

Showbiz reality

Actor Nargis Fakhri reveals how the film industry talks about equality on one hand while objectifying women on the other

LEISURE | P2



Trump speaks

A triumphant President Donald Trump tells Congress that "America is back" after he reshaped US foreign policy



Services sector activity sees a sharp uptick in February and international demand

BUSINESS | P11



India to face NZ

New Zealand hammers South Africa by 50 runs in a high-scoring semifinal to set up a summit clash

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BHUBANESWAR | THURSDAY | MARCH 6, 2025

Orange is the colour for school buildings

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 5: Five months after issuing a notification regarding change in the school uniform colour, the state government has decided to introduce a new colour code for all government-run school buildings, including those in PM-SHRI Schools. Odsiha School Education Programme Authority (OSEPA) has issued a directive to all the government school authorities asking them ensure that the buildings are painted in shades of 'Orange Frost' with 'Orange Tan' borders.

In a letter to all District Collectors, state project director of OSEPA Ananya Das directed them to adopt uniform colour code for all government schools.

The letter said, "It is to state that the Govt has been pleased to approve new colour code. It is requested to issue suitable instruction to concerned field functionaries for adoption of the approved colour code in all Govt schools, including PM SHRI Schools during construction, repair, renovation works. This order would be in supersession of all previous instructions related to colour code of school buildings.

In October last year, the state government had announced new colour scheme for the uniforms of students in Classes IX and X. According to the official directive, the updated uniforms will incorporate a combination of light brown, chocolate, and clay-baked yellow. The changes in colour code were carried out under Mukhyamantri Chhatra Chhatri Paridhan Yojana.

RREGULAR by MANJUL



Raising my finger could cause and I'm the minority!

Sunita, Butch to return soon

Cape Canaveral, March 5: After nine months in space, NASA's two stuck astronauts are just a few weeks away from finally returning to Earth, according to reports.

Butch Wilmore and Sunita Williams have to wait until their replacements arrive at the International Space Station (ISS) next week before they can check out later this month. They'll be joined on their SpaceX ride home by two astronauts who launched by themselves in September alongside two empty seats.

During an online presser Tuesday, Wilmore said that while politics is part of life, it did not play into his and Williams' return, moved up a couple weeks thanks to a change in SpaceX capsules. President Donald Trump and SpaceX's Elon Musk said at the end of January that they wanted to accelerate the astronauts' return, blaming the previous administration.

But Williams, in response to a question, did take issue with Musk's recent call to dump the space station in two years, rather than waiting until NASA's proiected deorbit in 2031. She noted all the scientific research being performed at the orbiting lab.

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Services sector growth

boosted by improving domestic



with India in the Champions Trophy

SPORTS | P12

12 PAGE | ₹5.00



RESCUE OPS: People gather after a suspension motor bridge connecting Chamoli's Govindghat and Hemkund Sahib collapsed due to a landslide at Govindghat in Uttarakhand, Wednesday. The bridge broke after being hit by huge boulders falling from a hill, resulting in the death of a motorcyclist

₹14.62cr gold seized from Kannada actress

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, March 5: Gold bars worth ₹12.56 crore were seized from Kannada actress Ranya Rao at Kempegowda International Airport, following which searches were conducted at her residence and gold jewellery worth₹2.06 crore and ₹2.67 crore in cash were also recovered, Directorate of Revenue Intelli gence (DRI) said Wednesday.

Rao is the stepdaughter of senior IPS officer Ramachandra Rao, the Chairman and Managing Director of the Karnataka State Police Housing and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd, a senior police official told PTI.

The total seizure in the case stood at ₹17.29 crore, including assets worth ₹4.73 crore, marking a significant blow to organised gold smuggling networks.

According to DRI officials, the 14.2 kg haul is one of the largest gold seizures at Bangalore airport in recent times.

China flexes muscles Govt to table missing key report in Cabinet

The ongoing trade conflicts between US and its global trading partners took a curious turn Wednesday when China declared it is "ready to fight till the end in any type of war the US wants". This statement came in response to US President Donald. Trump's imposition of reciprocal tariffs. The announcement coincided with China's decision to hike its Defence Budget by 7.2% for this year, part of its ongoing efforts to modernise its military. Trump criticised China, pointing out that its average tariff on US goods is double what US charges Chinese products, and accused Beijing of failing to stop the trafficking of fentanyl and other dangerous opioids into its territory. However, China dismissed the fentanyl issue as a flimsy excuse for US to raise tariffs on its imports

AGENCIES

New Delhi, March 5: At a time when US and China have edged closer to a trade war after US President Donald Trump slapped more tariffs on all Chinese goods, the Chinese embassy in the US said Beijing is ready to "fight till the end" in any type of war the US wants.

Taking to X, Chinese embassy in Washington said, "If war is what the US wants, be it a



tariff war, a trade war or any other type of war, we're ready to fight till the end.

It is some of the strongest rhetoric so far from China since Trump became president and comes as the county's top leaders gathered in Beijing for the opening of the annual National People's Congress.

Wednesday, China's Premier Li Qiang announced that China would again boost its defence spending by 7.2 per cent this year and warned that "changes unseen in a century were unfolding across the world at a faster pace". This increase was expected and matches the

figure announced last year. Leaders in Beijing are trying to send a message to people in China that they are confident the country's economy can

grow, even with the threat of a

trade war.

China has been keen to por tray an image of being a stable, peaceful country in contrast to the US, which Beijing accuses of being embroiled in wars in the Middle East and Ukraine.

China may also hope to capi talise on Trump's actions relating to US allies such as Canada and Mexico, which have also been hit by tariffs, and will not want to ramp up the rhetoric too far to scare off potential new global partners.

China has, in the past, emphasised that it is ready to go to war. Last October, President Xi called for troops to strengthen their preparedness for war as they held military drills around the self-governing island of Taiwan. But there is a difference

US TARIFFS ON INDIA FROM APRIL 2: TRUMP

New York: US President Donald

Trump criticised the high tariffs charged by India and other countries, terming them as "very unfair" and announced reciprocal tariffs from April 2 on nations that impose levies on American goods. "If you don't make your product in America however, under the Trump administration, you will pay a tariff and in some cases, a rather large one," Trump said. "Other countries have used tariffs against us for decades and now it's our turn to start using them against those other countries. On average, the European Union China, Brazil, India, Mexico and Canada - have you heard of them? And countless other nations charge us tremendously higher tariffs than we charge them," Trump said. The US President said, "It's very unfair. India charges us auto tariffs higher than 100 per cent." Trump made these remarks in an address to the Joint Session of the Congress Tuesday.

between military preparedness and a readiness to go to war.

The US-China relationship has always been one of the most contentious in POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, March 5: The state government Wednesday informed the Orissa High Court that the report of Justice Raghubir Dash Commission of Inquiry into the missing keys of Srimandir Ratna Bhandar will be tabled in a Cabinet meeting, while urging the state's apex court to allow some time for the purpose.

A division bench of Chief Justice Arindam Sinha and Justice Mruganka Sekhar Sahoo posted the next hearing to March 12.

The court had sought a clarification from the government after a petitioner contended that lakhs of devotees of Lord Jagannath would want to know the circumstances under which Ratna Bhandar keys went missing and later found. The petitioner further insisted that the inquiry report should be made public.

It was in April 2018 when the disappearance of the keys to the inner chamber of the temple vault came to light after Puri district administration said that it could not locate them.

Following a direction from the HC, an attempt was made April 4, 2018, to open the inner chamber for an inspection of its structural condition by an ASI expert team.

Their attempt did not succeed owing to the unavailability of keys. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) had then stated that since there was no permission to enter the inner chamber by Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJ-TA), the committee could on ly examine it from the outside through an iron grill.

Two months later, the then district magistrate Aravind Agarwal reported that a duplicate key of Ratna Bhandar was found in the district record room adding fuel to the lingering controversy over the treasure trove.

It was in a sealed envelope carrying a tag of a 'duplicate keys of Bhitara Bhandar', with a seal of the temple administra tor of 1985.

This led to an outrage. prompting the then Naveen Patnaik-led Biju Janta Dal government to appoint an inquiry commission under retired Oris sa HC judge Dash to investigate the missing keys issue.

The commission submitted a 324-page report in November 2018, but the Naveen government did not table it in the Assembly.

NEPHEWS KILL NAIB SARPANCH'S HUBBY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khallikote, March 5: Rabindra Das, 38, husband of Tulasipur panchavat's naib sarpanch Minati Kumari Das, was hacked to death allegedly by his nephews and their associates over family disputes at Haripur village under this police limits in Ganjam district Wednesday

Reports said Rabindra was engaged in illegal liqour trade which led to a business rivalry with his nephews. He was jailed in November last year for hurling bombs at his nephews. The deceased was released on bail, three months back and living with his wife at Kanchana

Rabindra and his wife had visited Kamalapadar village to attend a feast but stayed

back at Haripur. When Rabindra stepped out of his house, Wednesday morning, two of his nephews and their two associates attacked him with swords and hacked him to death. Chhatrapur SDPO Chandan Ghadei. Khallikote inspector-in-charge (IIC) Ramesh Kumar Pradhan and police officials reached the spot and started an investigation.

The exact reason behind the murder could be ascertained only after the probe is completed, the IIC added. The deceased had several cas-

es pending at Khallikote police station. Police sent the body for post-mortem and started an investigation. A scientific team also

reached the spot and collected

blood samples and other evi-

dence related to the crime.

co-founder and chief executive Ben Lamm said the team had been studying ancient mammoth genomes and comparing them with those of Asian elephants to understand how they differ and had already begun genome-editing cells of the latter,

Washington, March 5: Scientists have announced that their plan to revive the mammoth is progressing, following the creation of a new species: the woolly mouse. Researchers at US biotech company Colossal Biosciences aim to "de-extinct" woolly mammoths by genetically altering Asian elephants to incorporate mammoth traits. They are hopeful that the first calf will be born by the end of 2028. Colossal Biosciences

The team said they have fresh support for their approach after creating healthy, genetically modified mice that have traits geared towards cold tolerance, including woolly hair. "It does not accelerate



Scientists create 'woolly mouse'

dating point," Lamm said.

In the research, which has not yet been peer-reviewed, the team used a number of genome editing techniques to either genetically modify fertilised mouse eggs or modify embryonic mouse stem cells and in ject them into mouse embryos, before implanting them into surrogates.

The team focused on disrupting nine genes associated with hair colour, texture, length or pattern or hair follicles. Most of these genes were selected be cause they were already known to influence the coats of mice with the induced disruptions expected to produce physical traits similar to those seen in mammoths, such as golden hair.

However, two of the genes targeted in the mice were al so found in mammoths, where they are thought to have contributed to a woolly coat, with the changes introduced by the researchers designed to make the mouse genes more mammoth-like.



TURNING TO BOOZE WORSENED PALTROW'S MENOPAUSE SIGNS

Iron Man star Gwyneth Paltrow has candidly revealed how her menopause symptoms were impacted by the LA wildfires. The 52-year-old actress she admitted she was drinking every night in the wake of the devastating fires which worsened her condition.

MEGHAN MARKLE REVEALS HER BREAKFAST ROUTINE

Meghan, Duchess of Sussex has spilled on what she cooks Prince Harry and their two children for breakfast. Prince Harry has fried eggs and the kids love 'surprise pancakes, shared the 43-year-old former actress.

TWO BOOKS BUT

ONE MESSAGE

State, capitalism, Hindutva, and imperialism are no longer

merely academic debates confined to seminar halls or distant

wars and conflicts affecting unknown faces and destroying

homes and habitats. These issues now impact working people

across the world. The relentless advance of the securitised state,

religious fundamentalism, reactionary politics, and various

forms of capitalism and imperialism not only endangers human

lives and liberties but also threatens the very foundation of our



You may find yourself in a precarious position today, says Ganesha. You may feel challenged and swim against the current, which will be counterproductive. Nothing may seem to work out. Taking a break will ease the stress at such a time.

Almost as if crafted by Cervantes himself, you might wake up today feeling passionate and quixotic. Make up and make overs may be on the cards as you will have the urge to be groomed. Once you are done without yourself, you will shower others with attention, says Ganesha.

Even though it is for your own benefit, you will spend the day safeguarding the sentiments of others. Not too uncharacteristic but unusual nonetheless. For most part of the day, you will be away from your family mostly on a trip for business or leisure purposes. Today, family takes a backseat and having a successful career will be the

The workaholic Bull will have more on their plate than they can chew. They will be under so much work pressure that their otherwise robust shoulders may wilt under pressure. Ganesha advises you to take it easy, and learn to say no. Also, this is just a temporary phase and as long as you stay

When it comes to maintainng a balance in any relationship, you set an example for others to follow. It is like an inner light guides you towards joyful coexistence, though, at times, it may entail making certain acts of sacrifice, savs Ganesha You may choose to lose an argument in order to win hearts. Just remember that losing a battle is sometimes the only

Take up the gauntlet that promises to test your business acumen, especially those related to capital and finances. You are most likely to come up with out-ofthe-box ideas to resolve issues, and Ganesha assures that this will work wonders.

Everyone has a dream, but to realise them. Be among the lucky ones today as you see your dream project maa successful future. But all good things have humble beginnings. What matters is that you had a dream, and dreaming it was the hardest part, reminds Ganesha.

SCORPIO

Ganesha predicts that you shall work towards building a better future. But do not expect radical or dynamic changes. Cruise control is the best way to go for now, says Ganesha. Patience in itself will reap rich benefits.

SAGITTARIUS

Problems will push you in a corner today. But try resolving them as son as possible. Expect delays in making final decisions. But as the day ends, expect fruitful results to come by, predicts Ganesha.

CAPRICORN

You may have sweated your guts out for an opportunity to pursue higher studies abroad, and met with disappointment. Try again today, advises Ganesha. For those of you engaged in speculation, transaction in stock and shares is likely and may fetch substantial gains. Opportunities galore, but you won't progress until you exploit them to the best of your interest.

AQUARIUS

Work, work, work! That is what will pay rich dividends. Of course, a pat on the back does matter, and with your commitment record, you may be getting a lot of it! You may back off from taking risks, and yet want change.

PISCES

Arguments lead nowhere, and why argue when, at the end of the day, you can step back and watch them end up with egg on their faces, break a leg, get crushed under a falling safe, or otherwise suffer the numerous disasters you wish them to, for disagreeing with you. You will end up having the last laugh, so you might as well use your time more effectively, says Ganesha.

Nargis exposes showbiz duality

Mumbai: Ahead of Women's Day, actress Nargis Fakhri has opened up about how the entertainment industry talks about equality on one hand while objectifying women on the other.

"In the entertainment industry, there is often a delicate balance between celebrating beauty and, unfortunately, objectifying individuals. Cinema, at its best, has the power to showcase diverse stories, talents, and experiences, while also portraying beauty in many forms," Nargis told this agency. "However, the reality is that beauty, especially when it

comes to women, can sometimes be commodified and reduced to a superficial ideal. That said, it's important to acknowledge that both men and women can be objectified, though it may often feel like women face this more frequently."

Personally, Nargis navigates this by focusing on the work itself.

"I understand that part of the entertainment business involves showcasing attractive individuals, but I always maintain clear boundaries for myself," she said. She added: "Ultimately. I believe in creating a space where we can celebrate beauty without compromising one's dignity, and I approach my role in the industry with that mindset.'

What does equality mean to

To this, Nargis said: "Equality means acknowledging and celebrating the inherent value of every individual, irrespective of gender. At its core, it's about recognizing that all human beings, regardless of their gender, deserve the same opportuni-

Amitabh's superstitions

best actors India has ever seen. chan has revealed the thoughts which he goes through during

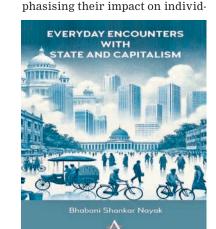
He revealed that there are times when he wonders if he should even watch the match as there have been times when he has not seen the match and India has won. He expressed on his blog, "The Match .. cricket .. to decide the FINALS .. and all kinds or permutations and connotations begin to invade the mind and body .. Should I see the game .. at times when the game is seen we lose .. but defied that today .. so .. where to sit, how to sit .. one leg upon the other .. which leg which upon .. bending or stretched straight .. shoes on or off .. change the leg curl or not .. oh dear a wicket just fell .. no no no .. get back to the first leg over leg position ..HOLD ..

The Don actor added while appreciating the Men in Blue and their seamless win, "Get up to go .. walk a bit when the ads., begin or stay put .. the tions kept tempting mind and system , until the

final victory

....In the fi-

nals now.



The book *Everyday Encounters*

Bhabani Shankar Nayak, pub-

lished by Anthem, London, illus-

trates how different forces shape

ideas, knowledge traditions, pol-

icies, processes, institutions and

everyday lives to domesticate both

people and the planet in pursuit of

profit. It examines the myriad ways

in which contemporary ruling and non-ruling elites influence politics,

culture, economy and religion and shape our daily interactions, em-

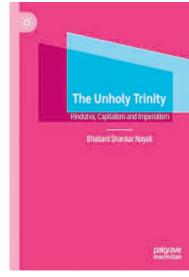
with State and Capitalism by

uals, families, communities, democratic praxis, societal structures and nature. The book portrays power structures that are skewed in a manner that marginalises many while upholding the interests of a few. It depicts numerous contradictions inherent in capitalism and the state, while also presenting alternative ideas drawn from the everyday experiences of working people. State and capitalism territorialise and deterritorialise lives and livelihoods. It destabilises social, cultural and economic relationships. Everyday crises are manufactured, and conflicts are designed to divert the masses from exploring alternatives to capitalism. This strategy aims to

planet. The following two books offer critical commentaries in accessible language, helping readers understand these pressing issues and explore the available alternatives for the survival of both humanity and nature. maintain the status quo by ensur-

ing that attention and resources are consistently focused on the accumulation of wealth and prosperity for a few, thereby preventing widespread consideration of alternative and egalitarian systems and processes for mass welfare. The Unholy Trinity: Hindutva Capitalism and Imperialism by the same author, published by

Palgrave, New York offers critical commentary and passionate analy sis on the implications of Hindutva capitalism, and imperialism for the everyday lives of working people and the planet. The emergence of the alliance between Hindutya politics and corporate capitalism during the latter half of the twentieth century significantly shaped society, state and governments aligning it with the demands of global capitalism and its imperialist hegemony. The book provides an auto ethnographic and alterna tive analysis based on reflections on the realities of everyday lives and experiences of the past and present of this unholy trinity and its global implications.



To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a

manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains

4

5

6

1

8

4

8

5

3

4

2

9

the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

6

2

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

5

SUDOKU

3

8

Mumbai: Actress Kiara Advani, known for her versa-

Don 3: Kiara opts out

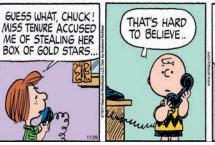
tility and charm, recently announced that she and her husband, actor Sidharth Malhotra, are expecting their first child. The couple shared the happy news with fans through a heartfelt social media post, featuring a pair of tiny knitted booties held in their hands. The post soon received immense love and bless ings from their well-wishers.

Following the announcement, Kiara made her first public appearance, where she graciously accepted congratulations from fans and paparazzi. Her radiant glow and joyful demeanor captured According to a report, Kiara has decided to fo-

cus on her personal life, leading to her amicable exit from Farhan Akhtar's Don 3. The filmmakers are now searching for a new lead actress. However, she remains committed to her ongoing projects, War 2 and Toxic, which she is expected to complete before taking a break.

Furthermore, adding to the excitement surrounding Kiara, speculations are abuzz about her possible involvement in two major upcoming films, Shakti Shalini and Dhoom 4. Both projects are reportedly slated to begin in 2026, sparking curiosity among fans about her next big move.

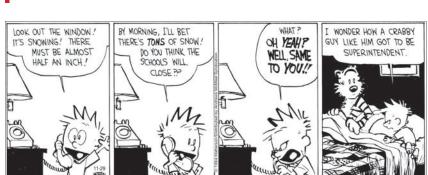
PEANUTS







CALVIN AND HOBBES

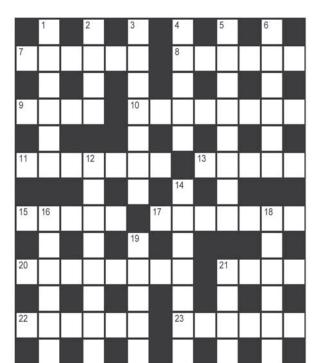


BREVITY



DOST

CROSSWORD



Copyright ©2025 PuzzleJunction.com 21 Easy marks

22 Ankle injury

23 Ill-tempered

person

Acr	DSS	
7	Garment	wo

- 8 Young cow
- 9 Border on
- 10 Nonconformist
- 11 List
- 13 Workwear

- 15 Sundae topper
- 17 Big-mouth bird? 20 Tyre problem

- <u>Down</u>
- 3 Guarantee
- 1 Chess move
- 2 Oversupply

4 Rudely push

- 6 Guiding light 12 Prestidigitator

5 British P.M.

Gladstone

before

- 14 Reprisal 16 Seizes by force
- 18 Guanaco kin
- 19 Comical
- 21 Demonstrate

SUDOKU



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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

owntown

FRESH START

IPS officer Jagmohan Meena takes charge as Bhubaneswar DCP in presence of twin city Commissioner of Police S Dev Datta Singh in the Capital city,



Preventive detention draconian: SC

New Delhi, March 5: The Supreme Court Wednesday said preventive detention was a 'draconian measure' and quashed the detention orders against a duo held in a drugs case for want of prescribed safeguards.

A bench Justices Sanjay Kumar and Augustine George Masih found fault with the 'cryptic orders' of detention by the authority without any application of mind. The bench as a result set aside the Gauhati High Court order dismissing the plea against the detention orders of Ashraf Hussain Choudhary and his wife Adaliu Chawang under Section 3(1) of the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act of 1988

"Preventive detention is a draconian measure whereby a person who has not been tried and convicted under a penal law can be detained and confined for a determinate period of time so as to curtail that person's anticipated criminal activities," the bench said. Preventive detention was, however, sanctioned by Article 22(3)(b) of the Constitution but Article 22 also provides stringent norms to be adhered to while effecting preventive detention, it added.

Article 22, the bench said, spoke of Parliament making a law to prescribe conditions and modalities relating to preventive detention.

'The Act of 1988 is one such law which was promulgated by Parliament authorising preventive detention so as to curb illic-



the court said. The verdict also found it 'needless' to state that as preventive detention deprived a person of their individual liberties by detaining them for a length of time without a criminal trial or conviction, the prescribed safeguards 'must be strictly observed to ensure due compliance' with constitutional and statutory norms.

"We hold that the Gauhati High Court erred in the application of settled legal norms while testing the validity of the impugned detention orders. The common judgement dated August 29, 2024 passed by the Gauhati High Court dismissing the two writ petitions is accordingly set aside and the appeals are allowed," it held.

The bench quashed the detention orders of May 30, 2024 passed and extended by the special secretary. Home department of the Nagaland government.

"The detenus. Ashraf Hussain Choudhary and Adaliu Chawang shall be set at liability forthwith, unless their continued incarceration is warranted in connection with any other case," it said.

The top court observed the investigating officer did not state anything about either of the detenus seeking bail in relation to

the case under the NDPS Act after being arrested April 12, 2024 while seeking their preventive detention. The bench said it was only November 28, 2024 that they were granted default bail owing to the failure of the prosecution to do the needful within the prescribed time

'Therefore, the edicts of this court would squarely apply as there was no material for the detaining authority to have formed an opinion that there was a likelihood of either Choudhary or Chawang being released on bail," it said.

The bench observed the duo was also not informed the grounds of their detention in the language known to them by the investigating officer.

The material placed on record, therefore, reflected to the court that the detaining authority -- special secretary, Nagaland government home department -- did not even make separate grounds of detention and only acted upon the proposals for detention forwarded to her by the additional director general of police (Administration) of Nagaland.

The cryptic orders of detention passed by her on May 30, 2024 merely recorded that she was satisfied, on careful examination of such proposals and other supporting documents, that sufficient grounds were made out for the detention of Ashraf Hussain Choudhary and Adaliu Chawang. This is not in keeping with the statutory scheme, inasmuch as Section 6 of the Act of 1988 specifically refers to the order of detention 'being made' on separate grounds," it said.



RICH TRIBUTES: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Deputy CMs KV Singh Deo and Pravati Parida, BJD leader Prafulla Ghadai, Ekamra-Bhubaneswai MLA Babu Singh and I&PR department Principal Secretary Sanjay Kumar Singh during the state-level birth anniversary celebration of former CM Biju Patnaik at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday



LoP Naveen Patnaik pays floral tributes to his father at Biju Patnaik Park in Bhubaneswar

PM, CM, Naveen pay tributes to Biju Babu

Bhubaneswar: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and Leader of Op-position (LoP) Naveen Patnaik were among those who paid tributes to for-mer CM Biju Patnaik on his birth an-Biju Babu on his birth anniversary. We fondly recall his contribution towards Odisha's development and empower ing people. He was also staunchly committed to democratic ideals, strongly opposing the Emergency," Modi said in a post on X. Paying tributes to the legendary leader, Majhi said his contribution to the welfare of to the development of the state is bered forever as a politician, freedom fighter and nationalist leader. Naveen, former CM and his son, said, "He (Biju Patnaik) dedicated his life for an empowered and prosperous and his rich legacy will continue to

Door-to-door 'Subhadra' survey after March 31

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 5: The state government will conduct fy left out beneficiaries under Subhadra Yojana after March 31, the last date for submitting applications under the scheme in 2024-25, official sources said Wednesday.

Addressing media here, Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida said officials will conduct door-to-door survey to ensure that no deserving beneficiary is left out of the scheme for not being able to apply within the stipulated time.



ment has received 1.85 lakh applications under the scheme and the first instalment of ₹5,000 has so far been disbursed to

"We will cross one croremark Thursday when the first instalment of the money will

of the beneficiaries in the fifth phase," Parida, who also holds the Women and Child Development portfolio, said.

The second instalment of money under the scheme will be released March 8, International Women's Day, she said, adding, 'While disbursing the third instalment, those left out of the women empowerment scheme will receive three-phase money ₹15,000 – at one go on Rakhi Purnima this year.

Meanwhile, thousands of women and girls participated in 'Subhadra Rallies' at 6,794 places across the state to spread public awareness about the fi-

30-year-old man held for attack in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 5: The twin city Commissionerate Police Wednesday arrested a 30-year-old man on charges of attacking a few people during a wedding procession and vandalising vehicles over a petty issue here February 21.

Nandankanan inspector in-charge (IIC) Samita Mishra said they have taken into custody Bapina Parida of Marichia village on the basis of a complaint lodged by Soumya Ranjan Sahoo.

The IIC said Parida and his associates intercepted Soumya and others in the wedding procession at Marichia market February 21 and hurled abuses over a trivial issue. They later pelted stones at the procession, leaving a few people injured. Parida and his associates also vandalised the vehicles in the procession, the IIC said. About the crackdown, the

IIC said Parida was nabbed near Saifun Square in morning. "Efforts are on to arrest the remaining accused involved in the attack," Mishra said.

Parida has been booked under Sections 296, 115(2) 118(2), 109(1) and 324(4) of the BNS and was produced before a local court later in

Congress workers protest selection of 'blacklisted' firm to conduct job exams



Bhubaneswar, March 5: Protesting selection of a 'blacklisted' company to conduct examinations to recruit police personnel and staff in the state pollution control board, youth and student members of the Congress Wednesday tried to gherao Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi's official residence here.

Recruitment tests for sub-inspectors (SI) in the police force and employees in the state pollution control board are supposed to be held soon.

Holding banners, posters and party flags, several members from the youth Congress and the National Students' Union of India (NSUI), the student unit of Congress, marched towards the Chief Minister's residence here. A scuffle broke out between the police personnel and Congress workers after they tried to march ahead by breaking

The police detained several Congress supporters following the scuffle.

Speaking to media, youth Congress state president Ranjit Patra alleged that the state government has engaged a blacklisted company for conducting the examinations for recruitment of SI of police and some posts in the state pollution control board. The recruitment examinations will be held soon, he said.

"We demand that the state government remove the company concerned from the job and engage another firm in its place to conduct the recruitment tests transparently," Pa-

Yashir Nawaz, another

The government has engaged a Gujarat-based company to conduct two important examinations. The firm's top officer has been sent to six months in iail for manipulating an online BITS Pilani in 2019. Again, he was jailed for nine months **conducting Gujarat Public** Service Selection Board ASHIR NAWAZ | YOUTH

youth Congress leader, said, "The government has engaged a Gujarat-based company to conduct two important examinations. The firm's top officer has been sent to six months in jail for manipulating an online entrance examination of BITS Pilani in 2019. Again, he was jailed for nine months for malpractice in conducting Gujarat Public Service Selection Board (GPSSB) in 2022," Nawaz alleged.

Five months ago, the same company was responsible for leaking the question paper of an examination in New Delhi, he alleged.

"Why did the Odisha government engage such a company for the recruitment tests? It seems the government has opened shops to sell government jobs by depriving talented and meritorious students of their rights," Nawaz alleged.

HC extends protection for IAS officer, family

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cuttack, March 5: The Orissa High Court has extended its interim order preventing any coercive action against senior IAS officer Bishnupada Sethi and his family by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) until March 18 in a bribery case.

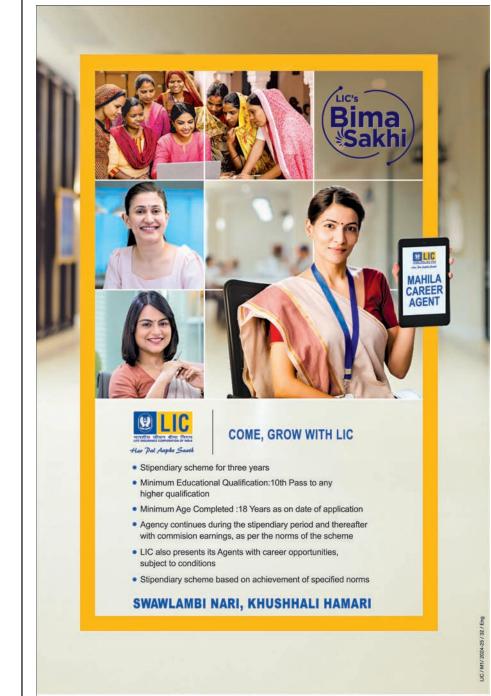
The court passed the order during a hearing Tuesday after the CBI submitted a reply affidavit, prompting the court to allow the petitioners to file a rejoinder and defer further proceedings.

The case pertains to Sethi's alleged connection with a senior officer of a Central PSU, who was arrested in December last year on the charge of accepting ₹10 lakh bribe. Following a CBI raid at his residence February 18, Sethi, along with his wife and daughter, approached the High Court February 24, alleging mental harassment by the investigating agency officials. On February 25, Justice SK Panigrahi granted interim protection to Sethi after the CBI sought time to respond to his plea. During the latest hearing Tuesday, Justice Panigrahi extended the family's protection and said the matter would be heard again March 18.

Sethi has denied any involvement with the CPSU, Bridge and Roof Company (India) Limited, which has been working with the state government for over a decade.

He stated that despite not being named in the FIR, the CBI conducted a search at his residence, seized his daughter's laptop, and froze his wife's bank account. The bribery case, which led to the arrest of Chanchal Mukherjee, a senior official of the CPSU, brought Sethi under the scanner after Mukherjee allegedly named him during interrogation.

The CBI had earlier issued a notice to Sethi, citing his possible knowledge of crucial facts related to the case.



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downtown



Much-awaited FOB unveiled in Palasuni

The newly-inaugurated pedestrian bridge addresses long-standing safety concerns, providing a secure crossing and reducing accident risks on the busy highway



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, March 5: The much-awaited foot over bridge (FOB) at Palasuni over National Highway (NH)-16 between Cuttack and Bhubaneswar was inaugurated Wednesday by Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi, addressing a long-pending demand for pedestrian

The FOB, built at an estimatsity due to frequent accidents and fatalities in the area caused by the lack of a safe pedestrian

Speaking at the event, MP Sarangi said, "This FOB will improve infrastructure, reduce traffic congestion, and enhance pedestrian safety.

Additionally, two more FOBs at Tankapani Road and Nakhara will be constructed soon,' she added.

For years, residents of Palasuni had raised concerns over increasing accidents due to wrong-side driving, haphazard parking, and encroachments on

The absence of a pedestrian bridge had made it extremely dangerous for people to cross the highway

Social activist and local resident Natayan Prusty, who had been advocating for the FOB for the last seven years, expressed

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

I, Kirana Mayee Sahu,

D/o- Nityananda Sahu,

W/o- Chandrahasya

Bijegangadharpur,

P.O.- Mouda, P.S.-

Bhadrak(R), Dist.-

Bhadrak, PIN-756181,

Odisha declare by this

known as Kiran Mayee

affidavit No. 475 dtd.

05.03.2025 that now

onwards I shall be

Sahu for all future

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before Executive Magistrate,

Bhubaneswar dated 04.03.2025. I,

Sridhar Behera,

Address At: Dalakhai

Chhak, Jharapada,

Bhubaneswar, PO:

I have changed my

Budheswari Colony,

Dist: Khordha, Odisha,

PIN:751006 declare that

daughter's name from

Madhusmita Behera to

Priyanka Priyadarsini

Behera. Henceforth,

Sridhar Behera

she shall be known as

Priyanka Priyadarsini

Behera for all purposes.

purposes.

Nayak, Vill-

reforms through **ANKUR** initiative

ban innovation, collaboration, and good governance

The meeting brought together senior officials from the department, urban experts, and partner organisations in order to plan and strategise Odisha's urban development, in alignment with the broader vision of 'Viksit Odisha 2036' and 'Viksit Bharat 2047'.

of sustainable urbanisation.

At the meeting, Padhee knowledge-sharing, climate-resilient," she added

With a clear roadmap for scaling best practices, strengthening institutions, and leveraging technology, ANKUR is poised to be a catalyst for transformative urban reforms. The initiative will drive capacity-building, sustainable infrastructure, and digital interventions, accelerating Odisha's



is under sanction for track

safety fencing works between

Titilagarh and Lakholi and be-

tween Bolangir-Theruvali-Sin-

For Khurda Road Division

₹388.85 crore has been sanc-

tioned for track safety fencing

works for 1025.3km stretch

that includes 797.3km in

Bhadrak-Palasa and Khurda

Road-Puri Rail Sections and

228km in Nergundi-Kerajang

In next phase, a proposal is in

place for safety fencing in the

Jakhapura-Kendujhargarh-Nay-

agarh Railway Section and

other sensitive locations over

Khurda Road Railway Division.

Rail Sections.

gapur road rail sections.

Safety fencing works continue over ECoR

relief at its completion. "Many lives were lost due to the lack of a proper pedestrian crossing. We fought for this for years, and today, we finally have a

safe passage," he said. MP Sarangi has been actively involved in improving road infrastructure in the region. Recently, she also inaugurated a long-awaited flyover near Hanspal on NH-16 to address traffic congestion and reduce accidents. "With the opening of the flyover, travel time between Cuttack and Bhubaneswar will decrease, and safety will improve significantly," she noted.

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) had earlier directed the construction of at least four FOBs and a flyover at Khurda Road. These include one near Rajdhani College at Baramunda and two at Manguli on the

Chandikhole-Jagatpur-Bhu-

baneswar section of NH-16,

with a combined estimated cost

As part of broader traffic

management initiatives, the

The projects, undertaken through the Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) mode, are designed to improve road safety, ease traffic congestion, and provide a smoother, more secure commuting experience for residents

and travelers.

POST NEWS NETWORK

its jurisdiction.

Bhubaneswar, March 5: In

a significant move to enhance

railway safety and to facilitate

increased train speeds, East

Coast Railway (ECoR) has ini-

tiated safety fencing projects at

various railway sections across

A total of 2792km of safety

Apart from this, ₹207 crore

fencing work, at a cost of ₹865

crore along railway tracks over

ECoR has been undertaken.

Advances in urban

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 5: In a major step towards sustainable and future-ready cities, Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) principal secretary Usha Padhee chaired a high-level meeting on the Atal Network for Knowledge, Urbanisation and Reforms (ANKUR)—a transformative initiative aimed at fostering ur-

Discussions focused on accelerating urban growth, alleviating poverty, strengthening infrastructure resilience, and promoting inclusive governance-some of the key pillars

highlighted the importance of policy innovation and phasising ANKUR's role in bridging expertise, fostering partnerships, and implementing forward-thinking urban solutions. "The initiative seeks to enhance data-driven decision-making, smart governance, and community participation, ensuring cities are efficient, equitable, and

urban evolution.

Blind women archery competition logo unveiled

IN MEMORIAM: Over 100 students participated in the 19th Marathon and 14th Walkathon, organised by the Odisha Veteran Sports Persons Association

to mark the 109th Biju Jayanti in Cuttack, Wednesday. The event, led by former minister Ranendra Pratap Swain, saw participation from students and

adults. A prize distribution ceremony at Sarala Bhawan honoured footballer Bijay Das, gymnast Sameer Dutta, and athlete Usha Rani Mishra

Bhubaneswar, March 5: Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida unveiled the logo for India's first Blind Women Archery Competition at her residence on the eve of International Women's Day.

The event, scheduled for March 8 at the National Career Service Centres for Differently Abled (NCSCDA) premises in Pokhariput, aims to promote inclusivity in sports.

Organised by Bullseye, a non-profit dedicated to inclusive sports, the competition is supported by the department of Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD) and the CSCDA, Government of India. Over 50 visually impaired women have already registered for the event.

The logo, launched with the tagline "Focus on Ability, Not Disability," underscores the competition's mission to empower visually impaired athletes.

Speaking at the unveiling Parida praised the initiative, calling it "a remarkable step in recogniding the talent and resilience of visually impaired athletes while breaking barriers in sports." She also commended the organisers for their efforts in fos-



The event was attended by Bullseye chairman Trilochan Beura, advisors Rashmi Ranjan Sahoo and Shibani Sashikanta Mohanty, and treasurer Priy-

Beura expressed optimism stating, "Our goal is to provide a platform where visually impaired women can showcase their skills and receive the recognition they deserve.

CTC

WEATHER

Humidity

DOLLAR

EURO

GOLD

SILVER

IGNOU Bhub holds 38th convocation

Bhubaneswar, March 5: The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) Bhubaneswar regional centre held its 38th convocation at the MKCG Auditorium at Utkal University, Wednesday.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan virtually joined the event from IGNOU's head office in New Delhi as the chief guest and highlighted the university's role in making quality education accessible

and affordable. "IGNOU is a state-of-the-art institution that provides higher education at a low cost to millions across India. The degrees and diplomas awarded today represent the fulfilment of dreams for students and their

families," Pradhan said. IGNOU vice-chancellor Uma Kanjilal congratulated the

meritorious students and

commended the dedication of the teaching and non-teaching staff.

Utkal University VC Sabita Acharya, the guest of honour, lauded IGNOU's efforts in providing flexible learning opportunities. "Convocation is a momentous occasion that acknowledges the hard work and achievements of learners. With over 6,000 students receiving certificates today, IGNOU Bhubaneswar continues to play a crucial role in expanding access to education," she said.

IGNOU's senior regional director Suresh Kumar Tripathy praised the students for their outstanding performance. "This success is the result of the collective efforts of students, parents, academic counsellors,

and staff," he noted. Three students from the Bhubaneswar centre—Sipra Sonali Das (MA in Education), Saurabh Kumar Ghana (MA in History), and Gourav Kumar (MA in Economics)—secured AIR Rank 1 and received gold medals.

Rainfall **FORECAST** Fog or mist in the **MARKET WATCH** SENSEX **73730.23** A 740.30 22337.30

5th FLO Utkal Awards honour women

Recognising exceptional contributions of women across diverse fields, inspiring empowerment and leadership

RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, March 5: The Bhubaneswar chapter of FICCI FLO, the women's wing of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FIC-CI), hosted the 5th FLO Utkal Awards 2025 Wednesday, recognising 15 outstanding women for their remarkable contributions across various sectors.

The event was inaugurated by managing director of Ruchi Foodline Sharat Kumar Sahu, as the chief guest. Among the key dignitaries present were FICCI FLO national president Harjinder Kaur Talwar, Jivada Ventures Pvt Ltd MD Dharitri Patnaik, and Frozit founder Rashmi Sahoo.



along with several prominent women entrepreneurs

Addressing the gathering, Patnaik emphasised the significance of honouring women achievers and fostering empowerment. "Since 2021, the FLO

Utkal Awards have been celebrating extraordinary women from diverse fields. This platform not only acknowledges their efforts but also inspires others to establish their own identities," she said.

Expressing gratitude, one of the awardees highlighted the role of FICCI FLO in nurturing women entrepreneurs in Odisha. "The organisation has provided a strong support system through seminars, workshops, and networking events, helping women connect, learn, and grow," noted Rashmi Sahoo.

This year's theme for International Women's Day, 'Accelerating Action,' aligns with FLO's mission of driving women's entrepreneurship and leadership.

Over the years, the awards have spotlighted incredible talent, encouraging more women to step forward and make meaningful contributions to society.

Koraput coffee's growth discussed



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 5: Coffee Board chairman MJ Dinesh met Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo at Lok Seva Bhawan Wednesday to discuss strategies for enhancing Koraput coffee production and market reach.

Singh Deo emphasised the need to boost coffee production, improve infrastructure, and expand retail outlets. As a token, he was presented with a coffee

packet and a book on coffee.

₹97,519 🛕

Koraput coffee, known for its rich flavor, has gained global recognition. Alongside Koraput, coffee is now cultivated in Rayagada, Gajapati, Kalahandi Kandhamal, and Keonjhar.

The department's principal sec retary Arabinda Kumar Padhee, Coffee Board joint director Shiva kumar Swamy, Odisha nodal officer Upendra Kumar Shah, Coffee Board member Manoj Dubey, and PRM Ravichandran were also pres ent, discussing collaborative efforts to strengthen state's coffee sector.

SSIFIED BOOKING 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.

Gahirmatha turning turtle graveyard Two students fall to death

Kendrapara, March 5: Despite a fishing ban, turtles continue to die intermittently at Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary (GMS), world's largest nesting beach for rare Olive Ridley sea turtles, according to a recent report.

The reasons are many, as the globally renowned Gahirmatha has reported the deaths of 197 Olive Ridley turtles in the past four months, according to the latest report by the forest department. The carcasses have been found buried in the sand, though environmentalists fear the actual number of deaths could be much higher. Dead turtles have also been found scattered along the coastline.

Despite strict restrictions in the protected zone, illegal incursions by fishing boats and trawlers persist. Authorities have taken action, confiscating 30 boats and arresting 247 fishermen in the past four months. However, the swift release of seized boats and the prompt granting of bail to the accused have undermined the effectiveness of the restrictions, environmentalists say. As a result, the GMS has become an unprotected and dangerous zone for the rare turtles.

Nature lover Manoj Kumar

Nayak said that the Gahirmatha marine zone has been under a fishing ban from November 2024 to May 2025 to protect the nesting of Olive Ridley turtles. During this period, the forest department, marine police, and the Coast Guard are expected to enforce strict surveillance to ensure marine conservation. However, the unregulated movement of boats and trawlers has led to a significantly higher number of turtle deaths than reported by the forest department. Despite a high court order, most boats and trawlers still do not use turtle excluder devices (TEDs). Additionally, the boats operated by the forest department are mostly underpowered and in poor condition, alleged Nayak.

Previously, impounded boats and trawlers were not released until the end of the restricted fishing period. However, now, seized vessels are being promptly released by the courts, allowing their owners to resume fishing activities, he further said.

Prakash Chandra Das, president of the Marine Life Protection Committee, warned that turtle nesting sites are under threat. Coastal erosion continues in islands such as Babubali. Madali, and Ekakula. The Forest Department had planned separate conservation initiatives to protect these eroding coastal areas, but no concrete action has been taken

Environmentalist Hemant Kumar Rout noted that Olive Ridlev turtles used to nest along the Chandrabhaga and Ramachandi coasts. However, due to habitat destruction and illegal fishing activities in trawlers, mass nesting of these turtles has not occurred in the region since 2012. Given that only one in 1,000 eggs typically survives to adulthood, their protection is crucial.

Illegal use of gill nets, unauthorized settlements in the protected Bhitarkanika region, and prawn farming enclosures are further endangering the Olive Ridley population, Rout said.

When contacted, Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) Manas Kumar Das stated that dedicated surveillance measures are in place. Over the past four months, 30 boats and trawlers, along with 247 unauthorized intruders, have been apprehended. Independent camps and marine patrolling efforts are ongoing in Babubali and Madali islands, with more than 50 personnel deployed around the clock. Forest personnel have collected 255 turtle eggs from sporadic nesting sites, and additional support is expected from the Coast Guard and marine police,

Berhampur, March 5: Two students were killed after the biker lost control, hit a tree, and plunged into a canal at Pandiajholi under Kukudakhandi block in Ganjam district Tuesday night.

The deceased were identified as Kshyamaprasad Gouda, 15, son of Rabindra Gauda, and Pritam Sethi, 14, son of Sushant Sethi, of Pandiajholi village under Rohigan panchayat.

Kshyamaprasad was appearing for his HSC exam, with the final paper scheduled for Thursday, while Pritam was a student of Class IX.

Their parents had high hopes for their education, but their dreams were

Route

Titlagarh

01.



shattered with the deaths. The duo was cremated at the village crematorium Wednesday.

According to reports, Kshyamaprasad had returned home after his examination. Tuesday Around 9 p.m., he borrowed a bike from his cousin and took Pritam along for a ride. Two other minors followed them from

Sambalpur's

Dtd. 30.06.201

letter No.

As they crossed the main canal bridge of the Rushikulva river, which lacked a guard wall, the motorcycle crashed into a tree, sending them plunging nearly 25 feet down into the canal.

Villagers rushed to the spot and pulled Kshyamaprasad and Pritam out in critical condition and rushed them to MKCC Medical College and Hospi tal in Berhampur. However, doctors at the hospital pronounced both dead on

Sadar Police seized the submerged motorcycle and handed over the bodies to the respective family mem bers after a post-mortem. A case has been registered in connection with the inci

Vet attacked by jumbo herd during treatment of female elephant

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Balasore, March 5: A veterinary doctor was attacked and injured by a herd of jumbos while he was treating an ailing elephant in a forested area in Balasore district, an officer said Wednesday.

The veterinarian was hospitalised after the incident, he said. The incident happened in the Kuldiha Reserve Forest Tuesday when a team of forest officials and the doctor went to the forest to rescue and treat an ailing female elephant. The elephant got stuck in the mud after falling off an embankment near Risia Lake, the forest officer said.

All of a sudden, a herd of wild elephants reached the spot. Apprehending danger, the jumbos chased the rescue team

The veterinary doctor of the Nilagiri Veterinary Hospital, Subhasis Mohapatra, fell while escaping from the spot and was attacked by a jumbo, he said.

The others, however, man-

aged to run away from the spot. The forest officials managed to rescue the injured doctor and transported him to the district headquarter hospital in Balasore. Later, he was shifted to the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack and his condition was critical, the forest officer added.

Man bludgeoned to death over suspicion of sorcery



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir/Gudvella, March 5: A man was brutally killed in an organised attack by his neighbors, allegedly over suspicions of sorcery and witchcraft, at Atagaon village under Tushura police limits in Bolangir

district Tuesday night. The victim was identified as Shyamsundar Bag, 45, son of Yugadhar Bag. Four persons from both families sustained critical injuries in the clash. They were identified as the victim's parents, Yugadhar and Radhika Bag, and Balgopal Rana and his mother, Tripura Rana, from the neighbor's family. They have been admitted to Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital

and are undergoing treatment. Tushura police registered a case following a complaint by the victim's wife, Subhakanti, and launched an investigation. Five persons from the neighbour

Rana's family were arrested and interrogated in connection with the incident. They were identified as Sarat Rana, Tripura Rana, Sushil Rana, Balgopal Rana, and Ranjan Rana. Bolangir SP

Abhilash G visited Atagaon vil-

lage Wednesday to oversee the

police investigation. Sources indicate that a longstanding dispute existed between the Bags and Ranas in the village. The situation escalated Tuesday night when members of the Rana family accused the Bags of practicing witchcraft, alleging that it was the cause of their family members' illness. As tensions rose, a heated argument ensued between the two families, leading to a violent altercation. Shyamsundar Bag protested against the accusations, but the dispute quickly turned into a physical assault. The attack by the Rana family reportedly resulted in

Shyamsundar's death. Bolangir SP informed the media that the murder may have been driven by suspicions related to witchcraft. A police team from Tushura police station seized the axe and other weapons used in the crime. Reports suggest that Bag was first attacked with an axe and then

bludgeoned to death with stones. A forensic team arrived at the crime scene Wednesday and launched an investigation.

Anger over frequent transfers of officials



POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, March 5: The Chhatrapur Block Chairman and panchayat members have alleged that Junior Engineers and panchayat-level workers are being frequently transferred due to undue political pressure. They claim these transfers are causing significant delays in daily government affairs and fueling public resentment.

Chhatrapur was recognized as the best block in the country during a national event last year, as declared by the Central government. The block also received a cash prize of ₹2 crore for various development projects. However, the Sarpanch and panchavat members have raised concerns that the funds have yet to be utilized after being handed over to the Block Development Officer.

Frustrated by these irregularities and political interference, a team led by Block Chairman Kiran Kumari Dash, along with panchayat members, recently submitted a petition to Additional District Magistrate Pramod Kumar Prusty at the district collectorate in

Chhatrapur. Thev are demanding appropriate action at the district administration

PR-1040/P/24-25 PUBLIC NOTICE

EAST COAST RAILWAY

PUBLIC NOTICE

The following 'C' class manned level crossing will be closed permanently fo

road users since a Limited Height Subway (LHS) has been constructed at

Kilometer

of LC

Railway Manned/

Manned

Divisional Engineer (South)

this level crossing. Road users may please note this notice w.e.f. 15.03.2025.

JT-119 716/4-5

LC

Between

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stations No.

This is for information to all that Barrister Ranjit Mohanty Trust (BRM Trust) proposed to sale its landed property situated in Mouza: Pubasasan, Plot No.-1744 & 1746, Area A1.10 decimal. If any person / organisation has any Due / Objection / Claim are requested to contact us in the below mentioned address within 15 days of this Notice.

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Mastercanteen, Station Square, Bhubaneswar-751001, Phone:7008390931, E-mail: puhan1@rediffmail.com

NAME OF WORK: TRD RELATED
WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH THE
WORK OF "PROVISION OF SHUNTING

EAST COAST RAILWAY

OF EXISTING SHUNTING NECK A SAMBALPUR (SRP) END OF R/7 FOR Approx. Cost : ₹ 1,62,08,655.19, EMD

₹ 2,31,100/-, Completion Period : 09 Tender Closing Date and Time : At 153

Complete information including e-tende available in website : www.ireps.gov.in

Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued fo this tender. The tenderers/bidders mus have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal Only registered tenderer/bidder car participate on e-tendering. Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD)

(A Govt. of Odisha Undertaking) Central Workshop, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar - 751010 (Odisha), Tel - 0674: 2580107 E-mail: gmocclcws@gmail.com No.CAD-

(GSTIN-21AAACO2571K2ZM) "e" - Procurement Notice No. 56/OCCL/2024-25 (on-line)

Supply of casting items (Aluminium Bronze bushes) for 130T Rope Drum Hoist for Spillway Type of work Radial gates of Kanupur Irrigation Projects (Phase-III) Total No. of work 01 (One) 60 (Sixty) days Period of supply:

dentification on-line transfer (Including GST) through of tender of Bid on-line transfer system Rs 7 080/- (No General Manager (Mech. OCCL-07.03.2025 MECH/CWS 10.00 A.M. to OCC Ltd., Central refundable) 10.00 A.M Workshop, Rasulgarh, 17.03.2025 05.00 P.M. Date of opening of the Technical Bid: 18.03.2025 at 11.30 A.M

Further details can be seen from the Govt. website (www.tendersodisha.gov.in)

Amendment/corrigendum/cancellation, if any shall be posted on-line only.

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E-AUCTION

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Sale of Immovable property/ies mortgaged to Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and

Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No. 54 of 2002)

Whereas, the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank had taken possession of the following property/ies pursuant to the notice issued under Sec 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 in the following loan accounts with right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS", "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WITHOUT ANY RECOURSE BASIS" for realization of Bank's dues plus interest as detailed hereunder and whereas consequent upon failure to repay the dues, the undersigned in exercise of power conferred under section 13(4) of the said Act proposes to realize the Bank's dues by sale of the said property/ies. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website https://www.baanknet.com.

	SI. No.	BHANCH / Name & Address of Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagors	Description of the Immovable Property	Notice / Date of Possession Notice/ Outstanding Dues	/ EMD / Bid Increment Amount		
	,.	All part and parcel of Property Land & Buildir Storrower: Mr. Chilukuri Satyanarayana, 6/0: Venkat Narayana, Bhaludungri, Dulampur, Attabira, Dist.: Bargarh-768111 Co-Borrower: Mrs. Chilukuri Satyavati, Dulampur, Attabira, Dist.: Bargarh-768111 Co-Borrower: Mrs. Chilukuri Satyavati, Dulampur, Attabira, Dist.: Bargarh-768111 Area: Ac.0.04 dec., Plot No.: 2630, Area: Ac.0.04 dec., Plot		07.05.2018 / 16.11.2018 / ₹ 27,46,707/- as on 28.02.2025 + further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon	₹15,90,000/- / ₹1,59,000/- ₹10,000/-		
	2.	Area: Ac 0.03 Dec, Plot No.: 2636, Area: A Plot No.: 2670, Area: Ac 0.14 Dec., in To : Attabira, Tahasil: Attabira, Dist.: Bargarh, Mr.Chilukuri Satyanarayana, Bounded by North: Plot No.: 2635, 2636, 2640, South:	Building situated at Khata No.: 754, Plot No.: 2627/3936, Area: Ac.0.10 dec., Khata No.: 931/3, Plot No.: 2627/3856, Area: Ac.0.10dec., Total Area: Ac.0.20dec., Mouza: Dulampur, P.S.: Attabira, Tahasil: Attabira, Dist.: Bargarh, belonging to Mr. Chilukuri Satyanarayana , S/o: Chilikuri Venkat Narayana, Bounded by East: Plot No.: 2643, West: Plot No.: 2630, North: Plot No.: 2626, South: Plot No.: 2941, Ing situated under Khata No.: 568, Plot No.: 2637, Ac 0.55 Dec., Plot No.: 2638, Area: Ac.0.10 Dec, tal Area: Ac.0.82 Dec. , Mouza: Dulampur, P.S.: belonging to Mr. Chilukuri Venkata Rao , S/o: East: Plot No.: 2669, West: Owner's Property, Plot No.: 2672	07.05.2018 / 16.11.2018 / ₹ 35,34,257/- as on 28.02.2025 + further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon	(1) ₹4,70,000/- / ₹47,000/- / ₹10,000/- (2) ₹2,80,000/- / ₹1,000/-		
	DATE AND TIME OF E-AUCTION: 24.03.2025 from 11.00 AM to 5.00 PM with unlimited extension of 10 Minutes duration						
1	LACT DATE AND TIME FOR CURRICCION OF THE AND DOCUMENTS ON OR DEFORE 24 02 2025 05 20 DM h.v. caling						

LAST DATE AND TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF EMD AND DOCUMENTS ON OR BEFORE 21.03.2025 upto 05.30 PM by online Date & Time of Inspection of Properties: from 17.03.2025 to 17.03.2025 between 10.00 AM to 4.00 PM (with prior appointment from bank) at their own expenses TERMS & CONDITIONS: 1) For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer to the link: https://www.baanknet.com rospective bidders may also contact the Authorised Officers / Branch as mentioned in above list., 2) This is a statutory 15 days sale notice to the above mentioned borrowers/guarantors under Rule 9(1) of the SARFAESI Act. 2002, 3) This is a 15 days notice to the Borrower / Guarantor / Mortgagor of the above said loan about holding of this sale on the above mentioned date., 4) All expens relating the stamp duty and registration of Sale Certificate/conveyance, if any, shall be borne by the successful bidder. 5) The Authorized Officer will not be held responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrance, property tax or any other dues to the Government or anybody in respect of the property under sale. 6) The Authorized Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject any bid or adjourn/postpone/cancel the sale without assigning any reason thereof. It may be noted that nothing in this notice constitute of deemed to constitute any commitment or representation on the part of the bank to sell the property.

STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 9(1) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002.

Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors are hereby notified to pay the total dues along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of E-Auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/ sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest & cost. Place: Sambalpur, Date: 05.03.2025 Sd/-Authorised Officer, Indian Bank

Steel strength: Women closing gender gap at RSP



RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela, March 5: Women across industries are breaking barriers, stepping into roles once considered beyond their reach, and proving their mettle in high-risk zones, according to a report.

From construction sites to factory floors, they are challenging stereotypes and excelling in fields that demand both physical and mental

strength. The steel industry, long dominated by men, is no exception. Here, too, women are playing a crucial role in production, operations, and innovation. Amid the heat, the heavy plates, and the hum of machinery, three remarkable

women-Mamata Patra and Rojni Kindo, both operator-cum-technicians (OCTs), and Pritilata Karar, an operator in the new plate mill at Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP)-are proving that steel is not just forged in furnaces but built with resilience

Mamata and Rojni have been part of the pulpit since its commissioning, ensuring wavy plates are leveled to perfection. Pritilata joined in 2019, already a trailblazer as the first woman crane operator at the

For these women, every day presents a challenge, but they embrace it with pride. "It's not easy managing both home and work," Mamata says. "There were days when I'd fin-

ish my shift and rush home to take care of my baby, barely catching my breath. But I love what I do.'

The toughest days came during Covid-19 when only one person was allowed inside the control room at a time. "I was alone, handling everything. Sometimes up to 60 plates a day," Rojni recalls. "It was exhausting, but we didn't let the work stop.'

Their job extends beyond leveling plates. They conduct inspections, prepare reports, manually paint and punch plates, oversee grinding inspections, and even operate the plate turnover device. The work is demanding and requires precision.

"I feel proud when I see these massive plates taking shape under my hands," Pritilata says. "People are surprised to hear that women run such a critical part of the mill. But why not? We have proved we can do it just as well.

Their journey hasn't been without hurdles, but they stand strong alongside their male colleagues, shaping steel and shattering stereotypes. Their story isn't just about ma-

chinery and production but about the grit, passion, and the fire within. It's about proving that women can thrive anywhere, even in the heart of a steel plant, where strength is measured not just in metal, but in determination.





The great are strongest when they stand alone, A God-given might of being is their force."

SRI AUROBINDO



Ian Buruma

and Asian

coalition of

autocracies -

Russia, China,

Iran, and North

Korea – their

threatens to

withdraw its

leaving little time

to rebuild a solid

protector

backing,

defense

Just as European

democracies must

confront a hostile

Pax Americana Ends

he end of Pax Americana is clearly in sight. While this has long been the goal of many leftists battling "American imperialism," it is not really all that strange that a US government of right-wing zealots ultimately took a wrecking ball to the world order. America's far right was always more isolationist than its liberal establishment. The question is how America's main allies in Europe and East Asia, dependent on the United States for their security, will react.

European leaders have hastily convened meetings where many brave words were spoken. Kaja Kallas, the European Union's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, wrote on X that the "free world needs a new leader," and that "it's up to us, Europeans, to take this challenge." British Prime Minister Keir Starmer spoke of a "once-in-a-generation moment," and promised to work with France, the only other European country with nuclear weapons, to help reach a just ceasefire for Ukraine. Most remarkable of all was the statement by Friedrich Merz, Germany's presumptive chancellor and formerly a staunch Atlanticist, that Europe needed "to achieve independence from the US.'

The best we can hope for is that US President Donald Trump's betray-

al of America's traditional allies, humiliation of Ukraine, encouragement of right-wing extremism, and embrace of belligerent autocrats will push Europe an and East Asian democracies to form new defense alliances. The need for a new order is indisputable. But so, too, are the hurdles.

The EU is not a military power, and it is doubtful that a "coalition of the willing" led by the United Kingdom and France can make up for the withdrawal of US security guarantees. Even if European countries find a way to build a military alliance capable of replacing the US-led NATO, doing so will take years. And this won't succeed without the leadership of Germany, the bloc's largest economy.

In 2011, Polish Foreign Minister Radek Sikorski told a German audience in Berlin that he feared "German power less than German inaction." Many Europeans in countries that once suffered a brutal Nazi occupation would probably agree with that sentiment. But it might not be shared by enough Germans, who are still nervous about reviving a military disposition that ruined much of Europe - including Germany itself - not so long ago. Others in the country have embraced a pro-Russia stance. In Germany's recent federal election, the far-right Alternative für Deutschland, which is sympathetic to Trump and Russian President Vladimir

Putin, and opposed to supporting Ukraine, finished second.

In East and Southeast Asia, the situation is even more fraught, Unlike Britain and France, none of America's Asian allies has nuclear weapons. And there is no equivalent of NATO to protect against China's increasing dominance. America's richest ally, Japan, is utterly dependent on US security guarantees, as is South Korea, which is under constant threat from the nuclear-armed dictatorship in North Korea, America's backing is also crucial for Southeast Asian countries seeking to shield themselves from Chinese aggression.

And then there is Taiwan, which has no formal security pact with the US at all. If Trump is prepared to sacrifice Ukraine to make a deal with Putin, he might be just as inclined to barter away Taiwan's democracy to do business with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

If Pax Americana were to end in East and Southeast Asia, the only way to stop China from turning its neighbors into vassals would be to create an Asian NATO. This would include democracies such as South Korea, Taiwan, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines, but also some semi-democracies (Singapore and Thailand) and perhaps even some autocracies (Vietnam).

But this organisation would encounter a problem similar to the one facing a European alliance. Japan is the only country powerful $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) +\left(1\right)$ enough to lead such a disparate coalition. But many in Asia are wary of giving such a large role to a country long governed by a conservative party whose leaders have been reluctant to acknowledge their forebears' horrific actions in World War II. And most Japanese – like many Germans – are not quite ready to trust themselves.

Pax Americana in Asia and Europe had to end at some point. An arrangement whereby many wealthy countries depend wholly on one superpower for their security was never a healthy long-term arrangement. But the timing and manner of its demise could not be worse. Just as European and Asian democracies must confront a hostile coalition of autocracies - Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea - their protector threatens to withdraw its backing, leaving little time to rebuild

What might happen instead, despite all the fine sentiments, is that America's forsaken allies will panic and run for cover, pleading for protection from one the great powers. The South Koreans and Southeast Asians might look to China. The British could lean into their "special relationship" with the US, whereas the Germans – and perhaps even the French, if Marine Le Pen wins the next presidential election – might appeal to Russia. And Japan, left high and dry, could overcome its post-Hiroshima allergy to nuclear armament.

None of this is a given. Perhaps the Europeans will get their act together. Perhaps Trump's bark is worse than his bite. Perhaps the Americans won't withdraw from Asia. But no one should count on any of this happening. The major democracies in Europe and Asia are now the only bulwark against authoritarianism. And the onus of defending political freedom will be placed largely on the two countries, Germany and Japan, that once did so much to destroy them.

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

WISDOM CORNER

God could not be everywhere, and therefore he made mothers.

In the long run, the sharpest weapon of all is a kind and gentle

Tradition becomes our security, and when the mind is secure it

FOCUS PHARMA SECTOR

TARIFFS WON'T HIT TOO HARD

Institute estimated that by 2020 India needs to create at least 90 million new non-farm jobs to accommodate fresh migrants into the labour force as also workers who move from agriculture to non-agricultural jobs. If the manufacturing sector is boosted in a big way this would help revive the economy but would make the job creation challenge substantially bigger. The traditional view that high-profile software industry can fill up the gap may not be fully correct. One may mention here the case of the pharma sector which has grown by leaps and bounds in the country.

India has emerged as the largest maker of antibiotics, anti-malarial, anti-TB, paracetamol and other medicines. There is a need for rapid expansion of the pharma sector, both for domestic production and exports. In this connection, there is a necessity for creating 50 large pharma parks with pre-approved environment clearances. Also, investment in creating global standards strain for developing active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) has to be considered. Poor quality strains have affected the sector, and the companies have to be quality-conscious. Added to all this, strengthening R&D at all levels is necessary to support firms and expand the patent portfolio.

pharmaceutical India's industry has gained international recognition as the "Pharmacy of the World," particularly for its imperative role in supplying vaccines, essential medicines, and medical supplies during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. During the pandemic, the country demonstrated its ability to be a consistent and reliable pharma supplier to the world even during times of crisis.

The sector has showcased its innovative capabilities and established itself as a crucial global pharmaceutical val-



With a 10-12% growth rate, India's pharmaceutical sector is expected to reach \$100 billion by 2025, fuelled by its robust domestic manufacturing base

ue chain member. With the help of various schemes and reforms. India's pharmaceutical exports increased from \$2.13 billion in July 2023 to

\$2.31 billion in July 2024. Collaboration between public and private research institutions and increased funding and government support are essential for driving further growth and innovation. Further, initiatives such as the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme and the Bulk Drug Park, in alignment with the "Make in India" campaign, foster an environment conducive to investment. innovation, and business development in the pharmaceutical sector. Through the PLI scheme, the government hopes to increase investment and production. The scheme is expected to generate incremental sales of \$37.09 billion in six years from FY23.

Growth in the Indian pharmaceutical industry is driven by metropolitan cities, tier-I cities, and rural markets, each accounting for approximately 30% of the market share. It is heartening to note that the domestic pharma industry may not be significantly impacted by potential US retaliatory tariffs as most exports to the US include lowcost, price inelastic generics that are in constant demand. Indian pharma exports to the US, valued nearly \$10 billion,

mainly include oral formulations and it is understood that any additional cost burden due to tariffs would likely be shared between consumers, healthcare providers and domestic companies. The US accounts for nearly a third of India's pharma exports, mainly cheaper versions of popular drugs with sales jumping 16%

to about \$9 billion last fiscal. India has been a major supplier to the US, providing over 45% of its generic medicines, driven by an ageing population and demand for cost-effective healthcare. As the Indian pharmaceutical industry has been playing a vital role in ensuring affordable and quality-assured medicines, not only in the US but in many Western countries, the demand has been constantly increasing.

Though reciprocal tariffs have been suggested, most experts believe that Indian generics are in great demand because of the cost factor and this is expected to continue in the coming days, irrespective of tariffs. Some analysts have stated that the effect will be more on innovators than generics as the latter are low in value. If tariffs are imposed, some of these will be passed on or absorbed by the seller.

India has the highest number of United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) compliant companies with plants outside of the USA.

companies are from India and over 55% of the exports from the country are to highly regulated markets. In fact, India is the biggest vaccine exporter, about 65-70% of the World Health Organisation (WHO) vaccine requirements being sourced from India.

India's share of pharmaceuticals and drugs in the global market is a little over 5.71%. Formulations and biologics constituted the major portion of India's exports with a share of 72.54% followed by drug intermediates and bulk drugs. In FY25 (until June 2024), the exports of drugs and pharmaceuticals stood at \$7.20 billion, which may exceed \$15 billion this fiscal.

Pharmaceutical exports of India extend to both developed and developing countries and with enhanced research and development efforts, the industry is poised to usher in a new era of drug manufacturing and testing. India ranks third in the world in production of drugs and pharmaceuticals by volume and exports to approximately 200 countries and territories. The top five destinations for these exports are the USA, Belgium, South Africa, the UK, and Brazil. With a 10-12% growth rate, India's pharmaceutical sector is expected to reach \$100 billion by 2025, fuelled by its robust domestic manufacturing base. India majorly exports drug formulations and these products contribute to about 75% of the total pharmaceutical exports

Also, India's biotechnology sector increased 13-fold over the past decade, from \$10 billion in 2014 to over \$130 billion in 2024. It is projected to reach \$300 billion by 2030.

out of India.

It goes without saying that India needs to focus on the pharma sector and ensure its unstinted growth in the coming years. Though definite initiatives have been taken by the government, more help, if necessary, may be extended while diversifying export destinations.

SPECTRUM SOCIETY

Dhurjati Mukherjee

STRENGTHENING

NECESSARY TO

SUPPORT FIRMS

AND EXPAND

THE PATENT

PORTFOLIO

R&D AT ALL

LEVELS IS

The building of a colossal dam



Chander Gupta

THERE IS A WELL-ENTRENCHED ECOSYSTEM WHOSE OBJECTIVE IS TO DEFAME AND **EVENTUALLY ERASE NEHRU'S LEGACY**

TO THE EDITOR

are most welcome to contribute letters

requested to send their contact

address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and

suggestions, preferably by email, to:

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Readers of Orissa Post

(100 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

numbers and full postal

columns (between 600-1000)

was infirmly established a thriving power and irrigation require pendence. It has become much disputably the architect **U** of modern India. Nehru had a deep understanding of the Indian civilisation as evidenced by the iconic book 'Discovery of India' authored by him. Heads and shoulders above his contemporaries, Nehru was handed over the reins of a newly decolonised, impoverished, feudalist, orthodox, dogmatic, riots-torn. and partitioned society. He transformed new-born enfeebled India into a secular, modern, institutions-based, forward-looking, thriving democratic nation within a span of less than two decades during which he was the Prime Minister.

Nehru created Indian Institutes of Technologies (IITs), Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), AIIMS, PGI - all of which produced eminent engineers, business management stalwarts, and world-class doctors. Pass-outs from IITs, IIMs, AIIMS are ruling the roost globally. Due to Nehru's visionary initiatives, India had media, assertive judiciary. an independent election commission, vibrant legislatures, in the very first 50 years of Independence. India had earned prestige and influence on the world fora under Nehru's stewardship.

Instead of erecting statues and idols, Nehru preferred to build sustainable infrastructure. In the 1950s, Bhakra Dam was built over the Satluj River. It was the biggest hydro-electric plant at that time. It was a multi-purpose project. The water collected in the dam's reservoir –Gobind Sagar –is used for generating hydroelectric power. The water falling from the high-altitude Gobind Sagar moves the heavy-duty turbines below with its sheer force to generate electricity. The water passing through turbines is subsequently channelled in canals. The water flowing in canals is ultimately used for irrigation.

The Bhakra Dam was envisaged to cater to the needs of undivided Punjab (now Punjab and Haryana) for both ments. When inaugurating the Bhakra Dam, Nehru said such projects were temples of modern India. Incidentally, Nehru is also the creator of the beautiful city of Chandigarh which is now the joint capital of both Punjab and Haryana.

It is unfortunate that false narratives to denigrate Nehru are being spread day and night by ignorant adherents of antithetical ideology. There is a well-entrenched ecosystem whose objective is to defame and eventually erase Nehru's legacy. Nehru passed away in 1964. The followers of the ideology which is at odds with secular ethos and socialist outlook tend to malign Nehru and spread innuendos against him even 60 years after his demise. To camouflage their own sectarian mindset, biased followers of a different worldview deliberately tarnish the image of Nehru and his progeny who succeeded him.

The ecosystem to blame and propagate against Nehru has been working since Indelouder and more widespread in the past decades with the advent of social media. The same mindset tried to discredit Nehru regarding Bhakra Dam, temple of modern India, also.

It was insinuated that the water flowing to irrigation canals after passing through the turbines had been made worthless for irrigation as electricity had been sucked out of it. The gullible people fell into the trap of propaganda deliberately designed to spread misinformation against the Bhakra Dam.

The Bhakra Dam has already served the Punjab belt for more than 60 years now by providing cheap electricity and water for irrigation. Moreover, the Dam protected the Punjab plains from the havoc of floods. Nehru had never tried to hog limelight for building such a colossal dam, that too in 1950s.

> The writer is a retired banker. Views are personal.

Ranji glory

Sir, Vidarbha has won the Ranji Trophy for the third time by beating Kerala in the finals Sunday at Nagpur. It had earlier lifted the trophy in 2017-18 and 2018-19. Besides, the team had reached the finals last year only to lose to Mumbai. Hyderabad, Tamil Nadu and even the mighty Mumbai fell by the wayside unable to match Vidarbha's prowess. Batsmen Karun Nair, Danish Malewar, bowlers Darshan Nalkande, Harsh Dubey and Parth Rekhade excelled for the team in the final. Vidarbha's Ranji Trophy wins have come following detailed planning, an eye for talent and the coaching staff's painstaking effort to spur the team on. Generally, after Kapil Dev's Haryana defeated Mumbai in 1990-91 to lift the crown, Ranji Trophy has ceased to remain the exclusive domain of teams like Mumbai, Karnataka and Delhi,

Long rope

Sir, It is really shocking that the Bombay High Court has stayed a Mumbai special court order for four weeks that directed the Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) to register an FIR against the former Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch and five other SEBI and Bombay Stock Exchange officials in an alleged stock market fraud, regulatory violations, and corruption linked to the listing of a company in 1994! While the Opposition has raised serious charges against Buch for her alleged indulgence in various other irregularities and she was summoned by the Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) that was enquiring into serious allegations against her and she had the audacity to refuse to appear before the PAC, it has come as a rude shock that the honourable Bombay High Court has also allowed her a longer rope instead of taking up her case immediately in the interest of millions of stakeholders. That despite all this, Buch has been allowed to retire without any problem by the government at the Centre is also a case in point.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Tharcius S. Fernando, CHENNAI



TWO STATES





UTTARAKHAND AVALANCHE

Activists blame 'administrative negligence' for workers' death

The weather office in Dehradun issued a yellow alert for February 27, two days in advance, predicting isolated heavy rain and snowfall in locations situated at 3,500 metres and above. However, the State Emergency Operations Centre here alerted the district magistrates concerned February 28 when the avalanche had already hit the camp



Gopeshwar, March 5: Social activists have blamed the death of eight workers in an avalanche that hit a BRO camp at Mana in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district last week on "administrative negligence" and said the lives could have been saved had the authorities paid heed to a snowslide warning.

They also blame "reckless construction" works in avalanche-prone areas for the rise in snowslide incidents

The Chandigarh-based Defence Geoinformatics Research Establishment (DGRE) issued an avalanche warning for a 24-hour period at 5 pm February 27 for places located above the height of 2,400 metres such as Chamoli. Uttarkashi. Rudraprayag. Pithoragarh and Bageshwar districts of Uttarakhand.

The avalanche hit the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) camp in Chamoli between 5.30 am and 6 am February 28, trap-

ping 54 workers. While 46 of

them were rescued alive, eight

were found dead. Atul Sati, a social worker and the convener of Joshimath Bachao Sangharsh Samiti said "administrative negligence" led to the death of the eight workers. "There was an avalanche warning and authorities should have acted on time," he said.

Following the incident, the Uttarakhand government issued an advisory for tourists staying in skiing destination Auli which has no history of avalanches. Sati said and alleged that it looks like an attempt to divert people's attention from the state's failure.

"When there was a warning and the authorities were aware that such a large number of workers were in Mana, why weren't they advised to move

The weather office in Deh radun issued a yellow alert for February 27, two days in advance, predicting isolated heavy rain and snowfall in locations situated at 3,500 metres and above. However, the State **Emergency Operations Centre** here alerted the district magistrates concerned on February 28 when the avalanche had already hit the

camp.

last

years,

Over

dwelling units

ers have been

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avalanches in

the Chamoli

district alone. An avalanche

the

four

two

The latest avalanche has once again brought into focus of BRO workthe failure of authorities to learn from past experiences

MANGALA KOTHIYAL

in April 2021 destroyed a settlement of workers in Niti Valley adjoining the Indo-Tibet border, killing as many labourers.

Experts feel that the snowslides are a result of reckless construction being carried out in avalanche-prone areas.

Renowned geologist MPS Bisht, an expert on weather movements in the Kedar Valley, said the entire area is vulnerable to avalanches that keep coming from the Nar Parvat.

Construction activities are being carried out recklessly even in areas identified for vulnerability without thinking over the consequences, he said. "Disasters are the result of this."

Avalanches occur more during winters in the valleys of the upper Himalayan region where Badrinath and Mana are situated, but they can occur in any season in the snow-clad mountains.

Surveyors or mountaineers visiting these areas stay alert about such disasters. It is also true of the army and paramilitary forces. Winter defence posts are built at such places where the danger of avalanches



KEJRIWAL'S VIPASSANA RETREAT Uttarakhand fares better

Row over AAP chief's 'lavish convoy, VIP culture' in Punjab



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chandigarh, March 5: The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) Wednesday condemned a curfew-like situation for farmers, who were not being allowed to come to the state capital to register protest, even as a red carpet welcome was being accorded to Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convener Arvind Kejriwal with more than 100 vehicles escorting him for a Vipassana session from here to Hoshiarpur.

Asking Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann to explain this state of affairs, senior Akali Dal leader Daljit Singh Cheema said, 'The chief minister should tell why Keiriwal was being accorded a welcome reserved for heads of states when he did not have any constitutional authority and had no relation with Puniab.'

Kejriwal faced intense criticism from all parties for taking a big cavalcade, with BJP leader Tarun Chugh saying, "Arvind Kejriwal has come

with his group to Punjab with the ill-intention of looting the state...In what capacity is a cavalcade of 100 vehicles ac-

companying Kejriwal? How is he holding a meeting of government officials and how is he giving them direction? He can give directions to AAP workers, but Kejriwal, who is out on bail, is giving direc tions to government officials.

AAP Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal equated Keiriwal's cavalcade with US President Donald Trump's security.

"Kejriwal, who criticises the whole world for VIP culture, is today roaming around with a security cover bigger than Donald Trump," she wrote in a post on X.

Former Delhi chief minister Kejriwal and his wife are in the meditation course at the Dhamma Dhaja Vipassana Centre, which began Wednesday The couple will be attending the course for 10 days.

Responding to the visit, the second time since December 2023, Akali Dal former minister Cheema said the Chief Minister should also tell Puniabis why he had invited farmers for talks and then insulted them by walking out of the meeting in a huff when reminded about the promises made by him and his boss Ke jriwal to the farmers over their

Cheema said even as the rights of farmers were being violated, neighbouring states like Rajasthan had announced a bonus of ₹150 per quintal on the

wheat crop. "Punjab farmers have not received the promised minimum minister should tell support price on why Kejriwal was moong and maize being accorded a and have also not welcome reserved been given compenfor heads of states sation for repeated

crop losses.

He also castigat

ed the Chief Min-

ister for trying to

divert attention

from the demands

of farmers by try-

when he did not have any constitutional authority and had no relation with **Puniab**

The chief

DALJIT SINGHCHEEMA

ing to launch a supposed campaign against corruption and drugs. "The truth is that corruption has been institu-

tionalised under the AAP gov ernment even as the political nexus in drug trade has result ed in a sharp increase in drug addiction and overdose-related

Kedarnath, Hemkund Sahib Ji ropeway plans get nod formation and Broadcasting

New Delhi, March 5: The government Wednesday approved two ropeway projects in Uttarakhand -- Sonprayag to Kedarnath and Govindghat to Hemkund Sahib Ji -- at a total cost of ₹6,811 crore to help significantly reduce the travel time to the pilgrimage sites and boost tourism. The construction of these

two ambitious projects is likely to be completed in 4-6 years. The two ropeways will be constructed under the National Ropeways Development Programme - Parvatmala Pari-



The decisions of the Cabinet Committee on Economic

Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, were announced by In-

ropeway is planned to be developed in public-private partnership and will be based on the most advanced Tri-cable Detachable Gondola (3S) technology having the capacity to carry 1,800 passengers per hour per direction (PPHPD), which could ferry 18,000 passengers per day.

The Sonprayag to Kedarnath

than HP in last 2 decades

New Delhi: Uttarakhand performed

better than Himachal Pradesh over

the last two decades as it opted for

planned industrialization in desig-

to its neighbour which asked the

nated Industrial Estates as compared

companies to buy land directly from

said Wednesday. The Paper titled 'The

Great Convergence: A Case Study of IIttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh

growth in the manufacturing sector had a multiplier effect on the overall

(2000 to 2020)' also said that the

economy of Uttarakhand, and its

tax base. Co-authored by Shamika

Ravi (Member, EAC-PM) and Alok Kumar (Principal Secretary, Industria

Development & MSME, Government of

UP), the paper compares the growth

Uttarakahnd (UK) to that of HP over

a neriod of two decades, examining

the impact of Union Government's

identical industrial policies but dis-

outcomes. UK better leveraged the

tinct and different land policies – the

trajectories for economic growth of UK

benefits of CIP, it said. The paper said

that both the hilly states announced near identical industrial policies in

response to the central government's

offer; except one critical difference -

town planning and land policy - where the two states adopted two entirely

Concessional Industrial Package (CIP) for Hill States announced in 2003. With

and economic transformation of

Vaishnaw informed that the 12.4-km ropeway project from Govindghat to Hemkund Sahib Ji too will be developed on DBFOT mode at a total capital cost of ₹2,730.13 crore.

Anti-drone tech to check drug inflow from Pakistan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, March 5: The Punjab government will take the help of anti-drone technology to check smuggling of narcotics and arms from across the border, Cabinet minister Harpal Singh Cheema said

Cheema, who is leading a Cabinet sub-committee to monitor action against the drug menace, and his Cabinet colleague Aman Arora witnessed a demonstration of the anti-drone technology by three companies in Mohali.

Speaking to reporters, Arora said drugs, arms and ammunition are coming from Pakistan as he stressed upon the use of anti-drone technology to check the inflow from across the border.

"It is the primary responsibility of the government of India and the BSF to check smuggling of narcotics and arms and ammunition from across the border." Arora said, adding the Border Security Force (BSF) has 50 km of jurisdiction.

"But we have been seeing over the past many years that the BSF is not getting 100 per cent success (in checking smuggling from across the border),' he claimed.

Referring to the demonstration of the anti-drone technology, Arora said the aim of this initiative is to further strengthen the state's second line of defence to effectively counter the nefarious designs of cross-border terrorism, particularly narco-terrorism.

Cheema said, "We want to make Punjab a drug-free state. We are ready to adopt any technique for this. To use the anti-drone technique, we invited certain companies here.'

The deployment of anti-drone technology will help the state government's anti-drugs campaign in a big way, Cheema added.

"We will adopt the anti-drone technology to curb the smuggling of drugs from Pakistan,' he said, adding, "We will soon deploy this technology with the

Punjab Police". To a question, Cheema said



To protect people from drugs, the state government is ready to go to any extent. We keep hearing that drugs and explosives are coming from across the border. But I want to assure people that with this initiative (roping in anti-drone technology), such incidents will be checked in a big way HARPAL SINGH CHEEMA | CABINET MINISTER, PUNJAB

the Punjab Police will coordinate with central government agencies for the deployment of the anti-drone technology to

check smuggling of drugs. Cheema further said all the three companies demonstrated their cutting-edge technology designed to counter cross-border smuggling of narcotics, arms, and explosives through drones from Pakistan.

He said the anti-drone technologies showcased included portable, mobile, and stationary solutions, each capable of intercepting drones at varying

He said these technologies are designed to disrupt drone movement thus breaking the cross-border drug supply chain.

Police inspect 164 pharmacies

The Punjab Police Tuesday inspected 164 pharmacies to ensure that they were adhering to the prescribed norms regarding the sale of medicines and not selling intoxicant tablets or any other habit-forming drugs. The si multaneous inspections in Hoshiarpur SBS Nagar, Jalandhar Rural, Jalandhar Commissionerate, Kapurthala and Rupnagar district was part of the state government's anti-drugs drive and conducted on the directions of Direc tor General of Police Gaurav Yadav. Police teams also continued cordon and search operations against drugs and conducted raids at 524 locations leading to the arrest of 69 smugglers after the registration of 53 FIRs. The number of total drugs smugglers arrested has reached 472 in four days ne raids resulted in the recovery of 1.5 kilogrammes of heroin, 100 grams of opium, 7,610 intoxicant tablets or injections and ₹1.33 lakh in cash from the arrested smugglers.

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann last week set a deadline of three months to make the state drug-free. The state government also constituted the five-member cabinet sub-committee to monitor action against the scourge of drugs.

NEW EXCISE POLICY

Liquor shops near religious places to be shut down

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dehradun, March 5: The Uttarakhand government has approved a new excise policy for 2025-26 under which all liquor shops located near religious places in the state will be shut down.

Officials said licences granted earlier to liquor shops will be reviewed in the light of the new

excise policy. The state cabinet approved the new excise policy at a meeting chaired by Chief Minister

Pushkar Singh Dhami Monday. It has been decided to cancel the liquor licences of shops near religious places and exercise more control on the sale of liquor, according paramount importance to public sensitivities, Secretary (home) Shailesh Bagauli said

The new policy makes the process for allotment of liquor shops more transparent and beneficial for local people by giving them



self-employment opportunities in the sector, he said.

An effort has also been made in the new policy to provide local farmers with an additional platform to sell their produce to the distilleries

Sub-shops and metro liquor sales system have been abolished in the new excise policy which also makes a provision for cancelling the licences of liquor shops that sell liquor at a price higher than the Maximum

MRP will also be applicable in departmental stores, which will protect the interests of consumers, he said.

nationa

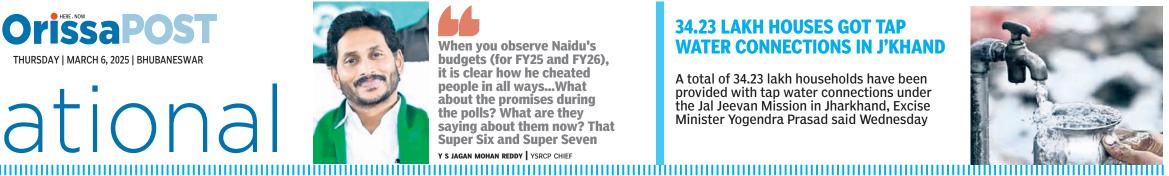


When you observe Naidu's budgets (for FY25 and FY26), it is clear how he cheated people in all ways...What about the promises during the polls? What are they saying about them now? That **Super Six and Super Seven**

Y S JAGAN MOHAN REDDY YSRCP CHIEF

34.23 LAKH HOUSES GOT TAP WATER CONNECTIONS IN J'KHAND

A total of 34.23 lakh households have been provided with tap water connections under the Jal Jeevan Mission in Jharkhand, Excise Minister Yogendra Prasad said Wednesday



To enhance infrastructure, the State Government is developing mul expanding Kangra Airport, constructing new four lanes and heliports to improve connectivity to the visitors which would make Himachal a favourite destination for investment SUKHVINDER SINGH SUKHU | HP CM

Allow your life to go like a river and not like a canal... there was a time when a child was born and parents used to decide what career their child has to choose JAGDEEP DHANKHAR VICE PRESIDENT

In 2023-24, India's GDP grew at a rate of 9.6 per cent, while Uttar Pradesh's GSDP increased by 11.6



YOGI ADITYANATH I UP CM

SHORT **TAKES**

2 workers killed as slab collapses

Bhandara: Two workers were killed and one was injured after a slab collapsed in the Chikhla mines of stateowned Manganese Ore (India) Limited in Maharashtra's Rhandara district Wednesday, an official said. The incident occurred around 9 am during the first shift at a depth of 100 metres in the mines of the public sector undertaking, the Bhandara Disaster Management Office said in a release. Three workers, all permanent employees, were buried under the debris and two of them died at the scene. the release said.

Car runs over four; two dead

Lucknow: A car ran over four people sleeping on a road divider in the Hasangani police station area here early Wednesday, killing two of them and injuring the others police said. Witnesses told police that the SUV's tyres suddenly burst, leading to the driver losing control of the vehicle which ran over the sleeping people before hitting an iron pole. The four persons were taken to King George's Medical University's Trauma Centre where two of them were declared dead, police said, adding the victims have

Landslide damages motor bridge

not been identified yet.

Gopeshwar: A landslide Wednesday damaged the motor bridge connecting Govindghat to Hemkund Sahib Gurudwara and the Valley of Flowers National Park in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand, officials said. The landslide occurred around 10 am, damaging the motor bridge built on the **Badrinath National Highway** for the four-kilometre road leading from Govindghat to Pulna village, beyond which one has to walk to reach the Sikh shrine of Hemkund Sahib and the Valley of Flowers

Another FIR lodged against Ansal Group

National Park, they added.

Ghaziabad (UP): Another FIR was lodged against the Ansal Group in this Uttar Pradesh district Wednesday on a number of charges, including cheating and forgery, police said. Assistant Engineer, **Ghaziabad Development** Authority, Gyan Praksh Dwivedi, who is attached to enforcement zone 5, got the FIR lodged against Ansal Properties and Infrastructure Limited (APIL) at the Crossing Republic police station, they added.

Nitish may switch sides: Kishor



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bettiah (Bihar), March 5: Election strategist-turned-politician Prashant Kishor Wednesday claimed that JD(U) president Nitish Kumar will contest the upcoming Assembly polls in Bihar in alliance with the BJP but may switch sides later, with hopes for another term as the Chief Minister. The Jan Suraaj Party found-

er, who was addressing a press conference in West Champaran district, however, also asserted that the 74-year-old leader had grown too unpopular to enjoy a fifth consecutive term in office "no matter which alliance he becomes a part of". "Anybody can become the Chief Minister in November, after the Assembly elections are over, except Nitish Kumar. You can take it from me in writing. If I am proven wrong then I will give up my own political campaign, Kishor said.

About speculations that Kumar may quit the NDA ahead of the Assembly polls, in view of the BJP's apparent reluctance to declare him as the chief ministerial candidate, the former election strategist said, "He will contest in alliance with the BJP. He has always done so, barring the elections of 2015. when I had handled his campaign." Kishor also claimed that the BJP was wary of declaring

he Jan Suraaj Party founder, who was addressing a press conference in West Champaran district, however, also asserted that the 74-year-old leader had ruling Bihar.' grown too unpopular to enjoy a fifth consecutive term in office "no matter which alliance

Anybody can become the chief minister in November, after the Assembly elections are over, except Nitish Kumar. You can take it from me in writing. If I am proven wrong then I will give up my own political campaign," Kishor said

he becomes a part of"

Kumar as the chief ministerial candidate of the NDA because of his declining popularity.

"I challenge Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to declare that Nitish Kumar will be the Chief M inister for a full five-year term after the elections (if the NDA comes to power). If they do so, the BJP will find it hard to win seats," Kishor said. The former JD(U) national vice president, who was expelled from the party in 2020 following a spat with Kumar, also claimed that the ruling party was "going to do very badly" (in the polls).

"Nitish Kumar may try switching sides after it becomes clear to him that the BJP was not going to back him for another term in office. But the number of seats won by JD(U) would

get the top job, no matter which formation he joins," Kishor pre-

The 47-year-old politician also alleged that the septuagenarian CM was "physically tired and mentally retired", claiming, "Not me, but the late BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi had stated that Nitish Kumar suffers from a serious mental illness. I have been challenging him for long to spell out the names of ministers in his own cabinet, without looking at a piece of paper. He cannot tell the name of the district he is touring unless prompted by officials. It is unfortunate that with such a state of mind, he is

He also maintained that Kumar had "brought disrepute to Bihar by touching the feet of Modi last year, in the presence of many other chief ministers, when the new Union government was being sworn in."

"If he has so much of reverence for the PM, he could have touched the latter's feet in private. But he is resorting to sycophancy merely to keep himself in the chair. Why does he not use his clout with the BJP, which is now dependent on JD(U)'s support to survive in power at the Centre, to revive the moribund sugar industry in Bihar?" Kishor asked. He said the Jan Suraaj Party will enter the fray in a bid to pull Bihar "out of the political rut which has been held hostage for decades by Kumar and his arch-rival Lalu Prasad, the RJD president".

Of course, the BJP and the Congress, which had helped the RJD survive in powers for many years, share the blame for Bihar's plight, he alleged. Criticising the state's much-touted prohibition policy, Kishor said that the ban on liquor in Bihar is yet another example of the



A robot elephant is carried on a van in Kochi. Elephants are important part of many Hindu ceremonies and life-size mechanical replicas are rolled out to replace the endangered animals in various Hindu temples

T'GANA TUNNEL COLLAPSE

Team exploring deployment of robots

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nagarkurnool (Telangana), March 5: Representatives of a robotics company went inside the partially collapsed SLBC tunnel, where eight people have been trapped for the last 12 days, as the state government is exploring the possibility of using robots in the rescue oper ation, officials said Wednesday.

The scientists of the National Centre of Seismology, Delhi, have also gone inside the tunnel, along with rescue teams, to carry out seismic related stud ies, they said.

The team from the Hyderabad-based robotics company examined whether a robo can go deep inside the tunnel and whether it can work there as humidity is high, a senior of-



when project-related work in the tunnel resumes in the future, to ensure structural stability of rocks, he said. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, who visited the tunnel March 2, suggested to the officials leading the rescue operation to use robots inside the tunnel if necessary, to avoid any danger to the rescue personnel.

objectionable photos to the

Without naming Gore, Con-

gress leader Vijay Wadettiwar

said, "The opposition will seek

the resignation of a minister

ued at a brisk pace Wednesday with excavation being carried out at locations suggested by scientists to look for human presence. The drilling is being carried out at other locations based on inputs from scientists at the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) in Hyderabad, who used Ground Pen etrating Radar (GPR) to detect human presence, officials said

However, tough conditions inside the tunnel, including muck and water, have posed challenges for the rescue per sonnel.

Earlier inspections at other locations identified by the scientists did not reveal any signs of human presence.

The services of a sniffer dog of NDRF have also been used for selecting the area to be taken up for digging.

Ayesha Takia's husband booked

over scuffle in Goa

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

"brutally bullied"

Panaji, March 5: Hatred for Maharashtra has reached unbelievable heights in Goa, former actor Ayesha Takia has said after her husband Abu Farhan Azmi was booked for an altercation at a supermarket in Candolim in north Goa. She

said her husband and son were

On Tuesday, police in Goa

Er Rashid seeks custody parole to attend Parl Mar 7

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 5: Jailed Jammu and Kashmir MP Engineer Rashid Wednesday sought custody parole to attend the upcoming Parliament session, claiming he was not a security

Rashid's counsel made the submission before additional sessions judge Chander Jit Singh, who reserved the verdict for March 7 after hearing arguments on the plea. The plea seeking Rashid's interim bail or custody parole was filed by advocate Vikhyat Oberoi February 27, following which the court sought the National Investigation Agency's (NIAs) response March 3 The counsel previously argued that Rashid was seeking custody parole being a parliamentarian and needed to attend the upcoming session to fulfil his public duty. Custody parole entails a prisoner being escorted by armed police personnel to the place of visit. Oberoi said the Delhi High Court had granted custody parole for two days enabling Rashid to attend the parliamentary sessions.

Oppn parties seek Jaykumar Gore's resignation

Mumbai, March 5: Opposition parties in Maharashtra Wednesday demanded the resignation of BJP minister Jaykumar Gore over allegations of harassing a woman and sending objectionable photos to her, while he dismissed the charges and asserted that he was already acquitted by

Amid the allegations against him. Gore warned of moving a notice of breach of privilege against those who raised the issue again, and said he would also file a defamation complaint against them.

The demand for his resignation came a day after NCP leader Dhananjay Munde stepped down as a minister in the wake of the arrest of his close aide Walmik Karad in an extortion case linked to the murder of sarpanch Santosh Deshmukh in Beed in December last year. Opposition parties targeted Gore over the allegations and sought his resignation.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut claimed, "A very serious issue of Jaykumar Gore has come to the fore. What happened in Swargate (incident



Gore, who represents constituency in western Maharashtra's Satara district, is Minister of **Rural Development** and Panchayati Raj

Gore was earlier with the Congress and joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in 2019

In January 2017, he had been arrested for sending lewd messages and his own objectionable photos to a woma in Satara

of rape inside a bus in Pune), a similar case has come to the fore with regards to Devendra Fadnavis's dear minister Jaykumar Gore." "A woman from Maratha general Hambirrao Mohite's family has sexually harassed her. The woman will sit on a fast outside the Vidhan

Bhavan premises," he added. Hambirrao Mohite was the chief commander of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's army. "The details about Gore are shocking and bringing a bad name to the state...Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis should check the credentials of his ministers," Raut said. 'Saamana', the mouthpiece of the Uddhav Thackeray-led party, also published a news item claiming that Gore sent

from western Maharashtra who is accused of sending his own objectionable pictures to a woman." Social activist Anjali Damania sought the removal of Gore from the cabinet in the wake of the allegations. Talking to reporters, she said, "I have come to know that Gore has been harassing the woman who belongs to the family of Hambirrao Mohite." Gore was accused of sending lewd messages and his own objectionable photos to the woman in 2017. "After becoming a minister. Gore has once again started harassing the woman. Such people should be removed from the cabinet. The woman is going to write to the Governor of the state. I will go with her and will insist that such people should be removed from

the cabinet," Damania said. Talking to reporters, Gore said that a case under section 354 of the Indian Penal Code (molestation) was registered against him in 2017, but the trial court had acquitted him

filed a case against Farhan Azmi, the son of Maharashtra SP MLA Abu Azmi who is in the proverbial eye of a storm following his comments praising Mughal emperor Aurangzeb. The MLA was suspended Wednesday from the Assembly till the end of the ongoing Budget session.

Osteoarthritis cases, related disability up by over 130%: Study

The findings show that an excess weight or body mass index accounted for about a fifth of the duration lived with disability resulting from the condition that steadily deteriorates joints

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 5: Globally, cases of osteoarthritis and the resulting disability among menopausal women have increased by over 130 per cent in the last three decades, according to a study.

The findings, published in the British Medical Journal (BMJ) Global Health, show that an excess weight or body mass index accounted for about a fifth of the duration lived with disability resulting from the condition that steadily deteriorates joints.

The researchers, including



College, China, said declining oestrogen levels in menopause directly related to functioning and stability of joints. Osteoarthritis affecting knee joints were found to be the most common type, associated with the highest loss of healthy living, followed by that affecting

The countries in East Asia and high-income Asia Pacific experienced the fastest increase in burden of the chronic condition, the study found. While the most rapid rise in new cases of knee osteoarthritis was seen in Southeast Asia, the most rapid rise in prevalence was seen in East Asia.

The trends noted in East Asia "may be linked to rapid population ageing, (an) increased

workforce participation and a surge in obesity rates due to urbanisation and changing lifestyles," the authors wrote. However, "the high burden observed in high-income Asia Pacific could be attributed to advanced healthcare systems with better diagnostic capabilities, facilitating comprehensive identification and reporting of (osteoarthritis) cases", they wrote.

The findings highlighted the escalating burden of osteoarthritis among menopausal women and stressed on proactive measures, especially those promoting lifestyle adjustments for controlling BMI the authors said.

Osteoarthritis was estimated to affect almost 600 million people in 2020, making up nearly eight per cent of the world's population and nearly a billion could be living with it in 2050, according to a 2023 study published in The Lancet Rheumatology journal.

For this analysis, the researchers looked at The Global Burden of Disease (GBD) 2021 study, which collected data from 204 countries and territories for the prevalence, severity and deaths attributable to 371 diseases between 1990 and 2021.

national



Detailed dialogue was held with various women's organisations for the expectations and suggestions of the developed Delhi Budget 2025-26. During this, important topics related to women's empowerment and welfare were discussed

ANJU RATHI RANA APPOINTED FIRST **EVER WOMAN LAW SECRETARY**

Anju Rathi Rana, an Indian Legal Service officer, was Wednesday appointed the new union law secretary. She is the first woman to be appointed secretary, legal affairs, who is also called the law secretary. Rana joined the law ministry as a joint secretary in 2017. Prior to that, she was a public prosecutor in the Delhi government for 18 years



guidance of Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, the draw of lots was organised in the

presence of parents and media to

ensure fairness and the registration limit of 2.5 lakh was increased to five lakh ASHISH SOOD | DELHI EDUCATION MINISTER











father of Modi Bhakts, Donald Trump announced high tariffs on India from April

No word from Modi, no response from MEA. He just wants just to see the chair pulling video to hide his weakness in front of Trump.

@RoshanKrRaii

SHORT **TAKES**

Assam Assembly turns spotlight on 'D' voter

Guwahati: Highlighting the plight of the 'D' (Doubtful) voters, the opposition Wednesday demanded closure of Assam's sole detention centre, now called a transit camp, and tabling of the NRC report in the Assembly. During a discussion on the contentious issue, AIUDF MLA Aminul Islam claimed that lakhs of people were declared 'D' voters without officials visiting their homes and proper verification.

'There are thousands of cases when only one person in a family is declared 'D' voter but his siblings and parents are still Indian citizens. This has ruined so many families and shattered the dreams of thousands of youths," he added. Islam demanded formation of an all-party team by the Speaker to study the conditions of the 'D' voters and

living in the detention centre.

Mamata may visit **London this month**

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Baneriee is likely to visit London later this month to deliver a lecture at the University of Oxford, a wellplaced official said Wednesday. Banerjee is likely to leave for London March 21, he said. She was invited to deliver the lecture by the Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University Jonathan Michie, during the Bengal Global Business Summit in November 2023.

3 CRPF jawans hurt in IED blast

Chaibasa/Ranchi: At least three CRPF jawans were injured in an IED blast in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district Wednesday, police said. The injured were airlifted to Ranchi for treatment, they added. The incident took place at Baliwa in Saranda forests under Manoharpur police station limits when personnel of CRPF 197 battalion went there for a search operation, Kolhan DIG Manoj Ratan Chothe said. "An IED exploded during the search operations and three jawans were injured. They were airlifted to Ranchi," he added.

India's tech renaissance: Fueling the journey of Viksit Bharat



Ashwini Vaishnaw

n Baramati, Maharashtra, a small farmer is rewriting the rules of agriculture with Artificial Intelligence (AI). We are witnessing something extraordinary here - reduction in usage of fertilizer, better water use efficiency and higher vields, all enabled by ALThis is just a glimpse into India's AI-powered revolution, where technology and innovation are no longer limited to labs but are transforming the lives of ordinary citizens. In many ways, this farmer's story is a microcosm of a much larger transformation - our march towards Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Writing the Digital Destiny India is shaping its digital future with a strong focus on Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), AI, semiconductor and

decades. India has been a global leader in software but now it is making big strides in hardware manufacturing also. Five semiconductor plants are under construction, strengthening India's role in the global electronics sector. Today, electronics products rank among our top three exports and soon we will reach a major milestone—the launch of India's first "Make in India' chip this year.

Building Al: Compute, Data, and Innovation

Semiconductors and electronics form the backbone, while DPI serves as the driving force propelling India's tech revolution. India is democratizing AI by making it accessible to all through one of its kind AI framework.

A key initiative in this regard is India's Common Compute facility with 18,000+ Graphics Processing Units (GPUs). Available at a subsidized cost under 100/hour, this initiative will ensure that cutting-edge research is accessible to researchers, startups, academia, and other stakeholders. This initiative will enable easy access of GPUs for developing AI-based systems, including the foundational models, and applications.

India is also developing large-scale non-personal anonymised datasets to train AI models on diverse & high-quality data. This initiative will help reduce biases and improve accuracy, making AI systems more reliable and inclusive. These datasets will power AI-driven solutions across various sectors such as agriculture, weather forecasting & traffic management. The government is facilitating the development of India's own foundational models, including Large Language Models (LLMs) and problem-specific AI solutions tailored to Indian needs. To foster AI research, multiple Centers of Excellence have also been set up.

India's DPI, a blueprint for digital innovation

India's pioneering work in DPI has significantly shaped the global digital landscape. Unlike corporate or

state-controlled models, India's ingenious public-private approach uses public funds to build platforms like Aadhaar, UPI, and DigiLocker. Private

create user-friendly, application-specific solutions on top of DPI. This model is now being supercharged with AI, as financial and governance platforms like UPI, and DigiLocker, integrate intelligent solutions. The global interest in India's DPI framework was evident at the G20 Summit where various countries had expressed desire to replicate the model. Japan has granted a patent to India's UPI payment system, a testament to its scalability.

Mahakumbh, a sangam of tradition and tech

India leveraged its DPI and AI-driven management for seamless operations of Mahakumbh 2025, the largest human gathering ever. AI-powered tools monitored the railway passenger movement in real time to optimize the crowd dispersal across railway stations in Prayagraj. Bhashini, integrated into the Kumbh Sah'AI'yak Chatbot, enabled voice-based lost & found facility, real-time translation, and multilingual assistance for all. Its collaboration with various departments such as Indian Railways & UP Police streamlined communication for quick issue resolution By leveraging DPI, Maha-

kumbh 2025 has set a global benchmark for tech-enabled management, making it more inclusive, efficient, and secure. **Building a future-ready** workforce

India's workforce is at the heart of its digital revolution. The country is adding one Global Capability Center (GCC) every week, reinforcing its status as a preferred destination for global R&D and technological development. However, sustaining this growth will require continuous investment in education and skill development.

The government is addressing this challenge by revamping university curricula to include AI, 5G, and semiconductor design, as per the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. This will ensure that graduates enter the workforce with job-ready skills, reducing the transition time between education and employment.

Pragmatic approach towards regulating Al

As India builds a future-ready workforce, its AI regulatory framework must foster innovation while ensur ing responsible deployment. Unlike the 'heavy-handed' regulatory framework, which risks stifling innovation, or the 'market-driven governance' which often concentrates power in the hands of a few India is following a pragmatic techno-legal approach. Rather than relying solely on legisla tion to address AI-related risks. the government is investing in technological safeguards The government is financing AI-driven projects at top uni versities and IITs for developing tools to tackle deep fakes, privacy concerns, and cyberse-

curity threats. As AI continues to reshape global industries, India's vision is clear - leverage technology for inclusive growth while maintaining a regulatory framework that fosters innova tion. But beyond policies and infrastructure, this transfor mation is about our people.

The author is Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, Railways and Information and Broadcasting, Government of India

Police thwart farmers' JU protests enter 3rd day attempt to go to C'garh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, March 5: Punjab Police thwarted farmers' attempt to go to Chandigarh on the Samvukta Kisan Morcha's call for a week-long dharna beginning Wednesday, as multiple checkpoints were set up across the state and security stepped up at all entry points of the Union Territory. The SKM, a conglomerate of

more than 30 farmer bodies. had given the call for the sitin in Chandigarh in support of farmers' various demands including purchase of six crops at minimum support price by the state government.

Farmers, who left for Chandigarh in tractor-trolleys and other vehicles Wednesday morning, were stopped by the Punjab Police at many plac es on the highways and other

The SKM strongly condemned the AAP government for preventing farmers from going to the UT for raising their voice in support of their demands.

SKM leaders claimed many farmers were detained by police when they were on their way to Chandigarh while several others started holding protests



SKM

The SKM, a conglomerate of more than 30 farmer bodies, had given the call for the sit-in in Chandigarh in support of farmers' various demands including purchase of six crops at minimum support price by the

where they were stopped.

Deputy Inspector General of

Police (Ropar Range) Harcha-

ran Singh Bhullar said the pro-

testing farmers would not be al-

lowed to reach Chandigarh at

any cost. He said the situation

The DIG said some farm-

ers have been rounded up,

adding that there was good

coordination between Punjab

in Punjab is totally peaceful.

PROTEST

for Chandigarh in tractor-trolleys and other vehicles Wednesday morning, were stopped by the Punjab Police at many places on the highways

Police and Chandigarh Police. According to farmers, SKM leader Joginder Singh Ugrahan was detained in Sangrur. In Sangrur's Gharachon area, heavy police personnel were deployed to prevent farmers from heading to Chandigarh. Barricades were put up and sand laden trucks were also parked to stop farmers from

going to Chandigarh.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, March 5: Protests at Jadavpur University continued for the third consecutive day Wednesday, as students demanded action against alleged assaults on their peers. The agitating students had

set a 4 pm deadline for interim vice-chancellor Bhaskar Gup ta to address their grievances. However, Gupta did not appear, as he was admitted to a private hospital in the morning and is currently under medical observation, officials said. His wife claimed that his blood pressure had elevated and that he was unwell.

Despite this, students vowed to continue their protest, accusing the VC of showing no responsibility or urgency since the incident occurred. "The VC showed no sympathy despite a student fighting for his life, nor any urgency to resolve the pending issues to defuse the crisis. He also did not show any courtesy or urgency to meet us. We gave a 4 PM deadline, but now he is admitted to the hospital for reasons best known to him," a protesting student from a left-backed organisation said.

"We will continue to maintain the pressure so that he comes for talks with us after he returns from the hospital," he added. Throughout the day, members of the All India Democratic Students' Organisation (AIDSO) and several ultra-left student groups, including the



tion (DSF), staged demonstrations. The state Congress held a protest at Jadavpur University gate against alleged atrocities against the protesting students. The students' demands include registering a hit-andrun case against education minister Bratva Basu, whose car allegedly hit Indranuj Roy, a student currently undergoing treatment. They also called for the with-

drawal of police cases against students and the release of those arrested. According to the protesters, seven cases have been registered in connection with the incident, including four against Roy. Additionally, the agitators demanded that the university bear the full cost of treatment for the injured students. The SFI reiterated its demand for Basu's resignation, accusing the ruling Trinamool Congress's student wing TMCP and the ABVP of instigating violence on campus. Amit Roy, father of the injured Indranuj, acknowledged Basu's outreach amidst the ongoing turmoil. He also took part in the protests along with AIDSO and DSF

LS delimitation: Stalin moots Joint Action **Committee of MPs**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, March 5: Stepping up the pressure on Centre, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin Wednesday proposed that the 1971 Census be the basis for delimita tion of Parliamentary constituen cies for 30 years starting 2026 and favoured a Joint Action Commit tee (JAC) involving all southern states to press for related demands

At an all-party meeting on de limitation here that was attend ed by main Opposition AIADMK among others, Stalin, moving a resolution, said that in the event of increase in the number of seats in Parliament, the 1971 Census should be the basis for it and that appropriate Constitutional amendment should be done.

Responding, BJP state unit chief K Annamalai wondered what was the ruling DMK's compulsion to hold the all-party meeting, boycotted by the saffron organisation, saying the Centre has clarified no state would be affected due to delimitation. The JAC is to take forward such demands and create awareness among the people and the meet unanimously opposed delimitation exercise based on population, which will be a "threat to federalism and the rights of southern states to political representation." Tamil Nadu's present representational per centage in Parliament, which is 7.18, should not be changed under any circumstances.

PM meets Japanese business delegation

New Delhi, March 5: Prime Narendra Modi Wednesday met a Japanese business delegation and said he is looking forward to deepening economic collaboration with Japan, India's special strategic and global partner. During the meeting, dis-

cussions focused on areas of high-quality, low-cost manufacturing in India and expanding manufacturing for global markets with a special emphasis on Africa. A statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said the delegation from the Japan-India Business Cooperation Committee (JIBCC) comprising 17 members and led by its Chairman Tatsuo Yasunaga called on Prime

Minister Modi. After talks with the Japanese delegation, PM Modi said he was encouraged by their expansion plans in India and steadfast commitment to 'Make in India, Make for the World'. The delegation included senior

leaders from leading Japanese corporate houses across key sectors such as manufacturing, banking, airlines, pharma sector, plant engineering and logistics. "Pleased to meet the Japanese business delegation led by Mr Tatsuo Yasunaga today. Encouraged by their expansion plans in India and steadfast commitment to 'Make in India, Make for the World'," Modi said in a post on X. "Looking forward to deepening economic collaboration with Japan, our special strategic and global partner," the prime minister said. The discussions covered key

areas, including high-quality. low-cost manufacturing in India, expanding manufacturing for global markets with a special focus on Africa, and enhancing human resource development and exchanges, the statement said.

Prime Minister Modi expressed his appreciation for Japanese businesses' expansion plans in India and their steadfast commitment to 'Make in India, Make for the World'.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, March 5: Gold bars worth ₹12.56 crore were seized from Kannada actress Ranya Rao at Kempegowda International Airport, following which searches were conducted at her residence and gold iewellerv worth ₹2.06 crore and Indian currency amounting to ₹2.67 crore were also recovered, DRI said Wednesday.

Rao is the stepdaughter of senior IPS officer Ramachandra Rao, a senior police official told PTI. The DGP-rank officer is currently serving as the Chairman and Managing Director of the Karnataka State Police Housing and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd, he added

The total seizure in the case stood at ₹17.29 crore, including assets worth ₹4.73 crore, marking a significant blow to organised gold smuggling networks. According to DRI (Directorate of Revenue Intelligence) officials, the 14.2 kg haul is one of the largest gold seizures at Bengaluru airport in recent times. In a statement, the Ministry of Finance said the DRI successfully intercepted a pas-



Kannada actress held with gold at B'lore airport

senger carrying foreign-origin gold bars worth ₹12.56 crore at Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru

"Acting on specific intelligence, DRI officers intercepted an Indian woman, aged around 33, who had arrived from Dubai to Bengaluru on an Emirates flight on March 3. Upon examination, gold bars weighing 14.2 kg were found ingeniously concealed on her person," the statement read. The DRI operates under the Ministry of Finance.

According to the Ministry, the contraband, valued at ₹12.56 crore, was seized under the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962. "Following the inter-

ception, DRI officers searched her residence on Lavelle Road, Bengaluru, where she lives with her husband. The search led to the seizure of gold jewellery worth ₹2.06 crore and Indian currency amounting to ₹2.67 crore," the statement added.

The Ministry further stated that the woman had been arrested under the relevant provisions of the Customs Act, 1962, and remanded to judicial custody.

Meanwhile, Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara said that he cannot comment on the case of gold smuggling by the Kannada actress until the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence completes Rao is the stepdaughter of senior IPS officer Ramachandra Rao, a senior police official told PTI

he DGP-rank officer is The DGP-rails office. Chairman and Managing Director of the Karnataka State Police Housing and Infrastructure Development **Corporation Ltd**

the investigation. "The investigation is ongoing. The DRI is handling the case, and until they provide definite informa tion, I cannot comment. Let them complete their inquiry first. Internally, I have asked our department to look into it and they will gather some in formation," he told reporters.

Distancing himself from the actress, her stepfather, Rao, told reporters here that the law would take its course According to him, Ranya got married just four months ago and has not visited them since Stating that he was unaware of Ranya and her husband's business dealings, he said the news came as a "huge shock and disappointment.'

international



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyv is still legally prohibited from negotiating with the **Russian side**

1ST INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL IN MONTANA

In a first, an Indian film festival was organised in the western US state of Montana, showcasing India's cultural diversity through cinema to a diverse gathering of students participating in an annual conference that also included presentations on the recently concluded Maha Kumbh





Trump for acknowledging and appreciating Pakistan's role and support in counter terrorism efforts across the region, in the context of Pakistan Security Forces' recent apprehension of ISKP's top tier operational commander Shareefullah, who is an Afghanistan national

SHEHBAZ SHARIF | PM, PAKISTAN

In view of the increas ing threat situation, it is clear to us that Europe the Federal Repub-

lic of Germany - must now very quickly make very big efforts, very quickly, to strengthen the defense capability of our country and the

FRIEDRICH MERZ | LEADER OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC UNION, GERMANY



politics by laying down their arms

PRITHVI SUBBA GURUNG MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, NEPAL

SHORT TAKES

New Israeli military chief takes charge

Jerusalem: Israel swore in a new commander of its military Wednesday as a standoff over the fragile ceasefire in Gaza increased the risk of a resumption of fighting without an agreement to bring home the rest of the hostages still held by Hamas, Eval Zamir, a former tank commander who had retired after 28 years with the rank of Major General before being called back into service, was promoted to Lieutenant General, before formally assuming command from General Herzi Halevi. who stepped down over the security disaster of October 7, 2023, "The mission is not vet complete," he said in an address as he assumed comand, saving that Hamas had not vet been defeated. We will not forgive, we will not forget. This is an existential war. We will persist in our campaign to bring our hostages home and to defeat our enemies," he said.

Indian nat'l jailed for molesting woman

Singapore: An Indian national was sentenced to seven months jail Wednesday after pleading guilty to one count of molestation, with one count of housebreaking taken into consideration for his sentencing. Erakkodan Abinraj, 26, climbed into his neighbour's condominium unit and molested a 36-year-old woman who cannot be named due to a gag order. She was asleep in the master bedroom with her husband, and her daughter was in another room, when Abinraj, who entered the house through the balcony around 4.50 am September 22 last year, entered her room and proceeded to touch the victim's underwear as he saw her asleep. For molestation, Abinraj could have been jailed for up to three years, fined

Trump draws catcalls from Dems

The new president sets record for longest annual address to Congress, took credit for swift action in reorienting US economy, immigration

Washington, March 5: A triumphant President Donald Trump told Congress Tuesday that "America is back" after he reshaped US foreign policy, ignited a trade war and ousted tens of thousands of government workers in six tumultuous weeks since returning to power, drawing jeers from some Democrats who walked out in protest.

The primetime speech, his first to Congress since taking office January 20, followed a second day of market turmoil after he imposed sweeping new tariffs against Mexico, Canada

At 100 minutes, the speech was the longest presidential address to Congress in modern US history, according to The American Presidency Project.

World leaders were watching Trump's speech closely, a day after he paused all military aid to Ukraine in a stark reversal of US policy. The suspension followed an Oval Office blowup in which Trump angrily upbraided Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in front of TV cameras

The pause in aid to Ukraine has threatened Kyiv's efforts to defend against Russia, which launched a full-scale invasion three years ago, and further rattled European leaders worried that Trump is moving the US too far toward Moscow.

Trump devoted only a few

minutes of his speech to foreign policy. He signaled a willingness to press ahead with a minerals deal with Ukraine that was set aside after last week's disastrous White House meeting.

"Simultaneously, we've had serious discussions with Russia and have received strong signals that they are ready for peace," Trump said. "Wouldn't that be beautiful?"

And he repeated his promises - though without adding detail - to bring peace to the Middle East and expand the Abraham Accords, deals signed during his first term that established relations between Israel and some of its Arab neighbors.

While Trump has appeared

the war, a new Reuters/Ipsos poll found 70% of Americans including two-thirds of Republicans - say Russia was more to blame.

Trump vowed to balance the federal budget, even as he urged lawmakers to enact a sweeping tax cut agenda that analysts say could add more than \$5 trillion to the federal government's \$36 trillion debt load. Congress needs to raise the nation's debt ceiling later this year or risk a devastating default.

The speech shared some of the hallmarks of Trump's campaign rallies. Trump repeatedly assailed his Democratic predecessor Joe Biden, attacked immigrant criminals as "savages" and promised to ban what he called "transgender ideology," all while peppering his remarks with exaggerated or false claims

DEMOCRATIC PROTESTS

"To my fellow citizens, America is back," Trump began to a standing ovation from fellow Republicans. "Our country is on the verge of a comeback the likes of which the world has never witnessed, and perhaps will never witness again.'

Democrats held up signs with messages like "No King!" and "This Is NOT Normal," and

about half the Democrats had walked out by the end of the speech.

One Texas congressman, Al Green, was ordered removed after he refused to sit down.

Trump, a political brawler by nature, reveled in the disagree-

"I look at the Democrats in front of me, and I realize there is absolutely nothing I can say to make them happy or to make them stand or smile or applaud," he said after Green's ejection.

The speech took place in the House of Representatives, where lawmakers huddled in fear for their lives four years ago while a mob of Trump supporters ransacked the Capitol in an unsuccessful effort to overturn Biden's 2020 victory over the then-incumbent Trump.

The Democrats chose to give their rebuttal speech to moderate US Senator Elissa Slotkin who invoked an iconic Republican president in criticizing

"As a Cold War kid, I'm thankful it was Reagan and not Trump in office in the 1980s. Trump would have lost us the Cold War." Slotkin, a former CIA analyst who won election in Michigan in November even as Trump carried her state, said, referring to President Ronald Reagan. "Donald Trump's actions suggest that, in his heart, he doesn't believe we are an exceptional nation.'

In major blow to **Ukraine, US halts** intelligence-sharing

REUTERS

Washington, March 5: The US has cut off intelligence-sharing with Kyiv, said CIA Director John Ratcliffe Wednesday, in a move that could seriously ham per the Ukrainian military's ability to target Russian forces The decision to cut off intelli

gence-sharing and military aid to Ukraine starkly illustrates the Trump administration's willingness to play hardball with an ally to force it to the negotiating table. US President Donald Trump

said Tuesday he received a letter from Ukrainian Presi dent Volodymyr Zelenskyy in which the Ukrainian leader expressed willingness to come to the negotiating table over the Russia-Ukraine war. "I think on the military front

and the intelligence front, the pause (that prompted Ukraine's president to respond) I think will go away," Ratcliffe said. "I think we'll work shoulder

to shoulder with Ukraine as we have to push back on the aggression that's there, but to put the world in a better place for these peace negotiations to move forward." he said. Three sources familiar with

the situation also confirmed that US intelligence-sharing had stopped. It was not immediately clear to what extent the US had cut back on the sharing. Since the start of the war

in 2022, the US has provided Ukraine with significant intel-

Indian-origin nurse attacked by patient, could lose eyesight



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Houston, March 5: A 67-yearold Indian-origin nurse was repeatedly punched in the face by a patient at a Florida hospital in a possible hate crime that could lead to her losing her eyesight, local media has reported. Nurse Leela Lal, also known

as Leelamma Lal, was assaulted and "every bone of her face broken" by Stephen Eric Scantlebury, a 33-year-old patient she was tending to in the psychiatric ward at the Palms West Hospital in West Palm Beach, Florida on February 18, police

In a local court, a police officer testified that a video clip showed Scantlebury saying, 'Indians are bad' and 'I just beat the (expletive) out of an Indian doctor'," news channel WPTV. com said.

Scantlebury faces a charge of attempted second-degree murder in the attack and also faces a hate crime enhancement, which could result in harsher penalties if he is convicted, the

WPTV.com reported after the incident that HCA Florida HealthCare, which runs the Palm West Hospital, said the attack occurred "within a matter of seconds" and was "witnessed by multiple people" and added that Lal was taken by helicopter to St Mary's Medical Centre in West Palm Beach.

WPTV said it received a video from a viewer that showed the suspect walking shirtless on a nearby prominent road with what looked to be ECG leads still attached to his chest, and it also showed hospital staff and law enforcement following the man onto the busy highway before the deputies took him into custody.

The probable cause affidause of both eyes.

Because of the extent of the victim's injuries, she was unable to provide a statement to investigators, the WPTV said.

vit filed by law enforcement described Lal's injury as "critical" and said, "Essentially every bone in the victim's face is broken and the victim is likely to lose the

China ramps up stimulus to guard economy Growth target set at about

5%; debt, deficit to rise

Beijing, March 5: China unlocked more fiscal stimulus Wednesday, promising greater efforts to support consumption and cushion the impact of an escalating trade war with the United States on an economy that Beijing is determined to grow by another 5%-or-so this year.

Premier Li Qiang, in a speech at the opening of the annual meeting of China's parliament, warned that "changes unseen in a century are unfolding across the world at a faster pace"

"An increasingly complex and severe external environment may exert a greater impact on China in areas such as trade, science, and technology," Li said.



ESCALATING TRADE WAR

The trade war with US President Donald Trump's administration is threatening China's economic jewel, its sprawling industrial complex, at a time when persistently sluggish household demand and the unravelling of the debt-laden property sector are leaving the economy increasingly vulnerable.

Trump has also dangled tariffs at a long list of countries,

disrupting a decades-old global trade order that Beijing has built its economic model around. Pressure has been building on Chinese officials for consumer-focused stimulus to fend off deflationary pressures and reduce the world's second-largest economy's reliance on exports and investment for growth. The term "consumption"

was mentioned 31 times in

Li's report, up from 21 times last year, while "technology" received 28 mentions, slightly up from 26 in 2024, according to Guotai Junan analysts.

"For the first time, boosting consumption has been elevat ed to the top priority among 2025's major tasks, displacing technology from its usual lead ing position," said Tilly Zhang, technology analyst at Gaveka Dragonomics.

"It's not a pivot from the previous industrial policy, but pursuing a more balanced" macroeconomic framework, Zhang said.

However, China said more than a decade ago that it wants to shift to a more consumer-driven growth model, without making significant progress towards that goal, and inves

tors aren't placing bets on this change in tone.

HASINA'S EXTRADITION

Gaza ceasefire deal looks doomed

Jerusalem, March 5: Israel's cutoff of food, fuel, medicine and other supplies to Gaza's 2 million people has sent prices soaring and humanitarian groups into overdrive trying to distribute dwindling stocks to the most vulnerable.

The aid freeze has imperiled the tenuous progress aid workers say they have made to stave off famine over the past six weeks during Phase 1 of the ceasefire deal Israel and Hamas agreed to in January.

After more than 16 months of war, Gaza's population is entirely dependent on truckedin food and other aid. Most are displaced from their homes.



and many need shelter. Fuel is needed to keep hospitals, water pumps, bakeries and telecommunications — as well as trucks delivering aid - oppressuring Hamas to accept its spinoff ceasefire proposal. Israel has delayed moving to the second phase of the deal it reached with Hamas, during which the flow of aid was supposed to continue. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Tuesday that he is prepared to raise the pressure and would not rule out cutting off all electricity to Gaza if Hamas doesn't budge. Rights groups have called the cutoff a "starvation policy.

There's no major stockpile of tents in Gaza for Palestinians to rely on during the aid freeze, said Shaina Low, communications adviser for the Norwegian Refugee Council.

'No official response' from India: Yunus PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Dhaka, March 5: Bangladesh interim government's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus has said that Dhaka had sent "formal letters" to India seek-

> ing deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina's extradition but received "no official response' from New Delhi. In an interview with UK based Sky News, Yunus said Hasina will stand trial for

"crimes against humanity" the state-run BSS news agency Hasina, 77, has been living in India since August 5 last vear when she fled Bangladesh fol-

lowing a massive student-led

protest that toppled her Awami League's 16-year regime. Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) has is sued arrest warrants for Ha sina and several former Cab inet ministers, advisers, and military and civil officials for "crimes against humanity and

genocide" "A trial will be taking place. Not only against her but also all the people associated with her - her family members, her clients or associates." Yunus said.

Bangladesh has issued two arrest warrants for her.

Malala visits hometown first time after being shot by Taliban ernment college for girls. He briefed her about the facil-"Malala met students, inities provided by the college. spected classes and spoke to

laureate Malala Yousafzai

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Wednesday visited her hometown in the troubled northwest of the country for the first time after being shot by the Taliban and met her family members. She flew by helicopter to

Islamabad, March 5: Pakistan's first Nobel Peace Prize

Barkana in Shangla district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, where she met with her uncle, Ramazan, who recently underwent surgery in Islamabad after suffering from heart problems, and also visited the ancestral graveyard, The Dawn newspaper reported.

Local Karora Station House Officer (SHO) Amjad Alam Khan told Dawn.com that Malala was accompanied by her father, Ziauddin Yousafzai, and her husband, Aseer Malik, who she married in 2021. SHO Khan said she also vis-

ited the school and college she had established in Barkana in

girls in the district, which pre-2018 to provide free education to approximately one thousand viously had no functional govstudents while urging them to study and make their future brighter," the SHO said, adding that the Malala Fund would ensure a high standard of education at the college free of charge. Malala also visited the home

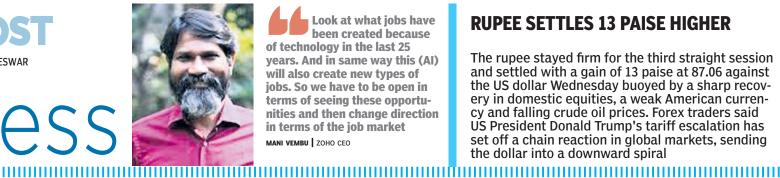
of her maternal family Also present was education

activist Shahzad Rov, who runs the Shangla Girls School and College under Zindagi Trust. She returned to Islamabad

after her short visit. Malala's first visit to Pakistan since being shot was in 2018. Following that, she visited Pakistan in 2022 to travel to areas devastated by unprecedented monsoon flooding and met its victims.

She also visited in January this year to attend the International Conference on Girls' Education in Muslim Communities held in Islamabad.

Business



Look at what jobs have been created because of technology in the last 25 years. And in same way this (AI) will also create new types of jobs. So we have to be open in terms of seeing these opportunities and then change direction in terms of the job market

RUPEE SETTLES 13 PAISE HIGHER

The rupee stayed firm for the third straight session and settled with a gain of 13 paise at 87.06 against the US dollar Wednesday buoyed by a sharp recovery in domestic equities, a weak American currency and falling crude oil prices. Forex traders said US President Donald Trump's tariff escalation has set off a chain reaction in global markets, sending the dollar into a downward spiral





ambition is that we want to sell electrified cars. 90-100 per cent of our cars



should be electrified, which means directionally, we are still going in the same direction that we want to move towards electrification

JYOTI MALHOTRA | VOLVO CAR INDIA





SUMITA DAWRA UNION LABOUR SECRETARY





scores its strategic importance to the brand globally

BIPUL CHANDRA DUCATI INDIA MANAGING

SHORT TAKES

Gold rises ₹300 to ₹89,300

New Delhi: Gold prices rose by ₹300 to trade near a

record high at ₹89,300 per 10 grams in the national capital Wednesday amid a strong global trend, according to the All India Sarafa Association. The precious metal had settled at ₹89,000 per 10 grams in the previous market session. On February 20, gold hit a record high of ₹89,450 per 10 grams. "Gold prices continued their upward trend Wednesday, extending their winning streak for the third day in a row as the demand for safe-haven assets and soft US dollar supported yellow metals," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said. Further, the implementation of US tariffs and counter-retaliation by Canada and China increased the chance of escalation of the trade war and a global economic slowdown -- a situation favouring gold demand for safety, Gandhi said. Silver prices also rallied by ₹1,000 to ₹99,000 per kg from Tuesday's closing level of ₹98,000 per kg. On the other hand, gold futures for April delivery on the MCX went up by ₹38 to ₹86,064 per 10 grams. Globally, gold futures for April delivery rose 0.18 per cent to USD 2,926 per

Small exporters seek

ounce. However, spot gold is

trading flat at USD 2,917.72

import duty cuts New Delhi: India's small engineering goods exporters have urged the government to cut import tariffs on some US goods to try and achieve more favourable trade terms as President Donald Trump prepares to implement new steel and aluminium duties. the head of an industry body said. The 25% U.S. tariffs on steel and aluminium imports, effective March 12. have raised Indian exporters' concerns about declining orders and rising costs. "Of India's \$20 billion annual engineering goods exports, nearly \$7.5 billion worth of shipments could be affected." said Pankai Chadha, chairman of the Engineering Export Promotion Council, which represents more than 10.000 small exporters. The EEPC and other industry chambers have urged the government

Services sector growth sees sharp uptick in Feb

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 5: India's services sector activity witnessed a sharp uptick in February boosted by improving domestic and international demand, which resulted in a quicker expansion in output and a substantial increase in employment, a monthly survey said Wednesday.

The seasonally adjusted HS-BC India Services PMI Business Activity Index rose from January's 26-month low of 56.5 to 59.0 in February, indicating a sharp rate of expansion.

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

"India's services business activity index rose to 59.0 in February 2025, up considerably from January's 26-month low of 56.5. Global demand, which grew at its fastest pace in six months according to the new export business index, played a major role in driving output growth for India's services sector," said Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC.

According to the survey. productivity gains, favourable underlying demand and greater intake of new business

Moreover, gains in international orders supported this uptick in growth, with service providers reporting better demand from clients in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Americas and the Middle East, the sur-

In order to accommodate for rising new business and alleviate capacity pressures, In-



dian services firms continued to pursue recruitment drives. Employment expanded sharply, and at one of the fastest rates seen since data collection began in December 2005.

'Job creation and charge inflation remained strong during February. Looking ahead, business sentiment remains broadly positive, but did slightly slip last month to its lowest level since August 2024," Bhandari said.

Advertising, better customer relations, efficiency gains and healthy demand conditions all underpinned upbeat projections for output in the year ahead. Around one-quarter of survey members forecast growth in the year ahead, while fewer than 2 per cent were pes-

Meanwhile, the HSBC India Composite Output Index rose from 57.7 to 58.8, indicating a substantial rate of expansion.

Composite PMI indices are weighted averages of comparable manufacturing and services PMI indices. Weights reflect the relative size of the manufacturing and service sectors, according to official GDP data.

At the composite level, payroll numbers expanded at a marked pace that was little changed from January's survey record, while cost pressures across the private sector were at their least intense since last October, the survey said.

The HSBC India Services PMI is compiled by S&P Global from responses to questionnaires sent to a panel of around 400 service sector companies.

On the domestic macroeconomic front, the Indian economy grew by 6.2 per cent in the December quarter, recovering sequentially from seven-quarter lows, but the expansion came in lower than last year.

For the full 2024-25 fiscal (April 2024 to March 2025), the government now pegs GDP growth at 6.5 per cent, marginally higher than its initial estimate of 6.4 per cent but below the revised growth rate of 9.2 per cent for 2023-24.

The growth in the current fiscal and less than 7 per cent expected in the next will keep India as the fastest-expanding major economy.

RBI announces ₹1.9L-cr liquidity infusion measures

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, March 5: Continuing measures to inject liquidity into the banking system, the Reserve Bank Wednesday said it will conduct open market purchases of government securities and undertake USD/INR swaps totalling about ₹1.9 lakh crore during the month.

On February 28, the central bank conducted US dollar-rupee swap worth USD 10 billion to inject long-term liquidity into the system, with the auction eliciting robust demand.



Following a review of current and evolving liquidity conditions, the RBI on Wednesday said it will conduct OMO (open market operation) purchase auctions of Government of India securities for an aggregate amount of ₹1,00,000 crore in two tranches of ₹50,000 crore each to be held on March 12 and March 18.

USD/INR Buy/Sell Swap auction of USD 10 billion for a tenor of 36 months is scheduled for March 24. it added.

Additionally, the Reserve Bank of India said it will continue to monitor evolving liquidity and market conditions and take measures as appropriate to ensure orderly liquidity conditions.

Tesla signs deal for first India showroom



New Delhi, March 5: US electric carmaker Tesla has signed a lease deal to open its first showroom in Mumbai, as it moves towards a goal to sell imported cars in India, registration papers show, after it dropped similar plans last year.

Tesla did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The papers show the compa-

ny has signed a five-year lease from February 16, 2025 and will pay rent of about \$446.000 for the first year for a 4,003 square feet (372 square meter) space, almost the size of a basketball court. The rent will increase by

5% every year reaching about \$542,000 for the fifth year, according to the registered lease document provided to Reuters by analytics firm CRE Matrix. The showroom will be situat-

ed in the Maker Maxity building in the business and retail hub of Bandra Kurla Complex near the city's airport, according to the papers. The property on the ground floor is located very close to India's first Apple Store, and has been leased from Univco Properties.

Reuters reported last month that Tesla has selected locations for two showrooms in the Indian cities of New Delhi and Mumbai, days after the car-

US eyes zero tariff on cars in India trade deal

New Delhi: The United States wants India to eliminate tariffs on car imports under a proposed trade deal between the two nations, but New Delhi is reluctant to immediately bring down such duties to zero even as it considers further cuts, sources told Reuters. After a meeting between Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi last month, the two nations agreed to resolve tariff rows and work on the first segment of a deal by the fall of 2025, aiming for bilateral trade worth \$500 billion by 2030. Trade minister Piyush Goyal is on a nearly week-long trip to the US and Tuesday met US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick to pursue trade talks. He is also expected to meet the United States Trade Representative Jamieson Greer. While India is unlikely to relent to US demands to reduce tariffs on auto imports to zero immediately, it has been priming the industry to prepare for a lower tariff regime and be open to competition, said the first source

maker's chief Elon Musk met India's Prime Minister Naren dra Modi in the U.S. The launch of Tesla is a keenly awaited one and may well be a precursor to the pioneering auto company's eventual plans to manufacture or assemble in India.

Top honour for Tata Power linemen

Union Bank of India's MSME outreach

tor, MSME and Smarajit Mohanty, President OSSIA in

Cuttack Region. Branch Heads of Cuttack city branches

along with their customers were also present in the

camp. AK Vinod and Sarvesh Ranjan informed about

to reach out the existing as well as intending MSME customers and to support financing under various

government sponsored schemes.

the MSME outreach drive of the bank which is mainly

presence of AK Vinod, CGM, Central Office Annexe, Mangaluru, Sarvesh Ranjan, Zonal Head of Bhubane-swar Zone and Saroj Kumar Rout, Regional Head,

CSR activities by SBI

(CB & S) Corporate Centre inaugurated the renovated premises of PBB Bapujinagar branch March 4. On this occasion, Tewari donated a school van to Nayagarh Kala Parisad for the benefit of SC, ST and dropout children from Class I to X. Besides, A water purifier-cum-cooler was donated to NGO Sakhaa, Telengapentha for the benefit of destitute persons. Likewise, refrigerator and crockery items were donated to destitute shelter home Ashraya managed by the NGO Odisha Patita Udhar Samiti. CGM Bhubaneswar Circle Dinesh Pruthi, General Manager Ponnambalam M, General Manager Kaushal Kishor Singh and other senior officials of SBI were present on the occasion.



Bhubaneswar: Linemen from Tata Power's Odisha and Delhi Discoms were recog-

nised for their outstanding service by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) during Lineman Diwas 2025. The event was held in New Delhi. More than 160 linemen and

linewomen from over 45 state and private power distribution, generation, and transmission companies across India participated in the event. Among the awardees

were Ladu Kishore Pradhan from TP Central Odisha Distribution Ltd. and Jai Hind

from Tata Power-DDL, acknowledged for their commitment to power distribution

and service reliability. Their efforts were especially notable during Cyclone Dana in

Odisha, where Tata Power linemen played a crucial role in swiftly restoring electric

Mumbai, March 5: Benchmark BSE Sensex surged by 740 points while Nifty snapped its 10-day losing streak Wednesday following value buying in utilities and power shares and a strong trend in global markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex surged by 740.30 points or 1.01 per cent to close at 73,730.23. The index jumped 943.87 points or 1.29 per cent to hit an intra-day high of 73,933.80.

Cutting short its record 10-day falling streak, the broader Nifty of NSE rebounded by 254.65 points or 1.15 per cent to settle at 22,337.30. During the day, it appreciated by 312.25 points or 1.41 per cent to a high of 22,394.90. Broader markets also closed higher with the BSE smallcap gauge climbing 2.80 per cent and midcap index advancing 2.66 per cent.

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms appreciated by ₹7.97.247.7 crore to Rupee Foradian3.93.04.041.75 crore (USD 4.51 trillion). From the Sensex pack, Adani Ports, Tata Steel, Power Grid, Mahindra & Mahindra, NTPC, Tech Mahindra, Tata Motors, ITC, Nestle India, HCL Technologies, Bharti Airtel,

NSE NIFTY

Nifty breaks 10-day losing streak

MARCH 05, 2025

and a fourth person.

-1.05%





State Bank of India, Asian Paints and Kotak Mahindra Bank were the gainers. Bajaj Finance, In-

LOSERS

CHANGE: +254.65 (+1.15%)

"Strong global market cues led the recovery in domestic indices as talks that the Trump administration could reverse some tariffs amidst the ongoing global trade tensions buoyed sentiment," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

dusInd Bank, HDFC Bank, and

Zomato were the laggards.

Also, local factors such as an increase in the February PMI index also boosted the sentiment in the markets, Tapse said. All

the sectoral BSE indices ended higher, with Utilities surging 4.40 per cent, Power by 3.67 per cent, Services by 3.64 per cent, metal by 3.52 per cent, Telecom munication by 3.36 per cent Commodities by 2.88 per cent and Oil & Gas by 2.46 per cent.

"Emerging markets, including India. witnessed a relief rally, sup ported by a weakening US dollar This upward momentum occurred despite the imposition of US tariffs on Mexico, Canada, and China, as well as the looming threat of retaliatory measures," Vinod Nair, Geojit Financial Services, said.

Dollar to lose lustre on trade war jitters

Bangalore, March 5: The US dollar may hold most of its strength over coming months, even as a once-crowded dollar trade thins out amid confusion over US President Donald Trump's tariff plans and mounting worries about the economy, a Reuters survey found. After several erratic an-

nouncements and delays, Trump has started a trade war with America's three largest trading partners, levying 25% tariffs on traditional allies Canada and Mexico and additional import duties on goods from China.

Combined with weeks of speculators unwinding near-de-

cade high net-long dollar positions, that pushed the greenback down nearly 2.5% against a basket of major currencies this week, according to data from the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

Cuttack: Union Bank of India has launched a Mega MSME Outreach Camp Drive throughout India and under this drive

its regional office, Cuttack organised a Mega MSME Outreach Camp at Sarala Bhawan, Biju Pattanaik Chowk, here. The camp was inaugurated by Nitisha Mann, IES, Dy. Direc-

A near-60% majority of currency strategists, 18 of 31, in a March 3-5 Reuters survey predicted net-long dollar bets would decline further by end-March. Eight said there would not be much change, while only five expected an increase in net long positions.

Responses to the latest FX poll come both before and after the latest tariff announcements.

It was also taken mostly before a surge in the euro following news parties hoping to form Germany's next government



agreed on Tuesday to create a 500 billion-euro (\$534.75 billion) infrastructure fund and overhaul borrowing rules to revamp the military and revive growth in Europe's largest economy.

"The risks to the dollar outlook over the next few months

are even-sided. On the one hand, tariffs and elevated geo political uncertainty support a stronger dollar. On the other hand, shifts in German fiscal policy and the disruption across multiple fronts pose

fore neutral," said George Saravelos, head of FX research at Deutsche Bank. "The large degree of uncer-

tainty will prevent a large rise in dollar positioning in both The euro, currently \$1.07

and up nearly 3% against the dollar since early-Monday, was expected to fall to \$1.03 in three months and trade at \$1.04 in six, survey medians showed, roughly the same as in a February survey, suggesting forecasts may soon be revised.

From October to early January, the dollar rose nearly 10% on continued resilience in U.S. economic data and expectations the Federal Reserve had only one or two more interest rate cuts left to deliver.

en about 5%, with a majority of those losses in the last few weeks based on signs of economic weakness, leading to in terest futures pricing three Fed rate reductions by year-end. "The world is long US assets

to a degree it has never been before and if they get scared of be ing on those assets, that will be the single biggest driver of dol lar weakness going forward,' said Kit Juckes, head of FX strategy, at Societe Generale.

"My biggest underlying concern with the dollar is that even after so many years of exceptionalism that have taken it to levels it hasn't seen since 1985 in real effective terms, it only takes a few chinks in the armor

to cut tariffs on select US

goods with low inbound

shipments. Chadha told

Reuters Wednesday.





downside risks. We are there-

for it to look weaker.'

OFC ends league phase on a high

Kohli ready to conquer new peaks

The former skipper arrived at the crease with the highest potential chase against Australia in ICC knockouts ahead of him and closed the gap to victory with brilliant stroke play

Dubai, March 5: Seldom does a Virat Kohli knock in a winning chase leaves one wanting for more. But his 84 that guided India to a semifinal victory over Australia in the Champions Trophy here had that touch of incompleteness to it.

A familiar Kohli hundred Tuesday would have been his 25th three-figure mark while hunting down a target. But the master would not be too displeased about the knock he eventually managed as he ticked many boxes. Here are the two most important of them.

Box No 1: He tamed spinners, an Achilles Heel that haunted him for long, and more recently exploited by England's Adil Rashid and Bangladesh's Rish-

Box No 2: The fifty was full of determination to defeat an opponent who had given India and him several heartbreaks in the past. Through it, he, perhaps, was conveying his readiness to battle on for some more time, conquer some more

But that has not come without its share of hard work. Kohli had to spend an extra two hours at nets to polish his skills ahead of the match against Pakistan after he was dismissed by Hossain against Bangladesh.

Subsequently, he negated Pakistan's Abrar Ahmed, but Adam Zampa is in a different league as a white ball leg-spin-

The slow Dubai pitch that slows down even more during the second half would have given more zing to Zampa's craft.

Since their first meeting in 2017, Zampa had dismissed Kohli five times in white ball formats, and counterattack has been Kohli's preferred way to nullify the Aussie leg-spinner.

Before the Champions Trophy match, Kohli had made 264

I was not feeling desperate, and I was pretty happy knocking

VIRAT KOHLI | BATTER, INDIA

runs off 245 balls against him at a strike-rate of 107.

But the nature of the pitch here demanded a different approach from Kohli as he ticked off Zampa, taking 23 off 24 balls. He also made 12 runs off nine balls against Tanveer Sangha.

It was not spectacular but effective in a tricky chase of 265, even though he eventually fell to Zampa. But much after the team's job was done.

India head coach Gautam Gambhir appreciated the way

Kohli planned his chase.

"He is a phenomenal oneday cricketer. He knows how to plan whether he is batting first or chasing and he adapts to the conditions really quickly and that is why experience and high-quality players are very important," Gambhir pointed out.
"That is the reason why he

has got that kind of record in one-day cricket and I hope he continues to do that in the future as well," said Gambhir.

Steve Smith, a contemporary of Kohli with whom he had a few run-ins and also shared many highs, shed light on how the Indian works his way while chasing a target.

"He's arguably the best chaser the game has seen. He's done vindicate his chase-master tag.

The 36-year-old has the in 50-over chases.

During the course of his 84 in run chases

In that context, Smith, who knows the nuances of constructing an ODI innings, was correct in calling Kohli's innings a well-played one.

The usual intention to dominate the bowlers was not there, and rather he knocked around for runs even when the pacers were in service.

The only sign of aggression was a breathtaking swivel pull off pacer Nathan Ellis when he tried to unsettle him with a lifter.

Kohli explained that part

"I was not feeling desperate, and I was pretty happy knocking ones around. And when, as a batter, you start taking pride in hitting those singles into the gaps, that is when you know

his kingdom.

most runs -- 5999 in 106 innings -- in successful chases and the second-most runs --8063 in 166 innings -- after the legendary Sachin Tendulkar

Kohli also went past 8000 runs

you are playing good cricket.

But that will not please his opponents. By now, they will know that the King is rejuvenated and has returned to rule

aggressive football and creating a string of chances. In the second minute of the match.

POST NEWS NETWORKA

Jamshedpur, March 5: Odis-

ha FC secured a commanding

3-2 victory over Jamshedpur

FC in their final league phase

match at the JRD Tata Sports

Complex Wednesday. The win

took Kalinga warriors to 33

points, temporarily in sixth

position on the table. However,

their playoff hopes now rest on

Mumbai City's results in their

showed determination, playing

two remaining matches. From the get go, Odisha FC $\,$

Isak's left-footed shot from the left side of the box was saved by the host side goalkeeper. Moments later, another opportunity came their way as Rahul KP found Dorielton, who laid the ball off for Isak, but his strike

was again denied by the keeper.

The Kalinga Warriors were relentless, and their efforts paid off in the 21st minute. A swift counter-attack led to a perfect pass from Hugo Boumous to Dorielton, whose right-footed strike from the center of the box found the bottom left corner to give Odisha FC the lead.

In the 26th minute, a set-piece by Hugo Boumous found Rahul KP, whose powerful shot was parried away by Amrinder for a corner. Two minutes later. Isak delivered a great cross into the box for Hugo, who attempted to set up Dorielton, but the ball was cleared before the final

shot could be made. Odisha FC continued to pile the pressure on, and in the 37th minute, Hugo doubled the east ern outfit's lead. Another quick counter saw Hugo calmly finish past the hosts' keeper to double the lead. Amrinder, however made a brilliant save moments later, denying Jamshedpur's Murray from distance.

The second half saw more attacking flair from Odisha, with Rahim Ali coming close in the 51st minute. Hugo played a brilliant pass to Rahim, but the latter's shot was saved by Albino. Odisha's third goal came in the 53rd minute, following a well-executed one-two between Rahul KP and Hugo from a quick corner. Hugo's left-footed grounder slithered past everyone to put Odisha FC firmly in control at 3-0.

In the 58th minute, a header from Murray found Eze in acres of space, but Amrinder closed the angle well and made a crucial block to deny the defender's effort from close range.

SHORT **TAKES**

Super Cup tourney in Bhubaneswar from Apr 21

New Delhi: The season-ending Super Cup

from April 21, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) announced Wednesday The 16-team premier club competition wil e played in a knock-out format. Thirteen Indian Super League clubs and three edition of the tournament. The winners of compete in the 2025-26 AFC Champions League 2 (ACL2) Playoffs, providing an opportunity for Indian clubs to make heir mark on the continental stage. East Bengal won the last edition of Super Cup

Khelo India Para Games to be held in Delhi

New Delhi: Around 1230 para athletes, including international players, will com pete at the second edition of the Khelo India Para Games (KIPG) scheduled to be held here from March 20 to 27. The para athletes, many of them medallists at 2024 Paris Paralympics and 2022 Asian Para Games in Hangzhou, China, will compete in six disciplines -- para archery, para athletics, para badminton, para powerlifting, para shooting and para table tennis. The Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium will host the para athletics, para archery and para powerlifting disciplines while the G Stadium complex will stage the para badminton and para table tennis events Prominent para athletes competing in the KIPG 2025 include Paris Paralympics gold medal winners Harvinder Singh (archery), Dharambir (club throw) and Praveen Kumar (high jump).

Smith bids adieu to ODIs



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, March 5: Australia's stand-in skipper Steve Smith Wednesday announced his retirement from ODI cricket following his team's four-wicket loss to India in the Champions Trophy semifinal here but the star batter will continue to play Tests and T20 Internationals.

The 35-year-old, who was leading the world champion side in the absence of an injured Pat Cummins, informed his teammates after the match that he would be stepping away from the 50-over format with immediate effect.

Reflecting on his decision, Smith said it was the right time to step aside as Australia builds itself for the 2027 ODI World Cup.

"It has been a great ride, and I have loved every minute of it,"

Smith said.

"There have been so many amazing times and wonderful memories. Winning two World Cups was a great highlight along with the many fantastic teammates who shared the journey,' he added in a media release shared by Cricket Australia.

A key member of Australia's victorious 2015 and 2023 ICC World Cup-winning teams, Smith was named Australia's men's ODI Player of the Year in 2015 and 2021 and earned a place in the ICC men's ODI Team of the Year in 2015.

He took over the ODI captaincy in 2015 and, fittingly, led the side one last time in his final

"Now is a great opportunity for people to start preparing for the 2027 World Cup so it feels like the right time to make way," he said.

With Mbappé and Vinícius quiet, Díaz comes through for Madrid against Atletico in Champions League

per the ICC among all-rounders

it numerous times against us

He controls the tempo of the

game really well, plays to his

strengths and takes the game

deep. I thought he played really

Kohli moves up to No 4 in ODI rankings

■ ndia batting superstar Virat Kohli Wednesday moved up a spot

to reach fourth place in the ICC ODI rankings for batters after his

match-winning 84 against Australia in Champions Trophy semifinal.

Kohli's rise, however, coincided with skipper Rohit Sharma dropping

down two positions to fifth as South Africa's Heinrich Klaasen also

moved up one spot to take the third. India vice-captain and opener

Shubman Gill continues to hold the top spot followed by Pakistan's

rounder Axar Patel and pacer Mohammed Shami also moved up in the

to 13th spot with career-high 194 rating points in the latest release as

rankings for all-rounders and bowlers respectively. Patel moved up

Babar Azam at second. Among other Indians, spin bowling all-

well again," said Smith.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Madrid, March 5: Kylian Mbappé couldn't find his stride. Vinícius Júnior wasn't much of a threat. It was Brahim Díaz receiving the standing ovation from the Real Madrid fans Tuesday.

Starting because of a suspension to Jude Bellingham, Díaz came through for Madrid in a 2-1 first-leg win over Atletico Madrid in the round of 16 of the Champions League.

The 25-year-old forward has made only a few appearances as a starter for Madrid this season, but he made this one count with a second-half winner that gave Madrid the edge going into next week's second leg

He showed some nifty footwork in little space to clear three defenders before finding the net from inside the area in the 55th minute.

"It was a good goal but it's not over yet," Díaz said. "We still



Real crush Atletico in home leg

and give everything we have just like tonight. Nothing has been decided yet.

Díaz jumped the behind-thegoal boards to celebrate with Madrid fans who hugged him profusely, which earned earned him a yellow card.

"Playing here is something incredible, I always say it," Díaz said. "When you wear this shirt you have to give it all. He was given a standing ova-

tion at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium when he was replaced by Endrick in the 89th.

Díaz was making his fourth Champions League start for

Madrid this season, replacing Bellingham because of a yellow-card suspension.

Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti had asked Díaz ahead of the match to try stick to Bellingham's role, but said he wouldn't mind seeing him move more forward when he saw opportunities. His stroke up front was needed as Madrid struggled with Mbappé and Vinícius having a lackluster night.

Díaz — a Morocco international who chose that nation over Spain, where he was born had also started for Madrid in the team's 2-1 loss at Real Betis in the Spanish league

last weekend, when he scored the team's lone goal.

He has 11 starts in the Spanish league this season and has six goals across all competitions. The return match will be

next Wednesday at Atletico's Metropolitano stadium, when the hosts will try to end their Champions League slump against the city rival.

Atletico lost two finals to Madrid — in 2014 and 2016 and was eliminated the other two times they faced off in the knockout rounds - in the 2015 quarterfinals and 2017 semifinals. The teams had drawn 1-1 in both Spanish league matches they played this season.

Brilliant goals early

It was a superb run and a well-placed finish by Rodrygo that gave Madrid the lead. Then a nifty move and a precise shot by Julián Álvarez equalized the match for Atlético just past the half-hour mark.

Madrid needed only four minutes to get in front with Rodrygo's goal. Right back Federico Valverde sent a perfect through ball that caught the Brazil forward in stride speeding past left back Javi

LeBron adds another feather to his cap

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Los Angeles, March 5: LeBron James is well on his way to rewriting every previous definition of basketball longevity. and the 40-year-old star is now racking up numbers the NBA

has never seen before. James became the first player to score 50,000 combined points in the regular season and postseason on Tuesday night, surpassing the mark with a 3-pointer early in the first quarter of the Los Angeles Lakers' 136-115

win over New Orleans. James finished with 34 points against the Pelicans after toppling another milestone in his unprecedented career.

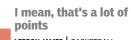
"Obviously, the first thing that comes to mind is where I'm from.



Picking up the game when I was a little kid and having a love for the sport, and hoping that someday I'd be able to play at the highest level. I've been able to do that and really enjoy my career. So it's definitely an honor. It's pretty

James already is the top scorer in NBA history in both the regular season and the playoffs. Maintaining a spectacular level of play midway through his record-tying 22nd season, he is pulling away from the other greats of the game: Lakers great Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, who played 20 seasons, is a now-distant second with 44,149 combined points.

James got his milestone 3-pointer off an assist by Lu-



ka Doncic, a trivia tidbit that pleased both superstars. Doncic's arrival in last month's seismic trade with the Dallas Mavericks has invigorated both James and the Lakers, who look like championship contenders with a seven-game winning streak and 17 victories in their last 20 games.

"It's amazing, watching him do this stuff at this age," said Doncic, who had 30 points, 15 assists and eight rebounds against New Orleans. "It's just unbelievable, that 50K points. I can't even explain how insane that is. He might get to 70K. You never know.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lahore, March 5: Rachin Ravindra and Kane Williamson struck commanding centuries as New Zealand hammered South Africa by 50 runs in a high-scoring semifinal to set up a summit clash with India in the Champions Trophy, here Wednesday.

Ravindra played a brilliant knock of 108 runs off 101 balls, laced with 13 fours and a six, while Williamson struck 102 off 94 balls, including 10 fours and two sixes, after skipper Mitchell Santner opted to bat.

Daryl Mitchell (49 off 37 balls), Glenn Phillips (49 not out off 27 balls) and Michael Bracewell (16 off 12 balls) then capitalized on the solid founda-



tion, adding 112 runs in the final 10 overs to power New Zealand to a massive total of 362/6 -- the highest score in Champions Trophy history.

Only twice has a higher target been successfully chased in ODIs -- both by South Africa · but this time it was not to be as the Proteas were restricted to 312 for 9 in pursuit of the record target, despite a scintillating century from David Miller (100 not out off 67 balls) and fighting

fifties by Rassie van der Dusser (69) and skipper Temba Bavuma (56). Santner (3/43) was the most successful New Zealand bowler. as he, along with the other spinners -- Michael Bracewell (1/53) Glenn Phillips (2/27) and Ravin dra (1/20) -- tightened the screws in the middle overs.

New Zealand will now face former champions India in the final Sunday in Dubai. Wednesday's semifinal marked the end of Champions Trophy matches

in Pakistan. Chasing 363 for a win, South Africa lost Ryan Rickelton early for 17, but Bavuma, who initial ly struggled, found his rhythm and shared a vital 105-run part nership with van der Dussen with the duo bringing up the team century in the 18th over

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