

#### Actor Triptii Dimri opens up about the enriching experiences of her childhood in the Himalayan foothills

### LEISURE | P2

#### VOLUME 14, ISSUE 333 I www. orissapost.com

#### effect Tuesday INTERNATIONAL | P10

**BHUBANESWAR | WEDNESDAY | MARCH 5, 2025** 

25 per cent tariffs on imports

from Mexico and Canada take



INDIA STORM INTO CHAMPIONS TROPHY FINAL

Falling for the third straight day, benchmark BSE Sensex declines by 96 points to close below the 73,000-mark





With their chances of grabbing a spot in the playoff on the line, Odisha FC take on Jamshedpur FC in a crucial match of the ISL

SPORTS | P12

#### 12 PAGE | ₹5.00

#### Not enough judges in trial courts to hear POCSO cases, says SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 4: The Supreme Court Tuesday said there were not enough judges in trial courts in the country to implement its directions like setting up of a special court in each district to exclusively deal with sexual offences against children under the POCSO law.

A bench comprising Justices Bela M Trivedi and Prasanna B Varale was hearing a suo motu case of 2019 titled: "In Re Alarming Rise in the Number of Reported Child Rape Incidents.' The apex court in 2019 passed

a slew of directions, including setting up of a centrally-funded designated court in each district with over 100 FIRs under the POCSO Act to deal exclusively with cases of sexual offences against children.

On Tuesday, Justice Trivedi said keeping in mind the vacancies in district courts, some directions remained unrealised.

"We do not have judges in district courts. Vacancies are lying unfilled for years together. We are not getting enough judges in the district judiciary," she said.

The judge gave Gujarat's example where she said there were not enough judges to deal with such cases. When a lawyer pointed to lack of infrastructure, the bench lamented the dearth of judges to use the infrastructure.

The bench observed other directions in the 2019 judgement seemed to have been complied with and the suo-motu case could be disposed of on the next hearing March 25.

The top court's 2019 directions also prescribed a short clip, intended to spread awareness on the prevention of child abuse and prosecution of crimes against children, to be screened in theatres and aired by television channels at regular intervals.



DECISIVE INNINGS: Virat Kohli plays a shot during the ICC Champions Trophy semi-final cricket match between India and Australia, in Dubai, UAE, Tuesday

# **Divide over delimitation**

The Union government's proposed delimitation exercise for redrawing parliamentary constituencies has raised the hackles of political leaders across southern states, virtually creating a divide between north and south. Many political parties of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana see this exercise as an attempt to subvert their voices by reducing their representation in the Parliament. Their argument is that they are being punished in terms of MK Stalin has invited politicians from over 40 parties to a meeting Wednesday to amplify protests against the Union government's plan to redefine constituencies in 2026 on the basis of the population.

Together, the five southern states of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, make up about 30 per cent of India's GDP.

"It is a danger aimed at reducing our representation and crushing our voice," Stalin said of the delimitation exercise. He

#### **AT LOGGERHEADS**

- The Stalin-led Tamil Nadu government has been consistent in highlighting its opposition to the Centre over many issues
- Apart from the delimitation exercise, opposition to the National Education

population and implementing reforms," Reddy said. "The census will show the disparity and a new delimitation plan must be framed.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has said the southern states will not lose representation in the delimitation process. 'The Modi government has

made it clear that after delimitation, on pro rata basis, not a single seat will be reduced in any southern state," he said last week. But Karnataka Chief

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, March 4: Virat Kohli did not finish the chase for once but his measured 84-run knock steered India into their fifth Champions Trophy final with a clinical four-wicket win over an under-strength and profligate Australia in the first last four clash here Tuesday.

The Indian triumph ensures that the final of the eight-team competition will now be held here instead of Lahore, the original host of the marquee clash, as Rohit Sharma's men will not travel there owing to security concerns.

Player of the match Kohli (84, 98 balls 5x4) was the fulcrum of Indian batting as they scaled down 265 in 48.1 overs after Steve Smith (73) and Alex Carey (61) led the Aussies to 264. Now, India will await the winner of the second semifinal be tween South Africa and New Zealand at Lahore on Wednesday.

Kohli had wonderful support from Shreyas Iyer (45) with whom he realised 91 runs for the third wicket, and steadied the ship after the early departures of skipper Rohit Sharma (28) and Shubman Gill (9)

Australia were weakened by the ab sence of some of their premier stars, but India had not beaten them in the knockouts of an ICC tournament since the quar terfinal of the 2011 World Cup.

However, Kohli was determined to correct that anomaly. The pitch used for the semifinal was fresh but much smooth er than the ones on which the previous MORE P12 рті рното matches were played.

## Online game addict kills parents, sister

PNN & AGENCIES

#### Denied ₹10 for gutkha, man his parents and sister to death in Jagatsinghpur district Tuesday morning as they were opposed to his addiction to online games, police said.

The incident took place in Jayabada Sethi Sahi area unbeheaded his father Tuesder the Jagatsinghpur police day after he refused to give him ₹10 to buy gutkha, po

#### Paradip, March 4: A 21-yearold college student bludgeoned

beheads father BARIPADA: A 40-year-old man in Mayurbhanj district

lice said. The accused went

to a police station carrying

the severed head to surren-

#### IRREGULAR by MANJUL



More focus on wildlife. sir? But we already have a jungle raj here

since the southern states have controlled their population, an indication of their relative prosperity and high literacy levels as compared to the northern states. The southern states contend that population alone should not be a criteria to conduct the delimitation exercise

#### PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi, March 4: India's wealthy southern states are up in arms against a proposal by the Centre to redraw boundaries of parliamentary constituencies, arguing it will result in less representation for them compared to the poorer, more populous northern states. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister

reduced seats in the Parliament has said southern states, none of which are controlled by the BJP, were being punished for curbing population growth.

> The BJP is in power in India's most populous state Uttar Pradesh while the NDA alliance controls neighbouring Bihar. These two states are among the country's poorest and comprise about 26 per cent of India's 1.4 billion population, the highest

in the world. According to the Constitution, India is supposed to conduct delimitation after every national census. But India missed the 2021 census due to the COVID-19 pandemic and despite repeated demands, the Union government is yet to launch the task of counting

#### Policy, NEET, and alleged Hindi imposition are the other issues

the estimated 1.4 billion population. The 2011 census had put the national population at 1.21 billion, but the number of elective seats in the Parliament remains at 543. A new Parliament building, inaugurated last year, has allowed for 888 seats.

"Population size alone cannot be the metric to conduct delimitation," Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had said late last month.

He said a new ratio for drawing up constitutional boundaries must be done after a census. "We (southern states) should not be punished for controlling

Minister Siddaramaiah said on X that Shah's comments were "not credible.

Many southern leaders were expected to attend Wednesday's meeting called by Stalin. The BJP has said it will not attend

Stalin will chair the all-party meeting, which is likely to take on the Centre over the issue. For the DMK regime, which has been at loggerheads with the Centre over several issues including non-release of education funds by the Union government, the proposed delimitation exercise has become a fresh point of contention. Opposition to National Education Policy, NEET, and alleged Hindi imposition are among the other issues in which the DMK is targeting the BJP-led Centre.

station limits around 3am as the student used stones or any other hard objects to smash the heads of his father, mother and sister, Superintendent of Police Bhawani Sankar Udgata said.

A preliminary investigation revealed that accused Surjyakant Sethy was annoyed with his parents and sister for 'opposing him playing online games on his mobile phone,' Jagatsinghpur police station inspector-in-charge Prabhas Sahu said.

The deceased were identified as Prasant Sethy alias Kalia, 65, his wife Kanaklata, 62, and daughter Rosalin, 25

"After the incident, Surjyakant Sethy hid near the village, and later he was arrested," the SP said.

Udgata said the youth was suspected to have a mental health issue

Local MLA Amarendra Das said the family members had once come to him over some land dispute.

One of the villagers, who informed the police about the ghastly incident, told media that Surjyakant Tuesday came to his house and informed him about killing his parents and sister. The villagers rushed to his house where the bodies of

der himself, a senior officer said. "The man beheaded his 70-year-old father with a sharp-edged weapon and surrendered at Chandua police station along with the severed head. His mother fled the spot. The murder took place following a heated exchange of words between the accused and his parents," he said. The deceased was identified as Baidhar Singh. Baripada Sub-Divisional Police Of ficer Pravat Mallick said, "The murder occurred over a petty issue. The accused became angry when his father refused to pay ₹10 for gutkha." The police reached the village along with a forensic team, and an investigation is underway, the officer said.

the deceased were found in a pool of blood.

A police team, led by the SP and a forensic team reached the spot and started an investigation. another officer said.

The bodies were sent for post-mortem, he added.



A police team conducts probe at the victims' house, Tuesday; (inset) accused Surjyakant Sethy in police custody

## Coke to lipsticks: Key ingredient smuggled from Sudan

by Sudanese traders in return

for a fee to the RSF, is making

its way to Sudan's neighbours

#### AGENCIES

London, March 4: Gum arabic, a vital ingredient used in everything from Coca-Cola to M&M's confectionaries, is increasingly being trafficked from rebel-held areas of wartorn Sudan, traders and industry sources say, complicating Western companies' efforts to insulate their supply chains from the conflict.

Sudan produces around 80% of the world's gum arabic, a natural substance harvested from acacia trees that's widely used to mix, stabilise and thicken ingredients in mass-market products including L'Oreal lipsticks and Nestle petfood.

The paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), at war since April 2023 with Sudan's national army, seized control late last year of the main gum-harvesting regions of Kordofan and



A farmer carries collected gum arabic from an acacia tree in western Sudan **REUTERS** /FILE PHOTO

Darfur in western Sudan. Since then the raw product, which can only be marketed

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without proper certification. according to conversations with eight producers and buyers who are directly involved in gum arabic trading or based in Sudan.

The gum is also exported through informal border markets, two traders told Reuters.

Asked for comment, a RSF representative said that the force had protected the gum arabic trade and only collected small fees, adding that talk of any lawbreaking was propaganda against the paramilitary group. Last month, the RSF signed a charter with allied groups establishing a parallel government in the parts of Sudan it controls.

In recent months, traders in countries with lower-gum arabic production than Sudan. such as Chad and Senegal, or which barely exported it before the war, like Egypt and South Sudan, have begun to aggressively offer the commodity at cheap prices and without proof it is conflict-free, two buyers who have been approached by traders told Reuters.

While the acacia trees that yield gum arabic grow across the Africa's arid Sahel region known as the 'gum belt' - Sudan has become by far the world's biggest exporter due to its extensive groves

Herve Canevet, Global Marketing Specialist at Singapore-based supplier of speciality food ingredients Eco-Agri, said it was often difficult to determine where gum supplies are coming from as many traders would not say if their product has been smuggled.

"Today, the gum in Sudan, I would say all of it is smuggled. because there's no real authority in the country," he said.











# Isure

#### LOHAN: FREAKIER FRIDAY WILL BE **EVERYTHING THE FANS WANT**

Hollywood actress Lindsay Lohan has promised that Freakier Friday will be everything that the fans want ahead of its release later this year. Lohan played the role of Anna Coleman in the 2003 body swap comedy and now she has reunited with her on-screen mother Jamie Lee Curtis for the sequel.

#### 

#### SHARON STONE EMBRACES **CHANGES IN HER BODY**

Hollywood actress Sharon Stone has shared her perspective on aging, saying that she embraces the changes in her body and feels the importance of nurturing herself. "A lot of people give up as they get older, but I don't," the Basic Instinct actress told The Times.



### E FORECAST

#### 🗟 Ganesha Speaks.com accuracy 🖕 reliability 🖕 trust

The boredom of your monoto-nous life will now begin to tell on you. A change of trappings is what you probably have on mind. Money matters are not a big deal, and a little guick change may result in an evening get-together. Ganesha says you will like to flaunt your pretty and peaceful ambience.

#### TAURUS

Today you are likely to

reach out for things that are beyond your reach and capabilities. Ganesha, nevertheless, assures that you will succeed in attaining your objectives through sheer force of you self confidence and self conviction. The first half of the day will provide you lots of love and affection of elders and superiors. You are likely to devote the evening to making yourself look smart good and feel great. A visit to a beauty parlour cannot be ruled out.

#### GEMINI You will be bound by the

bonds of love with your friends today. Deep introspection will provide the much-needed balm to your fragile state of mind. You need to keep your temper in check, says Ganesha



Today, you may get to spend a wonderful time with your loved ones, foresees Ganesha. Besides pleasure, the day will also fare well for business. As an entrepreneur, you may be able to see important deals and ventures coming through. You may go on a tour for business purposes in the later half of the day. At work, you will be at the top of your game.

You are advised against be-ing too emotional today. You will be able to excel in all spheres of your life today owing to your desire to change your attitude towards life. There is a possibility of re-decorating or renovating your house today. All in all, a progressive day awaits, says Ganesha.

#### VIRGO

The way you feel today will bring about many changes in 🥢 your behaviour, says Ganesha You will probably make some choices that will involve some high expenditure. In the afternoon, you may entertain relatives and friends at home, says Ganesha

#### LIBRA

Settle in soon, because you have a long day ahead. There is every possibility that you shall remain very busy for most part of the day, predicts Ganesha. Don't be surprised if you can't seem to find the time or the appetite even for a sluggish lunch — it is one of the drawbacks of a hectic schedule. But re

# Triptii shares her Himalayan roots

Mumbai: Actress Triptii Dimri opened up about her deep connection to her Pahadi roots, offering a glimpse into the simple yet enriching experiences of her childhood in the Himalayan foothills.

In a recent interview with Cosmo India, Triptii reflected on her upbringing and said, "We would be out playing all day, from six in the morning to 11 at night. I would play with the village kids, drink water straight from the stream, and watch my mother clean the house with geeli mitti (wet mud). I remember I would sit around and just take in the earthy smell, which is like when you mix wood and rain together, and sometimes. I would eat that too.<sup>3</sup>

These vivid memories highlight the unpretentious and nature-centric lifestyle of her community, where daily activities were intertwined with the natural environment.

Delving deeper into the essence of her Pahadi identity, Triptii remarked, "Being pahadi is about simplicity and being close to nature. It's something that keeps you grounded even when life gets overwhelming, or when you feel like an outsider in a big city. You still carry that rawness which makes you special."

This perspective sheds light on how her heritage has played a pivotal role in shaping her resilience and authenticity, especially as she navigates the complexities of urban life and the entertainment industry. AGENCIES

## **Kubbra's** confession

Mumbai: Actor Kubbra Sait was recently asked about the strength she must have had to undergo an abortion and defy societal norms. Talking about that phase, the actress said, "I think when I went through the abortion, I don't think I was being strong at all. I was too weak to take it forward.

She admitted that it's only 'much later' that she felt there was strength in that decision because she broke 'stereotypical patterns'. Kubbra also revealed that she didn't tell anyone at that time, neither her friends nor the director of the travel show she was hosting.

"And no one knew about it, man. I went by myself and got myself through the abortion." she said.

Kubbra also revealed that five or six years later, when she was shooting for her show, she would get 'hot and sick' and

'extremely cranky' because she was 'bleeding heavily'. And she still didn't share what she was going through with those around her. Only when she wrote it in her book, Open Book: Not Quite a Memoir (2022), did she realise she needed to share the story and be 'kind' about the decisions she has made in life.

Kubbra was last seen in Deva, where Shahid Kapoor and Pooja Hegde were in lead roles.

> in director Venky Kudumula's upcoming Telugu action entertainer Ravi Shankar has now disclosed.

fans and film

"We are

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sion.

During a promotional event for the film Kingston, featuring G V Prakash in the lead, the producer was asked for updates on his film Robinhood by the anchor. Responding to her request, he said Australian cricketer David

Warner had do- ne a cameo in the film much to the delight of buffs. The producer immediately apoldirector Venky Kudumula for having the information without his permis

> very happy to have launched David Indian cinema with our Robinhood,'

lease of the film, which was origiuled to hit screens last year, has now pushed to March 28 this year.

duced by Naveen Yerneni and Y Ravi Shankar, Robinhood has Cherry as its CEO and Hari Tummala as its Executive producer. It has been directed by Venky Kudumula and features Nithiin and Sree Leela in the lead.

# India's first female superstar quit movies at 26, left country

Mumbai: The history of Indian cinema began in the early 1910s when Dadasaheb Phalke pioneered motion pictures. But it was the advent of the talkies created a new phenomenon - the cine icons. Today, we call them superstars. KL Saigal, Karan Dewan, and Ashok Kumar were among the first screen icons in Indian cinema. And their counterpart was a teenager who ruled the screens, setting records that were broken only eight de-

cades later. Mumtaz Shanti was one of the earliest successful female stars in what would become Bollywood. Mumtaz began her career as a child artist in Punjabi films in 1937, before

moving to lead roles with



'JUBILEE GIRL' MUMTAZ SHANTI

Mangti in 1942. In the same year, she made her Hindi debut as a lead star with *Basant*.

She was 16 years old at the

time. Basant was a roaring success, running in theatres for 76 weeks and becoming the highest-grossing Indian film of the year. The following year, Mumtaz again tasted success with *Kismet*, the first Indian film to earn Rs 1 crore. All of 17, Mumtaz was now called the 'Jubilee Girl' as all her four releases had been jubilee hits.

Over the next few years, Mumtaz appeared in more hits like Ghar Ki Izzat (1948) and Aahuti (1950). She worked with all the top stars of the time and even played a senior lead to 'younger' stars like Dilip Kumar.

In the late 40s, Mumtaz married Wali Sahab, a filmmaker. And even though she contin-

ued acting after that, family

soon became her priority. In 1952, the couple decided to move to Pakistan and with this, Mumtaz's fledgling movie career came to an end.

The actor was only 26 at the time. She lived in Lahore for the remainder of her life, where she died in 1989, at the age of 63

Many of the records set by her films lasted decades. For instance, Kismet ran in one theatre for three years, a record that was only broken in 1978 by Sholay and eventually by Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge. Two of her films - Basant and Kismet - remained in the most-watched Indian films' top 50 list till 2021, almost eight decades after release.

Chennai: Australian cricketer David Warner has done a cameo Robinhood, featuring actor Nithin in the lead, one of the film's producers Y

Warner's acting debut

in India

your craving and hankering shall be back in time for a fine and scrumptious dinner.

. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

#### SCORPIO

Ganesha foresees that you may not be at the best of your health as agitation and irritation create pressure on your physical being. Watch your temper and tongue, or a critical situation may take an ugly turn. Keep away from unnecessary discussion with peers or colleagues.

#### SAGITTARIUS

The day has to offer you a good mixture of work and fun, says Ganesha. Feeling protective about your loved ones, you are ready to fulfil all their needs and demands. An action-packed day at office with meetings lined-up for you. This forces you to unwind in a luxurious way as you plan a family outing or a quick visit to salon for relaxation.

### CAPRICORN

You will perform a balancing act today. On one hand you'll be working very hard to meet your targets, while on the other hand, you

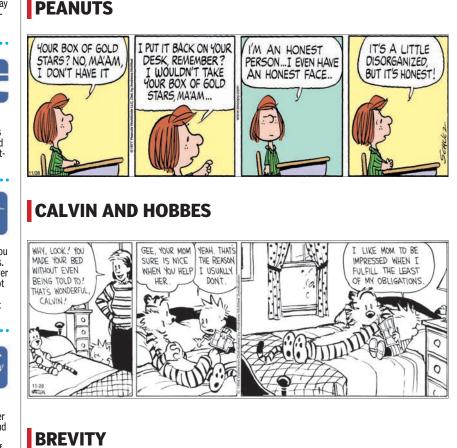
will take some time out for your hobbies. Your boss and team-members will shower praises on you. But, all that glitters is not gold, warns Ganesha. Do not take their words on the face value, as you may not be understanding the hidden meaning.

#### **AQUARIUS**

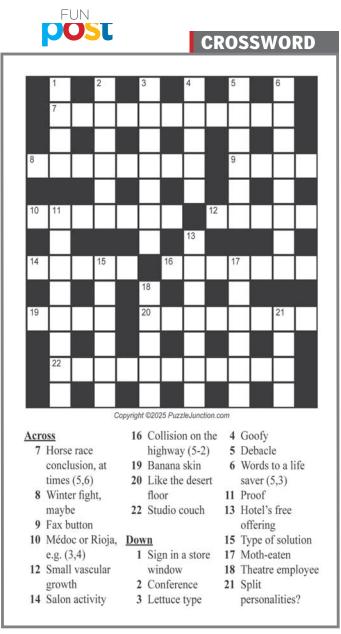
You are not at a laid back person. You like to be active and be a part of the action hap pening all around. Now is your time! Take an initiative and grab the opportunity, after all, early bird catches the worm. Till the end of the first half of the day, you will be in a iovial mood. But, the mounting pressure of work may become difficult to handle.

#### PISCES

Today you will find yourself caught in two minds. As a result of which, you will find yourself unable to take a firm decision. Put off important decisions until you find yourself in a better frame of mind, says Ganesha. Post afternoon should see you bonding with old friends and you will be gin to see old relationships in a new light







CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

AUSINA AGENCIES AGENCIES

#### 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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#### SOLUTIONS

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## owntown

**CIVIC AFFAIRS** 

Cuttack Municipal Corporation council meeting in progress in the Silver City, Tuesday



## **STATE ON THE CUSP OF BECOMING A SOLAR HUB**

#### RINDAM GANGULY OP

Bhubaneswar, March 4: With the vagaries of global warming and climate change have already started taking toll on every sphere of life including health, environment, crop yield and quality of life, transition from conventional energy to renewable energy has become the need of the hour. Since solar energy is gaining popularity because of its cost-effectiveness, Odisha with its long coastline and abundant solar resources is fast emerging as a major player in India's solar energy sector. Several companies have already set up their solar plants in the eastern state while some others are in the fray, providing the much-needed impetus to employment generation and environment conservation.

Reports said in order to meet its renewable energy goals, Odisha aims to add 10.95 (giga watt) GW renewable energy by 2030, with 7.5GW coming from solar projects. Districts like Bolangir, Ganjam and Angul are becoming hotspots for solar energy equipment manufacturing with several projects already in operation and some others are in progress.

Prominent solar companies such as Welspun New Energy, Jakson Engineers, Saatvik Solar, and Inox Solar are setting up plants in Ganjam, Dhenkanal and Khurda districts for production of solar equipment like solar panels, inverters, solar cells, batteries and solar chimneys

The amount of sunlight that strikes the earth's surface in an hour and a half is enough to handle the entire world's energy consumption for a full year. Solar technologies convert sunlight into electrical energy either through photovoltaic (PV) panels or through mirrors that concentrate solar radiation. This energy can be used to generate electricity or be stored in inverters or batteries.

According to Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo, the state has attracted investment proposals worth ₹4.33 lakh crore in renewable energy sector, including ₹2,151 crore (approx) pertaining to solar power,



#### KEY TAKEAWAYS

he state has attracted investment proposals worth ₹4.33 lakh crore in renewable energy sector, including ₹2,151 crore in solar power

Solar power currently accounts for 21% (616.98 MW) of Odisha's total Prenewable energy capacity of 2,938 MW

 ${\sf D}$  istricts like Bolangir, Ganjam and Angul are becoming hotspots for solar energy equipment manufacturing

he Union and state governments are providing subsidies to the tune of ₹78,000 and ₹60,000, respectively for installation of 3-kw solar system - covering more than 80% of the total cost

nificant challenge in manag

ing its greenhouse gas (GHG)

emissions, estimated at 305

million metric tonnes (MMT)

CO2e (carbon dioxide equiva-

lent) in 2022-23 - three times the

national average. Independent

studies indicate that without

intervention, emissions could

rise by 118 per cent in a usual

scenario and 150 per cent in a

high growth scenario. How-

ever, the state could limit this

increase to 60 per cent above

current levels, with focused ef-

forts on a green economy, the

Mandvi Singh, programme

director of iFoREST, stated

that India's solar growth is

expanding beyond tradition-

al geographies, and Odisha is

well-positioned to utilise the

growth opportunity. The state

has the potential to be a leader

in the eastern region, with over

200 GW of untapped potential.

Strategic investments in float-

ing, rooftop and agrivoltaic

solar can help drive economic

growth in the state while reduc-

Saatvik Solar's senior man-

study mentioned.

In Odisha Conclave 2025'. This is expected to provide a significant boost to the state's industrial but low-carbon expansion. Energy department Principal

Secretary Vishal Kumar Dev said. "Odisha is on the cusp of a big energy transition. The demand for clean and affordable energy has never been more important to address the global challenge of climate change."

Solar power currently accounts for 21 per cent (616.98 MW) of Odisha's total renewable energy capacity of 2,938 MW, including hydro. This includes 508 MW of ground-mounted, 58 MW of rooftop, and 42 MW of off-grid solar capacity.

The state's Industrial Policy Resolution (IPR), 2022 offers a wide range of incentives for solar manufacturers, such as exemptions on electricity duty, capital investment subsidies, and reduction in stamp duty. Odisha's solar energy potential is supported by more than 300 sunny days annually and solar radiation of 5.3 kWh per square metre on an average.

According to a study conager, Marketing, Vineet Kumar said, "Odisha has the potential ducted by International Forum for Environment, Sustainabilito create an integrated renewtv and Technology (iFoREST). able energy ecosystem from Odisha currently faces a sigthe ground up, spanning the

to modules." The firm is investing ₹1,366.56 crore for setting up a 2.5-GW per annum solar cell manufacturing facility at Gopalpur in Ganjam district. Kumar added that the state's

entire value chain from wafers

industrial infrastructure, ports and availability of skilled workforce make it an ideal location for large-scale solar manufacturing. Its extensive coastline has substantial opportunities for solar projects.

Stating that the state's industrial policy is promising, MD of Crux Power Ltd Chandrasekhar Mishra said growth of local solar industry will be crucial for long-term sustainability.

The state's power consumers are now interested in installing solar panels on rooftops as both the Central and state governments are providing subsidy for the purpose.

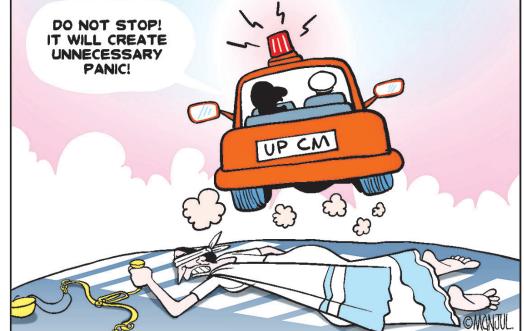
Jayant Sahu of Solar Sack said, "The Union and state governments are providing subsidies to the tune of ₹78,000 and ₹60,000, respectively for installation of 3-kw solar system – covering more than 80 per cent of the total cost. Since a consumer is generating electricity, he/she can save on the monthly power bills. Over time, this would offset the initial installation costs. and after some years, the user would get free electricity. The savings would continue as long as the solar panels remain functional.'

Sumanta Pradhan, state head of V Guard, which sells off-grid solar panels under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, said that solar energy will help reduce electricity bills upto 80 per cent.

Ranjit Patra, an expert on solar power, said that Odisha has a huge potential for all commercial, residential, industrial and large-scale projects. With subsidy from state and Centre, individuals can get the return on investment (ROI) in five years.

Urban planner and solar user Piyush Ranjan Rout opined that Odisha, with its stable political climate and robust industrial policies, is well-positioned to cater to eastern India's solar market. The state will play a critical role in India's renew-

### **POLITICKLE by MANJUL**



## CM: ₹4L ex gratia for kin of 2 job aspirants

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, March 4: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Tuesday announced ex gratia assistance of ₹4 lakh each for the kin of two government job aspirants who died during physical tests.

The money would be re leased from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF), an official statement said. The two job aspirants lost their lives while participating in physical tests conducted by the Odisha

2 interstate ATM burglars nabbed POST NEWS NETWORK Akash Mukherji, 23, have been

Bhubaneswar, March 4: A few days after arresting six members of an interstate burglars' gang for uprooting an ATM in Sriram Nagar area here and decamping with the machine containing ₹21.77 lakh cash January 24, the

ment of forest guards, forest-The two iob aspirants lost their lives while participating in physical tests conducted by the Odisha Staff Selection

#### Commission

Staff Selection Commission (OSSC), officials said. The physical tests were being conducted for the recruit-

arrested March 1 in connection with the incident and ₹1.6 lakh in cash, two bikes and six mobile phones were recovered from them, the DCP said. According to the DCP, the

The NHRC issued the order planning for the theft began while acting on a complaint that 20-year-old Prakriti Lamsal in 2022 when Rahman met died allegedly by suicide in her Malla, the mastermind, at hostel room February 16, 2025 The commission said that the investigation should be held in accordance with the provisions of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993. "Considering the seriousness of the matter, the commission directs the Registrar (Law) to proceed for an inquiry in KIIT University, Bhubaneswar to conduct an on-spot inquiry along with a team consisting of two officers from the inves tigation division, one not below the rank of SSP and one officer/ official from Law Division, and submit its inquiry report to the Commission by 10th March, 2025," the NHRC order said.

ers, and livestock inspectors they said. The deceased were identified as Byomakesh Nayak of Keon-

jhar district and Prabin Kumar Panda from Rourkela in Sund argarh district. Prabin was appearing

in the test for recruitment for the posts of forest guard and forester. During the 25 km run from Bhabanipur to Baragada, he collapsed and later died at a hospital, they added.

#### **NHRC orders inquiry** into KIIT girl's suicide PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, March 4: The National Human Rights Com mission (NHRC) has ordered an on-spot inquiry into the death of a Nepalese girl student at KIIT University in Odisha and asked its officials to submit a report by March 10.

#### Stop illegal construction: Centre to OCZMA No school, college holiday today

ing emissions.

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 4: A day after announcing that March 5 would be observed as the birth anniversary of former CM Biju Patnaik and not as Panchayati Raj Diwas, the state government Tuesday said that all schools and colleges in Odisha will remain open on the day.

In a letter, School and Mass Education department Additional Secretary Durga Prasad Mohapatra directed all the district education officers to ensure schools are open and classes are conducted Wednesday. Similarly, Higher Education department Joint Secretary Mousumi Nayak directed all higher educational institutes to remain open and conduct classes March 5.

Notably, the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) Monday said that Panchayati Raj Diwas will be observed April 24 instead of March 5. While Odisha observed Panchayati Raj Diwas March 5 since the 1990s to coincide with Biju Patnaik's birthday, the national Panchayati Raj Diwas is celebrated April 24.

"To overcome the inconsistency at the national and state levels in the celebration of Panchayati Raj Diwas, the state government has decided to no longer celebrate March 5 as Panchayati Raj Diwas in Odisha and will instead celebrate it April 24," the CMO said.

The state government also decided to observe Public Service Day April 24.

#### UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

Puri, March 4: The Ministry of

Environment, Forest and Climate

Change (MoEFCC) has directed

the Odisha Coastal Zone Man-

agement Authority (OCZMA)

to halt ongoing unauthorised

constructions in Coastal Regu-

In a letter, the ministry in-

structed the OCZMA to halt

illegal constructions, take

immediate action against the

latory Zone (CRZ) of Puri.

violators and submit an action taken report.

The Centre's move came in response to a petition filed by Beach Protection Council of Odisha president Jagannath Bastia. The petitioner alleged that around 35 unauthorised multi-storey hotels and commercial buildings were being constructed in Puri's CRZ in violation of CRZ norms.

Bastia said that despite bringing these blatant violations to the attention of the relevant state authorities. little action has been taken to stop the illegal constructions or initiate legal proceedings against the violators.

He alleged that empowered regulatory bodies, including the PKDA and Puri Municipality, have remained mysteriously silent on the issue. Their inaction has emboldened violators to proceed with construction in prohibited coastal areas.

twin city Commissionerate Police Tuesday arrested two more members of the notorious gang in connection with the heist.

Briefing media, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Pinak Mishra said ₹38,000 in cash and two mobile phones were recovered from the possession of A Rustom, 36, of Uttar Pradesh, and Sk Mijanur Rahman, 45, of West Bengal. Rustom was arrested from Ghaziabad in UP. while Rahman was apprehended from West Bengal.

Earlier, Debi Prasad Malla, 29, Akash Mohapatra, 27, Ramakanta Sahoo, 20, Sagar Samal. 24. Biren Rout. 20. and

Jharpada jail. "While Rahman was serving jail term for an ATM heist in Dhauli area, Malla was in jail for a murder under Airfield police station limits," Mishra said, adding that when the two were out on interim bail, they managed to rope in others.

"With technical examination, CCTV analysis and local sources, police found clues regarding the involvement of local criminals and outsiders in this case. Subsequently, different teams were formed and raids were conducted inside and outside the state and the suspects were apprehended," he said.

## Man held for raping minor

Kendrapara, March 4: A 62-year-old man was arrested on charges of raping a fouryear-old girl under Kendrapara Sadar police limits here, police said Tuesday.

AGENCIES

Briefing media, Kendrapara Sadar inspec-

tor in-charge (IIC) Bimal Mallick said the victim's

family approached them Monday night alleging that their four-year-old daughter was playing near the house when Pravakar Mallick took her to a lonely place and raped her.

Acting on the complaint, Kendrapara Sadar police registered a case under various Sections, including 65 of BNS and 4 of the POCSO Act, and arrested the accused. The accused was produced before the local court which remanded him into jail custody.

Complainant Ashutosh B, in his petition, alleged that Lamsal, a third-year Computer Science student at KIIT, had faced harassment by her ex-boyfriend and that the university's International Relations Office (IRO) had neglected her complaints, leading to her tragic suicide.

The complainant also claimed that protests by Nepalese students, who sought justice in the incident, were met with verbal abuse, threats and physical assault by KIIT officials and security guards. The petitioner also urged

the commission to take action against KIIT officials, including founder Achyuta Samanta, for their "failure to address harassment complaints and their involvement in the exploitation of tribal students".

The police arrested one engineering student of the varsity on the charge of abetment of Lamsal's suicide and he is now in judicial custody since February 17. Ten employees of KIIT were apprehended on charges of physical assault, verbal abuse and eviction of Nepalese students from the hostel for staging protests and demanding justice over the girl's suicide.







## **OrissaPOST**

WEDNESDAY | MARCH 5, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR

### downtown



## **Universities foundation** of Viksit Odisha: Governor

Governor Kambhampati highlights the crucial role of universities in driving Odisha's academic excellence, innovation, and overall development



#### OST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 4: Our universities are the foundation of Viksit Odisha and Viksit Bharat. As academic leaders. you have the responsibility to foster excellence, drive reforms, and ensure our institutions remain dynamic centers of knowledge, Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati said Tuesday.

Addressing vice-chancellors at a conference at Raj Bhavan, the Governor highlighted the importance of higher education in state's development. The event brought together Deputy Chief Minister, Ministers, Secretaries of various departments, and senior university officials to discuss key academic priorities.

The Governor underscored the effective implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, stressing its transformative potential. He called for timely examinations, swift result publication, and prompt certificate distribution to maintain academic efficiency. He emphasised that quality research must drive innovation and societal progress.

Highlighting fiscal transpar-

The conference covered a wide range of topics, including the implementation of NEP 2020, examination procedures, result publication and certificate distribution

ency, the Governor urged universities to conduct regular audits for financial accountability. Expressing concern over rising sexual harassment cases in higher education institutions. he called for strict preventive measures and a zero-tolerance policy to ensure student safety.

He also stressed the need for cybersecurity awareness in educational institutions. Encouraging increased student participation in the National Cadet Corps (NCC), the Governor stressed its role in instilling discipline, leadership, and national service values

Deputy Chief Minister Pra-

vati Parida, Minister of Law, Works, and Excise Prithviraj Harichandan, Health and Family Welfare, Electronics, and IT Minister Mukesh Mahaling, Higher Education, Odia Language, Literature, and Culture Minister Suryavanshi Suraj, and Industries, Skill Development, and Technical Education Minister Sampad Chandra Swain attended the conference. They reaffirmed their commitment to making higher education and technical education more dynamic and relevant in Odisha.

The conference covered a wide range of topics, including the implementation of NEP 2020, examination procedures, result publication, certificate distribution, research programmes, and enhancing the academic environment. Other key discussions fo-

cused on increasing NCC enrolment, addressing sexual harassment in higher education institutions, strengthening cvbersecurity, conducting periodic audits, ensuring compliance with audit objections, and adopting the e-office platform in universities. Additionally, matters related to NAAC accreditation compliance and the promotion of teachers under the Career Advancement Scheme

of the UGC were reviewed. The conference concluded with a collective commitment to strengthening the state's higher education system, aligning it with national aspirations, and setting new benchmarks in academic excellence and governance.



MUSICAL PERFORMANCE: Artistes perform during the 20th Odissi Sangeet and Laghu Sangeet Samaroha-2025 at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswa Tuesday

### NSUI demands CM's resignation over girl's suicide

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, March 4: Members of the National Students' Union of India (NSUI) Tuesday staged a protest here over the suicidal death of a Class XII girl of Kendrapara district, and demanded the resignation of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi.

Holding banners and party flags, the NSUI activists demonstrated at Master Canteen Square, burning effigies of Maihi and School & Mass Education Minister Nityananda Gond.

"The students are not safe even on their college campuses. The suicidal death case is a burning example of that," NSUI state president Udit Pradhan said.

The 18-year-old student allegedly died by suicide February 24 after being "frisked inappropriately" by a male teacher **February 19** 

"Though more than a week has passed since the incident, the government is yet to take any action in this regard. We demand the resignation of the chief minister and Gond," he said.

The 18-year-old student allegedly died by suicide February 24 after being "frisked inappropriately" by a male teacher February 19, when she appeared for the ongoing ex-



ams conducted by the Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE) at Pattamundai College. The case is under investigation

"If the government fails to deliver justice to the girl student, the NSUI would intensifv its protest across the state. Pradhan added.

#### **OASME WOMEN'S WING EVENT MARCH 9** OUAT concludes training on animal eye treatment

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 4: The department of Veterinary Surgerv and Radiology at Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT) marked the concluding day of 21 days winter school on 'Modern Techniques for Clinical Management of Ophthalmic Affections in Animals' here Tuesday. The training programme, sponsored by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), focused at advanced techniques for treating eve-related ail-



As part of the practical exposure, participants visited Nandankanan Zoo, where they observed the glaucoma treatment of a lion named Shivam

ed eye surgeries becoming rare. such training will help students build a strong foundation for their careers," he said.

As part of the practical exposure, participants visited Nandankanan Zoo, where they observed the glaucoma treatment of a lion named Shivam. The procedure helped relieve the lion's discomfort and provided valuable hands-on learning, Das added.

Senior veterinarians, including DB Patil, V Deviprasad, K Rambabu, Srikant Sahoo, Sujata Das, AK Ray, Sujov Mukherjee, Smrutirekha Priyadarshini, and Samir Mohapatra conducted lecture sessions during the programme. Additionally, virtual sessions were delivered by faculty members from IVRI Mumbai and a course facilitator from Bahrain.



RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, March 4: The Women's Wing of the Odisha Assembly of Small and Medium Enterprises (OASME) has

Women's Wing Jyotirmayee Mohanty emphasised that Her-Story 2025 is about "inspiring, empowering, and celebrating women who break barriers." OASME vice chairperson

ence, chairperson of OASME

Amrita Patra described it as an unforgettable experience bringing together trailblazing women achievers.

The event will be graced by startups, and motivational dignitaries including ST & coaching sessions. Addition-SC Development, Minorities ally, discussions on e-com-& Backward Classes Welfare merce, work-life balance, and Minister Nityananda Gond, overcoming failures will be Minister of State for Indus tries, Skill Development, and Technical Education Sampad Chandra Swain, Additional Chief Secretary Hemant Shar ma, OASME chairman Gouri Sankar Dash, and OASME gen eral secretary Satwik Swain among others.

ments in animals.

Around 23 students from different institutions across Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh. and Odisha participated in the training programme, which be-

81%

СТС

33.5°

22.0°

84%

Nil

gan February 12. Department of Veterinary Surgery and Radiology head Javakrushna Das emphasised the significance of the programme in enhancing academ-

ic understanding of ophthalmic treatments. "Through this rigorous module, we aim to equip students with the knowledge to drive future discoveries in veterinary eye care. With dedicatannounced HerStory 2025, a flagship event celebrating women achievers, will take place March 9. The announcement was made during a press conference here Tuesday.

The event will feature a grand award ceremony. live conducted. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage with Shark Tank fame entrepreneurs, artists, and business leaders. Cultural showcases and networking opportunities will also be part of the event. Speaking at the press confer-

#### WEATHER BBSR Max Temp 35.2° Min Temp 23.99

Nil Rainfall **FORECAST** Fog or mist in the morning and mainly

Humidity

clear sky later

MARKET WATCH INDEX VARIATION SENSEX 72989.93 96.01 NIFTY 22082.65 36.65 DOLLAR 87.42 0.05 EURO 91.97 0.52 GOLD ₹86,026 ₹563 SILVER ₹**95,749** ₹344

#### Paralakhemundi rly station statue sparks controversy Min Mahapatra meets Vaishnaw over rail issues

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 4: The historic Paralakhemundi railway station, undergoing transformation under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, has found itself at the center of controversy over a newly-installed statue.

As the first Odisha-dedicated railway line and the first royal railway station of the state, the station holds immense historical significance.

However, the installation of an unidentifiable statue, bearing no resemblance to Maharaja Gourachandra Gajapati or Maharaja Krushna Chandra Gajapati, has sparked widespread outrage among locals and heritage advocates

Maharaja Gourachandra Gajapati was instrumental in establishing the Naupada-Paralakhemundi Light Railway in 1898-99, connecting the princely state to the broader railway



network. His contributions were foundational to Odisha's

rail history Meanwhile, Maharaja Krushna Chandra Gajapati, known as the architect of Odisha's statehood, played a crucial role in expanding and strengthening railway connectivity. The presence of a misplaced statue, failing to represent these stalwarts, has been perceived as an insult to the heritage and pride

of the region

Local residents and heritage activists have voiced their disappointment, questioning how such an inaccurate installation was approved.

There is now a growing demand to replace the existing structure with statues of both Maharaja Gourachandra Gajapati Narayana Deb II and Maharaja Krushna Chandra Gajapati Narayana Deb, ensuring their rightful tribute at the station premises.

Apanna Parichha Smruti Sansad (APSS) secretary Murali Dhar Parichha, who has been advocating for Paralakhemun di's heritage status and railway development, stated that the railway station is not just an infrastructure project but a symbol of Odisha's history, culture, and identity

He emphasised that the ongoing redevelopment under the Amrit Bharat scheme is an opportunity to not only modernise the station but also honor the legacy of the visionaries who built it.

"The demand for proper statues is not merely about aesthetics but about respect. accuracy, and rightful tribute to the pioneers of Odisha's railway heritage," said Parichha. He further added that a formal letter would soon be submitted to the East Coast Railway's general manager, along with the Khurda Road and Waltair Divisions, urging them to rectifv the issue.

In 2024, the Ministry of Railways sanctioned ₹12 crore for the development of Paralakhemundi railway station under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme.

The proposed redevelopment plan includes a new 1,375 sq m building with a 72 sq m commercial area. Additionally, a 12-metre-wide foot overbridge will be constructed, providing seamless access between platforms 1 and 2. As Paralakhemundi station moves forward into a new era, residents insist that its historical legacy must be preserved and accurately represented.

Authorities are now under pressure to act swiftly and replace the unidentifiable structure with statues that genuinely reflect the region's great railway visionaries



POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, March 4: Housing & Urban Development Minister Krushna Chandra Mahapatra met Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw at Rail Bha wan in New Delhi Tuesday to discuss key railway matters concerning Odisha, particularlv Mavurbhani district.

Mahapatra urged the resto ration of the previous schedule of the Bangriposi-Puri Superfast Express, emphasising its importance for passengers. Vaishnaw assured that the re quest would be reviewed.

He also pressed for the early implementation of the Baripada Railway Bypass Project to boost development and ease congestion in Baripada town.

#### SSIFIED CON OUR BOOKING AD ISEM C -51

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









## state



# **SPCB** serves closure notice

**Orissa**POS

WEDNESDAY | MARCH 5, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR

# to 11 polluting industrial units



**The SPCB action was** subsequent to receipt of regular complaints against polluting sponge iron units at various industrial areas around Rourkela

RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela. March 4: The State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) has issued closure notices to 11 industrial units and showcause notices to an additional 78 units here for violating pollution norms.

An SPCB official said the units which have been served closure notices include Rajesh Sahani and Das Enterprises in Kalunga industrial area; Pal Metal Industries and Swastik Ispat Private Limited in Kuanrmunda: Utkal Matrics Private Limited, Sree Jagannath Traders, Scan Steel Limited, Gangpur Minerals, Sri Ram Minerals and Maa Kali Industries located in various industrial areas.

SPCB Regional Officer and Additional Chief Environment Scientist Dr Anup Mallick said, "Those served closure notices will have to shut down their units with immediate effect. The closure will remain in effect till they abide by, or comply

with, all the required norms of pollution control." All the units need to have dust arrester in the electrostatic precipitator (ESP) installed, he said. The official said SPCB car-

ried out investigations of the industrial units at Kaunga, Kuanrmunda and Bonai areas. The inspections were carried out at the sponge iron units during night time in these areas. The SPCB action was subsequent to receipt of regular complaints against the polluting sponge

iron units. Meta Sponge, Seeta Sponge

units at Kalunga which have been served with show-cause notices. They have been asked to file their replies within 15 days. Besides, they have been warned that any failure to comply with pollution norms will invite closure notice. It is worth mentioning here that a massive protest was staged against Mahaveer Sponge sometime back.

and Mahaveer Fero Sponge are among the worst polluting

Meanwhile, Pramod Biswal a resident of Kalunga said, "We are suffering from both industrial pollution and the dust flying out of the damaged roads due to the movement of heavy vehicles. Our lives have become miserable. I welcome the SPCB move.' Interestingly, following the

SPCB action, waters is now being sprinkled on the roads at Kalunga industrial estate. Meanwhile, the official said,

22 units have been levied fines and instructed to obey with the pollution norms, while application for additional time for compliance by four more units have been rejected by the SP-CB. "Thirteen units have been ordered to appear before the SPCB for instructions," the of-

ficial added. Giving details about the crackdown, Dr Mallick said, "We received information about low quality coal being used in all the units, which was confirmed during our inspection. Fine dust particles were found in large numbers due to the use of the low-quality coal by these units."

He said though Rourkela and its nearby areas come under the national clean air programme, these units failed to comply with the SPCB's instruction to use to use clean fuel technology.

#### JUMBO MARCH: A tusker roams on the State Highway-53, near Chhayalsingh Bazar in Bhadrak district, after it separated from its herd Tuesday, sending Forest and police personnel on its trail to capture the gentle giant Criminal injured in Ward member held for stripping police encounter woman on Kendrapara village road Sambalpur: A notorious criminal in Sambalpur district sustained a

AGENCIES

Kendrapara, March 4: A ward member, along with another person, was arrested Tuesday for allegedly dragging and stripping a middle-aged woman on a village road in broad daylight Monday.

The arrests were effected after a video of the incident went viral on social media The accused were identified as Ranjan Swain, the ward member, and Narahari Swain.

IIC Bimal Mallick of Kendrapara Sadar police station said that long-standing enmity and disputes led to this shocking incident involving a woman from Samalpur of Kapaleswar Gram Panchayat, under Kendrapara Sadar police station limits.

Mallick said the victim was



dragged, stripped, molested, and assaulted on the village road by fellow villagers, including the ward member. He said the accused even attempted to strangle her.

According to the police, ward member Ranjan Swain had an on-going dispute with Bijay Das, which was supposed to be settled amicably Monday in the village. However, tensions grew between the families of Ranjan Swain and Bijay Das. Following the altercation, Ranjan Swain and Narahari Swain allegedly dragged Pravati Das, daugh ter-in-law of Bijay Das, out of her house and stripped her on the village road. She was also sexually assaulted.

The victim's daughter, Lax mipriya, lodged a complaint against 10 villagers, including the ward member and Nara-

Swain too also filed a counter complaint against Pravati Das, alleging that she had attacked him.

two cases and arrested both Ranjan and Narahari who were later produced in a SD-JM court for remand.

Mallick said an inquiry is underway to apprehend oth er individuals involved in the crime.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. ST-SBP

TENDER-2025-04, Dt. 25.02.2025

AME OF WORK : PROVISION O

DUAL UFSBI IN EXISTING UFSB SYSTEM OF MAKE M/S DELTRON QUIPMENT & SYSTEM FOR

RELIABILITY IMPROVEMENT II

EXISTING SECTIONS IN SAMBALPU

Tender Value in (₹) : 2,15,69,792.56

DIVISION.

EMD(₹): 2,57,900.00

#### EOW, STF conduct searches at locations linked to Raja Chakra POST NEWS NETWORK

#### OST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, March 4: A joint team of Economic Offence Wing (EOW) and Special Task Force (STF) personnel conducted searches at multiple locations belonging to BJD leader Raja Chakra Tuesday in connection with an alleged scam linked to the Gandhamardan Loading Cooperative Society agency in Keonjhar.

The EOW sleuths quizzed



The sleuths have not yet disclosed what was recovered during the searches. However, sources indicated that officials have seized 20 vehicles, important documents, and other materials. Chakra's farmhouse has been sealed. Investigators are scrutinising financial transactions linked to three companies reportedly owned by Chakra, as well as multiple bank accounts. Officials are tracking the flow of money to and from these accounts, sources added.

## Mangrove forest project in Kendrapara buried in files

Kendrapara, March 4: Despite repeated government promises. a proposed mangrove afforestation project aimed at protecting coastal regions in the district remains buried in official files, even as rising sea levels continue to threaten local villages.

According to reports, rapid coastal erosion due to frequent tidal surges, which is is accelerating the destruction of coastal areas, has put islands like Nashi, Habelikati, Babubali, and Eka-

and riverbanks. However, the initiative is yet to materialise beyond official announcements.

bullet injury in an encounter with

police Tuesday morning, a senior

officer said. The encounter took

place at Hirakud Airstrip Road near

Lamadunguri, under Ainthapalli Police

Station limits, when a team of police

personnel attempted to apprehend

Mahesh Kumar, wanted in several

seeing the police team, Mahesh

tried to flee the spot and fired at

the personnel. The police team also

retaliated. Mahesh sustained a bullet

injury on his left leg. He was rescued

the officer said. The Sambalpur Police

had been tracking him for a while,

he added. "Mahesh is now out of

danger. We have seized one 7mm

him," the officer said. Several loot,

robbery and other cases have been

registered against the accused in

Sambalpur and adjoining districts,

the police said. The latest case was

filed Monday. Mahesh had snatched

₹45,000 from a person at gunpoint in

the Ainthapali police station area of

Sambalpur, the officer added.

pistol and ammunition, ₹40,000

in cash and a motorcycle from

and admitted to VIMSAR at Burla,"

cases, around 5:45 am, he said. "Upon

The geo-synthetic tube wall project, built on Pentha coast to curb coastal erosion, has also failed to deliver expected results, reports said. Environmentalists, including Hemant Kumar Rout, Prabhu Prasad Mohapatra, Arun Kumar Kanungo, and Sheikh Chand, emphasise that creating mangrove forests within a 10-kilometer coastal buffer zone would significantly reduce



government's Forest and Environment department initially prioritised mangrove afforestation, the project has yet to be implemented effectively. The Green Mahanadi Mission was announced by the state government July 24, 2018. The mission was inaugurated by the then Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, with a plan to plant more than 5 crore saplings across 41.000 hectares along the banks of the Mahanadi, Ib, and Tel rivers for afforestation.

tive in the past five years. The expansion of shrimp farms and encroachments in coastal areas has been destroying mangrove forests. Due to rapid coastal erosion, five revenue villages in Satabhaya have already been submerged in the sea, and the sixth village, Barahipur, is expected to disappear from the revenue map soon, environmentalist say. Experts have consistently emphasised the urgent need to restore mangrove forests within a 10-kilometer radius of the

Hrs. of 20.03 2025 No manual offers sent by Post / Courie ax or in person shall be accepted again such e-tenders even if these are submitte on firm's letter head and received in time All such manual offers shall be considered nvalid and shall be rejected sum without any consideration. complete information including e-tend ocuments of the above e-Tender is available n website : https://www.ireps.gov.in Note : The prospective tenderers an dvised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen lays before the date of closing of tende note any changes / Corrigendu sued for this tender.

hari.

The Sadar police registered

Chakra regarding alleged financial irregularities at his office in Bhubaneswar Monday. On Tuesday, joint teams from the EOW and the STF searched multiple locations associated with him, including his loading agency office at Suakati in Keonjhar district, his residence in Keonjhar town, his farmhouse in Gopalpur under Ghatgaon block of the district, and at the checkpoint of industrial corridor.

Apart from Keonjhar, raids were also carried out at eight locations across Sundargarh, Sambalpur, and other districts.

kula in the district at risk. This has sparked panic among the residents as little is being done to check the adverse impact of coastal erosion.

In 2017, the then state government announced plans to create 400 hectares of mangrove forest in the Rajnagar and Mahakalapara blocks of Kendrapara district. This project aimed to expand green cover to a total of 3,500 hectares along the coast

the impact of natural disasters

They argue that while local authorities focus on disaster preparedness meetings and are seen on their toes in providing relief and rescue measures. longterm protective measures such as mangrove afforestation are being overlooked.

Residents of Kendrapara district face recurring natural disasters, including cyclones, floods, and the looming threat of tsunamis. Although the state

Although the Mahanadi River flows through Kendrapara district, no specific locations were identified for this initia-

coastline.

Meanwhile, when contacted, Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Nilu Mohapatra said that the district administration has prioritised afforestation efforts. 'Officials from the Forest and Panchayati Raj departments are implementing the initiative," Mohapatra said, while highlighting the critical role mangrove forests play in mitigating the impact of cyclones and coastal

Divisional Railway Manager (S&T) 3/P/24-25 Sambalpu -1038/P/24-25



Tender No. etenderhqkur-331-2024 Dtd.: 20.02.2025

DESCRIPTION DEEP SCREENING OF TRACK, POINTS & CROSSINGS AND OTHER ALLIED WORKS AT KHURDA OAD YARD AND APPROACHE UNDER THE JURISDICTION O SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER/PWA KHURDA ROAD OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION

Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 263.63 Lakh, EMD : ₹ 2,81,800/-, Completio Period : 10 (Ten) Months. ender Closing Date and Time : At 1

#### Hrs. of 17.03.2025.

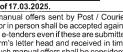
No manual offers sent by Post / Courie ax or in person shall be accepted agains uch e-tenders even if these are submitte on firm's letter head and received in time All such manual offers shall be considered nvalid and shall be rejected summaril

Complete information including e-tende

Note: The prospective tenderers and advised to revisit the website 10 (Tendays before the date of closing of tender) note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenderers/bidders mus have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal Only registered tenderer(s)/ bidder(s) car participate on a tendering

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg) Khurda Road

Revised



vithout any consideration. documents of the above e-Tender available in website : www.ireps.gov.in

articipate on e-tendering.

PR-1039/P/24-25



	OIPR-34012/11/0030/2425 Sd./- Chief Construction Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Circle						
tendersodisha.gov.in.							
	All	other terms and cond	itions remain unchange	ed. Further details car	be seen from the	website htpp://	
		15/2024-25	Hours of 10.02.2025	Hours of 24.03.2025	11.00 Hours	11.00 Hours	
	1	CCE.Ctc. (R&B)	27.01.2025 to 5.30	10.03.2025 to 5.30	11.02.2025 at	25.03.2025 at	
Notice Tender Notice							
No.			period as per Tender	Availability period	Date as per	opening Date	

## Sonepur Royal Palace faces ruin, restoration urged

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Sonepur, March 4: The historic Sonepur roval palace, a silent witness to the region's rich history, is now on the verge of collapse due to neglect and lack of maintenance.

The palace's grand domes and intricately designed walls are crumbling. Once a symbol of art, culture, and architectural brilliance, the structure is now deteriorating day by day. The palace, which no longer houses the roval family, has been overtaken by wild vegetation, and has become a refuge for reptiles.

In its prime, Sonepur was known for its administrative influence, education, and prestige. The palace holds invaluable records of the former princely state. Built with sturdy stonework along the banks of the Mahanadi River, it once stood as an architectural marvel. However, years of neglect have pushed it to the brink of complete ruin.

Locals and heritage enthusiasts are demanding its restoration before it is lost forever. They emphasise that the palace should be preserved as a historical landmark rather than left to decay.



Amongst them, Sitaanshu Shekhar Mishra, president of the Subarnapur Sachetan Nagarik Sangha, has urged the government to take immediate steps to restore the palace. "If neglected further, the historical landmark will soon be lost, surviving only in memories and history books," he said.

The period from August 8, 1902, to April 29, 1937 - under the rule of king Biramitrodaya - is regarded as the golden era of Sonepur's princely rule. During his reign in 1905, the Sonepur state transitioned from Central Provinces to the Bengal-administered Orissa Division.

Biramitrodaya established the Sonepur Trust Fund in 1925 for the development of the state. His court played a crucial role in promoting the Odia language and literature, publishing hundreds of books in Sanskrit, Odia, Bengali, and English. With his support, in 1919, the University of Calcutta introduced an Odia MA course. He also established the "Sonepur Chair" in both the Odia department at the University of Calcutta and the English department at Ravenshaw College, contributing

role in publishing books on revenue law and land regulations.

The last ruler, Sudhanshu Bhushan Singh Deo, governed a vast territory from this palace until 1948.

significantly to the spread of

opment, he founded Maharaja

High School in 1913, and estab-

lished several Sanskrit schools,

providing free food and lodging

for students. He also played a key

To further educational devel-

higher education in Odisha.

However, the majestic structure is now partially in ruins. Its rooftop terraces once offered breathtaking views of the Mahanadi River, where the royal family would gather. Inside the palace, there were halls such as Badal Mahal, an armourv. a treasury, a courtroom, and a revenue office. The queen's residences, Anantapur and Uwas, were known for their intricate craftsmanship.

Now, the palace stands as a crumbling reminder of a bygone era.

Locals and office bearers of social organisations said if neglected further, the historical landmark will soon be lost, surviving only in memories and history books.

#### **PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE** APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused

disasters.

#### See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

person Rajesh Badaik S/o Sh. Rajesh Badaik (Mangra), R/o VPO Rantobiirkera, Tehsil Larthi Kata, Distt Sunder Garh. Odisha has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence case FIR No. 369/2019 U/S 376D/506 IPC at P.S. Subhash Place, North West Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Rajesh Badaik cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Rajesh Badaik has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proceeding u/s 82 Cr.P.C. has been initiated in the case. Proclamation is hereby made that the said Rajesh Badaik accused of FIR No. 369/2019 U/S 376D/506 IPC at P.S. Subhash Place, North West Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on 15.04.2025. By Order: Ms. Jasieet Kaur.

Additional Session Judge-04 (POCSO),











## power post



#### FOCUS BUREAUCRACY

Do not pretend – be. Do not promise – act. Do not dream – realize.

THE MOTHER

## Summit of Hope

urope has made it clear that it will not accept a so-called peace deal for Ukraine clinched by the US (and as proposed by Russia) in so many words by President Donald Trump. The mood of the European leaders was summed up in the words of British Prime Minister Keir Starmer who told a London summit on 2 March that Europe has got its "once-in-a-generation moment" for its security. The announcement came only three days after Trump and Vice President JD Vance had given a complete dressing down to Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for virtually challenging the ceasefire plan that Trump drew up after talking to the "aggressor" Russian President Vladimir Putin. Starmer explained at the summit that the meeting had three goals - Ukraine's short-term needs, securing a lasting deal to end the conflict and planning for strong security guarantees. Trump had shot down Zelenskyy's fervent plea during their televised interactions for the US providing security guarantees to his country before a ceasefire deal with Putin. The US President insisted that the business deal between the US and Ukraine for extracting precious minerals for the US from Ukraine was itself the security guarantee, while Zelenskyy explained Putin had violated ceasefire agreements "25 times since 2014 and nobody did anything" to stop him. He made it clear to Trump that a ceasefire without security guarantees by the US would be meaningless, going by the past experiences.

As Zelenskyy left Washington crest-fallen, he needed European countries to rally behind his country and defend it against the Russian might. The UK, France, Italy and some other countries of Europe did not waste time and assured Ukraine of their support not simply in words, but also in concrete terms through signing multi-million pounds worth deals to supply arms and materials from the UK to Ukraine. In his opening remarks at the summit, Starmer told Zelenskyy: "I hope you know that we are all with you and the people of Ukraine for as long as it takes, everyone around this table." This was music to Ukraine's ears and alarm for Russia which had hailed Trump and Vance for berating Zelenskyy.

French President Emmanuel Macron, Canada's outgoing leader Justin Trudeau and the heads of several European countries, the European Union and NATO were all present at the summit. The way these leaders closed ranks in defence of Ukraine brought a smile to the face of Zelenskyy. Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni told Starmer it was of utmost importance that "we avoid the risk that the West divides" over the war in Ukraine. The two leaders may prove vital in formulating a peace process acceptable to both Trump and Europe since both have developed some kind of relationship with Trump.

Macron in his speech said no one should have any confusion about who the aggressor is. This is in sharp contrast to Trump's conciliatory approach to Putin. Macron told the summit in no uncertain terms: "There is an aggressor: Russia."

The British PM took it further when he said this is "not a moment for more talk, it's time to act." Accordingly, leaders on the continent went ahead with their plan to forge a path towards a ceasefire in Ukraine. He also told the media he was working with France and a small number of other nations to craft a plan to stop the fighting, which would then be presented to the US.

Macron in an interview with a French daily drew the contours of the plan proposing a month-long limited ceasefire in Ukraine. The second phase, he said, would involve troops on the ground. The plan appears to torpedo the negotiation process that Trump's administration opened with Russia last month. At the same time, it suggests Europe is well aware such a plan would be viable only if Trump gives his seal of approval. European leaders are understood to have resolved to persuade Trump to agree to their plan. As part of this strategy, Zelenskyy said at the London summit that he is ready to sign a deal with the US for extracting minerals from Ukraine. The deal was not signed after Trump and Vance bullied Zelenskyy.

Predictably, the Kremlin was not happy with the development in London as it expected Trump's belligerence against Zelenskyy would make European leaders fall in line and accept the peace overtures of the US President that seemed to have been tailored by Russia, keeping its interests in the forefront. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the funding pledges from European leaders including a \$2 billion air-defence missiles deal from Britain - will cause the war to drag on. While no one can fault these European leaders of backing Ukraine, it must be understood that western powers are scared of Putin and his intentions. If Ukraine falls, Poland becomes the front line. Then comes Germany which will open up the whole of Europe to the Russian army and on how fast it can move forward. It is also true that war alone seems to bring these tall leaders together. They never seem to get united for peace. This has made Russia's frustration palpable, as visible in Peskov's words that someone should force Zelenskyy to change his position as he doesn't want peace. The wonderful aspect of the Trump era is that countries like Ukraine, UK, Poland, Taiwan, France, Italy, South Korea and Japan have now, perforce, are compelled to start thinking of creating an alternate force by themselves. Stop depending on the US. India too has to learn to play the cards properly now and in future.

# WHEN GOVERNMENT'S GONE

n Hermann Hesse's novel The Journey to the East, a group of pilgrims sets out on a spiritual quest, guided by Leo, a seemingly humble servant who tends to their needs and keeps them organized. But midway through the journey, Leo suddenly disappears, and the pilgrimage collapses into chaos. The travellers, who believed themselves to be the journey's true leaders, are lost without Leo's quiet but essential presence



A GOVERNMENT

THAT DISMISSES TOO MANY SEASONED OFFICIALS MAY SOON FIND ITSELF WITHOUT THE GLUE THAT HELD EVERYTHING

TOGETHER

The same risk follows from the loss of seasoned government professionals - the career civil servants, administrators, and experts who keep the modern state running smoothly, usually far from the spotlight. When they are abruptly defenestrated - as is happening at key US agencies like USAID, the FBI, the CIA, the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the National Institutes of Health governance does not simply continue as usual under new leadership. Rather, fragmentation, inefficiency, and dysfunction prevail - just like among Hesse's pilgrims. Though he is just one man in Hesse's story, Leo represents all the anon-

the state afloat. At the heart of this issue is the principal-agent dilemma, a concept introduced by economists Stephen Ross, Michael Jensen, and William H. Meckling in the 1970s to describe a problem that can arise when one party acts on behalf of another. In government, political leaders (the principals) rely on bureaucrats or officials (agents) to translate their decisions into action. While political leaders naturally want their directives to be followed precisely, bureaucrats are guided by their own specialized knowledge, ethics, and imperatives to prioritize long-term stability over short-term outcomes

ymous bureaucrats and civil

servants who keep the ship of

To overcome this mismatch,



A leader who constantly suspects his own officials of disloyalty may begin to see enemies where none exist – as with Trump's perception of threats emanating from the "deep state"

the principals in the second Trump administration are seeking to replace or simply eliminate the agents. But such purges usually backfire, because once a paranoid leader has sidelined his own agents, he no longer possesses the means to govern effectively.

Paranoia is a dangerous mindset in governance. A leader who constantly suspects his own officials of disloyalty may begin to see enemies where none exist - as with Trump's perception of threats emanating from the "deep state." The result is a vicious cycle: as more officials are dismissed or sidelined, institutional knowledge is lost, governance becomes less effective, and the leader's fears are reinforced by the very dysfunction he has created. Instead of a smooth-running administration, the government becomes reactive, chaotic, and incapable of long-term planning.

This can play out in multiple ways. For agencies like the FBI and CIA, forced retirements and buyouts inevitably eliminate expertise needed to monitor threats to national security, reduce morale, and discourage prospective employees. Moreover, replacing seasoned professionals with political loyalists risks compromising the collection, analysis, and sharing of intelligence (some US allies may be reluctant to share sensitive information in fear that it may fall in the hands of Elon Musk or Tulsi Gabbard), leading to poor decision-making at the highest levels of government.

Similarly, US foreign policy will suffer now that, with the destruction of USAID, it has lost its long-standing connections with local communities around the world, weakening America's diplomatic reach and influence, and making it harder to advance US strategic interests. And the loss of experienced professionals from agencies like the NSF will impede research, delay technological innovation. and weaken America's ability to respond to emerging challenges and risks, such as those stemming from artificial intelligence, climate change, or public-health crises

The German sociologist Max Weber, who laid the foundations of modern administrative theory, showed that a professional bureaucracy is necessary for effective governance. Career civil servants understand the complex processes behind budgeting, law enforcement, disaster relief, and infrastructure projects. Without rule-based, merit-driven systems that keep government functioning beyond the whims of political leadership, governance breaks down.

Equally dangerous is the attempt to run public administration like a private company,

where success and failure are measured only in accounting terms: efficiency, cost savings, and profit. While fiscal responsibility is important, applying corporate-style financial controls without an understanding of public-sector purposes can lead to disastrous consequences. A financial controller or accountant borrowed from Tesla may identify potential government savings that look rational on a balance sheet, but that will lead to much greater long-term costs.

Treating governments as if they were businesses can undermine their core functions. A well-run administration requires not just financial oversight but institutional knowledge, strategic foresight, and a deep understanding of the unique demands of governance. Prioritizing short-term savings over long-term stability weakens state capacity, renders public services unreliable, and opens the door to corruption, inefficiency, and systemic failure.

By aggressively shrinking key agencies and viewing career officials as adversaries rather than experts, the Trump administration is shifting from the traditional principal-agent dilemma – where bureaucrats resist leadership – to a "paranoid principal dilemma," where the leader, in a desperate attempt to assert dominance, ends up alone, unable to trust anyone, and incapable of governing effectively.

As in The Journey to the East, where the pilgrims find themselves lost without Leo, a government that dismisses too many seasoned officials may soon find itself without the glue that held everything together. But a leader who is also paranoid – who sees his own agents as potential enemies – risks isolating himself within an administration that is both ineffective and deeply unstable.

> The writer is Director of Government and Public Institutions at Oliver Wyman. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

### **IN JEST THIS** For a long marriage, set your expectations low

#### WISDOM CORNER

- To practice five things under all circumstances constitutes perfect virtue; these five are gravity, generosity of soul, sincerity, earnestness, and kindness.
- Courage is the most important of all the virtues, because without courage you can't practice any other virtue consistently. You can practice any virtue erratically, but nothing consistently without courage.
- When you encourage others, you in the process are encouraged because you're making a commitment and difference in that person's life. Encouragement really does make a difference.

#### THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1798:** Napoleon invaded Switzerland and occupied Bern, ending the ancient ruling system of that country, the Confederation of the Thirteen Cantons.
- **1770:** Harassed by a mob, British troops on this day in 1770 opened fire, killing Crispus Attucks and four others in the Boston Massacre, an event that galvanized anti-British feelings in the lead-up to the American Revolution.
- **1979:** The US space probe Voyager 1 flew by Io, the innermost of Jupiter's satellites, and observed nine active volcanoes on its surface.



Melvin Durai

WITH DIVORCE RATES INCREASING AROUND THE WORLD, IT NEVER HURTS TO GET SOME TIPS FROM PEOPLE WHO'VE

BEEN MARRIED A LONG TIME y wife, Malathi, and I have been married for more than 24 years, but that's nothing compared to Manoel Angelim Dino and Maria de Sousa Dino. The Brazilian couple have been married for more than 84 years and recently set a Guinness World Record for the longest

marriage for a living couple. To set such a record, you have to live a long time, so it shouldn't surprise you to learn that both Manoel and Maria are centenarians. He's 105 and she's 101. They got married in 1940, seven years before India's Independence and 18 years before Brazil won its first World Cup.

Manoel was 21 and Maria only 17 when they got married, which means that for at least 80 per cent of their lives, they've had someone by their side to love, comfort and help pay the rent.

They didn't just have each other, of course. They also had 13 children, just enough for a full football team with two substitutes. Their children gave them 55 grandchildren, 54 great-grandchildren, and 12 great-great-grandchildren, all of whom can visit Manoel and Maria for some marriage advice.

With divorce rates increasing around the world, it never hurts to get some tips from people who've been married a long time. I haven't been married for that long (relatively speaking), but I'd nevertheless like to offer a few marriage tips:

1. Have low expectations. This is very important. Give your partner a low bar that they can easily clear, unless you are marrying an Olympic pole vaulter. You may have set your standards very high before marriage, hoping to check all the boxes, but once you are married, you need to hide some of those boxes. Expecting too much from your spouse is a recipe for disappointment. And disappointment often leads to another D-word: divorce.

2. Spend quality time apart. It's important to spend quality time together, but it's just as important to spend quality time apart. My wife sometimes goes on vacation with our children, while I stay at home with our dog, Lulu. This is really good for our relationship: Lulu's and mine. It brings us closer. And it also gives my wife a healthy break from me (and vice versa). Spending quality time apart doesn't require a vacation - it could also mean leaving your spouse at home and hanging out with your friends once a week, or going to the gym by yourself, or watching a movie with a

friend. If your spouse loves

watching football and you

don't, just give him his space.

a loser in life, but a loser in

arguments you have with

your spouse. Don't insist on

being right all the time and

winning every argument. Be-

ing an argument-winner may

only make you a bigger loser,

3. Be a loser. I don't mean

especially if your spouse kicks you out of bed.

4. Be forgetful. Try to forget all your arguments and any mistakes your spouse makes. Remember the positives, forget the negatives (within reason). This works both ways, of course. A wife remembers that her husband complimented her slim figure (she's been exercising) and forgets that he didn't notice her new gym outfit. A husband remembers that his wife complimented his big biceps tattoo and forgets that she didn't notice his big biceps (he's been exercising too).

5. Twist the truth. Being too truthful isn't good for a relationship. When I ask my wife if I'm losing hair, she'll say, "No, Melvin, you're just gaining scalp." When I ask her if she liked the meal I cooked, she'll say, "It's like nothing I've ever tasted before." When I ask her if she wishes she had married someone else, she'll say, "No, I just wish you had married someone else."

## etters

#### TO THE EDITOR

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

#### **Explosive encounter**

Sir, This refers to "Dangerous & Fatal," Orissa POST, March 3. The explosive encounter between US President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in the White House is unprecedented. None of the three, including US Vice President JD Vance, have come out smelling of roses. Yet, as occupant of the world's most powerful office, it is Trump who has taken the worst beating, with many berating him as a boor and bully. With diplomacy trampled by Trump and Vance at the 'meeting', the unmistakable message of the treatment meted out to Zelenskyy is that the US will not countenance any opposition to the way it wants to end the war and claim Ukraine's minerals and rare earths. In the last three years, Europe and the US pumped up Zelenskyy. He failed to note that the new dispensation in the White House was different, with little regard for diplomatic niceties. He should have known that when Trump says he wants something done, he has no choice. Trump has to be anticipated, appeased, obeyed and shown more than due deference. Anything short of that could turn out to be disastrous, as Zelenskyy discovered. Whether and how Europe adapts to the demands and diktats implicit in the manner Trump and his team handled Zelenskyy could set the stage for the next such show

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

#### **Regulatory transparency**

Sir, With a special court directing the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) to file FIR against former SEBI chairperson Madhabi Buch for alleged stock market fraud and regulatory violations, the case will likely have far-reaching implications for regulatory governance in India's financial markets. Whether this probe will uncover deeper systemic failures or simply remain a high-profile legal battle remains to be seen. However, the controversy surrounding SEBI's regulatory actions has already sparked concerns among investors and market participants. Analysts believe that such legal battles could impact investor confidence, especially among foreign institutional investors who rely on SEBI's oversight for market transparency. As the case unfolds, it remains to be seen how the investigation will impact SEBI's credibility and its approach to future regulatory enforcement.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI



















## J&K halts decline in saffron cultivation

The National Saffron Mission has successfully revived saffron cultivation in Jammu and Kashmir, significantly increasing productivity and prices for farmers



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, March 4: The Jammu and Kashmir government said it has successfully halted the decline in saffron cultivation, maintaining the saffron-growing area at 3,715 hectares.

Agriculture Minister Javed Ahmed Dar said new areas have been identified for expansion and an inquiry will be conducted into the working of the department in the growth of saffron cultivation in the Union territory.

"The government has successfully halted the decline in saffron cultivation. Since 2010-11, the saffron-growing area has remained stable at 3,715 hectares—3,665 hectares in Kashmir division and 50 hectares in Kishtwar—with new areas identified for expansion." Dar said.

The National Saffron Mission has successfully revived saffron cultivation in Jammu and Kashmir, significantly increasing productivity and prices for farmers, he said in reply to a question from National Conference member Justice Hasnain Masoodi during Question Hour in the House.

However, key challenges such as irrigation infrastructure and land encroachments persist, the agriculture minister said.

The government launched the mission in 2010-11 under

GRICULTURE MINISTER JAVED AHMED DAR SAID NEW AREAS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED FOR EXPANSION AND AN INQUIRY IN THE GROWTH OF SAFFRON CULTIVATION IN THE UNION TERRITORY

a flagship scheme devised by SKUAST-K, with a financial outlay of Rs 400.11 crore, he said.

"Of this, Rs 315.99 crore was contributed by the Government of India and Rs 84.12 crore by farmers. So far. Rs 269.91 crore has been released, with Rs

259.67 crore spent," he added. The minister highlighted that the implementation of modern techniques has led to a rise in saffron productivity from 2.50 kilogram per hectare in 2009-10 to a peak of 4.42 kilo-

gram per hectare in 2023. "The establishment of the Indian Institute of Kashmir Saffron and Technology Centre (IIKSTC) and the introduction of scientific post-harvest methods have significantly benefited farmers," he said.

Dar said that the price of saffron increased from Rs 80,000 per kg to Rs 2,20,000 per kg in 2021-22, while saffron stigma recovery improved from 22 grams per kilo to 28 grams per kilo, enhancing overall yield.

On the export and revenue trends. he said saffron production has increased 14.87 metric tonnes in 2022 to 14.94 tonnes in 2023 with the value of production hovering up to Rs 291.33 crore in 2023 to Rs 261.38 crore in 2022.

Various members of the parties raised supplementary questions about the further course of action and increase in the area of saffron cultivation.

BJP's Sunil Sharma alleged discrepancies in the answer and called for the Minister to rectify it. Some members alleged a probe into spending on the mission program.

Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather intervened, pointing towards the members' concerns.

Minister further said in the reply to supplementary questions, "The quality of saffron colour has also improved from 8 per cent (traditional drying) to 16 per cent (scientific drying) due to advanced processing at IIKSTC'

To eliminate middlemen and ensure fair pricing, the government introduced an e-auction system. Despite these successes, the minister acknowledged significant gaps in irrigation infrastructure

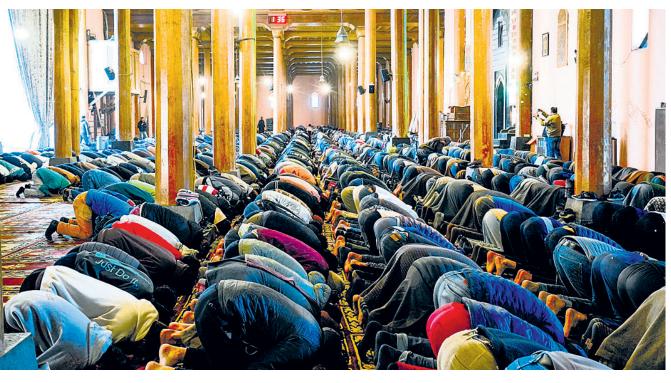
The National Mission on Saffron had planned to construct 124 community bore-wells, each serving 30 hectares, to provide sprinkler irrigation for 3,665

hectares of saffron fields. A government committee found that 77 bore-wells remain non-functional, while only eight—four each in Srinagar and Budgam—are operational.

Despite these hurdles, Dar emphasised that the National Mission on Saffron has achieved most of its objectives. 'While challenges remain,

especially in irrigation, we have made significant progress. The government remains committed to addressing these gaps," he said.

To ensure farmer participation in policy decisions, the government has formed committees of saffron growers, traders, and civil society members to incorporate their views.



Muslim devotees offer namaz during the holy month of Ramzan, at Jamia Masjid in Srinagar

## 2025-26 UP Budget's theme is 'priority to deprived': Yogi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, March 4: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Tuesday outlined the thematic approach of his government's budgets over the years, asserting that each budget has been designed to address key developmental priorities. The 2025-26 Budget is inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision and follows the theme "vanchit ko vareeyeta" (priority to the deprived), he added.

Adityanath was speaking in the state legislative Assembly about the 2025-26 Budget, which he described as his government's ninth and the biggest so far.

"Every budget follows a specific theme. In 2017 and 2018, we focused on farmers, launching a major loan waiver programme to support them. Today, we take pride in saying that farmer suicides have stopped in Uttar Pradesh," he said

The UP chief minister said the 2018-19 Budget prioritised infrastructure and industrial growth, leading to the state's first Investors' Summit. In 2019-20, the focus was on women's empowerment under Mission Shakti, while the 2020-21 Budget was dedicated to the



vouth. he said. Adityanath said the 2021-22 Budget emphasised self-reliance and the 2022-Budget 23 aimed to transition from upliftment to self-sufficiency. The 2023-24 Budget laid the foundation for

an inclusive and self-reliant UP, he said.

"The 2024-25 budget was dedicated to public welfare, keeping the ideals of 'Ram Rajya' alive as we celebrated the consecration of Lord Ram in Ayodhya,'

The he added 2024-25 budget The latest 2025-26 covers everything Budget, he said, is from agriculture to welinspired by Prime fare, faith to livelihood and Minister Modi's education to self-reliance. vision and folensuring a stronger foundation for a developed Uttar Pradesh

lows the theme "vanchit ko vareeyeta" (priority to the deprived). YOGI ADITYANATH CHIEF MINISTER, UTTAR "It covers every-

PRADESH thing from agriculture to welfare, faith to livelihood and education to self-reliance, ensuring a stronger foundation for a developed Uttar Pradesh," he asserted.

However, Leader of Opposi tion (LoP) and Samaiwadi Party (SP) leader Mata Prasad Pand-

ev accused the government of failing to utilise the entire allocated Budget for the financial vear 2024-25

РТІ РНОТО

During the discussion for the 2025-26 Budget in the As sembly, Pandey questioned the rationale behind formulating a budget based on what he called 'incorrect assessments.'

"The government has not been able to fully utilise the Budget allocated for the previous financial year. It is expected that the Budget passed in this House should be implemented accordingly, but why is it that you are unable to spend the full amount?" he asked.

Pandev further stated. "Ei ther your estimates are incorrect or you do not receive the required funds in the Consolidated Fund. If that is the case then what is the point of prepar-

ing such a budget?" Highlighting the state's fiscal deficit, he said, "The fiscal defi cit for the financial year 2023-24 was Rs 80,722.62 crore. In 2024 25, it increased to Rs 86,530.51 crore and now it has further risen to Rs 94.804.56 crore."

For 2025-26, the estimated fis cal deficit stands at Rs 91,399.8 crore. The government has not provided any concrete plan on how it intends to bridge this widening deficit," he said.

Mapping, demarcation of J&K wetlands to be VILL BE CONDUCTED INTO THI ORKING OF THE DEPARTMEN

#### completed by March end

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, March 4: Mapping and demarcation of wetlands in Jammu and Kashmir is underway and scheduled to be completed by the end of March, Forest Minister Javad Ahmad Rana said Tuesday.

Rana provided the information in a written reply to a starred question by Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) MLA Waheed ur Rehman Para seeking information about the measures taken by the government for protection and preservation of depleting wetlands during the past two years.

"The (forest) department has taken up the mapping of wetlands using remote sensing data and the ground truthing and subsequent demarcation of these wetlands exercise, in collaboration with the stakeholder departments revenue and wildlife for wetlands, above 2.25 hectares. as per the directions of the Supreme Court," the minister said.

The exercise is underway at present and scheduled to be completed by March end, he added. In accordance with the Wetlands (Conservation and Management Rules), 2017, brief documents for six wetlands have been prepared by the district working groups concerned. Of these, four -- Ahansur-Waskursar Wetland Complex; Sanasar Lake; Khushalsar and Gilsar Lake (complex); and Anchar and Rakh-i-Kujar (complex) are almost finalised and two (Manasbal Lake and Narkara) are under examination of the technical committee, the minister said.

Rana said district wetland management units headed by the deputy commissioner concerned were constituted December 19 for protection and preservation of wetlands.

Rows and rows of shiny locks, many carrying engraved names or

painted with colour, fill the four walls inside the temple chamber with the shivling in the sanctum sanctorum at the centre, appearing almost like a divine guardian of these metallic objects loaded with wishes

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Prayagraj, March 4: Tucked away in a bylane in the heart of Prayagraj is an old Shiva temple where devotees from near and far offer flowers, 'prasad' and shiny locks, each carrying a wish in someone's name.

If the wish is fulfilled, the devotee returns to open the lock and take it home.

However, finding a spot to at-

tach a lock could be a daunting task as locks are all that someone visiting this temple would see, be it inside the chamber or on its surrounding structures.

PTI visited the temple, now called 'Shree Natheshwar Mahadev Mandir' with the deity colloquially referred to as Taale Wale Mahadev', just a few days before the closure of the Kumbh Mela 2025, during which many pilgrims and some police personnel from other states had also hung locks seeking fulfilment of their wishes.

Rows and rows of shiny locks. many carrying engraved names or painted with colour, fill the four walls inside the temple chamber with the shivling in the sanctum sanctorum at the centre, appearing almost like a divine guardian of these metallic objects loaded with wishes. While there is no official

count of the locks hung on rods and rails, inside and out, top and below, the temple's mahant. Shivam Mishra, says there are about "50,000 locks in total".



Locking wishes, unlocking divinity at 'Taale Wale Mahadev' temple

"And, when it comes to places from where devotees have come to lock in their wishes, there is hardly any state of India left. About 100-150 locks are added every day," he told PTI here.

One person from Thailand and another from the UK have also put in their locks here, the on the back wall of the 'garbha griha'. We don't know the exact age of the temple, so I appeal to the Uttar Pradesh government to have an archaeological study conducted of its stones," the mahant said.

He said the temple is already popular among the locals, many of whom join in the evening

situated in a lane in the Mutthiganj area of Prayagraj, which is around 6 km away from Triveni Sangam -- the point of the confluence of rivers Ganga, Yamuna and mythical Saraswati.

Rakesh Kumar, 25, a native of Bihar's Madhepura district, visited the temple February 24, a day after taking a holy dip at Sangam.

Asked what he had wished for, he told PTI, "It's about my job", as he added another lock to the grid of round metals on one of the side his mobile phone and showed some images and videos of how the temple looked till a few "In 2020, this temple was not in good shape. Then, by the

revival started," he said. **OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, JAJPUR** Letter No.425/ Dt.01.03.2025 **GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA e-Procurement Notice** Bid Identification No. online SEMIDJAJ-10/2024-25 No.A-1151: eemijajpur@gmail.com Improvement of MIPs under Name of work M.I. Division Jajpur Total Number of work 4 (four) nos. Rs.8.39 to 23.71/- Lakhs stimated cost ender paper Cost(Online) Rs.4000/- to 6000/id Security (Online) 1% of the estimated cost eriod of Completion As per DTCN vailability of Bid Document From 06.03.2025, 10.00 AM to 16.03.2025, 5.00 PM in website (www.tendersorissa.gov.in) ast date & Time of receipt 16.03.2025 at 5.00 PM Bid through online through online

### UP home to highest rive

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, March 4: Uttar Pradesh is home to 2,397 river dolphins, nearly 40 per cent of the total population of the aquatic mammal in India, according to an official statement.

India's first river dolphin estimation report, unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the seventh National Wildlife Board meeting at Gir National Park Monday, showed that the country's rivers have 6,327 dolphins.

Uttar Pradesh led with 2,397 dolphins, followed by Bihar (2,220), West Bengal (815) and Assam (635). The pioneering



effort involved surveying 28 rivers across eight states, with 3,150 man-days dedicated to covering over 8,500 km. In a statement, the Uttar

Pradesh government said its "strong focus on conserving forests, environment and aquatic

Ganges dolphin was declared the state aquatic animal of Uttar Pradesh October 17, 2023". The presence of Gangetic dolphins has been confirmed in rivers such as Ganga, Yamuna,

ing dolphin populations is crucial for conservation, especially for river dolphins, which have a slow growth rate and live in some of the world's most threatened habitats.

17.03.2025 at 11.00 A.M. in the ate of opening of d documents office of the SE, M.I. Division Jajpur ate of Lottery, if required 21.03.2025 at 11.30 AM lode of Payment of Bid Cost & Bid Security : Govt. of Odisha has luced e-payment gateway in to the portal for payment of cost of Bid security/ EMD. The process of using e-payment gate is mentioned e "Procedure for electronic receipt, accounting & reporting of of tender paper & Earnest money deposit on submission of bid her details can be seen from the e- procurement portal "https:// erorissa.gov.in

he Authority reserves the right to cancel/reject any or all the tenders out assigning any reason thereof

Name and address of the OIT: Superintending Engineer, M.I Division, Jajpur, At-Bhabaniganj, Near Hari Samantaray School, P.O. Jajpur, Dist-Jajpur Phone:- 06728-222008 PINCODE:-755001

Further details can be seen from the Government of Odisha Web Site www.tendersorissa.gov.in

Sd./- Superintending Engineer OIPR-32280/11/0013/2425 M.I.Division, Jajpur

walls of the temple.

But, how did it all begin and

who put the first lock? Mahant Mishra, whose res-

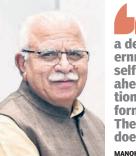
idence is located in the same lane, across the temple. offered an answer as he whipped out

years ago. grace of God and guidance of many gurus, the work on its

priest claimed. "The temple is very ancient, and it also has a very old in- scription on a tablet embedded	aarti every day. Located on a small plot of land, the temple, ensconced by concrete housing structures, is	2. 100 3. Est 4. Ter 5. Bid 6. Per 7. Ava
er dolphin	population	8. Las
	Chambal, Ghaghara, Rapti and Gerua in the state, it added. The Ganges river dolphin, known for its unique features, is found in the Ganga-Brah- maputra-Meghna river system and its tributaries across India,	9. Da Bid 10.Da 11. Ma introdu & Bid
wildlife has significantly con- tributed to these results. The	Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan. A small population of the Indus river dolphin, a close relative of the Ganges river dolphin, is found in the Indus river system in India. Monitor-	in the cost o Furthe tende 12. Th withou 13. N



## WEDNESDAY | MARCH 5, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR national



After Independence, the Congress did not form a democratically elected government. The government was self-imposed. In 1951, a year ahead of the first general elections, our ideological forefathers formed the Bharatiya Jana Sangh. The idea was to ensure that power does not become unbridled MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR UNION MINISTER

#### **PM MEETS BELGIUM'S PRINCESS ASTRID**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday met Princess Astrid of Belgium and said he looks forward to "unlocking limitless opportunities" for the people of the two countries through new partnerships in trade, technology, defence and agriculture



#### of the day uote

Before we came to power in 2005, the law and order situation was so pathet ic that people

feared going out of their homes after dusk. Bad roads also made commutes difficult

NITISH KUMAR | BIHAR CM

Law and order situation in the state has been deterio rating since the last three years. If the govern-

ment is not dismissed, who will come to Maharashtra for investment, how will citizens be safe?

AADITYA THACKERAY | SENA (UBT) LEADER

India will become the third largest economy soon G KISHAN REDDY UNION COAL &MINES MI NISTER

#### SHORT TAKES

#### 3 of family found dead

Kolkata: Three members of a family, including a child, were found dead in their residence in Kolkata's Kasba area Tuesday, police said. The deceased were identified as Somnath Roy (40), his wife Sumitra (35), and their two-and-a-half-year-old son Rudranil, a senior officer said. A note allegedly written by Roy, was recovered from the house but its content is yet to be disclosed, he said. Roy and his wife were found hanging, while the body of the minor was found tied to his father, the officer said.

#### Teenage girl abducted, raped

Hoshiarpur (Punjab): A 13-year-old daughter of a migrant labourer was allegedly kidnapped and raped by a man in a village here, police said Tuesday. The girl and her family, originally from Uttar Pradesh have been living in a rented house in the district for the

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 4: The Supreme Court has held using terms such as "miyan-tiyan" and "Pakistani" was not an offence of hurting religious sentiments though made in poor taste. A bench of Justices B V Naga-

rathna and Satish Chandra Sharma therefore discharged a man in a criminal case filed by an Urdu translator and acting clerk Right to Information (RTI) in the sub-divisional office, Chas in Jharkhand. The

February 11 court order said, 'The appellant is accused of hurting the religious feelings of the informant by calling him 'miyan-tiyan' and 'Pakistani'. Undoubtedly, the statements made are poor taste. However, it does not amount to hurting the religious sentiments of the informant. Hence, we are of the opinion that the appellant shall also be discharged under Section 298 IPC." Section 298

of IPC deals with words or gestures made with a deliberate intent to wound religious feel-



Calling someone 'Pakistani' not offence: SC

ings. It came on record that accused. Hari Nandan Singh, sought information under the RTI Act from additional collec-

tor-cum-first appellate authority Bokaro and the information was dispatched to him. However, he filed an appeal before the appellate authority, allegedly after manipulating the documents sent to him by the office through the registered post and making false allegations of manipulation in the documents.

The appellate authority directed the translator to personally serve the information to the appellant. On November 18, 2020, the informant, accompanied by the messenger of

the sub-divisional office, Chas, went to the accused's home to hand over the information.

The accused initially refused to accept the documents but upon insistence by the informant, accepted it. The matter prompted the translator to an FIR registered against the accused. Following an investigation, the trial court ordered framing of charges against the accused also under Sections 353 (assault or criminal force on a public servant) and 504 (intentional insult) of IPC.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi, March 4: While staying the suspension of Jamia Millia Islamia students barred from the university campus, the Delhi High Court Tuesday said participation in such peaceful protests were the part of the "training to incul-

cate the basic principles and

JAMIA PROTEST

**Delhi High Court stays** students' suspension

norms of civil society" Justice Dinesh Kumar Shar ma also found the manner in which the university handled the protest worrisome. "With out going into the veracity of the submissions of either of the parties, the perusal of the record itself made the court worry about the way the protest, being undertaken by the students, is handled by the uni versity. The court is not looking at the reason for the protest at the moment but the documents as shown by the petitioners prima facie show that it was a peaceful protest," the court said

The high court ordered the constitution of a "peace" com mittee of university officials under the supervision of the vice-chancellor to resolve the issue and calm the situation down, and said they should also involve student representatives in the discussions. The suspen sions were stayed till April 2 on four separate pleas of seven students who were suspended and barred from the campus by a February 12 order of the proctor

The university was directed to file a report in the matter within a week. All students, who were of tender age, went to the university to "certainly make an endeavour" to raise their voice within the frame work of the law, the court said The judge added, "Rather, par ticipation in such peaceful pro tests are the part of the training to inculcate the basic principles and norms of civil society.'

"The court is fully confident that the administration of the university -- the vice-chancellor, dean and proctor -- shall im mediately take remedial steps so as to assuage and calm down the situation." The students through their counsel argued it was a peaceful protest and they had obtained the requisite permission. Jamia's counsel Amit Sahni and Kisley Mishra said not only the students had no permission to hold the protests but they also damaged

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

debris out, officials said.

22. they said. The rescue operation was going on at a rapid pace on the 11th day of the accident Tuesday.

Meanwhile. a team of South Central Railway (SCR) comprising metal cutting experts cut the platform of the damaged Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) inside the tunnel. a SCR official said Tuesday. There was no breakthrough in the efforts to locate the eight trapped persons

and rescuers are working in

three shifts every day, an offi-

cial told PTI. The process of re-

EXAM PAPER LEAK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



T' gana tunnel mishap:

Nagarkurnool (Telangana), March 4: The conveyor belt at the partially collapsed SL-BC tunnel, under which eight persons are trapped for the past 11 days, was repaired and made operational Tuesday. It will now make it easier for rescue personnel to shift muck and The conveyor belt was

damaged following the accident February

cue operation. conveyor belt was damaged following the accident February 22 The rescue operation was going on at a rapid pace

tunnel since on the 11th day of the February 22 and accident experts from the Tuesday NDRF. Indian Army. Navy and other agencies

are making relentless efforts to pull them out to safety. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, who visited the tunnel Sunday, suggested to the officials leading the rescue operation to use robots inside the tunnel if necessary, to avoid any danger to the rescue

## **Police detain several SKM** leaders ahead of protest

Farmer leaders and Opposition parties criticised the AAP government for the crackdown, which came a day after talks between Chief Minister Mann and SKM leaders ended abruptly with the CM walking out of their meeting

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ludhiana/Hoshiarpur, March 4: Ahead of their planned protest in Chandigarh March 5, several Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) leaders were detained in early morning raids at their residences Tuesday and Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann denounced the agitating farmer unions, saying they have turned Punjab into a "state of dharnas" and caused huge losses to it.

Speaking to reporters in the Kharar tehsil office in Mohali. Mann said he had categorically told the farmer bodies that they should not remain under the impression that he could not take action. Farmer leaders and Opposition parties criticised the AAP government for the crackdown, which came a day after talks between Chief Minister Mann and SKM leadled abruptly with the CM



walking out of their meeting. "The government cannot stifle the voice of farmers with such steps," Bharti Kisan Union (Lakhowal) general secretary Harinder Singh Lakhowal Replying to a question on his meeting with farmer leaders, Mann said, "I told them yesterday that every day you hold rail roko protests and block roads that cause huge losses to Punjab economically and Punjab is becoming a state of dharnas."

"There is a fight to take credit among various farmers' unions which are trying to create anarchy by running a parallel government," said Mann. He reiterated that the government is always ready to resolve issues pertaining to various sections of society through negotiations but inconvenience to the common people through rail or road blockades cannot be permitted.

In a statement, the SKM claimed the police took several leaders into custody in-

cluding Balbir Singh Rajewal, Ruldu Singh Mansa, Gurmeet Singh Bhatiwal, Nachhttar Singh Jaiton, Veerpal Singh Dhillon, Binder Singh Golewal, Gurnam Bhikhi and Harmesh

Singh dhesi "Police raids have been carried on at the houses of farmer leaders including Joginder Singh Ugrahan, Raminder Singh Patiala, Buta Singh Burjgill, Harinder Singh Lokhowal, Satnam Singh Ajnala, Gurmeet Singh Mehma and Rajinder Singh Deep Singh Wala," said the SKM. In Ludhiana, SKM leaders including Hariit Singh Giaspura, Balwant Singh Khirnia, Avtar Singh Mahlo, Manmohan Singh Deol and Dilbag

Singh were allegedly detained. Several farmer leaders have gone "underground" while many have been put under house arrest, according to SKM members. Ludhiana Deputy Commissioner Police Jaskaran Singh Teja said six farmer

was going on, he said. Nagarkurnool district Superintendent of Police Vaibhav Gaikwad said Monday evening that the government is exploring the option of deploying robots in the rescue operation to prevent any threat to the

rescue personnel. Large quantities of slush and water inside the tunnel posed a challenge to the teams involved in the res-

#### Eight persons -- engineers and labourers -- have been trapped in the Srisailam Left

Canal Bank (SLBC) project

past seven years. According to police, she was alone at home February 10 when the accused, a resident of the same village, allegedly abducted her and took her to his house, where he raped her.

#### **Three Indians** held in Nepal

#### Kathmandu: Three

Indians were arrested in southern Nepal on charges of smuggling narcotic drugs, police said. Gautam Kushwaha (35), Ranjan Kumar Singh (30), and Sanjiv Kumar Ram (40), all residents of Bihar, were arrested Monday from Jitpur Simara Municipality along with 170 grams of brown sugar, according to police. The suspects were arrested following a police raid on a hotel. The police have taken the trio into custody and launched an investigation.

#### New Delhi, March 4: The CBI Tuesday said it has arrested 26 railway officials including a senior divisional electrical engineer of East Cental Railway for allegedly leaking papers of a departmental examination and seized ₹1.17 crore cash during its raids. The railway officials were

arrested Monday night for allegedly leaking papers of examination for the elevation to posts of chief loco pilot at Mughal Sarai, the agency said. adding the exam was to be conducted Tuesday. Sources in the agency said that the examination has now been cancelled.

"During the checks conducted by CBI, at three spots on the intervening night (March 3-4) at Mughal Sarai, a total of 17 candidates were found with photocopies of hand-written question papers," a CBI spokesperson said. All 17 departmental candidates who are presently working as loco pilots had allegedly paid money for the question paper and were caught red-handed with the

copies during the raid, he said. "Overall, 26 railway officials (including the 17 aspirants) have been arrested in this case so far," the spokesperson said in a statement. The agency has registered the FIR against a senior divisional electrical

engineer (operations) who was given the responsibility for setting and preparing the question paper for the said examination.

"He himself had written the questions in English and allegedly gave it to one loco pilot who in turn translated it into Hindi and further gave

it to another official. The said official allegedly gave it to the candidates through few other railway employees," the spokesperson said. Accused senior divisional electrical engineer (operations) is among the arrested officials, he said. 'Searches were conducted at eight locations which resulted in recovery of ₹1.17 crore in cash. The amount was reportedly collected from the candidates for leaking the question papers. "The hand-written question papers along with their photocopies were seized. These question papers have been tallied with the original question paper and were found to have matched," the spokesperson said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the inauguration of 'Vantara', in Jamnagar, Gujarat

## India may have over 440mn overweight people by '50: Study

#### 2 Naxalites killed in faction feud

Chaibasa: Two Naxalites were allegedly killed in a factional feud in Jharkhand, police said Tuesday. The deceased were members of the People's Liberation Front of India (PLFI), and the incident happened in the Bandgaon police station area at the border of West Singhbhum and Khunti districts, they said. The dispute stemmed from the deceased persons' plan to break away from the PLFI and create a separate organisation, SP of West Singhbhum Ashutosh Shekhar said. The incident is suspected to have taken place Sunday night and the bodies were recovered by the police Monday, he said.

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 4: By 2050, India could have over 440 million obese and overweight people, a global analysis published in The Lancet journal has estimated.

Number of overweight and obese adults by mid-century in India (218 million men and 231 million women) could be the second highest in the world, after China, with the US, Brazil and Nigeria expected to rank third, fourth and fifth, respectively, the findings by an international said

team of researchers reveal. These researchers, including those from the Indian Council of Medical Research, collaborated for the Global Burden

of Disease (GBD) Study 2021. As per the study, already almost half the world's adults -- a billion men and over a billion women aged 25 years and above -- were overweight and obese in 2021. In India, the numbers were over nearly 180 million -- 81 million men and 98 million women.

However, by 2050, this number globally could rise to nearly 3.8 billion -- 1.8 billion men and 1.9 billion women - "over half of the likely global adult population at that time", the authors

The researchers also estimated that about 16 million boys and over 14 million girls in India, aged 5-14 years, could be overweight and obese by

These researchers, including those from the Indian Council of Medical Research, collaborated for the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Study 2021

As per the study, already almost half a billion women aged 25 years and above -- were overweight and obese in 2021

In India. the numbers were over nearly 180 million --81 million men and 98 million women

2050, making it world's second highest after China. However, in the 15-24 age group, the world's highest burden could come from India, with over 22 million men and nearly 17 million women in the country suffering from this health crisis in 2050. Lead author Emmanuela Gakidou, Institute for

the world's adults -- a billion men and over

Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). University of Washington, US, which coordinates the GBD study, said, "The unprecedented global epidemic of overweight and obesity is a profound tragedy and a monumental societal failure.'

The study, the "most comprehensive global analysis to

date", could help governments and the public health community "identify priority populations experiencing the greatest burdens of obesity who require immediate intervention and treatment, and those that remain predominantly overweight and should be primarily targeted with prevention strategies", Gakidou said.

The latest estimates come against the backdrop of Prime Minister Narendra Modi making a strong pitch for combating obesity in his monthly 'Mann Ki Baat' radiocast February 23.

Obesity will have to be dealt with to be a fit and healthy nation, he said. Obesity, a body mass index (BMI) of over 30, is

known to have wide-ranging effects, including raising one's risk of metabolic and heart disease.

It can also impact one's bone health and fertility and increase cancer risk. However, experts recently called for a more nuanced approach to measuring obesity.

In January, authors of a Lancet Commission report urged an overhaul of how obesity is diagnosed and called for a new method that looked at aspects such as waist circumference or waist-to-hip ratio, in addition to BMI

BMI is not an honest measure of health or disease and can thus result in a wrong diagnosis, they said.



#### moving debris and dewatering





# national



As the future caregivers of humanity, you hold the power to heal and transform lives. We wish you the best

health and a sound mind, for with these strengths, your contribution to nation-building and improving lives will be even more meaningful SARBANANDA SONOWAL UNION MINISTER

Achieving 100 GW of nuclear power will require a focused and determined approach, adding around four GW annually from now onwards JITENDRA SINGH UNION MINISTER

Not a single case of harassment, kidnapping, robbery, or murder was reported.

Sixty-six crore people arrived, participated and left happily. Those who couldn't attend felt they missed out, but those who did were left in awe

YOGI ADITYANATH UTTAR PRADESH CM





SKYROCKETED Air Pollution : THREATENING Railways : MISMANAGED But please keep targeting Congress because its spokie commented against Rohit Sharma and give free passes to BJP

@Amockx2022

#### SHORT TAKES

#### Christian Michel to walk out of prison

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Tuesday granted bail to alleged middleman Christian Michel James in the

#### **SARPANCH MURDER**

## **Dhananjay Munde resigns**

The pressure on Munde, who held the the food, civil supplies and consumer protection portfolios in the BJP-led Mahayuti government, to resign mounted after gory photos and videos of Deshmukh surfaced, revealing the brutalities committed before the murder

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, March 4: Beleaguered Maharashtra minister Dhananjay Munde resigned from the cabinet Tuesday, days after his close aide Walmik Karad was named as the mastermind in the murder of a village sarpanch and three months after the new Mahayuti government assumed office. The NCP strongman from Beed district, where the mur-

der took place in December, had been fending off allegations around the brutal killing of Massajog village sarpanch Santosh Deshmukh, but quit his cabinet post on the second day of the state legislature's budget session amid vociferous demands for his resignation from the Opposition and amid waning support. The pressure on Munde (49), who held the the food, civil supplies and consumer protection portfolios in the BJP-led Mahayuti government, to resign mounted after gory photos and videos of Deshmukh surfaced, revealing the brutalities committed before the murder. The photos and videos, attached to a CID chargesheet

filed in the case, went viral and

Munde's resignation, which

came after Chief Minister De-

vendra Fadnavis reportedly

prodded him to quit, is be-

ing seen as a setback for the

three-party Mahayuti govern-

ment which came to power with

a two-thirds majority just three

months back. "Munde has sub-

mitted his resignation. I have

accepted it and forwarded it to

Governor C P Radhakrishnan,"

sparked a state-wide outrage.



Fadnavis told reporters at the Vidhan Bhavan complex in south Mumbai.

The resignation was later accepted by the Governor, the Raj Bhavan said. Munde, on his part, maintained he resigned after listening to his "conscience" and also for medical reasons. In a post on X, the senior leader of the NCP, headed by Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, asserted he was deeply saddened after seeing photographs related to the gruesome murder of Deshmukh, who was abducted, tortured and killed December 9 last year allegedly for attempting to stop an extortion bid

targeting an energy company in Beed district. As the chilling images and videos went viral Monday, Fadnavis, who holds the home portfolio, hurriedly held a latenight meeting with his deputy and NCP chief Ajit Pawar to

#### discuss the issue.

Munde's unceremonious exit caps the nearly three monthlong demand by the Opposition and even by a section of MLAs of the BJP and his own party NCP for his resignation from the cabinet. Several parts of Marathwada, from where the NCP leader hails, had seen all-party protests seeking his resignation after the murder rocked the region.

The Opposition targeted CM Fadnavis over the delay in seeking Munde's resignation.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditva Thackeray demanded dismissal of the Fadnavis government and imposition of President's rule in the state over "deteriorating" law and order in the state. His party MP Sanjay Raut said Fadnavis should remove "tainted and corrupt" ministers from his cabinet. NCP (SP) leader Supriya Sule asked why it took 84 days for Munde to quit when the photos and footage related to the murder of Deshmukh were available with the government.

NCP (SP) state president Jayant Patil and Congress leader Nana Patole said the Opposition Maha Vikas Agh adi (MVA) will move a breach of privilege notice against the CM for not informing the legislature about Munde's resignation, when the Budget session is currently underway

State Congress chief Harshvardhan Sapkal said Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar have lost moral right to stay in office and Maharashtra has to "hang its head in shame" because of them and that the two should also resign.

#### **Delhi DRM replaced** weeks after stampede

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Our goal is to

present a bud-

get that drives

prosperity for

in

everybody

NAYAB SINGH SAINI

the state

HARYANA CM

New Delhi, March 4: Four senior railway officials, including the Delhi Divisional Railway Manager and Additional DRM, were transferred Tuesday, a fortnight after a stampede at the New Delhi Railway Station killed 18 passengers headed to the Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj.

"Though they have been transferred through administrative orders without mentioning any immediate reasons, the timings of transfer apparently establishes a link with the stampede," a railway official said. 'Somewhere the ministry sees complacence and dereliction of duties on their part." DRM Sukhwinder Singh, ADRM Vikram Singh Rana, Station Director Mahesh Yadav and Senior Divisional Commercial Manager (passenger services) Anand Mohan are the officers who have been transferred, according to an official order.

Their new postings have not been announced. While Sukhwinder Singh and Vikram Singh Rana were transferred through an order by the Railway Board, Yadav and Narayan's joint transfer order was issued by the Northern Railway. Sukhwinder Singh was appointed Delhi Division DRM in July 2023 and his two-year term was to end later this year. His transfer order said Pushpesh R Tripathi from the North Central Railway Zone will replace Singh.

"The Ministry of Railways has with the approval of the President decided that Shri Pushpesh R Tripathi, NFHAG (non-functional higher administrative grade)/ **IRSEE** (Indian Railway Service of Electrical Engineers)/North Central Railway should be transferred and posted as DRM/Delhi/ Northern Railway vice Shri Sukhwinder Singh, IRSEE, orders for whom will follow," the order said.

#### **DEEP-SEA MINERAL MINING**

The Kerala Assembly Tuesday passed a resolution urging the central government to withdraw its decision to allow deep-sea mineral mining off the state's coast, saying that such activities would negatively impact its economy and the environmental equilibrium of the region



## Money laundering case: ED arrests SDPI's Faizy

AND ALSO





PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 4: The Enforcement Directorate has arrested SDPI national president M K Faizy in a money laundering case linked to the banned terrorist organisation PFI as the central agency claimed there existed

an "organic" relation THE ED RECORDED between the two out-FAIZY'S STATEMENT fits and that PFI was carrying out its criminal activities through PHONE FROM HIM AT the political party.

THE AIRPORT The Social Demo-A SPECIAL cratic Party of India PREVENTION OF (SDPI), founded in MONEY LAUNDERING 2009 and headquar-ACT COURT SENT HIM tered in Delhi, is TO ED CUSTODY FOR alleged to be the po-SIX DAYS AFTER HE litical front of the WAS PRODUCED BY Popular Front of In-THE AGENCY TUESDAY dia (PFI), which was banned by the Union

government in September 2022. Moideen Kutty Faizy, 55, was taken into custody at 9:30 pm Monday from the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport after he landed here from Kochi, Kerala, official sources said Tuesday. The ED recorded his statement and also impounded a mobile phone from him at the airport, the sources said.

A special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court sent him to ED custody for six days after he was produced by the agency Tuesday.

Officials told PTI that the ED has found evidence that PF funds to the tune of ₹ 4.07 crore were utilised by SDPI

The federal probe agency, according to the officials, would soon inform the Elec IMPOUNDED A MOBILE tion Commission about these "illicit funds" of the PFI being routed to the SDPI which was a "recipi ent, beneficiary and user of the proceeds of crime". The ED told the court, while seek ing his remand, that PFI and SDPI were "organically" linked

and SDPI was nothing but the "political front" of PFI and was "funded and controlled" by the former. It claimed that it had evidence to state that there was a "deep-rooted" nexus between the two organisations as there was "overlapping" membership of their cadres, involvement of PFI office bearers in the founding of SDPI and utilisation of each other's assets.

#### **Bombay HC stays** order directing FIR against Buch, 5 others

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, March 4: The Bombay High C ourt Tuesday stayed for four weeks a special court's order directing FIR against former Sebi chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch and five other officials for alleged stock market fraud and regulatory violations, noting it was passed mechanically. A single bench of Justice Shivkumar Dige said the special court order of March 1 also did not attribute any specific role to the accused in the matter. "After hearing all the parties concerned and after going through the order of the special court, it appears that the order is passed me chanically without going into details and without attribut ing any specific role to the ap plicants (Buch and others). Justice Dige said. "Hence, the order is staved till next date Four weeks time is given to the complainant in the case (Sapan Shrivastava) to file his affidavit in reply to the petitions," the court said. The HC's judgement came on petitions filed by Buch. three current whole-time Se bi directors Ashwani Bhatia Ananth Naravan G and Kam lesh Chandra Varshney, Bom bay Stock Exchange's Manag ing Director and Chief Exec utive Officer Sundararaman Ramamurthy and its former chairman and public interest director Pramod Agarwal. The pleas sought quashing of the order passed by the special court directing the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) to register an FIR against them per taining to certain allegations of fraud committed in 1994 while listing a company on the BSE. The pleas said the order was illegal and arbitrary. The special court had passed the order on the complaint filed by Sapan Shrivastava, a me dia reporter, seeking investi gation into the alleged offence es committed by the accused involving large scale financial fraud, regulatory violations and corruption.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, March 4: The issue of Samajwadi Party MLA Abu Asim Azmi's remarks eulogising Mughal emperor Aurangzeb rocked both Houses of the Maharashtra legislature Tuesday, with the ruling Mahayuti members demanding his suspension and charging him with treason. Both the Houses were adjourned over the issue. In Delhi, the BJP latched on to Azmi's remarks and slammed the Congress and other Opposition parties, stating that they could stoop down to any level in their bid to "eradicate" Sanatan Dharma. The development came on a day when the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi planned to corner the government over NCP minister Dhananiav Munde's resignation. As proceedings of both the Houses began, the Mahayuti members started raising slogans seek-

ing action against Azmi, who is SP's state president.

They claimed Azmi was a descendent of Aurangzeb, who tortured Maratha king Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj and brutally killed him. Deputy Chief Minister and Shiv Sena head Eknath Shinde led the attack on Azmi both in the legislative council and Assembly. In the council, the former CM said Azmi also made objectionable statements in the past against Shivaji Maharaj. "Abu Azmi is purposely insulting Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and (his son) Chhatrapati Sambhaji. Sambhaji's Maharai's bravery and Aurangzeb's cruelty will give goosebumps to people," Shinde said in the council. Aurangzeb tortured Sambhaji Maharaj in an inhuman way. Azmi referred to Aurangzeb as an able administrator who built temples but he razed Kashi Vishveshwar temple, Shinde said.



3,600-crore AgustaWestland money laundering case. Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma, while granting the reprieve to James, said it was an "exceptional situation" where the accused was in custody for over 6.2 years but the trial had not yet commenced due to incomplete investigation.

#### Top court commutes death penalty of man

New Delhi: Directing the hangman's noose to be "taken off the convict's neck", the Supreme Court ordered a death row prisoner to remain in jail "till the end of his days given by god almighty". A bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and Sandeep Mehta therefore commuted the death penalty of the man who killed his minor children. While partially allowing Ramesh A Naika's appeal against the death sentence, the bench upheld his conviction February 13 and said, "Appellant-convict's conviction for the murders of ... is maintained, but he shall now await his natural end, without remission, in the confines of a penitentiary.

#### Techie ends life

Hyderabad: A 25-year-old woman, employed as a software engineer, died by suicide here at her home due to her husband's alleged harassment, police said Tuesday. The woman and her husband, who were in love, got married in Goa six months ago with their families consent. In her complaint, the woman's mother accused her son-in-law of "pressuring" her daughter to transfer ownership of a house registered in her (the complainant's) name to him, police said.

A believer touches a brass inscription during the holy month of Ramzan, at the Dastgeer Sahib shrine in Srinagar

## Govt targets restoring degraded ecosystems

According to the detailed action plan for Aravalli restoration, the government is likely to spend an estimated ₹16,053 crore in the first phase

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 4: The Centre plans to restore degraded ecosystems and land across more than eight lakh hectares of recorded forest area in the first phase of its ambitious Aravalli Green Wall project, which aims to create a green buffer around the Aravalli mountain

range in northwest India. According to the detailed action plan for Aravalli restoration, the government is likely to spend an estimated ₹16,053 crore in the first phase. Stretching 700 kilometres from Gujarat

as a natural barrier against desertification, preventing the expansion of the Thar desert and protecting cities such as Delhi. Jaipur and Gurugram

The Aravallis, India's oldest mountain range, are the source of important rivers such as the Chambal. Sabarmati and the Luni. Its forests, grasslands and wetlands support endangered plant and animal species. However, deforestation, mining, livestock grazing and human encroachment are worsening desertification, damaging aquifers, drying up lakes and reducing the range's ability to

sustain wildlife. To tackle these issues, the government launched the Aravalli Green Wall initiative in March 2023. The project aims to establish a five-kilometre-wide green belt buffer, covering 6.45 million hectares across Gujarat, Rajasthan. Haryana and Delhi

Within this buffer zone,

about 42 per cent (2.70 million hectares) of land is degraded. Of the total degraded area, 81 per cent is in Rajasthan, 15.8 per cent in Gujarat, 1.7 per cent in Haryana and 1.6 per cent in Delhi, according to the action plan. Rajasthan's Udaipur district

has the highest degraded area within the buffer zone (0.675 million hectares), which is

more than the combined de graded area of Haryana, Delhi and Gujarat (0.568 million hectares). In the first phase of the project, 8,16,732 hectares of recorded forest area will be restored. This includes 3,010 hectares in Delhi, 5,677 hectares in Gujarat. 3.812 hectares in Harvana, and 99,952 hectares in Rajasthan. The total budget

for this phase is ₹16,053 crore. The second phase will focus on areas adjacent to the recorded forest area, with interventions covering treatment of degraded scrub land, grassland management outside the recorded forest area and soil moisture conservation work

to improve water regime. Agricultural land will be prioritised for agroforestry systems and catchment areas of waterbodies targeted for plantation work in the second phase, according to the action plan. The third and final phase will involve expansion of activities in all land-uses within the landscape.

According to the government, this initiative would be crucial in meeting India's climate goal of creating an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent and restoring 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.

to Delhi, the Aravalli range acts

















### uote 📭 Infants as young as one raped in Sudan: UNICEF their core and compel imme-

At the same time, in coor dination with national security and foreign policy the military will continue to deepen

cooperation with the United States and other allied nations, expanding multilateral military exchanges to jointly uphold regional peace and stability

WELLINGTON KOO DEFENCE MINISTER, TAIWAN

**Mexico will** respond to 25% tariffs imposed by the **United States with** its own retaliatory tariffs on US goods

CLAUDIA SHEINBAUM | PRESIDENT, MEXICO

I don't like anything to be named after me. So the stadium's name should be reverted to the original

IMRAN KHAN | JAILED EX-PM, PAKISTAN

#### SHORT TAKES

#### 9 dead in suicide attack in Pakistan

Peshawar: At least nine persons were killed and 16 injured as two explosive-laden vehicles rammed into the boundary wall of the main cantonment in Bannu in northwest Pakistan Tuesday while the army personnel neutralised at least six terrorists. The suicide bombers hit the wall of Bannu Cantonment, about 200 kms south-west of Peshawar, in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in the evening around sunset time, police said. Hafiz Gul Bahadur-affiliated little known Jaish Al Fursan, in a statement, claimed the attack in Bannu. The group is one of the several factions of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan.

Indian-origin jailed for money laundering

I ondon: Four British men. including two of South Asian heritage who ran jewellery businesses, were Tuesday convicted in one of the UK's largest money laundering prosecutions worth an

#### REUTERS

Geneva/Cairo, March 4: Children under five, including babies, are among victims of sexual violence in the war between Sudan's army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), according to findings shared Tuesday by UN children's agency UNICEF.

The UN agency cited a database compiled by Sudan-based groups helping survivors of sexual violence which showed that of 221 cases involving children registered since last year, 16 were under five years old, including four one-year-olds. About one-third of victims were male, it said.

The database includes cases from across the country, but aid workers and rights groups



think it represents just a fraction of the cases because stigma, fear of reprisals and lack of access to medical facilities limit reporting.

Some of the survivors cited by UNICEF say they fell pregnant as a result of the assaults,

resulting in rejection by relatives and additional hardships.

One woman who was held in captivity with other women and girls was quoted saying, "After nine at night, someone opens the door, carrying a whip, selects one of the girls,

UN says sexual violence used as weapon of war

atest findings highlight child \_victims

bout one-third of reported Avictims are male

and takes her to another room. I could hear the little girl crying and screaming."

'They only release these girls at dawn, and they return almost unconscious.

UNICEF did not say who was responsible for the child rapes, calling on both sides to respect international law. Neither the RSF nor the army immediately responded to requests for comment. "Children as young as one being raped by armed men should shock anyone to

Washington, March 4: US

President Donald Trump's new

25% tariffs on imports from

Mexico and Canada took effect

Tuesday, along with a doubling

of duties on Chinese goods to

20%, launching new trade con-

flicts with the top three US trad

The tariff actions, which

could upend nearly \$2.2 trillion

in two-way annual US trade

went live at 12:01 am, hours

after Trump declared that all

three countries had failed to

do enough to stem the flow of

the deadly fentanyl opioid and

its precursor chemicals into

China responded immedi-

ately, announcing additional

tariffs of 10%-15% on certain

US imports from March 10 and

a series of new export restric-

tions for designated US entities.

Later it said it had raised com-

plaints about the new measures

with the World Trade Organi-

Canada and Mexico, which

have enjoyed a virtually tar-

iff-free trading relationship

with the US for three decades,

were poised to immediately

Canadian Prime Minister Jus-

tin Trudeau said Ottawa would

respond with 25% tariffs on C\$30

billion (\$20.7 billion) worth of US

imports, and another C\$125 bil

lion if Trump's tariffs were still

in place in 21 days. He said previ-

REUTERS

ing partners.

the US.

zation.

retaliate.

#### rule, triggering huge displacement and hunger crises. A UN fact-finding mission has described levels of sexu-

journalists.

al abuse as "staggering". The majority of known cases were perpetrated by the RSF and its allies, the mission said, noting it was more difficult to report in army-controlled territories. Reuters has reported on women who said they were

diate action," UNICEF Exec-

utive Director Catherine Rus-

sell said in a statement sent to

War erupted in April 2023

from a power struggle between

the army and the RSF ahead of

a planned transition to civilian

gang raped in ethnically targeted attacks by the RSF and allied Arab militiamen.

#### **Palestinian President** welcomes Egyptian plan to rebuild Gaza

#### REUTERS

Cairo, March 4: Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said Tuesday he welcomed an Egyptian plan to rebuild the Gaza Strip and urged US President Donald Trump to support such a plan that would not involve displacing Palestinian residents of the enclave.

Speaking at an Arab League summit that aims to counter Trump's 'Gaza Riviera'' plan Abbas also said he was ready to hold presidential and parliamentary elections if circumstances allow, adding his Palestinian Authority was the only legitimate governing and military force in the Palestin ian Territories.

Israel has meanwhile embraced what it says is an alternative US proposal for the ceasefire itself and the release of hostages taken in Hamas October 7, 2023, attack that triggered the war.

It has blocked the entry of food, fuel, medicine and other supplies to Gaza to try to get Hamas to accept the new proposal and has warned of additional consequences, raising fears of a return to war.

#### The suspension of aid drew widespread criticism, with human rights groups saying it violated Israel's obligations as an occupying power under international law.

The new plan would require Hamas to release half its remaining hostages — the militant group's main bargaining chip - in exchange for a ceasefire extension and a promise to negotiate a lasting truce. Israel made no mention of releasing

more Palestinian prisoners - a key component of the first phase.

#### Tariffs could lead to economic downturn, economic domini pusinesses warn Trump has also floated "recip-

rocal" tariffs on EU goods. **STACKING CHINA TARIFFS** 

nese goods adds to a 10% tariff imposed by Trump February 4 to punish Beijing over the US fentanyl overdose crisis. The cumulative 20% duty comes on top of tariffs of up to 25% imposed by Trump during his first term on some \$370 billion worth of US imports. Some of these products saw

the region, officials said, with heavy rain expected to continue until next week. Torrential rain since Monday has triggered floods of up to 3-metres (yards) in and around

Jakarta, the country's disaster agency said in a statement.

blocking some roads and sub

merging over 1,000 houses and

Anung raised the alert level

to the second highest of the

critical stages, calling on the

Jakarta Governor Pramono

many cars.

## Zelenskyy calls Trump clash regrettable



Kyiv, March 4: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Tuesday he regretted last week's extraordinary Oval Office clash with Donald Trump and wanted to "make things right", adding that Kyiv was ready to come to the negotiating table as soon as possible.

In a fulsome statement issued a day after Trump halted military aid to Ukraine, Zelenskyy said he was ready to sign a deal giving the United States access to Ukrainian minerals, which he had left on the table when he abandoned a visit to Washington after an Oval Office argument with Trump Friday.

"None of us wants an endless war. Ukraine is ready to come to the negotiating table as soon as possible to bring lasting peace closer. Nobody wants peace more than Ukrainians," Zelenskyy said in his statement on X. "Mv team and I stand readv

to work under President Trump's strong leadership to get a peace that lasts."

The statement made no mention of the pause in US military supplies, the latest move by Trump to upend US policy on Ukraine and adopt a more conciliatory stance towards Russia.



Ukraine says military still has ability to supply front lines Trump has 'kicked door open'

for Putin aggression, say Democrats

Zelenskyy silent on aid pause France says Europe must

defend front line in Ukraine

way it was supposed to be. It is regrettable that it happened this way. It is time to make things right."

ations. Defending Europe from a hostile Kremlin has been the lodestar of US foreign and defence policy under both parties since the 1940s.

Trump's moves have appalled Democrats, but have so far drawn little or no pushback from Republican leaders in Congress, including many who were once strong, vocal backers of Ukraine.

"By freezing military aid to Ukraine, President Trump has kicked the door wide open for Putin to escalate his violent aggression against innocent Ukrainians. said Senator Jeanne Shaheen, the top Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Kyiv has relied on US and European military aid to hold off a bigger and better-armed foe throughout three years of warfare that has killed and injured hundreds of thousands of soldiers on both sides.

## Tariff war in full swing



#### SUMMARY

Deadline passes for tariffs on Canadian, Mexican,

China announces tariffs on US agricultural goods export curbs

Canada plans immediate retaliatory tariffs

Mexico to ann response Tuesday

displace thousands The extra 10% duty on Chi-REUTERS

Jakarta. March 4: Thousands of people were evacuated in Indonesia's capital Jakarta Tuesday after floods swamped

Floods in Jakarta

estimated GBP 266 million following a complex eight-year investigation. Arjun Babber, 32, and Haroon Rashid, 53, were found guilty alongside Gregory Frankel and Daniel Rawson, both 46, at Leeds **Cloth Hall Nightingale Crown** Court in northern England over large amounts of unexplained cash passing through their businesses. Babber ran Goldsteel Limited and is said to have started laundering cash for others through Fowler Oldfield Limited in 2015.

#### 📕 Philippine fighter jet goes missing

Manila: A Philippine air force fighter jet with two pilots on board has gone missing during a night combat assault in support of ground forces who were battling insurgents in a southern province, and an extensive search is underway, officials said Tuesday. The FA-50 jet lost communication during the tactical mission with other air force aircraft around midnight Monday before reaching a target area. The other aircraft were able to return safely to an air base in central Cebu province.

#### Pope Francis suffers new breathing crises

Rome: Pope Francis suffered two new acute respiratory crises Monday and was put back on noninvasive mechanical ventilation. in another setback to his battle to fight pneumonia. the Vatican said. Doctors extracted "copious" amounts of mucus from his lungs during two bronchoscopies, in which a camera-tipped tube was sent down into his airways with a sucker at the tip to suction out fluid.

But the statement was clearly aimed at stressing Kyiv's gratitude amid the fallout from the explosive confrontation at the White House Friday, during which Trump and Vice President JD Vance upbraided Zelenskyy for being insufficiently appreciative of US backing and their efforts to end the war.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio had said afterwards that Zelenskyy should apologise.

"We do really value how much America has done to help Ukraine maintain its sovereignty and independence," Zelenskyy wrote. "Our meeting in Washington, at the White House Friday, did not go the

Zelenskyy outlined a path towards a peace agreement, which he said could begin with a release of prisoners and a halt to air and sea attacks, if Russia

did the same. "Then we want to move very fast through all next stages and to work with the US to agree a strong final deal.' TRUMP TO ADDRESS CONGRESS

#### The Kremlin, for its part,

said cutting off military aid to Ukraine was the best possible step towards peace, although it was still waiting to confirm Trump's move.

Trump is expected to further outline his plans for Ukraine and Russia in a major speech to Congress later Tuesday. His abrupt pivot towards

Russia may be the most dramatic US geopolitical shift in gener-

#### PRESSURE ON EUROPE

The pause puts more pressure on European allies who have publicly embraced Zelenskyy since the Oval Office blow-up, led by Britain and France whose leaders both visited the White House last week and have offered troops to help guard a potential ceasefire.

Europeans are racing to boost their own military spending.

ously that Canada would target American beer, wine, bourbon, home appliances and Florida orange juice.

"Tariffs will disrupt an incredibly successful trading relationship," Trudeau said, adding that they would violate the US-Mexico-Canada free trade agreement signed by Trump during his first term.

**Ontario Premier Doug Ford** told NBC that he was ready to cut off shipments of nickel and transmission of electricity from his province to the US. Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum was expected to announce her response Tuesday, the country's economy ministry said.

The European Union's executive Commission said it "deeply regrets" the decision, which risked disrupting global trade.

last year, including a doubling of duties on Chinese semiconductors to 50% and a quadrupling of tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles to over 100%.

US tariffs increase sharply un-

der former president Joe Biden

The 20% tariff will apply to several major US consumer electronics imports from China previously untouched, including smartphones, laptops, video game consoles, smartwatches and speakers and Bluetooth devices. China's new tariffs announced Tuesday targeted a wide range of US agricultural products including certain meats, grains, cotton, fruit, vegetables and dairy products.

Beijing also placed 25 U.S. firms under export and investment restrictions on national security grounds. Ten of these firms were targeted for selling arms to Taiwan.

local government to activate water pumps to extract water from flooded areas and conduct weather modification opera tions - which typically includes shooting salt flares into clouds to trigger rain before they reach land. Local media reported flood waters also swamped a hospital in the eastern town of Bekasi

with water entering some wards, forcing the evacuation of patients to other buildings, while other parts of the hospital were hit by power outages.

#### PROFOUND GLOBAL CONSEQUENCES

## Melting Antarctic ice to slow world's strongest ocean current

This disruption could extend to global climate patterns, reducing the ocean's ability to regulate

climate change by absorbing excess heat and carbon in the atmosphere

lowing clockwise around Antarctica, the Antarctic Circumpolar Current is the strongest ocean current on the planet. It's five times stronger than the Gulf Stream and more than 100 times stronger than the Amazon River.

It forms part of the global ocean "convevor belt" connecting the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian oceans. The system

regulates Earth's climate and pumps water, heat and nutrients around the globe.

But fresh, cool water from melting Antarctic ice is diluting the salty water of the ocean, potentially disrupting the vital ocean current.

Our new research suggests the Antarctic Circumpolar Current will be 20% slower by 2050 as the world warms, with far-reaching consequences for life on Earth.

#### Why should we care?

The Antarctic Circumpolar Current is like a moat around the icy continent.

The current helps to keep warm water at bay, protecting vulnerable ice sheets. It also acts as a barrier to invasive species such as southern bull kelp and



any animals hitching a ride on these rafts, spreading them out as they drift towards the continent. It also plays a big part in regulating Earth's climate. Understanding the influence of climate

change

Ocean currents respond to changes in temperature, salt

levels, wind patterns and seaice extent. So the global ocean conveyor belt is vulnerable to climate change on multiple fronts. Previous research suggested one vital part of this convevor belt could be headed for a catastrophic collapse.

Theoretically, warming wa-

ter around Antarctica should speed up the current. This is because density changes and winds around Antarctica dictate the strength of the current. Warm water is less dense (or heavy) and this should be enough to speed up the current. But observations to date indicate the strength of the current has remained relatively stable over recent decades.

#### Far-reaching consequences

The consequences of a weaker Antarctic Circumpolar Current are profound and far-reaching. As the main current that circulates nutrient-rich waters around Antarctica, it plays a crucial role in the Antarctic ecosystem.

Weakening of the current could reduce biodiversity

and decrease the productiv ity of fisheries that many coastal communities rely on. It could also aid the entry of invasive species such as southern bull kelp to Antarctica, disrupting local ecosystems and food webs.

A weaker current may also allow more warm water to pen etrate southwards, exacerbating the melting of Antarctic ice shelves and contributing to global sea-level rise. Faster ice melt ing could then lead to further weakening of the current, com mencing a vicious spiral of cur rent slowdown. This disruption could extend to global climate patterns, reducing the ocean's ability to regulate climate change by absorbing excess heat and car bon in the atmosphere.

















# susiness



It is high time India also looked at our trade and industrial policies comprehensively. While exports are growing, India continues to experience a trade deficit, suggesting a need to boost export competitiveness and diversify export markets SANTOSH SARANGI | HEAD, DIRECTORATE

TATA MOTORS DRIVES IN INDIA'S FIRST HYDROGEN TRUCKS

Tata Motors Tuesday launched the first-ever trials of hydrogenpowered heavy duty trucks in order to assess their viability for long haul transportation solutions. The trial phase will span up to 24 months



MARCH 04, 2025

GENERAL OF FOREIGN TRADE



We need to focus on improving regulatory clarity, easing business

operation and making sure that plumbing of regulatory framework corresponds with broader vision (of reforms)

V ANANTHA NAGESWARAN CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISOR

Focus on manufacturing quality food products. Our products should be at par with

global standards. We should not compromise on quality. No country should point out at India with regard to the quality CHIRAG PASWAN | FOOD

PROCESSING INDUSTRIES MINISTER

As the economy expands, there will be more and more consumers in

India, so that will be a big growth factor. With things like Artificial Intelligence, India has a lot of potential, and hopefully we'll see a lot coming out of India NADIR GODREJ | MD, GODREJ INDUSTRIES

#### SHORT TAKES

#### Sebi's total income rises 48% in 2023-24

New Delhi: Capital markets regulator Sebi's total income rose 48 per cent year-on-year to ₹2,075 crore in 2023-24, driven by increased earnings from fees and subscriptions. Of the total income, the regulator earned a fee income of ₹1,851.5 crore, which was way higher than ₹1,213.22 crore garnered in the preceding financial year, according to Sebi's annual statement of accounts 2023-24 made public Tuesday. Additionally, income from investments widened to ₹192.41 crore from ₹161.42 crore and other income increased to nearly ₹18 crore from close to ₹15 crore. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) acknowledged that fees and

Tariff war worries and persistent foreign fund outflows continue to push benchmarks into

negative territory

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, March 4: Falling for the third straight day, benchmark BSE Sensex declined by 96 points to close below the 73,000 mark Tuesday amid global equity rout on tariff war worries and persistent foreign fund outflows

The 30-share BSE barometer closed at 72,989.93, down by 96.01 points or 0.13 per cent, as 18 of its components declined and 12 settled with gains. During the day, it dropped 452.4 points or 0.62 per cent to a low of 72,633.54 but recovered some of the losses in the second half.

Extending the losses for the 10th straight session, the 50-share Nifty of NSE fell by 36.65 points or 0.17 per cent to close at 22,082.65. The index opened below the 22,000 level at 21,974.45 but managed to recover some losses later.

From the Sensex pack, Bajaj Finserv, HCL Technologies, Nestle India. Asian Paints. Bharti Airtel, Sun Pharmaceuticals, Infosys, Maruti Suzuki India, Titan, Hindustan Unilever and Reliance Industries were among the laggards.

On the other hand, State Bank of India, Zomato, Tata



Sense>

closes at

Consultancy Services, Adani Ports, Power Grid, Tata Steel and HDFC Bank 72,989.93, down by were the gain-96.01 points or 0.13 per cent ers Vinod Nair, Nifty 50 posted its longest falling Head of Restreak in its three-decade histor search, Geo-

+0.63 %

+0.59 %

 $(\mathbf{\hat{T}})$ 

ADANI PORTS

POWER GRID

**BSE SENSEX** 

jit Financial Nifty down 4% in 10 sessions Services, "The and 16% from record high hit in Sept domestic market exhibited a recoverv from today's lows but remained in negative

territory due to adverse global cues related to escalating global trade tensions. "Weak global cues continue

to weigh on sentiment, but selective buying is limiting the downside," Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd said.

Despite the market ended in the red zone, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 1.28 per cent, and midcap index rose 0.08 per cent. Abhishek Jaiswal, Fund Manager at Finavenue, said that the recent correction has effectively removed excess froth from val-"With uations. the upcoming Q4

ASIAN PAINTS

BHARTI AIRTEL

4

-1.66 %

-1.13 %

results, we anticipate renewed momentum, positioning small caps for the next phase of growth," Jaiswal added.

Among BSE sectoral indices Auto (1.13 per cent), Focussed IT (0.96 per cent), Teck (0.86 per cent), IT(0.77 per cent), Telecommunication (0.45 per cent), FMCG(0.40 per cent) and Consumer Discretionary (0.18 per cent) were the losers.

Goods, Industrials, Oil & Gas, Services, Energy, Commodities, Healthcare and Power were among the gainers.

As many as 2,221 stocks advanced while 1,737 declined and 128 remain unchanged on the BSE.

Meanwhile, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms rose by ₹1.06.388.96 crore to ₹3,85,07,568.89 (\$4.41 trillion).

Devarsh Vakil, Head of Prime Research, HDFC Securities said, "The Nifty index fell for the tenth consecutive session, the longest losing run in 29 years. Out of the last 19 trading sessions, only one session has ended in positive territory.

The US has officially implemented a 25 per cent tariff on imports from Canada and Mexico, while Chinese goods now face a cumulative 20 percent duty following an additional 10 percent levy. In a further escalation, reciprocal tariffs will kick in from April 2, intensifying concerns over trade disruptions and financial market instability, he added.

In Asian markets, Tokvo. Hong Kong and Seoul were ended in red, while Shanghai in green territory. European markets were trading in the negative territory in the mid-session deals. The US markets ended lower Monday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹4,788.29 crore Monday, according to exchange data.

GLOBAL EQUITY ROUT SENSEX SINKS BELOW 73K ₹89,000-mark

**Amid rising** global uncertainties. safe haven demand boosts gold prices

New Delhi, March 4: Gold

prices Tuesday zoomed by

₹1,100 to reclaim the ₹89,000

mark in the national capital on

increased buying by jewellers

and stockists and strong global

trends, according to the All In-

dia Sarafa Association.

of ₹87.900 per 10 grams.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



The rally was driven by fresh tariff retaliations, with Canada and China imposing tariffs on the US, fuelling safe-haven

demand JATEEN TRIVEDI VP RESEARCH

ANALYST (COMMODITY AND CURRENCY), I KP SECURITIES

According to HDFC Se-

lower-than-expected ISM Man-

ufacturing PMI data released

on Monday added another dis-

appointing sign on the macro

front. "This comes in the wake

of last week's weaker housing

data, rising unemployment

claims, and declining con-

sumer expenditure. The data

release raised the hopes that

the US Federal Reserve is like

ly to cut interest rates sooner

The metal of 99.9 per cent purity rallied by ₹1,100 to ₹89,000 ery jumped by ₹472 to ₹96,482 per 10 grams from the last close per kg on the bourse. On the Gold of 99.5 per cent purity overseas front, Comex gold fu advanced by ₹1,100 to ₹88,600 tures for April contracts went up by \$32.70 or 1.13 per cent per 10 grams from the previous to \$2,933.80 per ounce. Mean

close of ₹87,500 per 10 grams. Traders said bullion prices while, spot gold rose nearly 1 surged after the US President per cent to \$2,921.42 per ounce Trump confirmed tariffs on curities' Senior Analyst of Canada, Mexico and China Commodities Saumil Gandhi from Tuesday.

China and Canada also announced retaliatory measures against the US. leading to an escalation in trade tensions across North America. Silver prices climbed ₹1,500

to ₹98,000 per kg driven by industrial demand and the gold's rally. The white metal had finished at ₹96,500 per kg Monday. On the Multi Commodity Exchange, gold contracts for April delivery increased by

than expected and increase ₹806 to ₹86,190 per 10 grams. gold's appeal as a non-vielding Also, silver for May deliv-

## Toyota unveils all-new Camry Hybrid



The oil giants are fined for producing gas that came from **ONGC block** PRESS TRUST OF INDIA 2 2 New Delhi, March 4: The government has slapped a \$2.81 billion (about ₹24,500 crore) de-

#### Penalty for missing battery deadline

New Delhi: The government has slapped a penalty on a unit of Reliance Industries Ltd for failing to meet the deadline for setting up a battery cell plant for which it was granted production-linked incentives, the firm said Tuesday. In a stock exchange filing, Reliance said its step-down subsidiary, Reliance New Energy Battery Storage Ltd on March 3 received "a letter from the Ministry of Heavy Industries levying liquidated damages at the rate of 0.1 per cent of the performance security (Rs 50 crore) for each day of delay from January 1, 2025." The penalty was for the "delay in achievement of Milestone 1 under the agreement executed with MHI in connection with 5 GWh manufacturing capacity awarded under the Performance-Linked Incentive Scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cell," it said. The liquidated dam ages or penalty computed till March 3, 2025 was ₹3.1 crore.

#### On the other hand, Capital asset," Gandhi said. Govt slaps \$2.81bn fine on Reliance, BP

subscriptions are the majo sources of its income.

#### Jio Fin to buy SBI's entire stake in JPBL

New Delhi: Jio Financial Services Tuesday said it will acquire SBI's entire stake in Jio Payments Bank for ₹104.54 crore. Jio Financial currently holds 82.17 per cent stake in Jio Payments Bank Limited (JPBL), a joint venture of the Company and State Bank of India (SBI). In a regulatory filing, Jio Financial Services said that its board Tuesday approved acquisition of a little over 7.90 crore equity shares of JPBL from SBI for ₹104.54 crore. "Post this acquisition, JPBL will become a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company," Jio Financial Services said.



#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Tuesday.

all-new Camry Hybrid elec-

tric vehicle, reinforcing Toy-

ota Kirloskar Motor's com-

mitment to carbon neutrality

The event was graced by

Niranjan Barik, DGM, Union

Bank, as the chief guest, along-

side Satish Garg (Chairman,

Gargson Group), Siddharth

Unveiling the hybrid sedan,

Das highlighted Toyota's ad-

vancements in clean tech-

nology. "The all-new Camry

(GM, Capital Toyota).

Hybrid is more than just a car, it's a statement of refined Bhubaneswar. March 4: style, exclusivity, and sustain-Capital Toyota unveiled the ability," he said.

Powered by a 2.5L Dynamic Force Engine, paired with a 5th-generation hybrid system and e-CVT transmission, the sedan delivers 230 PS power with an impressive fuel efficiency of 25.49 km/l. It features Toyota Safety Sense 3.0, including Lane Tracing Assist, Pre-Collision System, and a 360° Panoramic View Monitor.

Garg (MD, Capital Toyota), and Champak Kumar Das Available in new colour options like precious metal, dark blue, cement grey and emotional red, the sedan comes with an 8-year/1,60,000 km hybrid battery warranty.

grated from neighbouring block of state-owned ONGC. This follows the Delhi High Court's decision February 14,

overturning an international arbitration tribunal ruling that held the duo not responsible for paying any compensation for the gas they produced and sold which had allegedly migrated from adjoining fields.

mand notice on Reliance

GAS

DISPUTE

Industries Ltd and its

partners, including

BP Plc for gains made

from producing and

selling natural gas

that may have mi-

"Consequent upon the Division Bench judgment, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has raised a demand of \$2.81 billion on the PSC contractors namely Reliance Industries Ltd, BP Exploration (Alpha) Ltd and NIKO (NECO) Ltd," Reliance said in a stock exchange filing.

Originally, Reliance held

CASE 60 per cent interest in Krishna Godavari basin deep-sea block KG-DWN-98/3 or KG-D6 while BP had 30 per cent and Canadian firm Niko held the remaining 10 per cent.

> Subsequently, Reliance and BP took over Niko's interest in the production sharing contract (PSC) and now hold 66.66 per cent and 33.33 per cent, respectively.

The government had in 2016 sought \$1.55 billion from Reliance and its partners for the quantum of gas that had migrated to its block KG-D6 from adjoining fields of ONGC.

Reliance contested the claims before an arbitral tribunal which in July 2018 upheld that it was not obliged to pay any compensation.

The government filed an appeal and in May 2023, a single judge of Delhi High Court upheld the arbitration award, dismissing the government's appeal. A division bench of the Delhi High Court last month set aside the single judge order, ruling against Reliance and its

partners. Reliance said the letter of demand was received by the company March 3, 2025.

"The company is legally advised that the Division Bench judgment and this provisional demand are unsustainable. The company is taking steps to challenge the judgment of the Division Bench of Hon'ble Delhi High Court," it said.

"The company does not expect any liability on this account," it added.

Reliance had previously said that it would appeal the decision in the Supreme Court.

The dispute dates back to July 2013 when Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) suspected reservoir connectivity of its KG-DWN-98/2 (KG-D5) and G-4 blocks with that of Re liance's KG-D6.

It felt that at least four wells that Reliance drilled on the borderline with KG-D5 may have drained out its resources as well.

### Union Bank holds walkathon to celebrate Women's Day



BHUBANESWAR: In a vibrant celebration of Women's Day, Union Bank Regional Office Bhubaneswar organised a walkathon to promote women's empowerment and well-being. The event saw enthusiastic participation from women employees and women customers who walked together in solidarity. The walkathon commenced from Shaheed Nagar and concluded at Ram Mandir Square covering a distance of three kilometers. Participants carried banners and slogans advocating for women's rights, health, and empowerment. Zonal Head Sarvesh Ranjan, Deputy Zonal Head Y Venkateswaralu, Deputy Zonal Head Harinder Singh Sandhu along with Regional Head of Bhubaneswar Region Niranjan Barik graced the occasion and emphasised the importance of fostering an inclusive and supportive society for women. The walkathon served as a meaningful start to the Women's Day celebrations, reinforcing the commitment to gender equality and social progress

## Ola's Bhavish mimics Musk on work culture

The founder asks employees for weekly updates under new initiative called 'Kya Chal Raha Hai'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, March 4: Mimicking billionaire Elon Musk's recent orders for US federal employees to send a weekly report card of their work, Ola Founder and CEO Bhavish Aggarwal has also instructed employees across his companies to submit weekly reports, detailing their achievements.

The new initiative, called 'Kya Chal Raha Hai'-- a Hindi phrase that translates to 'What's going on' -- requires Ola employees to send an email every week with 3-5 bullet points of the tasks they've completed.

These reports must be submitted to both their managers and a designated company

email address, with no exceptions, according to Bhavish memo.

We're starting 'Kya Chal Raha Hai' - a simple way to share your weekly updates directly with me and your managers, starting today, the internal email read.

The email further asked to send "a brief update to your manager and Kyachalrahahai@ olagroup.in (email will be active in an hour or so) with 3-5 bullet points about what you got done last week"

The first report deadline was set for the day following the announcement, with future reports due every Sunday.

Layoffs to cut costs This directive comes at a time when Ola is undergoing significant changes, including a round



of layoffs aimed at cutting costs and becoming profitable.

Ola Electric, the company's electric vehicle arm, is reportedly planning to lay off more than 1,000 employees, marking the second major round of job cuts in just five months.

The layoffs will affect various departments, including procurement, customer relations, and charging infrastructure, as Ola tries to streamline its operations.

Aggarwal's new reporting requirement echoes a policy introduced by Musk, who recently mandated that US federal employees must submit weekly accomplishment reports in bullet points.

Musk's policy was introduced in his role at the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) to improve accountability and reduce inefficiencies in govern ment operations.

However, it has faced criticism for potentially lowering employee morale and job security

This isn't the first time Aggarwal has taken a firm stance on employee performance. In December last year, he sent an internal email warning staff about poor attendance.











### SPORTS **OrissaPOST** WEDNESDAY | MARCH 5, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR Men in Blue extract sweet revenge

India lost in the final of the ODI World Cup in 2023, but decimated them at CT semifinal

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, March 4: Virat Kohli did not finish the chase for once but his measured 84-run knock steered India into their fifth Champions Trophy final with a clinical four-wicket win over an under-strength and profligate Australia in the first last-four clash here Tuesday.

The Indian triumph ensures that the final of the eight-team competition will now be held here instead of Lahore, the original host of the marquee clash, as Rohit Sharma's men will not travel there owing to security concerns.

Player of the match Kohli (84, 98 balls, 5x4) was the fulcrum of Indian batting as they scaled down 265 in 48.1 overs after Steve Smith (73) and Alex Carey (61) led the Aussies to 264.

Kohli had wonderful support from Shreyas Iyer (45) with whom he realised 91 runs for the third wicket, and steadied the ship after the early departures of skipper Rohit Sharma (28) and Shubman Gill (9).

Australia were weakened by the absence of some of their premier stars, but India had not beaten them in the knockouts of an ICC tournament since the quarterfinal of the 2011 World Cup.

However, Kohli was determined to correct that anomaly. The pitch used for the semifinal was fresh but much smoother than the ones on which the previous matches were played.

Kohli does not need a second invitation to exploit such conditions and a near-perfect control helped him keep pace with the asking rate.

Kohli's struggle point in an ODI innings is his inability to force the pace against spinners, but here the champion batter negated leg-spinner Adam Zam-



few occasions in the past, quite effectively.

The 36-year-old used the pull and drives, two of his most productive shots, to optimum effect. He placed him in hundred. the wide arc between sweeper cover and mid-wicket for easy,

risk-free runs. He lost the company of both Iyer, who played some delectable shots, and Axar Patel

sion but Kohli went past his 50 in 53 balls

Glenn Maxwell dropped him on 51 off left-arm spinner Cooper Connolly, a perceived early signal of an inevitable Kohli

But it did not arrive as an ugly hit off Zampa ended in the hands of Ben Dwarshuis near long-on when India were 40 runs away from victory.

KL Rahul (42 not out) and Hardik Pandya (28) played some smart and aggressive cricket as India cantered home without much ado.

However, the Indian bowlers too deserve some credit as they kept the Aussies batting on a tight leash despite well-paced fifties from Smith and Carey. Australian skipper Smith (73, 96b, 4x4, 1x6) won a good toss, but the batters could not exploit

silly shots.

was the pillar of Australian innings, and was involved in three 50 stands -- 52 with Travis Head for the second wicket, 56 for the third wicket with Marnus Labuschagne and 54 for the fifth wicket with Carey (61, 57b, 8x4, 1x6).

fine batting conditions, throwing their wickets away through

Throughout his stay, Smith Australia would have been in

winner of the second semifinal between **South Africa and New Zealand at Lahore** 

a much better position had two of those alliances bloomed into something more substantial.

stumps by a whisker.

But Chakravarthy mitigated Hea"s threat when the left-hander skied him to a run-

and across to a straighter one from the impressive Ravindra Jadeja (2/40) to get trapped in front.

along nicely with excellent control and his thumping straight six off Jadeja was a work of art in timing and power.

charge at a full toss from Shami ended his stint, as the ball crashed onto the stumps.

an inexplicable back-foot punch off Axar curtailed his stay prematurely.

Carey carried on with determination at one end, and was engaged in a useful 34-run alliance with Dwarshuis for the seventh wicket to see them past the 250-run mark.

But the target was way too feeble to give any real test to this Indian batting unit.

#### **Boxing Federation of India** SHORT TAKES **Babar, Rizwan dropped** to hold election March 28 from Pak's T20 squad

Lahore: Captain Muhammad Rizwan and Babar Azam were Tuesday dropped from the Pakistan squad for the five match T20 series in New Zealand. Salman Ali Agha replaced Rizwan as captain of the T20 outfit with all-rounder Shadab Khan being recalled and named his vicecaptain. Rizwan has been retained as captain of the ODI squad after the team's disappointing show in the Champions Trophy. The selectors have avoided an overhaul in the one-day squad and retained majority of the players who flopped in the ongoing ICC ev



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

#### In playoffs' race, Odisha need to beat Jamshedpur; hope Mumbai lose their remaining games INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jamshedpur, March 4: With their chances of grabbing a spot in the playoff on the line, Odisha FC take on Jamshedpur FC in a crucial match of the Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 at the JRD Tata Sports Complex here Wednesday.

Jamshedpur FC have qualified for the playoffs and are fourth in the table with 38 points from 22 games on the back of 12 wins and two draws. Odisha FC are preparing for their final league fixture, placed seventh with 30 points from 23 encounters thus far. A win against Jamshedpur FC will see them reach 33 points. If the sixth-placed Mumbai City FC lose both their remaining games, the Islanders will also be on 33 points at the end of the league phase. In that case, the equation will come down to goal difference, which gives Odisha FC a lot to play for, with just one vacant spot in playoffs now. Odisha FC's goal difference is six right now, better than Mumbai City FC (0). The Khalid Jamil-coached side will look to perform at its best going into the playoffs since they have won and drawn twice each in their last five games.



**OFC EYEING PLAY-OFFS BERTH** 

I think they are a solid team. The coach has done an amazing job and they have been very competitive SERGIO LOBERA | COACH, ODISHA FC

a lack of neatness on this front but also highlights that they have embraced risk-taking options offensively

Jamshedpur FC's goalkeep

er Albino Gomes has made a

league-high 83 saves this sea-

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE India will await the Lausanne, March 4: After their home round of the FIH Pro League matches, the men's and women's got some ranking points boost as they remained in the top 10 in the FIH World Rankings.

Few batters have a higher fortune quotient than Head and his cameo of 39 had several slices of fortune -- a dropped catch by Mohammed Shami (3/48) off his own bowling in the first legal delivery of the match, a near run-out, and a couple of inside edges that missed the

ning-in Gill in the deep.

Labuschagne played back

However, Smith chugged

However, a rather mindless

Glenn Maxwell came in a perfect situation for him at 198 for five with 13 overs to spare, but

in Chile.

an women's team played World champions the Netherlands, Australia, England, Germany, and Spain while the men's team took on England, Germany, Spain, and Ireland. After the rankings were

updated Tuesday, the Indian men's team is placed fifth while the women's team is ninth spot. The first two months of

In the Bhubaneswar leg of

the FIH Pro League, the Indi

**HOCKEY RANKINGS** 

India men, women

remain in top ten

2025 have witnessed some incredible hockey action with events across all tiers of international hockey. The list of tournaments included FIH Hockey Pro League action in three stages: Sydney Australia; Bhubaneswar, In dia and Santiago del Estero, Argentina.

Along with the Pro League. international hockey action was also running in parallel for teams in the next two tiers with the first edition of the FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup 2 being played in Oman and the third edition of the FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup which came to an end 2 March

The hectic hockey action created changes aplenty across the board as each win and loss amongst teams ranked close to each other led to movements up and down in the world rankings.

In the women's world rankings, Netherlands (3639) remain at the top of the list but a shoot-out loss to India in their final Pro League match in Bhubaneswar saw them drop over 50 points.

#### **Rahane appointed** as KKR captain

New Delhi: India batter Ajinkya Rahane was Monday assigned captaincy of defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders in the Indian Premier League after a remarkable run in the domestic T20 competition. The 36-year-old Rahane, who has played majority of his international cricket in whites, has reinvented himself in the shortest format which was evident in the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy wherein he emerged as the leading run getter with 469 runs at a strike rate of 164.56. In the IPL, the right-handed batter had also given a good account of his transformation while playing for Chennai Super Kings.

New Delhi, March 4: The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) Tuesday said it will hold its election March 28 to elect new office bearers for the next four years.

The development comes a day after the Delhi High Court stayed a decision of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to constitute an ad-hoc panel to run the affairs of the BFL

"The 10th Annual General Meeting of the Boxing Federation of India will be held under the chairmanship of Mr. Ajav Singh, President, Boxing Federation of India the 28th Match, 2025 from 10.30am at Delhi NCR," the sport's apex governing body in the country said in a statement signed by its secretary general Hemanta

election of office bearers and other members of executive council of BFI for the tenure 2025-29. The BFI has also asked its affiliated state units to send the names of the representatives who will be attending the AGM by March 10.

On the agenda will be the

Kumar Kalita.

On Monday, Justice Sachin Datta issued notice to the IOA seeking its response to a petition filed by the federation challenging the decision of constituting the ad-hoc committee. The court granted two weeks' time to the IOA to file its reply

to the petition and posted the hearing March 27. On February 24, the IOA formed a five-member ad-hoc committee to oversee affairs, citing the federation's failure to conduct elections on time.



Odisha FC have failed to score in each of their last two ISL matches, having gone on a longer goalless streak only twice before (three games in December 2022 and three games in December 2020). Interestingly, they are the fourth-highest-scoring team this season with 41 strikes to their name.

Odisha FC have permitted opponents an average of 9.9 shots from inside the box per game since the start of 2025, with only Mohammedan SC (11.1) and Hyderabad FC (10.4) conceding more. They have kept the third-least clean sheets (4) in ISL 2024-25.

Odisha FC head coach Sergio Lobera heaped praise on the Jamshedpur FC setup. "I think they are a solid team. The coach has done an amazing job and they have been very competitive," he said.

Jamshedpur FC have played 46.1% of their passes forward in the current campaign, the second-highest share among all teams (Chennaiyin FC-47.8%). However, they have completed just 52.5% of them - the second lowest in the league. It reflects

son, which shows that the team has a reliable presence between the sticks to stop shots from going in even if they end up conceding open spaces in their defensive third. Jamshedpur FC head coach Khalid Jamil said that his side

needs to deliver an improved performance at home. "We must bounce back again. This is the last game we will be playing at our home ground. We must do well and think about positive results," he said.

The two teams have played 11 games, with both of them emerging victorious five times each. One encounter has produced a draw.

## India to host 2nd Asian Yogasana Championship

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 4: A total of 16 countries will participate in the second Asian Yogasana Championship, scheduled to be held at the Indira Gandhi Stadium here from March 29 to 31.

The championship, being organised in collaboration with the Sports Ministry and Yogasana Bharat, aims to showcase Yogasana at the international level while embracing its rich heritage and deep-rooted cultural significance.

The event, being supported by the Olympic Council of Asia, World Yogasana, Asian Yogasana and Yogasana Indraprastha, will also help create a roadmap towards inclusion of the discipline in the Olympic curriculum.

"India, the birthplace of voga, is honoured to host the 2nd



Asian Yogasana Championship. This event is more than just a competition; it is a celebration of our ancient wisdom evolving into a modern competitive sport," Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said in a release.

"We are committed to making Yogasana a global sporting discipline, and this championship is a significant step toward that goal. Through this event. we will showcase not just the

athleticism of Yogasanas but also its power to transform lives,

both physically and mentally.' Asian Yogasana president Sanjay Malpani emphasised the championship's impact, saving. "The Yogasana Championship is a defining moment in our mission to establish Yogasanas as a globally-recognised sport. We are witnessing the fusion of tradition with modern athletic excellence.

"This championship is proof that Yogasana is not just a practice but a competitive sport that demands precision, endurance, and artistry. With every athlete who competes, we take one step closer to Yogasanas' rightful place on the world stage.'

World Yogasana secretary-general Jaideep Arya added, "The championship in New Delhi marks a significant milestone in our mission to promote Yogasana as a global competitive sport. "This championship brings together exceptional athletes from across Asia, showcasing the strength. flexibility, and discipline that define this ancient practice. We are proud to witness the growing enthusiasm for Yogasana and remain committed to its development as a mainstream sporting discipline.'

### Praggnanandhaa to take on Shankland

PRAGUE MASTERS

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Prague, March 4: With a career-high world ranking of No 8 as per the latest published list, Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa will take on American Sam Shankland in the sixth round of the Prague Masters after a rest dav Tuesdav.

Tied at the top spot with compatriot and friend Aravindh Chithambaram, Praggnanandhaa tried to break the defences of his fellow countryman for a long time but only ended up with a draw.

The two are now on 3.5 points each out of a possible five.

Aravindh was surprised after his second win in the tournament.

"I don't know what's happen-



ing to me here," said Aravindh, who has also beaten top seed Wei Yi of China in the tournament.

The Indian, who has arrived big time in to the elite circles, now will have to tackle the experienced Quang Leim Le of Vietnam in the next round. The two Indians are followed

by a pack of four players having 2.5 points each. The most dangerous of the lot

is Wei Yi who started with two losses in the first three rounds and then won two in a row to

send warning signals to his competitors.

Anish Giri and Quang Leim hold the dubious distinction of drawing all the five games thus far while Vincent Keymer has lost two, drawn one and won two out of his five games.

Aravindh has been the pick of the tournament so far. as not many had given him a chance The former national champion has been working very hard and this is the first time he has got a real platform to showcase his real skill-set against the top GMs

Praggnanandhaa has been exceptional in his two victo ries thus far, against Keymer and Nguyen Thai Dai Van. But his white pieces are not neces sarily giving him any serious advantage.

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