MF launches new ₹250 SIP

Mumbai: Asset management company SBI Mutual Fund Monday launched a systematic investment plan (SIP) aimed at democratizing access to the product. An investor can invest as low as ₹250 per transaction under the JanNivesh SIP scheme, which was launched in the presence of Sebi Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch. Investors typically put ₹500 in SIP, which could go down to ₹100 depending on the scheme in which money is being put. With the aim of deepening the MF reach, the lower SIP of ₹250 was considered, which is akin to the idea of sachetisation effectively used by consumer goods companies.

best cost market." The growth is part of an Asia-Pacific aerospace surge, The British company plans with 2024 revenue projected to to double sourcing from India within five years. be 54% above 2019 levels, while North America and Europe re-

The country is among the biggest aircraft buyers in the world, yet accounts for only 1% of the global supply chain market, according to the recently formed Aerospace India Association.

"Post-Covid, the global aerospace industry has reached an inflection point. While this shift began in 2020, aerospace is a slow-moving industry — it takes time for changes to materialise," said Aravind Melligeri of supplier Aequs.

MORÊ PLANES, MORE PARTS

India, the world's third-larg-Leading Western plane and est domestic aviation market by seats, is also among the fastengine manufacturers, whose output has been constrained est-growing, driving demand for maintenance services and parts. by strikes, production caps, and parts and labour shortages Massive aircraft orders from IndiGo and Air India are since the pandemic, say they

with industry leaders about boosting component manufacturing, said AIA Director General Srinivasan Dwarakanath. The association represents both Indian and global firms.

India's civil aviation minis-

He said a key step towards real value addition would be the local sourcing of raw materials such as aluminium, steel, and titanium, eventually leading to certification of designs made by Indian suppliers.

The AIA estimates that India's aerospace industry will capture 10% of the global supply chain market within a decade, with the global market projected to reach \$250 billion annually by 2033.

"India also had the initial challenges of being physically farther away from the main markets of the U.S. and Europe. Engineering approvals, qualification timings, raw material sourcing - it took some time to build the ecosystem, but now India is all set," said Hical's Yashas Jaiveer.

A deposit insurance claim gets triggered when a lender goes down, and over the years, the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) has paid out such claims. The body collects premiums from banks for the cover it offers, and a majority of the claims have had to be done in case of cooperative lenders.

It can be noted that following the PMC Bank scam, the DICGC insured limit was raised to ₹5 lakh from ₹1 lakh in 2020.

Economic Affairs Secretary Aiav Seth said the cooperative banking sector is well regulated under the RBI's watch and termed the overall health of the sector as strong.

A crisis at one entity should not lead anybody to cast doubts on the overall sector, he added, pointing out that it is the job of the regulator to take actions against errant entities.

Agril. Engg. Division, Cuttack

OIPR-10077/11/0013/2425 Mission Director, Koraput

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE WORKS DEPARTMENT

Bid Identification No. S.E. CBT (R&B) 31/2024-25 No.B-1008: charbatiadivision1@gmail.com

- Name of the Work: Civil Works-04 Nos. El Work-01 No. Estimated Cost : Rs.5,15,606/- to Rs.82,81,985/-
- Period of Completion: 01 month (30 days) to 06 months III. (180 days)
- Date & Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal iv. from 10.00 AM of 18.02.2025 to 04.03.2025 upto 5.00 PM for online bidding.
- Last date/time for receipt of Bids in the portal: 04.03.2025 upto 5.00 PM.
- Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid: Superintending Engineer, Charbatia (R&B) Division, Choudwar.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in. Any addendum/ corrigendum/ cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer Charbatia (R&B) Division Choudwar

OIPR-34092/11/0015/2425



E-mail-ori-boipariguda@nic.in No.593/2025 Date:17.02.25

TENDER CALL NOTICE

No.i-498:The Block Development Officer, Boipariguda, District-Koraput (Odisha) on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate contract tender in single cover system for the following work:

SI.	Name of the Work	Amount put to
No.		Tender (In Rs.)
1	Construction of GPLF Building at Boipariguda	20,41,651/-
2	Construction of GPLF Building at Mathapada	20,43,648/-
3	Construction of GPLF Building at Kenduguda	20,43,648/-
4	Construction of GPLF Building at Pendapada	20,54,846/-
5	Construction of GPLF Building at Tentuligumma	20,67,531/-

Bid documents / DTCN will be available in the website www koraput.nic.in from Dtd. 17.02.2025 to Dtd. 02.03.2025 (upto 5.30 PM). Bids are to be submitted online through e-tendering portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in, closing date is 02.03.2025 (upto 05.30 PM). Bid documents will be opened on dtd.03.03.2025 at 11.00 AM in the office of the undersigned Bid documents / DTCN and other details can be seen from the website www.koraput.nic.in

Sd./-**Block Development Officer** OIPR-19157/11/0004/2425 Boipariguda

India, EU FTA talks from Mar 10

New Delhi: India and the European Union will hold the next round of talks on the proposed free trade agreement (FTA) from March 10 to 14, a senior government official said Monday. Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce L Satya Srinivas said that before the round the entire delegation of the European Commission will be in India from February 28. Days before the visit of the European Commission team. UK's Minister of State for Trade Policy Douglas Alexander will be in India for a meeting with Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal February 24.

Profit booking leading FIIs to sell Indian equities: FM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

performance.

Mumbai, Feb 17: Seeking to assuage concerns over foreign institutional investors (FII) selling Indian equities lately, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Monday attributed the action to profit booking.

Speaking to reporters in the financial capital, Sitharaman said the Indian economy is one where the investors are bagging better returns which leads to profit booking.

"FIIs also go out when they are able to or in a position to book profits. Indian market today. Indian economy today, has an environment in which investments are also yielding good returns and profit booking is also happening," she said.

It can be noted that FIIs have sold over ₹1.56 lakh crore of stocks since October last year, including nearly ₹1 lakh crore in 2025 itself, which has led to a sharp correction on the indices and wiping out investor wealth.

GOVT. OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (AGRIL.), AGRILENGG. DIVISION, CUTTACK At/PO: Nayabazar, District: Cuttack-753004,

Phone No.(0671)- 2952638, E-mail Id:eeagril.cuttack@gmail.com

e-Procurement Notice: Dated 13.01.2025

Bid Identification No. EE(AGRIL) Cuttack Division-07/2024-25

mule	in the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in , for civil works/buildings in the district of Cuttack & Jagatsinghpur as detailed below.									
SI. No.	Nos. of the work/nature of work for which Tender invited	Approximate Estimat- ed cost put to Tender (Excluding G.S.T.) (Rs. lakh)	Cost of Bid Documents (in Rs.)	EMD in (Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				
	Total Six Nos. work/			1% of the	"C" & "D"	45 to				
1	Civil construction works/	3.36 to 4.22	Rs.2000.00	Amount Put	Class	60 Davs				
	Electrical works			to Tender	Contractor	00 Days				

1. Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal: 19.02.2025 at 10.00 AM to 28.02.2025, 5.30 PM. 2. Last date/ time for receipt of bids in the portal: 28.02.2025 upto 5.30 P.M. 3. Date of submission of original bid documents in Tender Box: 19.02.2025, 10.00 AM to 01.03.2025 upto 5.30 P.M. 4. Date & Time of opening of original documents & verification: 03.03.2025 at 11.00 AM. 5. Date & Time of opening of Online bids: 03.03.2025 at 2.00 PM onwards. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only in the e-Procurement website: https://tendersodisha.gov.in with

matching class DSC. Any addendum/ corrigendum/ cancellation of tender / other details of the DTCN can also be seen in the said website. Authority reserves the right to reject / accept any or all of the tenders, increase/ decrease the quantities of works without assigning any reason thereof Sd./- Executive Engineer (Agril.)

OIPR-01447/11/0008/2425









No.L-171:The Executive Engineer (Agril.), Agril Engg. Division, Cuttack, Odisha on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in single cover system from the eligible class of contractors through e-procurement in ONLINE MODE only in the website "www.tendersodisha.gov.in", for civil works/buildings in the district of Cuttack & Jagatsinghpur as detailed below:

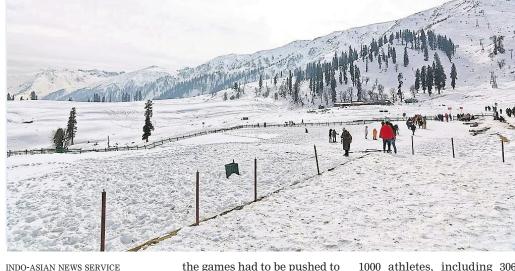


SPORTS



INSUFFICIENT SNOW Khelo India Winter Games postponed

This marks the second consecutive year that the event has faced rescheduling due to inadequate snowfall. Last year, the games had to be pushed to February after a dry January



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Feb 17: The second leg of the 5th edition of the Khelo India Winter Games, scheduled to be staged in Gulmarg from February 22, has been postponed due to insufficient snowfall.

J&K Sports Council shared the development on social media Monday. "The 5th edition of the Khelo India Winter Games, initially set for February 22-25, 2025, has been postponed due to insufficient snowfall. A new assessment will be conducted once snow conditions improve, and the revised update will be announced accordingly," it wrote on X.

This marks the second consecutive year that the event has faced rescheduling due to inadequate snowfall. Last year,

the games had to be pushed to February after a dry January.

The first leg of the Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) 2025 was held in Leh from January 23 to 27, featuring ice sports such as ice hockey and ice

skating. In the first leg, Ladakh bagged seven medals, including four gold and were followed by Tamil Nadu with five medals including three gold. Maharashtra finished with the maximum number of medals (10) but only two gold medals meant they finished third. Maharashtra finished on top in KIWG 2024, winning 20 skating medals including six gold. Telangana (2 gold) finished fourth

and Karnataka (1 gold) fifth in KIWG 2025. The Khelo India Winter Games started in 2020. Almost

women, took part in the inaugural edition. The participation has increased over the years More than 1350 athletes in 2021 and 1500-plus in 2022 highlight-

ed the growing attraction of the Games in J&K. The 2024 iteration of KI-WG saw the participation of 1200-plus participants including more than 700 athletes, 141 support staff, 113 technical officials, 250-plus volunteer and sports-specific volunteers and a total of 136 medals at stake.

This (2024) was also the first time the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India along with the Sports Authority of India managed the technical conduct of the Games in association with the National Sports Federations and Indian Olympic Association.

INDIA LOOK TO CONTINUE WINNING MOMENTUM

Men in Blue had a woeful start by losing 1-3 to Spain in their opener but bounced back strongly to tame Spain 2-0 in the return match

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Feb 17: Their campaign back on track after a jittery start, India will look to continue the winning momentum when they take on Paris Olympics silver medallist Germany in their next men's FIH Pro League match here Tuesday.

India had a woeful start to their home leg matches of the Pro League, losing 1-3 to Spain in their opener.

But the hosts bounced back strongly to tame Spain 2-0 in the return match Sunday.

With three points from two games, India is currently sitting in eighth place in the standings and will be desperate to climb up the table.

After a relatively off day Saturday, the Indians looked a completely different side Sunday, dominating for most part of the match and scoring two field goals through Mandeep Singh (32nd minute) and Dilpreet Singh (39th) to pocket all three points.

While the strikers shone bright in the second game, India's chief coach Craig Fulton would be a bit concerned about penalty corner conversions.

Despite winning seven penalty corners across their two games, India failed to convert a single chance.

In the absence of India captain Harmanpreet Singh, who was rested for the second match, Hockey India League star performer Jugraj Singh cut a sorry figure from set pieces. The forwardline comprising Dilpreet , Mandeep and Sukhjeet

We are looking forward to our games against Germany. They are a quality team, and we know we need to bring our best performance to the field



a two-match Test series in New Delhi in October 2024, where Germany won the first game 2-0, but India bounced back in the second with a thrilling 5-3

The two sides last met during victory

Indian women's hockey team will be eager to get back to winning ways when it faces a confident Spain in the doubleheader here. After a promising start with a thrilling 3-2 victory over England in their opener, the India narrowly missed out on a bonus point in their second game, losing 2-1 in a dramatic shootout after the match ended 2-2 in regulation time. Despite showing resilience, India currently sit in eighth place in the standings with four points from two games and will be looking to climb higher in the points table as they face a confident Spanish side Tuesday and Wednesday. India's performance against England offered glimpses of their potential, particularly in penalty corner conversions where they scored twice from three attempts in their opening match. "Spain is a tricky team, and we know it's going to be a challenging contest. However, we are ready for the challenge," India captain Salima Tete said.

SHORT TAKES

Milkha Singh among top-20 finishers

Marbella: Veteran India golfer Jeev Milkha Singh overcame a double bogey to finish in the top-20 at the Marbella Stavsure event on the 2025 Legends Tour here. Jeev shot a final round of 71 with four birdies, one bogey and a double bogey for a total of 3-under for 54 holes to finish T-19th Sunday. His first two rounds were 68-73. It was the opening event of the season on the Legends Tour and Jeev had finished T-28 in Trophy Hassan II on the Champions Tour PGA. Simon Griffiths produced another hugely impressive performance to win the opening event of the 2025 Legends Tour season with a 15-under total, holding off Colin Montgomerie, Miguel Angel Jimenez, Stephen Gallacher and Scott Hend in the final round.

1,476 PARA-ATHLETES TO VIE FOR HONOURS PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Yogesh Kathuniya (Discus),

NATIONAL PARA ATHLETICS C'SHIP KICKS OFF

Chennai, Feb 17: Nearly 1,500 para-athletes from across India will showcase their skills when the 23rd National Para Athletics Championship begins at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium

here Tuesday. This historic event, marking Chennai's first-ever hosting of the championship, will feature a record 1,476 para-athletes competing in 155 events by 30 teams, making it one of the largest para-athletics gatherings in the country. Among the prominent athletes set to participate are Sumit Antil (Javelin), Manoj Sabapathy (Wheelchair Racing), Manoj Singaraj (Shot Put), Mariyappan Thangavelu (High Jump), Muthu Raja (Shot Put), Hokato Sema (Shot Put), Navdeep Singh (Javelin), and

was missing from stadiums among others.

"We are confident that this championship in Chennai will set new benchmarks for para-athletic competitions in India," Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) president Devendra Jhajharia said in a release.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Karachi. Feb 17: A social me dia controversy was triggered after a video of Karachi's National Stadium surfaced, showing flags of participating nations playing in the upcoming ICC Champion's Trophy 2025, which is scheduled to be hosted by Pakistan from February 19. The video shows that the Indian flag was purportedly not hoisted at the stadium, stirring up controversy and heated debate, criticising the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) for venting out its anger against India for refusing to play Champions Trophy matches in the country. While social media is buzzing with fans criticising Pakistan's refusal to raise the Indian flag at its stadiums, the PCB has downplayed the controversy, saying the flags of the countries who are playing in Pakistan for the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 have only been raised at the stadiums. "As you know, India is not coming to Pakistan to play its matches during the ICC Champions Trophy 2025; the National Stadium in Karachi, Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium and the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore have hoisted flags of countries that are going to play at the said venues,'

CHAMPIONS TROPHY

While social media is buzzing with fans criticising Pakistan's refusal to raise the Indian flag at its stadiums, the PCB has

Shooter Manu wins BBC Sportswoman of the Year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 17: Star Indian pistol shooter Manu Bhaker was named the BBC Indian Sports woman of the Year Monday following her outstanding performance at the Paris Olympics

Manu was among five nom downplayed the controversy, saying the flags of the countries who are playing in Pakistan inees for the award, alongside golfer Aditi Ashok, para have only been raised at the stadiums shooter Avani Lekhara, India "With an impressive 1,476 women's cricket vice-captain para-athletes competing in Smriti Mandhana, and wres-155 events, this tournament tler Vinesh Phogat -- each rec reflects the rapid growth and ognised for their exceptional increasing competitiveness contributions to Indian sport. The nominees were shortlist of para sports in the country. With world-class facilities and a ed by an eminent jury of sports journalists and writers. Now in commitment to inclusivity, we are witnessing a new era for its fifth edition, the ISWOTY Indian para-athletics. Award celebrates and honours The event is being supported When asked why the Indian, don't think PCB needs to even remarkable achievements of by the Tamil Nadu government Bangladesh and other particigive an official statement on this. women athletes in India. and organised under the guidpating countries' flags were not It's clear that the controversy is Manu, 22, won the award for ance of deputy chief minister there at the Karachi and Lahore made without facts and aims to winning two bronze medals at Udhayanidhi Stalin, who also damage host Pakistan's image the Paris Olympics, becoming stadiums, the source said, "The Indian team is going to play its serves as the state minister for with fake news." the source said. the first Indian athlete since matches in Dubai. Secondly, "Different stadiums in Pa-Independence to win multiple sports. the Bangladesh team has not kistan are going to host differmedals at a single Games. yet arrived in Pakistan and ent teams during the Cham-She secured bronze in the 10m air pistol individual event will be playing its first match pions Trophy matches. And they're hoisting their flags to against India in Dubai. Thereas well as the 10m air pistol mixed team event. fore, their flags have not been welcome them", it added. It is In 2018, Manu made history hoisted and the other nations, pertinent to note that the BCwho have arrived here and will CI refused to play in Pakistan as the youngest Indian shooter be playing in Pakistan... their due to security concerns and to win a World Cup gold at just flags are there at the stadium. political tensions between the 16. A recipient of the Ariuna Award, she previously won The source added that PCB two countries, forcing the ICC does not need to give out an offito implement a hybrid model, BBC's Emerging Player of the in which India will be playing Year award in 2021. cial statement on the matter as it is related to a social media video all of its Champions Trophy Other award winners on the said a PCB source to IANS. with an ill-intended agenda. "I matches in Dubai. night included para archer Sheetal Devi (BBC Emerging Player of the Year), former 2030 CWG right step towards India's India women's cricket captain Mithali Raj (BBC Lifetime Achievement Award), and pagoal to host 2036 Olympics: CGF CEO ra shooter Avani (BBC Para by Gomes, and forced Sa into Sportswoman of the Year). a save. Dominik Szoboszlai al-Manu expressed gratitude for be the right step towards that so came close, with a low shot PRESS TRUST OF INDIA the recognition and reflected on narrowly missing the target. goal," she said. her journey to Olympic success Mohamed Salah finally doubled New Delhi, Feb 17: Com-Her comments come in the "I thank BBC for honouring the lead in the 37th minute, conmonwealth Games Federation backdrop of informal discusme. A few years ago, I won the fidently converting a penalty af-(CGF) CEO Katie Sadleir savs sions between the CGF and the Emerging Player award and hosting the 2030 CWG would be Indian Olympic Association now this year I got the big one ter Diaz was brought down by Sa inside the box. a step in the right direction for (IOA) on the possibility of host-My journey was full of ups and Wolves' best chance in the India as the country pursues ing the 2030 CWG. downs," Manu said in her ad first half came from Matheus the ambition of playing host to Sadleir said she is optimistic dress Cunha, whose free-kick narthe 2036 Olympics. that India would be among the "After Tokyo I struggled a lot, Sadleir was speaking on the rowly missed the target. lost many events but journey top-10 performers in the Olymoff for Diaz, who bundled it past After the break, Wolves came second day of The Times Group didn't end. it continued. You can pics in the near future. Sa after a slight deflection from out with renewed intent. They ET NOW Global Business Sum-"India's work is transformaonly write your own story and nearly pulled one back early mit here Sunday. tional. With the right leaderdid that in Paris. Now the jour Toti Gomes Liverpool's dominance con-"Hosting the Olympics would on, but Alisson Becker stood ship, infrastructure, and pasney will continue, and I would tinued as they pressed for a secbe an incredible achievement, sion, India is on track to becomlike to change the colour of strong, denying Marshall the medal in Los Angeles (2028 and having the 2030 Commoning one of the top 10 countries ond goal. Jota had a header go Munetsi in a one-on-one situover the bar, saw a shot blocked ation wealth Games in India would in the Olympics," she said. Olympics).



PCB reveals why Indian flag

Karan, Ramkumar bow down

Pune: Wildcard entrant Karan Singh went down in the opening round of the main draw, while Ramkumar Ramanathan fell short in the final qualifying round of the Maha Open ATP Challenger 100 Men's Tennis Championship here Monday. In the main draw matches, eighth-seeded Alexis Galarneau of Canada took 1 hour 3 minutes to beat 21-year-old Karan Singh 6-4, 6-1. The Canadian, ranked 170 in the world, broke Singh in the very first game of both sets. Even though Singh looked confident in the first set, he went down tamely in the second set. Winner of the last edition's Maha Open Challenger in Pune, Valentin Vacherot of Monaco, who went as high as 110 in ATP rankings last year, is currently placed at 201.

Thomas to retire at the end of season

London: Geraint Thomas, the former Tour de France champion who also won gold medals in track cycling for Great Britain at the Olympic Games in 2008 and '12, announced Monday that this will be his final year as a professional. Thomas, a loyal teammate with a tremendous appetite for victory who transformed into a leader in his own right over his almost twodecade career, said he will focus on the Tour this summer with Ineos Grenadiers. Aged 38. Thomas told the BBC that he will ride in support of the team's ambitions





Diaz, Salah fire Liverpool to win

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Liverpool, Feb 17: Liverpool secured a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Wolverhampton Wanderers at Anfield Sunday, maintaining their seven-point lead at the top of the Premier League.

The hosts started brightly, with Diogo Jota and Trent Alexander-Arnold both testing Wolves' goalkeeper Jose Sa inside the opening 10 minutes. However, it was Luis Diaz who broke the deadlock in the 15th minute. A swift counter-attack involving all three of Liverpool's forwards saw Jota evade



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Matt Doherty and lay the ball











