



Oscars calling

Actor Priyanka Chopra joins 98th Academy Awards presenters' list alongside several top Hollywood celebs

LEISURE | P2



Epstein files

Justice Department releases missing FBI interviews in Epstein files with woman who made claims against Trump

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Shutdown fears

India's ₹650bn (\$7bn) ceramics and tiles industry risks grinding to a halt as the escalating Middle East conflict crimps fuel supplies

BUSINESS | P11



Rugby action returns

National Rugby 15s Championship Division 1 returns to Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar with top clubs competing

SPORTS | P12

Trump demands Iran's unconditional surrender

REUTERS

Washington / Jerusalem, March 6: US President Donald Trump demanded Iran's 'unconditional surrender' Friday, a dramatic escalation of his demands a week into the war he launched alongside Israel.

Trump made the remarks on social media just hours after Iran's president announced that unspecified countries had begun mediation efforts in one of the first signals of any diplomatic initiative to end the conflict.

"There will be no deal with Iran except UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER!" Trump wrote.

"After that, and the selection of a GREAT & ACCEPTABLE Leader(s), we, and many of our wonderful and very brave allies and partners, will work tirelessly to bring Iran back from the brink of destruction, making it economically bigger, better, and stronger than ever before."

On Thursday Trump had told Reuters in a telephone interview that he was demanding the right to help select Iran's new supreme leader, to replace Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, killed in the war's first day.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



The US sank an Iranian ship in international waters. What can we do about it? We are just Vishwaguru

Former rapper set to become Nepal's next PM



AGENCIES

Kathmandu, March 6: After Nepal's historic youth-led uprising last September killed 77 people and forced then-Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli to resign, a 35-year-old rapper-turned-politician posted a typically terse message to millions of followers on social media. "Dear Gen Z, the resignation of your killer has come." Balendra Shah - popularly known only as Balen - wrote. "Now your generation will have to lead the country. Be prepared."

Five months on, the musician who cut his political teeth in 2022 when he became the mayor of the capital Kathmandu, is poised to become Nepal's next prime minister following the country's first election since the September uprising.

Shah's newly formed Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) was Friday heading towards a landslide victory in Nepal's first general elections since September. According to the Election Commission's data available from 144 of the total 165 constituencies, the RSP has won three seats and is ahead in 104 others, local media reported.

Balendra is leading in Jhapa-5 constituency against four-time PM and CPN-UML chair Oli in the latter's stronghold.



REDUCED TO ASHES: Smoke rises following an Israeli airstrike in Dahiyeh in Beirut's southern suburbs, Friday

AP PHOTO

Su-30MKI crash: 2 IAF pilots killed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 6: Two pilots of the Indian Air Force (IAF) were killed in a crash of a Su-30MKI fighter jet in Assam's Karbi Anglong district.

The IAF confirmed Friday the deaths of Squadron Leader Anuj and Flight Lieutenant Purvesh Duragkar, a day after the Russian-origin aircraft went missing.

The jet was on a training sortie and disappeared from radar shortly after taking off from Jorhat airbase on Thursday.

"The IAF acknowledges the loss of Sqn Ldr Anuj and Flt Lt Purvesh Duragkar, who sustained fatal injuries in the Su-30 crash," the IAF said in a brief statement.

"All personnel of the IAF express sincere condolences, and stand firmly with the bereaved family in this time of grief," it said.

Communication with the aircraft was lost at 7:42 pm Thursday, officials had said.

At approximately 1 am Friday, the IAF confirmed the Su-30MKI that disappeared from radar Thursday has crashed.

Su-30MKI is a two-seater multirole long-range fighter jet developed by Russian aircraft manufacturer Sukhoi. It is now built under licence by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) for the IAF. The IAF operates a fleet of over 260 Su-30MKI jets.

30-DAY WAIVER US allows India to buy Russian oil

Amid rising tensions in the Middle East, the United States has granted a temporary 30-day waiver allowing Indian refiners to purchase Russian oil already stranded at sea. The move, announced by US President Donald Trump's administration, aims to stabilise global energy supplies while limiting financial gains for Moscow. The waiver follows Washington's earlier punitive tariffs on India over Russian oil imports and a subsequent trade framework that encouraged New Delhi to buy more American energy. In India, the Opposition, led by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, has criticised the development, alleging it undermines the country's strategic autonomy and energy sovereignty because Prime Minister Narendra Modi is being "blackmailed" by America.



agenda has resulted in oil and gas production reaching the highest levels ever recorded. To enable oil to keep flowing into the global market, the Treasury Department is issuing a temporary 30-day waiver to allow Indian refiners to purchase Russian oil," Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said.

He said this "deliberately short-term measure" will not provide significant financial benefit to the Russian government, as it only authorises transactions involving oil already stranded at sea.

"India is an essential partner of the United States, and we fully anticipate that New Delhi will ramp up purchases of US oil. This stop-gap measure will alleviate pressure caused by Iran's attempt to take global energy hostage," Bessent said in a post on X.

US President Donald Trump had imposed 25 per cent punitive tariffs on India for buying Russian oil, with the administration asserting that Delhi's purchases were helping fuel Russia's war against Ukraine.

Last month, the US and India announced they had reached a framework for an Interim Agreement on trade, and Trump issued an Executive Order removing the 25 per cent punitive tariff on India, noting the commitment by New Delhi to stop importing energy from Moscow and increase purchasing American energy products. Reacting to the development,

Opposition Congress alleged Friday that India's strategic autonomy and national sovereignty are under "dire threat" because Prime Minister Narendra Modi is being "blackmailed" by America.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said India's current foreign policy is the result of the "exploitation of a compromised individual." In a post on X, Gandhi said: "India's foreign policy emerges from the collective will of our people. It should be rooted in our history, our geography, and our spiritual ethos based on Satya and Ahimsa."

"What we are witnessing today is not policy. It is the result of the exploitation of a compromised individual," the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha said.

He also shared his February 11 speech in the Lok Sabha during a discussion on the Budget, where he spoke about India's energy security being compromised. "The US will tell us who we can or cannot buy oil from, if it is Russia or Iran, the US will decide. But our prime minister will not decide," Gandhi had said. **MORE P7**

Odisha to join league of developed states: Shah

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paradip, March 6: Union Home Minister Amit Shah Friday said Odisha will soon join the league of developed states in the country and become the richest province by optimally using its natural resources.

After inaugurating a sulphuric acid plant of IFFCO here, he claimed that the BJP government will usher in development in Odisha, which "remained neglected" during the previous regimes.

"There is so much wealth beneath the soil of Odisha, but the people of the state are poor. The natural resources like minerals and vast coastline will make Odisha India's richest state," Shah said.

Addressing a public meeting here, he said, "I have come to Odisha today to assure you that, under the leadership of the double-engine government that you have formed, Odisha will soon join the league of developed states."

Without naming anyone, Shah thanked the people of Odisha for making the state free from the influence of individuals from other states.

"You have given an absolute



majority to the BJP. Now, the double-engine government will bring change in the state that remained neglected even after having a lot of potential," Shah said.

While stressing the cooperative movement in the country, Shah said, "Just like in Gujarat, the BJP government will promote the dairy industry in Odisha, which will boost the rural economy and empower women."

Shah also launched several projects related to the cooperative sector and dairy development, which, he said, would boost farmers' income and the rural economy. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, state minister Sampad Chandra Swain, and others participated in the function. **MORE P4**

Wealthy Asians look to move Dubai assets closer to home

REUTERS

Singapore/Dubai, March 6: Soon after the first Iranian missile and drone attacks on Dubai last week, two Indian entrepreneurs based there tried to move more than \$100,000 each from their local bank accounts to Singapore to hedge risk.

Technological glitches in the aftermath of the Iranian attacks initially scuppered those plans, the entrepreneurs, who did not wish to be identified due to the sensitivity of the matter, told Reuters.

One of them said he managed to subsequently transfer the sum to his Singapore bank account via another Emir-

ates-based bank.

Scores of other wealthy Asians are making enquiries or taking similar steps to move their Dubai-parked assets to the regional financial hubs of Singapore and Hong Kong, industry advisers and lawyers said, as the US-Israel war on Iran clouds the Gulf's safe-haven aura and rattles investors.

While the rich typically diversify their investments across regions and asset classes, they choose where to be based depending on tax, regulatory, privacy and operational considerations.

Towards that end, Dubai has emerged in recent years as a preferred wealth hub for



entrepreneurs and rich families in Asia, mainly from China, as they look to take advantage of its favourable policies.

Moreover, with a property and infrastructure boom, the Gulf region has also become an investment destination. Total

assets of the UAE banking and financial sector exceeded 5.42 trillion dirhams (\$1.48 trillion), according to its central bank.

The trend is now under sharp scrutiny, as the attacks on Dubai and Abu Dhabi have thrown into doubt the UAE's reputation for stability.

Singapore-based private wealth lawyer Ryan Lin said six or seven of his 20 Dubai-based clients, each holding an average of \$50 million in assets, contacted him this week, with three planning immediate asset transfers to the city-state.

One client is "checking how quickly they can transfer everything to Singapore," Lin said.

Iris Xu, principal at global

corporate and fund services provider Anderson Global, said 10 to 20 family offices have enquired this week with her firm about moving assets back to Singapore from the Middle East on worries the conflict might drag on.

Family offices are one-stop firms that manage the portfolios of the wealthy.

"Dubai was always about tax benefits but now I think the tax benefits may not be the top priority for them," she said.

Grace Tang, CEO of Phillip Private Equity, said her predominantly Asian clients are skittish, with 10 to 20 asking about moving their wealth to Singapore and looking to preserve their capital.

leisure



CANNES HONOUR FOR PETER JACKSON

New Zealand Oscar-winning filmmaker Peter Jackson will be awarded the Palm d'Or at the opening of this year's Cannes Film Festival. Best known for creating the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, Jackson said the honour was "one of the greatest privileges of my career"

HARRY STYLES YEARS TO START HIS FAMILY

As his career continues to evolve, Harry Styles is quietly imagining a future that looks very different from the whirlwind years of stadium tours and global fame. Recently, the singer opened up about reassessing his life, revealing that marriage, meaningful relationships and eventually starting a family are now firmly on his mind



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshaSpeaks.com
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
A romantic link is about to be presented to you as a surprise, shining and smiling. Ganesha advises you to be prepared in your best dress and to practice some romantic talking. You never know what the evening has in store for you.

TAURUS
This day you are likely to be prone to daydreaming and fantasizing. Ganesha sees you losing touch with reality and making errors in judgment, in your assessment of facts. You will, by sheer force of your tenacity and determination ensure that things work out in the end.

GEMINI
Today, your enthusiasm for sports and outdoor activities is palpable. According to you, variety is the spice of life. You will keep on jumping from one venture to another. You will establish a good rapport with your bosses and colleagues. It's time to taste success in your immediate and interim objectives.

CANCER
You will help others and be cheerful, feels Ganesha. you will inspire and encourage others. Closeness with beloved will gladden you. You will be attracted to special person, and it could benefit you.

LEO
You will spend the day with your family and friends today and feel closer to them. You will try to help others, as always. You will like to guide someone if your own situation is comfortable today. You will be able to fulfill the expectations placed upon you by someone and will garner a lot of well-wishes, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
You will be the flag-bearer for people around you, spreading hope and inspiration. Ganesha advises you to be the ideal family man today. By doing this you will radiate affection and love. This will in turn work remarkably in cultivating positive relationships.

LIBRA
Ganesha says that you will be more careful about your outward appearance and will try to enhance it further. Towards the evening you may impress people around you when you attend a social function. Those of you who are single can put forth a marriage proposal to their beloved today and it will be accepted.

SCORPIO
Today, you must spend most of the time in meditation and introspection. If you do not meditate, you will be surrounded by negative thoughts and bitterness for others. According to Ganesha, this may hinder your progress and growth in career. Simple living and high thinking may make things easier for you.

SAGITTARIUS
Someone from the opposite sex is likely to get attracted towards you. Enjoy being in the limelight. Today, your main activity becomes hanging around with friends and cherishing their company.

CAPRICORN
You love your family and you will try your best to live up to the expectations of your family members. If you are student, you will finish up your existing projects and get on with some fresh assignments, foretells Ganesha. Don't block your imagination; give yourself some freedom so that you can test your creativity and talent. You don't let yourself fly too high otherwise you may lose the track of reality.

AQUARIUS
You may have to remain indoors today. But, don't think that you will get bored. You can do a lot of things, like playing cards and other board games, reading, watching the natural world around, and what not. You will spend the day in a relaxed mood and look at life from a different perspective, feels Ganesha.

PISCES
You will race ahead of you competition today. No matter what field you are in, you will find yourself at an advantageous point, well ahead of your contemporaries. You will be able to complete the task at hand with lesser effort than required. Do not let this translate into arrogance as it may come to haunt you in the future, advises Ganesha.

REEL CONTROVERSY

Yami: Never resorted to cheap PR tactics

Mumbai: Actress Yami Gautam has clarified, on her social media account, that she does not have a PR team and has never resorted to cheap publicity tactics, reacting to the recent controversy surrounding her and actress Kriti Sanon.

Yami said that she must have 'liked' a reel that was condescending towards Kriti's recent award win' by mistake, further stressing that she prefers to focus solely on her work and not indulge in cheap PR tactics.

The actress issued the clarification after netizens noticed that she had apparently 'liked' an Instagram reel that seemed to criticise Kriti's Best Actress win at an award show.

She wrote, "It has come to my notice that I apparently 'liked' a reel that is condescending toward another actor. We get tagged in multiple things every day, and this appeared during an award-function reference like any other tag. It isn't true and was definitely not done consciously; if anything, it may have been clicked accidentally."

She further added, "Never in my life have I resorted to cheap PR tactics. I have always focused on my work and moved on. In the world of clickbait, it's tempting for even dignified social media portals to harp on this and turn it into coffee-table gossip. But I would hope they would consider that I have earned a better reputation than that."



Janhvi on finding her voice

Mumbai: Actor Janhvi Kapoor celebrated her birthday yesterday, marking another milestone in her growing journey in the Hindi film industry. The daughter of iconic actor Srivevi and producer Boney Kapoor, Janhvi stepped into Bollywood with *Dhadak* and has since featured in films such as *Roohi*, *Mili*, *Ulajh* and *Homebound*, steadily carving a space for herself.

Over the years, the actor has often spoken about navigating the industry while discovering her own voice. In an earlier interview, Janhvi reflected on the challenges of expressing her opinions at work. She shared that putting one's views forward in a professional space can be tricky, especially when there is a fear of appearing too opinionated or overstepping boundaries. According to her, learning to trust her own thoughts and voice her perspective confidently has been an important part of her growth, something she experienced during the making of the film.

Janhvi also acknowledged the people who influenced her personal development. Apart from her parents, she credited several teachers who nurtured her interest in literature, philosophy and writing. She also recalled briefly interacting with legendary Kathak maestro Pandit Birju Maharaj, describing the experience as deeply inspiring.

The actor will next be seen in *Peddi* alongside Ram Charan.



PC among presenters at Oscars

Mumbai: Global icon Priyanka Chopra Jonas treated her fans Friday morning, by announcing that she will be one of the official presenters at the upcoming 98th Academy Awards.

The ceremony is scheduled to take place March 15, this year. Sharing the update with her fans on social media, Priyanka confirmed her participation by including the list of presenters for the prestigious awards ceremony.

She captioned it as, "The 2026 Academy Awards." The other names in the group of Hollywood stalwarts who will take the stage during the event, include Robert Downey Jr. and Gwyneth Paltrow, marking a highly-awaited reunion for fans of the *Iron Man* franchise.

Priyanka's announcement comes shortly after her recent appearance at the Golden Globe Awards. The actress here walked the red carpet and presented an award alongside K-pop star Lisa.

Priyanka had earlier presented an award at the ceremony, further strengthening her presence at major Hollywood and other global events.

Talking about the actress on the professional front, while she is busy as a bee with her international commitments, she is also seen in India often for her commitments at an Film In-Priyanka will be next in SS Rajal's *Varanasi* also stars hesh Babu and Prithviraj Sukumaran in the lead.



Jajabara 2.0, Dasama shine at ITS Awards



Cuttack: Odia films *Jajabara 2.0* and *Dasama* have brought national recognition to the state after winning prestigious honours at the Indian Tele Streaming (ITS) Awards held recently in Mumbai.

Jajabara 2.0 won two major awards — Best Director for Abhishek Swain and Best Actor (Male) for Devesh Ranjan. Meanwhile, *Dasama* secured the award for Best Film in Regional Language (Odia).

Released in 2024 on the OTT platform AAO NXT, *Jajabara 2.0* is a critically acclaimed Odia crime-thriller. The story revolves around two strangers with criminal pasts whose unexpected meeting unfolds into a gripping narrative of crime, tension and redemption. The film stars De-

vesh Ranjan alongside Prasanjeet Mohapatra.

On the other hand, *Dasama*, released the same year, focuses on the lives of school students and portrays the emotions, friendships and challenges that shape young minds during their formative years.

Directed by Raja D and produced by Deepak Kumar Jena, the film features an ensemble cast including Sushant Das Mahapatra, Rabi Mishra, Shailendra Samantaray, Akash Hota, Funny Pratik, Jyotiranjan, Armaan, Suman Pattnaik and Nilakshi Patra.

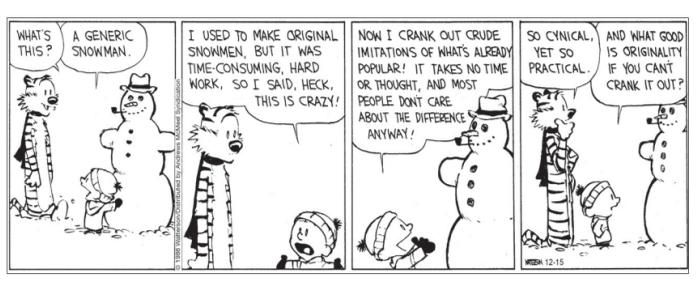
The recognition at the ITS Awards marks a significant milestone for both films and highlights the growing reach and appreciation of Odia cinema on national platforms. PNN



PEANUTS



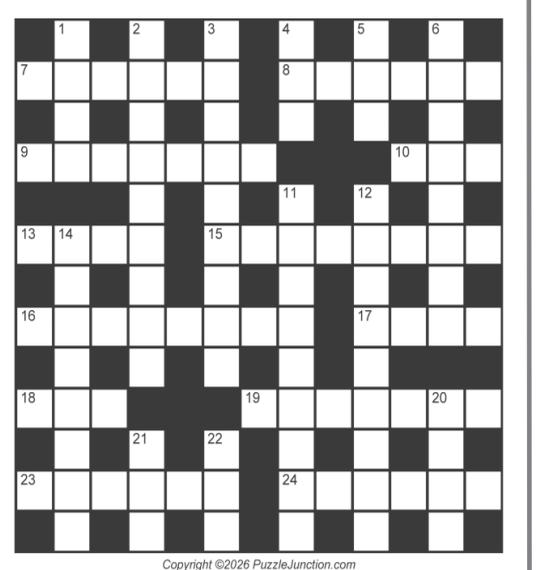
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN POST CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 It has its faults
 - 8 Beauty treatment
 - 9 Pugilist
 - 10 Conceit
 - 13 Resting place
 - 15 Kind of kit (5,3)
 - 16 Brave and dependable
 - 17 Leisure
 - 18 Stun
 - 19 Get stuck (3,4)
 - 23 "Romeo and Juliet" setting
 - 24 Large lizard
- Down**
- 1 Visored cap
 - 2 Mentally perceptive (2,3,4)
 - 3 Irish Sea crown dependency (4,2,3)
 - 4 Back on board
 - 5 Do film work
 - 6 Shopper stoppers
 - 11 Italian restaurant
 - 12 Calipso instrument (5,4)
 - 14 Appalled
 - 20 Blink of an eye
 - 21 Constrictor
 - 22 Crow's call

SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

T	O	E	S	C	A	R	E	F	R	E	E
O	A	G	U	X	O	C					
D	E	R	R	I	C	K	E	L	D	E	R
D	L	V	R	E							
L	A	S	H	E	S		S	C	I	E	N
E	I	U	I	T	T						
R	A	M	T	A	S	K	S	S	I	R	
S	A	A	E	E							
C	R	O	W	N		O	B	T	A	I	N
G	S	H									
O	K	A	P	I		T	A	K	E	O	F
A	L	L	R	A	E	R	I				
T	H	A	I	L	A	N	D	O	N	Y	X

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

ROAD MISHAPS CLAIM 5 LIVES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, March 6: Road mishaps claimed at least five lives in three districts of Odisha Friday, police said.

Two persons died in motorcycle accidents in Nayagarh and Puri each, while one man lost his life when a truck crashed into a house where he was sleeping. A report received from Bhopur in Nayagarh said two youths died after their motorcycle hit a roadside tree. The deceased were Bira Kishore Dhal and Shankar Biswal of Kalatangi, police said.

They were travelling from Mardarajpur to Kalatangi. Locals took them to Khandapada CHC, where the doctors declared them dead, police said.

In another accident, two motorcycle riders died, and another was critically injured when a truck hit them near Dandamukundpur bypass on Bhubaneswar-Puri NH Friday morning. The victims were not identified till the last reports received.

A Dhenkanal report said that one person died after a truck crashed into a house at Hatibari village under Gandia police station in the district.



READY FOR RESCUE: Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel perform a rescue mock drill during a function marking the 57th Raising Day of CISF at Mundali in Cuttack, Friday (REPORT #4)

Stop reporting on TRPs for TV news channels, BARC told

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 6: The government Friday directed Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) to immediately withhold reporting the Television Rating Points (TRPs) for TV news channels for a period of four weeks or until further orders.

The directive has been issued as certain TV news channels are displaying "unwarranted sensationalism and speculative content" about the ongoing Israel-Iran conflict, which "may potentially create panic" among the general public.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting said that it has observed that, amidst the ongoing Israel-Iran conflict, certain news TV channels are displaying "unwarranted sensationalism and speculative content", which "may potentially create panic" among the general public, specially those having friends and family in the affected areas or residing in the affected areas.

"Therefore, in the public interest, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting hereby directs M/s BARC to immediately withhold reporting the Television Rating Points (TRPs) for news TV channels for a period of four weeks or until further directions, whichever is earlier," it said.

UPSC: Anuj Agnihotri tops civil services exam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 6: Anuj Agnihotri, an AIIMS graduate, has topped the coveted civil services examination 2025, results of which were declared by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) Friday.

Rajeshwari Suve M and Akansh Dhull have got the second and third ranks, respectively.

Agnihotri secured the first rank, with medical science as his optional subject, in his third attempt.

He has done MBBS (Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery) from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Jodhpur, Rajasthan.

"I am extremely happy at this achievement. It's an incredible feeling," Agnihotri told PTI from his residence in Rawatbhata under Chittorgarh district of Rajasthan.

He credited his success to family members saying they have been his biggest source of inspiration.

Among the finally qualified candidates, top five comprises one woman and four men. The top 25 candidates comprise 11 women and 14 men.

A total of 958 candidates -- 659 men and 299 women -- have qualified the examination and are recommended for appointment to different Central civil services, the UPSC said, adding that the candidature of 348 recommended candidates has been kept provisional.

Andhra, K'taka 1st to ban SocMed for kids

While the TDP-led NDA government in Andhra Pradesh said social media will be prohibited for children below 13 years of age, the Congress government in Karnataka said the ban will apply for those under 16

AGENCIES

Amaravati/Bangalore, March 6: Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka Friday became the first two Indian states to ban the use of social media for children, albeit in different age groups.

Australia and Indonesia have effected similar bans, amid a global debate over the need to safeguard children from the addiction to social media.

While the TDP-led NDA ruled Andhra Pradesh said social media will be prohibited for children below 13 years of age, the Congress government in neighbouring Karnataka said the ban will apply for those under 16.

Addressing the Andhra Assembly, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu said they were debating whether to extend this ban to children between 13 and 16 years of age.

"Definitely, we will make sure that within 90 days those below 13 years of age are not able to use social media," said Naidu.

The CM said his government will take a call on banning social media for teenagers between 13 and 16 years.

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced a ban on use of social media for those under the age of 16 years.

The move aimed at preventing adverse effects on children was met with both encourage-



ment and skepticism.

"With the objective of preventing adverse effects of increasing mobile usage on children, usage of social media will be banned for children under the age of 16," Siddaramaiah said while presenting the state Budget for 2026-27 in the state Assembly in Bangalore.

Later, addressing a presser, he said children below 16 years can keep a mobile phone, but they cannot use social media.

Though he did not mention when the ban would take effect, he said, "We will ban social media for them."

Responding to queries on how will it be regulated - in schools, colleges or at home, Siddaramaiah said, "We will formulate a programme for that. Once the programme is

finalised, we will inform you."

Less than one-quarter of Karnataka's population is under the age of 15, a report of a 2019-20 survey conducted by India's federal health ministry showed. The state has a population of 67.6 million, a 2025 presentation by federal government think tank Niti Aayog showed.

Bangalore, often dubbed India's Silicon Valley, is home to global technology firms such as Microsoft, Amazon, IBM, Dell and Google.

Karnataka's neighbouring state Goa is also weighing a similar ban, its IT minister said in January, while in the same month, a lawmaker from Andhra Pradesh proposed a Bill to curb social media for children.

In January, Karnataka's Electronics, IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge had informed the Assembly that the government was holding consultations regarding measures to be put in place for responsible use of artificial intelligence and social media, especially among children.

The Union government's Economic Survey tabled in Parliament in January this year said age-based access to online platforms should be considered while also cutting down online teaching to avoid digital addiction.

Rupee falls 18p to close at 91.82 against US dollar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, March 6: The rupee depreciated 18 paise against the US dollar Friday to close at 91.82 against the American currency, as surging crude oil prices and a shift toward risk-aversion weighed on the currency.

Forex experts said the rupee is under pressure as the escalating Middle-East conflict drove demand for safe-haven assets.

Moreover, persistent foreign fund outflows and a negative trend in domestic equities further dented investor sentiment.

However, the depreciation bias was contained to some extent following the US administration's decision to allow Indian refiners to purchase Russian oil for 30 days, a move likely to ease pressure on global energy flows amid the ongoing war in West Asia. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at its previous session's closing level of 91.64 against the greenback and witnessed an intraday high of 91.59 and a low of 91.85 during the session.

At the end of Friday's trade, the rupee settled at 91.82 against the US dollar, registering a loss of 18 paise from its previous closing level.

The Indian currency recovered 41 paise to settle at 91.64 against the dollar Thursday after losing 97 paise in the preceding two sessions.

According to analysts, several factors, including shipping disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, triggered by the war involving the US, Iran and Israel, have added pressure to the Indian currency.

Murder attempt on college girl in Gop

POST NEWS NETWORK

Gop, March 6: A 17-year-old college student was seriously injured after being attacked with a blade in an alleged attempt to murder her at Nagpur-sahi village under Gop police station in Puri district Friday.

The victim, Rani Bishwal, daughter of Charan Bishwal, was cycling to Gop College to appear for her Plus II examination at around 8.30 am when the incident occurred. According to reports, she had travelled barely 300 metres from her house when an unidentified assailant allegedly took advantage of the morning fog and attacked her with a blade, causing severe injuries to her neck, shoulder, back and other parts of the body.

The assault, which lasted barely two minutes, took place near Muguriasahi village. Local women who witnessed the incident raised an alarm, forcing the attacker to flee the spot on a motorcycle.

Family members rushed to the scene after being informed

The victim, Rani Bishwal, daughter of Charan Bishwal, was cycling to Gop College to appear for her Plus II examination at around 8.30 am when the incident occurred

and took the critically injured girl to the Gop Community Health Centre, where she was given primary treatment.

Following the incident, the traumatised student could not appear for her Physics examination. Based on a complaint lodged by her father, police registered a case and launched an investigation.

Gop police station officer Durga Charan Mahapatra said efforts are underway to identify and arrest the accused, adding that the motive behind the attack is yet to be ascertained.



Markets log worst weekly loss in over a year

REUTERS

Mumbai, March 6: India's benchmark indices closed lower to log their worst week in over a year Friday, as the escalating US-Israeli war with Iran sent crude prices surging and soured global investor sentiment.

Brent crude rose to a 20-month high of \$87.66 per barrel Friday and is on course for a 20 per cent jump this week, the sharpest rise since March 2022 in the aftermath of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Higher oil prices are typically negative for India, the world's third-largest crude importer.

Markets fear that a broader energy-supply shock could substantially increase inflationary pressures and strain

India's current account and fiscal balance.

The Nifty 50 fell 1.27 per cent to 24,450.45 Friday, while the BSE Sensex dropped 1.37 per cent to 78,918.9, with heavy-weight financials leading the drag.

For the week, the Nifty and Sensex lost about 2.9 per cent each, marking their steepest weekly decline since February 28, 2025 and December 20, 2024, respectively.

The market is taking into account the near-term threat from oil prices, said Pankaj Pandey, head of retail research at ICICI Securities.

"However, we don't yet see a macroeconomic impact from this as the broad expectation is that crude prices will not remain elevated for a long period.



The rupee ended a tad lower Friday and logged its worst weekly fall in over a month.

Fifteen of 16 major sectors fell this week, while small-caps and mid-caps declined 2.5 per cent and 2.9 per cent,

respectively. State-owned banks lost 6.5 per cent on fears that higher crude could lift government borrowing costs, push bond yields up and compress treasury gains.

Financials and banks fell

about 4.5 per cent each.

Oil and gas dropped 3.9 per cent, as oil marketing companies BPCL, HPCL and IOC fell.

Among other stocks, Larsen and Toubro slipped 2.2 per cent. It fell at 7.7 per cent for the week, its worst since May 2020, as investors priced in Middle East exposure.

Interglobe Aviation fell 2.4 per cent Friday and 8.8 per cent in three months, on worries that higher fuel costs and moderation in international air traffic could dent quarterly earnings.

"While the conflict dragged equities this week, it's not all gloom," said Samrat Dasgupta, chief executive officer of Esquire Capital Investment Advisors.

Rape accused flees from Balasore court

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, March 6: Exposing loopholes in security arrangements, a rape accused gave the police a slip while being produced in a court here Friday.

As per reports, accused Sk Istekhar from Gopinathpur area under Singla police limits in the district was accused of raping a woman belonging to Scheduled Caste (SC) community. A complaint was lodged at Kasafala police station April 9, 2025, following which a case was registered and Istekhar arrested. Subsequently, he was forwarded to SC/ST court that sent him to judicial custody after rejection of his bail plea.

While he was lodged at Balas-

The accused was at Balasore SC/ST court for a hearing when he managed to flee, taking advantage of not being cuffed by the police

ore jail as an undertrial prisoner (UTP), Istekhar was directed to appear in the court during every hearing. The accused was at Balasore SC/ST court Friday for such a hearing when he managed to flee, taking advantage of not being cuffed by the police.

An eight-member team has been formed to trace the absconding accused.

Shah unveils 199 projects worth ₹3,275cr in state

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, March 6: Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah Friday unveiled 199 developmental projects valued at ₹3,275 crore in Odisha.

During his one-day visit to the state, Shah inaugurated 69 projects worth ₹1,159 crore and laid foundation stone for 130 projects valued at ₹2,116 crore in presence of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and other dignitaries.

Taking to X, Majhi said, "Today marks a historic milestone in Odisha's journey of progress and administrative reform. In the gracious presence of Hon'ble Union Minister for Home and Cooperation, Shri @AmitShah Ji, development projects worth ₹3,275 crore were inaugurated and foundation stones laid across the state, reflecting our collective commitment to building a stronger and more prosperous Odisha."

Shah inaugurated 20 cyber and economic offences police stations and 24 police stations in different districts of the state, a sulphuric acid plant of IFFCO at Paradip, 19 modern Atal Bus Stands, Common Service Centres (CSCs) for primary agricultural cooperative societies (PACS), and 141 mandis (marketing yards), the CMO said.

The Union Home Minister has inaugurated a milk processing plant at Tangi in Khurda and the transit campus of National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) and laid the foundation stone for its permanent campus at Jatni in the district. The foundation stone for the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) Bhubaneswar campus was laid



CISF to guard pvt industrial groups

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) will soon provide security to private industrial groups in a hybrid mode, Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced during an event marking the 57th Raising Day of CISF at Mundali in Cuttack Friday.

Attending the event as the chief guest, Shah said that after completing 56 years, the CISF has risen to the pinnacle in the field of industrial security, which is a testament to the force's dedication and valour. He said, "Four years ago, we

had asked the CISF to develop a hybrid model to provide security to private industrial groups as well. The model has now been prepared with the most modern equipment. In the coming days, CISF will also provide security to private industrial groups in a hybrid mode."

On the occasion, Shah laid the foundation stone for three residential complexes of CISF at Kamrup, Nashik and Sehora, to be built at a cost of ₹890 crore, and inaugurated two residential complexes at Rajarhat and Delhi.

in Khurda, it said.

On the occasion, six MoUs were signed for the development of various projects, including revival of Badamba Cooperative Sugar Mill, establishment of an ice cream plant in Cuttack, a school in Tribhuvan Sahkari University, and a branch of Rashtriya Raksha University. The state government has signed a pact with IIT-Bhubaneswar for effective utilisation of technology in the Home department.

Shah also unveiled Odisha Cooperative Policy-2026, making Odisha the first state in the country to implement such a policy, the CMO said.

"With the launch of Shwet Kranti 2.0, inauguration of a 30,000 LPD milk processing plant at Tangi, support under Mukhyamantri Kamadhenu Yojana, and 1,567 PACS-operated CSCs, the government is strengthening the rural economy and empowering our farmers," the CMO said.

No trade licence sans legal requirements: HC

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, March 6: Orissa High Court issued directions asking the government departments to ensure that no trade licence or business permission should be granted for any building that does not comply with legal requirements.

If the structure is claimed to be an old residential house, it cannot be used for commercial activity without proper approval. If any part of the building is unauthorised or deviates from the approved plan, the authorities must take action as per law. This may include demolition of the unauthorised portion or compounding where legally permissible, the court ordered while taking cognizance of a writ petition.

The writ petition, seeking judicial intervention, alleged that commercial buildings being operated in narrow residential areas without proper infrastructure

When a private commercial establishment uses public roads for parking, loading, and customer movement because it has no internal facilities, it is using public property for private business, the HC said

and approvals in Hemraj Lane, Nayasadak in Cuttack city, which is a very narrow road of about 13-ft and located in a dense commercial and residential locality.

The building contains around 50 to 60 shops but does not have proper parking space, fire safety clearance, or environmental approvals. Because of this, vehicles of customers and shop owners are parked on the narrow stretch, creating severe traffic congestion and blocking the entry and exit of nearby residents. The obstruction also affects emergency services such as ambulances and fire vehicles, the petition pointed out.

The narrow public roads are not rendered dysfunctional by

unchecked commercial activity. The obligation of the state is to secure orderly urban governance and prevent obstruction of public streets, the single bench of Justice Sanjeeb Panigrahi noted in the order.

When a private commercial establishment uses public roads for parking, loading, and customer movement because it has no internal facilities, it is effectively using public property for private business. This amounts to misuse of public space, stated the order.

The HC held that commercial establishments must be self-sufficient and cannot shift their operational burden onto public roads. The court further directed

the Commissioner of Police, Cuttack, to strictly regulate traffic in Hemraj Lane stating that no vehicles will be allowed to park or stop on the road.

Vehicles parked illegally must be immediately removed, towed, or impounded. Proper 'No Parking / No Stopping' signboards must be installed. Police must ensure free movement for residents, ambulances, and fire services. A compliance report must be submitted to the court within eight weeks.

The Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) and the Housing and Urban Development department must conduct a complete inspection of the buildings, the court said.

They must verify whether the building has a sanctioned building plan, completion or occupancy certificate, valid fire safety 'no-objection certificate' and required environmental approvals, the order read.



In this photo shared on social media by Athagarh MLA Ranendra Pratap Swain, his newlywed son Aditya Pratap Swain and daughter-in-law Jema Kriti are seen with Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo and Aul MLA Pratap Keshari Deb, along with family members

CRACKDOWN ON OVERCHARGING FARE BY BUSES

STA directs RTOs to conduct surprise raids

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar/Cuttack, March 6: Carry out regular inspections to prevent buses from charging fares beyond the government-fixed limit, State Transport Authority (STA) directed all Regional Transport Officers (RTOs) Friday.

The directive comes following instructions from Commerce and Transport Minister Bibhuti Bhushan Jena, who emphasised strict action against violators to safeguard



passenger interests.

According to STA, no passenger bus is allowed to collect fares higher than the pre-

scribed rates. The minister has asked officials to take action under the Motor Vehicles Act against buses violating the rule.

In response, RTOs across the state have formed special enforcement teams to conduct surprise inspections of passenger buses. These teams are also interacting with passengers during checks to verify complaints about overcharging.

On the first day of the drive, Cuttack RTO enforcement team took action against five buses for violating fare rules. The

buses were fined ₹10,000 each under Section 192(A) of the Motor Vehicles Act.

Officials said the government has fixed bus fares per kilometre depending on the category of bus, and the rates apply to both offline and online ticket bookings. Bus owners and operators have been instructed to strictly follow these fare guidelines. Apart from checking fare violations, enforcement teams have also been asked to ensure that bus-tops follow all road safety norms during the inspections.

CLASSIFIED LOST

I Geetanjali Jena, W/o Prakash Chandra Swain, R/o Balarampurgada, Samili Madhysahi, Post-Gualigorada, PS-Balanga, Dist-Puri, declare that I am the recorded owner of M.S Khata No 183/29, Plot No.-212/554 (0.070 dec). The original previous Patta (Khata No 183/29, Plot No.-212/554 (0.070 dec) & sale deed (App No-483 and Document No 602/881, Dtd.08.07.2002) and was lost on 27-02-2026, enroute to Satyabadi. Despite best efforts, could not be found the same. If someone gets the said sale deed & Patta, kindly contact at LIC HFL, IPICOL House, BBSR, within 15days or else LIC HFL will not be held responsible. CONTACT: LIC HFL, IPICOL HOUSE, BHUBANESWAR MANAS KUMAR NAYAK, ADVOCATE MOBILE NO-8908257113

NCW, OSCW host public hearing

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 6: With the aim of providing a free platform for women to present and hear their grievances related to domestic violence, harassment, dowry, property disputes, harassment at workplace, cybercrime, desertion, matrimonial disputes, violation of women's rights, and other issues related to women's welfare, a public hearing programme was organised Friday.

The event took place at the conference hall of State Institute for Women and Children in Laxmi Sagar here, organised through the joint collaboration of National Commission for Women (NCW) and Odisha State Commission for Women (OSCW).

In the programme, notices were issued to parties in a total of 86 cases from various areas of Khurda district. Out of these, parties involved in 45 cases were present at the hearing, where their grievances were heard and measures were taken for the immediate resolution of the complaints. Previously, in 150 cases, the commission had recommended Khurda district police authorities, district protection officers, and district legal services authority investigate and submit reports while providing legal aid. Consequently, district-level officers remained present at the public hearing and submitted action taken reports for all those cases. Similarly, a total of 6 new cases were registered during this public hearing.

BGU, MRI host AI conclave



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 6: With an objective of to discuss how Artificial Intelligence (AI) is changing ways of learning and teaching methodologies for students, Birla Global University (BGU), in collaboration with Microsoft Research India (MRI), brought together academic leaders from across the state for a leadership conclave on "Transformation of Higher Education in the Age of AI". The conclave was attended by representatives from 26 universities and colleges.

Key topics discussed included the gaps found in early education and how AI is changing our perception of knowledge delivery. The conclave also highlighted why AI in education must address fairness and responsibility, cross-disciplinary thinking and collaborative learning.

One of the biggest takeaways from the talks includes the concept of Odisha University Compact. The compact is a collaborative model that enables

different universities to work together in a collaborative manner without losing their independence. Through the compact, different universities can share resources, have a faculty exchange programme, and form different groups to enhance the scope of interdisciplinary learning. It also enables students to take different courses from other partner universities, thus providing a flexible higher education structure.

Another notable highlight of the day was the award ceremony of the 'Agents for Academia' Hackathon, where students proposed innovative applications of AI in the overall education ecosystem.

The conclave concluded with the formation of a collaborative group that will work towards bringing much-needed changes in the education system. The initiative aims to integrate AI into academic practices and assist BGU in developing a research-driven education system that is both competitive and future-ready.

2002 voter list baseline for SIR

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, March 6: In a significant move ahead of the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, Odisha's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) RS Gopalan Friday announced that the 2002 voter list will serve as the baseline for mapping the 2025 electoral roll.

During the mapping process, various details such as voters' names, family members' names, birthdates, polling station information, part numbers, and EPIC (Electors Photo Identity Card) details will be cross-checked and synchronised.

Gopalan explained that booth-level officers would be assisting in this process at the grassroots level. Voters can verify their information on multiple platforms, including the



ECINET portal, Voter Service Portal, the CEO Odisha website, and the ECINET mobile app.

The CEO urged citizens to check their names on both the 2002 and 2025 voter lists. If any discrepancies arise, they are advised to report the issue and provide relevant details to the booth-level officers.

For those whose names do not appear on the 2002 list, Gopalan clarified that individuals could map their information

using their parents' details. In cases where neither the individual nor their parents' names are found in the 2002 list, grandparents' details could be used for mapping purposes.

Importantly, no additional identification documents, such as Aadhaar cards, will be required for this mapping process. Once the SIR of electoral rolls officially begins, name registrations will proceed following the standard procedures.

Min: Fix proper price of construction materials

POST NEWS NETWORK

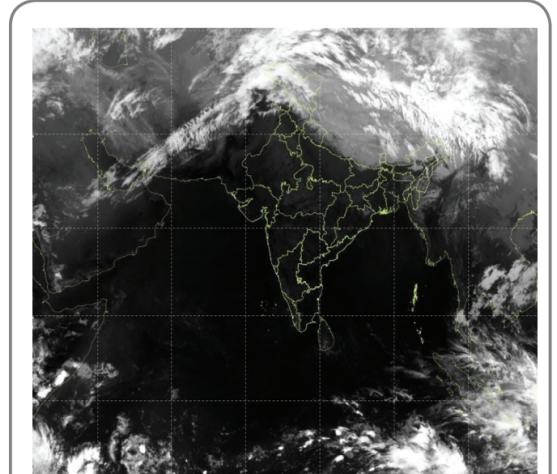
Bhubaneswar, March 6: Ensure proper price fixation of construction materials to bring greater transparency to project implementation and help speed up development works, Works, Law and Excise Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan said Friday.

Harichandan was attending a review meeting on the pricing of construction materials and emphasised focusing on ensuring fair price determination and maintaining quality standards of ongoing infrastructure projects.

The meeting deliberated on using quality materials to enhance the durability of infrastructure projects. During the review, officials examined the pricing systems adopted by the Central government and Ministry of Road Transport and Highways as well as practices followed in other states. The discussion focused on how the state could determine the most appropriate prices for various construction materials.

Emphasising the growing importance of construction materials in infrastructure development, minister stressed the need to complete the price determination process at the earliest.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	91.88 ▲ 0.17	SENSEX	78918.90 ▼ 1097.00	GOLD	₹161,624 ▲ ₹1951
EURO	106.60 ▼ 0.05	NIFTY	24450.45 ▼ 315.45	SILVER	₹267,239 ▲ ₹5048



WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	34.7°	32.8°	Dry weather
Min Temp	23.6°	21.8°	
Humidity	82%	85%	
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	

Missing for 40 days, woman's decomposed body found hanging

POST NEWS NETWORK

Angul, March 6: The decomposed body of a woman who had been missing for nearly 40 days was found hanging from a tree in a forested area under Angul district Friday, police said.

The deceased has been identified as Supriya Naik, wife of Suren Naik from Talasahi in Talagad village under Bantala police limits.

According to police sources, Supriya had been missing for about 40 days. Her family had lodged a missing complaint at Bantala police station January 26. Following the complaint, police registered a missing person case and began an investigation.

Some residents of Talasahi had gone to a nearby forest, about 500 metres from the village, to collect firewood Friday morning. During this time, they noticed a foul smell and discovered a highly decomposed body of a woman hanging from a tree.

The villagers immediately informed Suren Naik's family. Suren and other family members rushed to the spot and identified the body as that of Supriya.

On being informed, Bantala police reached the spot, recovered the body and sent it to the district headquarters hospital for post-mortem.

According to Supriya's husband, the couple had a quarrel a few days before she went missing. Following the argument, she allegedly left home in anger and headed towards the forest. Despite extensive searches by the family, she could not be traced. Police said further investigation into the incident is underway.

Protesting farmers' paddy vanishes from Collectorate



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, March 6: In a bizarre turn of events amid stir over mismanagement in paddy procurement, about 15 bags of paddy left at the Bargarh Collectorate as part of a farmers' protest allegedly disappeared overnight, sparking outrage among cultivators.

Farmers said the paddy bags, stacked on the Collectorate premises Thursday night during a demonstration over delayed procurement, were missing when they returned Friday morning. The affected farmers later lodged a written complaint at Bargarh Town police station.

The complainants include Nilanchal Deheri, Tilaram Deheri, Prabhat Deheri, Debendra Chhuria, Kishore Deheri, Birendra Deheri and Ashwini Deheri.

However, there has been speculation that the paddy may have been moved by departmental officials and kept at another location to avoid a possible protest or law and order situation. There was no official confirmation till the

THERE HAS BEEN SPECULATION THAT THE PADDY MAY HAVE BEEN MOVED BY DEPARTMENTAL OFFICIALS AND KEPT AT ANOTHER LOCATION TO AVOID A POSSIBLE PROTEST OR LAW AND ORDER SITUATION

FARMERS SAID DISAPPEARANCE OF THE PROTEST PADDY NOT ONLY REPRESENTS A MATERIAL LOSS BUT ALSO SYMBOLISES OFFICIAL APATHY TOWARDS THEIR PLIGHT

filling of this report, as officials concerned have not commented on the matter.

Attempts were made to contact Jugala Kishore Dash, deputy registrar of cooperatives, for clarification. He did not respond to phone calls.

According to sources, farmers dependent on the Saharatikra mandi under the Attabira Regulated Market Committee (RMC) in Bargarh district have not been able to sell their paddy harvested during the last kharif season as they were left out of the procurement registration process.

Nearly 30,000 packets of paddy are reportedly lying unsold at the mandi, leaving farmers in distress. The farmers alleged that

despite repeatedly informing the concerned departmental authorities about the issue, no effective step has been taken so far.

In protest against the delay in procurement, farmers staged a demonstration Thursday and piled up paddy inside the Collectorate premises. Local police also reached the spot during the protest. However, the farmers alleged that none of the officials associated with the procurement process came forward to hold discussions with them.

Later in the evening, the farmers left the paddy stacks on the Collectorate premises and returned home.

When they returned to the Collector's office Friday morning, the paddy packets were found missing. After seeking clarification from the police and officials of the District Rural Cooperative Society, and receiving no satisfactory response, the farmers decided to lodge a police complaint.

Ramesh Mohapatra, adviser to the joint farmers' organisation, said it was unfortunate that paddy had gone missing from the Collectorate premises at a time when farmers were already facing hardship.

Other farmer leaders, including Sudam Patra, Suresh Nikenti and Niranjan Padhan, also expressed concern over the incident and demanded an inquiry.

The disappearance of their protest paddy not only represents a material loss but also symbolises official apathy towards their plight, farmers said.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Undertrial prisoner dies under treatment

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, March 6: An undertrial prisoner (UTP) lodged in the Sundargarh District Jail died while undergoing treatment at the Sundargarh Government Medical College and Hospital Thursday night.

The deceased was identified as Saroj Rout, 27, alias Bana of Barpali village under Hemgir police station limits. Sundargarh Town police seized the body Friday morning and registered an unnatural death case (19/26). An investigation into the incident is underway.

According to reports, Saroj had been arrested in connection with a murder and was

lodged in jail as an undertrial. After he fell ill, jail authorities admitted him to the Sundargarh District Headquarters Hospital February 14. He was later shifted to Sundargarh Government Medical College and Hospital the following day after his condition deteriorated further. However, Rout died while undergoing treatment Thursday night. Police have sent the body for post-mortem.

Sundargarh District Jail Superintendent Jeevan Singh Munda said Saroj was among four persons arrested by police February 9 in connection with

the murder of Satyaram Kua in the Hemgir police station area. The accused were later produced in court, and after their bail pleas were rejected, they were remanded to judicial custody in the district jail.

Munda said Saroj had been undergoing treatment for the last month. He was initially treated by the jail doctor after he complained of illness. As he was suffering from jaundice and other complications, he was admitted to the DHH and was kept in the ICU February 14.

Youth Parliament eyes 'Viksit Bharat'

BALASORE: Fakir Mohan University Thursday hosted the district-level "Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament-2026," an initiative of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports aimed at promoting leadership and democratic values among youth. Chaired by Vice-Chancellor Santosh Kumar Tripathy, the program featured an elocution contest titled "50 Years of the Emergency; Lessons for Indian Democracy." More than 200 participants aged 18-25 registered through the MY Bharat portal, with 38 finalists delivering speeches in Odia, English and Hindi. Top performers Kashish Dash, Biswaranjan Nayak, Madhusmita Bal, Bhabashree Jena and Sushma Dash will represent Balasore district at the state-level competition, where three speakers will be selected for the national stage. University officials, including Chairman of the PG Council Prof. Bhaskar, Registrar Kukumina Das, Director of the College Development Council Prof. Santosh Agrawalla, District NSS Program Officer Pratima Pradhan and NSS Coordinator Prof. Amulya Kumar Acharya, presented certificates during the closing ceremony. The program was coordinated by Prof. Amulya Kumar Acharya, M. Vignesh, Pratima Pradhan, Gauranga Panda and Avaya Kumar Nayak, with support from NSS program officers of the university and its affiliated colleges. Organisers said the initiative aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of integrating youth perspectives into national development.

Woman's body found; murder suspected

ROURKELA: The body of a young woman was recovered under suspicious circumstances near a school in Rourkela Friday morning, raising suspicion of murder. Police recovered the body from bushes near an upper primary school at Saw Mill Chhak under Brahmanitarang police station limits. The woman is believed to be around 25 years old, but her identity had not been established till late evening when this report came in. According to sources, local residents spotted the body lying near the school at around 7:30am and alerted the police. A police team, along with a scientific team and a sniffer dog squad, reached the spot and began an investigation. A case (35/26) has been registered. The body has been sent to the mortuary of Rourkela Government Hospital for post-mortem. While the exact cause of death is yet to be confirmed, police suspect that the incident may be a premeditated murder and further investigation is underway.

Man found dead on Hirakhand Express

KORAPUT: Railway police recovered the body of a young man from the Hirakhand Express at Koraput railway station Friday. The deceased has been identified as Manish Das of Nayabazar in Kantilo area of Cuttack district. Police have launched an investigation into the incident. According to sources, Das was working for a private company in Tikiri area of Rayagada district. He was travelling from Bhubaneswar to Tikiri by the Hirakhand Express Thursday when he is suspected to have suffered a heart attack and died during the journey. On arrival of the train at Koraput station, personnel of the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Government Railway Police (GRP) reached the spot and seized the body. A railway doctor later declared the youth dead, said GRP officer-in-charge Santoshi Mahanta. A case (2/2026) has been registered at the GRP police station. Assistant sub-inspector Amar Sethi has begun an investigation. The body has been sent to SLN Medical College and Hospital in Koraput for post-mortem. The family members of the deceased have been informed, police said.

One killed, 2 critical in head-on collision

KHAJURIPADA: One person was killed and two others were critically injured after two motorcycles collided head-on near Muskil Rasta Chhak under Khajuripada police station limits in Kandhamal district Friday. The deceased was identified as Kamadev Behera of Bandhasahi village in Khajuripada. The injured are Charan Behera, a junior engineer working with the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS) division at Khajuripada block, and Fagua Behera of Bandhasahi. According to reports, Charan was returning to Khajuripada block office on his motorcycle after completing official work at the Phulbani division office. While passing through Muskil Rasta Chhak near Sambapadaghat, his motorcycle collided head-on with a speeding bike coming from the opposite direction. The second bike was carrying Fagua Behera and Kamadev Behera. All three riders sustained severe injuries in the accident. Fire services personnel rescued them from the spot and rushed them to Khajuripada hospital. As their condition was critical, they were later referred to the district headquarters hospital in Phulbani after preliminary treatment. Doctors there declared Kamadev Behera dead. Police reached the spot and launched an investigation into the incident.

Mounting costs, cheap imports spell doom for Bhadrak potters

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, March 6: Even as demand for earthen products rises amid a growing preference for eco-friendly and traditional cookware, potters in Bhadrak district are facing a severe livelihood crisis. From households to shops and hotels, clay utensils such as earthen pots, bowls, tawas and glasses are once again finding favour. Many consumers believe food cooked in clay pots is healthier and tastier, while several hotels, particularly those serving non-vegetarian dishes, have begun using earthen cookware.

However, the revival in demand has not translated into better incomes for traditional artisans. Potters of Ugalpur village under Baudapur panchayat said rising production costs and stiff competition from cheaper pottery imported from other states have pushed their centuries-old craft to the brink. Around 10 to 20 Kumbhar families in the village depend entirely on pottery for their livelihood, supplying products to Bhadrak and neighbouring districts such as Balasore, Keonjhar and Jajpur.

Artisans say they now have to purchase raw clay, significantly increasing costs. Red clay is sourced from Govindpur village under Ol-



ang panchayat and black, sticky clay from Gelatua panchayat, costing between Rs 2,000 and Rs 2,500 per tractor load.

"Earlier, our products had good demand. Now, even quality items fail to sell," said Pratap Kumar Sahu and Shatrughan Sahu, potters from Ugalpur. They said pottery from West Bengal and other states, which is cheaper and machine-finished, has flooded local markets.

Retailers confirmed the trend. "Customers prefer outside products because they are cheaper and smoother. As traders, we stock what sells," said Sitakanta Sahu, a local retailer.

Unable to compete on the price front, many artisans say they are struggling to recover even basic labour costs, forcing families to

abandon the craft. "The younger generation no longer sees a future in pottery," said potter Prashant Sahu. Many other potters, including Amulya Sahu, Sanatan Behera, Khageswar Behera and Bhagirathi Muduli, echoed similar concerns.

Officials of the district administration acknowledged the challenges faced by traditional artisans and said steps are being taken under various state and central schemes. A senior official from the District Industries Centre (DIC), Bhadrak, said potters are eligible for assistance under handicrafts and rural livelihood programmes, including skill upgradation, tool support and financial aid.

"We are encouraging artisans to register with government platforms and self-help groups (SHGs) so that they can access subsidies, training and marketing support," the official said, adding that efforts are also being made to link artisans with exhibitions, fairs and online marketplaces.

However, the potters said implementation on the ground remains limited and slow. They have demanded direct financial support, raw material subsidies and dedicated market spaces for locally made pottery to help preserve the traditional craft and ensure sustainable livelihoods.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No.25001/292/2526
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS DIVISION, DEOGARH
E-mail id : eerw_deogarh@yahoo.co.in
E-Procurement Notice
BID IDENTIFICATION NO. SERWDGH-Online- 21/2025-26

- No. of Building work :- (05 Nos)
- Estimated cost :- Approx. Rs. 12.18 lakhs to Rs. 44.85 Lakhs.
- Mode of submission of tender :- Tender shall be submitted online in www.tendersodisha.gov.in
- Availability of tender for online bidding :- 07.03.2026, 10.00 A.M to 12.03.2026 up to 5.00 P.M
- Date and time of opening of tender :- 13.03.2026, 10.00 A.M
- Other details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in
- Corrigendum / Addendum if any shall only be published in the above website.

Superintending Engineer
R.W. Division, Deogarh
OIPR-25001/250871/1/25-26/0015

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT
IDENTIFICATION NO: RWS&S DIVN., PURI - 42 OF 2025-26
Ph. - (06752) 251276, Fax - (06752) 251276, E-mail - eerwsspuri@gmail.com
No.25001/286/2526 : The Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Puri on behalf of Government of Odisha invites Percentage rate price bids through e-procurement in double cover system according to the norms of e-procurement system, in on-line mode from eligible contractors.

Sl. No.	Nature of Work	Construction of office building for RWSS Sub-Division, Puri in Puri District
1	No. of works	01 (ONE)
2	Estimated Cost	Rs. 69.80 Lakhs (app.)
3	Time for completion	9 (Nine) Months
4	Cost of bidding document	Rs. 10,000/-
5	Class of Contractors eligible	B&A
6	Availability of bids on-line	From 11.00 hour of 09.03.2026 to 17.00 hours of 23.03.2026
7	Last date and time for seeking clarification	17.00 hours of 19.03.2026
8	Date & time of opening of technical bids	On dt 24.03.2026 at 11.30 Hours in the office of the Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Puri (All documents should be submitted in online only. No original documents should be dropped in dropping box before opening of technical bid in Division Office)
9	Date and time of opening of financial bids	To be decided

Further details can be seen from the website <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>. Subsequent corrigendum if any shall appear in the website.
Sd./ Superintending Engineer
R.W.S&S Division, Puri
OIPR-25001/250171/1/25-26/0002

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
TELENGIRI CANAL DIVISION, AMBAGUDA,
DIST.- KORAPUT
Email : setcdambaguda@gmail.com
e-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. SE-TCD-06/2025-26 Dated 05.03.2026
No.32001/166/2526 : Bid Documents consisting of work, Estimated Cost, Cost of bid document, EMD, Time of completion, Class of Contractors and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in Govt. Website i.e. www.tendersodisha.gov.in.

- Name of the Work : Civil Works
- No. of Works : 5 Nos.
- Estimated Cost : Rs. 5.24 Lakhs - 14.99 Lakhs
- Period of completion : One Calendar Month
- Date & Time of Bidding : From 11.00 hours of 09.03.2026 Up to 12.00 hours of 16.03.2026
- Last date & time for receipt of bids in portal : 16.03.2026 up to 12.00 hours of 16.03.2026
- Bids received online shall be opened on : 15.30 hours of 16.03.2026
- Name and address of the officer inviting Bid : Superintending Engineer, Telengiri Canal Division, Ambaguda

Further details can be seen from the www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Addendum/Corrigendum/ Cancellation if any required will be published in Govt. website only.
Sd./ Superintending Engineer,
Telengiri Canal Division, Ambaguda
OIPR-32001/324341/1/25-26/0004

Appointment of Passenger Halt Agents at Haludpukur and Panpali over Chakradharpur Division
Ref: No. Comml. 49/PH/HLD/PNPL/2026. Date:-05.03.2026
For and on behalf of the President, Union of India, the Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), S. E. Railway, Chakradharpur invites applications for appointment of halt agents for a period of (05) five years at Haludpukur PH situated between Tatanagar and Bahalda Road stations and Panpali Passenger Halt situated between Bagdehi and Jharsuguda stations over Chakradharpur Division as per Railway Boards letter No. 2017/TG-IV/2/RB/05/Halts Policy dated. 18/11/2019 (Master Circular). The agent should be at least 10th standard pass for new contractors (i.e. contractors engaged after 24/06/2005). The agent should be a permanent resident of the place where the halt station is proposed to be opened. The residence should be treated as local residence if it is located within the same district in which the station is located. A certificate to this effect shall be obtained from DM/ADM/SDO/BDO of the same district where the halt is situated. Terms and conditions of the engagement is available in the office of Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, South Eastern Railway, Chakradharpur and applicant can download the matter through website www.ser.indianrailways.gov.in. upto 16.00 hrs. on 06.04.2026. The date of dropping applications in the office 07/04/2026 from 10.00 hrs. to 13.00 hrs. and the application receiving Box will be opened on 07/04/2026 at 15.30 hrs. sharp.
(PR-1271) Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial)/Chakradharpur
South Eastern Railway
We serve with a smile

Bank of India **POSSESSION NOTICE**
[Rule-8 (1) & (2)] of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules-2002
Zonal Office : Star House, 1/1-D, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli Bhubaneswar, Odisha, PIN-751015

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of India under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Mortgagor(s) in the loan account given below to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest & expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Mortgagor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Symbolic Possession** of the property described here-in below in exercise of the powers conferred on him / her under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with Rule-8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002. Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property & any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Bank of India, Concerned Branches, for the amount stated below with interest thereon. **The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the secured assets.**

BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Mortgagor(s)	Liabilities due as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice/ Date of Possession (Symbolic) Notice	Description of Immovable Property/ies
BHUBANESWAR SME BRANCH / Borrower & Mortgagor: Mr. Sabyasachi Dhal, S/o- Satyanarayan Dhal, Address-1: N/2, Green Park (Lane No. 1), Jagmohan Nagar (Lane No. 3), Jagamara, Khandagiri, Khurda, Odisha, PIN-751030, Address-2: Khata No.: 529/773, Sub Plot No. 2, Plot No.: 12(P), Mouza: Matiapada-2, Near Jagannath Petrol Pump, Gudiapokhari, PS: Pipili, Puri, Odisha, PIN-752104.	₹ 38,11,188.68 + interest & other charges thereon	30.12.2025 / 06.03.2026	All that part and parcel of the Land and Building situated at Plot No.: 12(P), Sub Plot No.: 02, Khata No.: 529/773, Area: Ac.0.02.571 dec. (approximately 1120 sqft.), KISSAM: Gharabari under Mouza: Matiapada-2, PS/Tahasil/SRO: Pipili, Dist.: Puri, recorded in the name of Mr. Sabyasachi Dhal, S/o- Satyanarayan Dhal.
BHUBANESWAR SME BRANCH / Borrower & Mortgagor: Mr. Altaf Mohammad, S/o- Janu Mohammad / Borrower: Mrs. Sabina Perwin, W/o- Altaf Mohammad, Both are at Plot No.: 1542 & 1541/3653, Muslim Sahi, Mukundaprasad, Khurda, Odisha, PIN-752057.	₹ 27,72,961.36 + interest & other charges thereon	30.12.2025 / 06.03.2026	All that piece and parcel of the Land and Building situated at Khata No.: 526/1449, Plot No.: 1541/3653, Area: Ac.0.0500dec. and Khata No.: 526/1502, Plot No.: 1542, Area: Ac.0.0350dec., KISSAM: Gharabari, Mouza: Mukundaprasad, Tahasil: Khurda, SRO: Khurda, admeasuring Total Area of Ac.0.0850dec. i.e. 3702.60 sqft. recorded in the name of the borrower Mr. Altaf Mohammad, S/o- Janu Mohammad.
PURI BRANCH / Borrower & Mortgagor: Mr. Trinath Sahoo, S/o- Sudam Sahoo/ Co-Borrower: Mr. Ramakanta Sahoo, S/o- Trinath Sahoo, Both are At: Shyamakali Lane, Balisahi, Puri, Odisha, PIN-752001.	₹ 19,50,268.67 + interest & other charges thereon	11.11.2025 / 27.02.2026	All that part and parcel of Vacant Land situated over Mutated Khata No.: 131/332, Plot No.: 168/1001, Area: Ac.0.025.2dec., Mouza: Puri Sahar Unit No. 4, Lokanathghat, PS: Puri Town No. 04, SRO: Puri, Tahasil: Puri No. 644, Dist: Puri, Odisha, standing in the name of Mr. Trinath Sahoo. Bounded by- North: Jagneswar Pradhan, South: Road, East: Balam Pradhan, West: Road.

Puri Sahar Unit No. 4, Lokanathghat, PS: Puri Town No. 04, SRO: Puri, Tahasil: Puri No. 644, Dist: Puri, Odisha, standing in the name of Mr. Trinath Sahoo. Bounded by- North: Jagneswar Pradhan, South: Road, East: Balam Pradhan, West: Road.
Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 06.03.2026
Authorised Officer, Bank of India

FOCUS WAR WITH IRAN

THE BALKANIZATION PLAN



The problem is that the US has a very poor track record when it comes to fomenting separatist unrest, as the Marsh Arabs and Iraqi Kurds discovered after Operation Desert Storm in 1991

going to remain passive as the Iranian Kurdistan Free Life Party (PJAK) – an offshoot of the PKK – establishes a statelet on its border. And if Turkey were to move against such an entity, what would Israel do about it?

Here, too, it may suit the Israelis to fight another war of aggression against an unfriendly neighbor, but it certainly would not suit the US, Turkey, or the rest of NATO. The last thing they want, in addition to the probably fatal rupture in NATO that any attack on Turkey would cause, is another wave of refugees fleeing toward Europe as a result of an entirely avoidable conflict.

These are just the most predictable problems. But there would also be unknown unknowns. A balkanized Iran would be highly unstable, subject not just to bouts of ethnic cleansing but also to the predations of greedy or nervous neighbors. Trump has no power to decide whether Iran regresses into a “constitutional” monarchy or autocracy under a “Shah” who has lived in the US since 1985, or whether it remains a centralized republic or a confederal one, like Canada or Australia.

Given Trump’s fixation on winning a Nobel Peace Prize, many imagined that he would heed those in his political coalition counseling restraint. But a minority of residual necons seems to have filled the vacuum in his knowledge of the region, aided by an Israeli prime minister whose vision of his country’s future evidently involves one war after another, regardless of lives lost and the economic damage done to the rest of us.

The writer is a senior fellow at LSE Ideas at the London School of Economics.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has finally gotten his war with Iran, the one regional power that Israel truly fears. While the United States is nominally the senior partner in this illegal war of choice, it is Netanyahu who appears to be dictating the tactics and the goals, starting with the targeted assassination of Iran’s top leadership and a bombing campaign that treats the killing of scores of schoolgirls as mere collateral damage.

Israel used the same approach against Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis in recent years, while also murdering Iranian physicists and engineers in what amounted to terrorist attacks orchestrated by Mossad. But since Iran is a very large country (roughly the size of France, Germany, and Spain combined) with 93 million people, something more is required, because the US, let alone tiny Israel, cannot conceivably invade and occupy it.

That is why Israeli hawks have long lobbied to splinter Iran into ethno-religious statelets, and why its intelligence agencies have been cultivating separatists. Having failed to devise a plan for the day after this war ends, the US has also begun to toy with this “strategy.” According to a CNN report, the “CIA is working to arm Kurdish forces with the aim of fomenting a popular uprising in Iran.”

It is not difficult to see why this strategy appeals to some in Israel and the US. Only 61% of Iranians are ethnic Persians. The largest minority (perhaps 24%) comprises Azerbaijani Turks—the group to which the late supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, belonged—who are concentrated in Ardabil, in northwest Iran.

After these “Azeris” are Iranian Kurds, who number 7-14 million, residing mostly in the

northwestern border provinces adjacent to autonomous Iraqi Kurdistan. Proximity to Iraqi Kurdistan affords a relatively straightforward point of ingress and egress into Iran, making the Kurds a focus for Mossad and CIA efforts to incite separatism. Were they to assemble a large armed force capable of attacking Iran’s already beleaguered security forces, they would likely gain additional support from their Kurdish brethren across the border.

Yet another group is the Baloch minority, who live mostly in eastern Iran, along the 565-mile border with Pakistan’s volatile Balochistan province, from which Jaish al-Adl, a US-designated terrorist group, has long launched attacks against Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and Basij militia. And finally, there are some 5-7 million Ahwazi Arabs in the oil-rich western province of Khuzestan, where they lead miserably oppressed lives mirroring those of the Shia who dominate Saudi Arabia’s oil-rich eastern province.

The problem is that the US has a very poor track record when it comes to foment-

ing separatist unrest, as the Marsh Arabs and Iraqi Kurds discovered after Operation Desert Storm in 1991. Time and again, “plucky little peoples” have been goaded on and then abandoned – left to be shot and gassed after their Western sponsors turn their attention elsewhere. Indeed, that is exactly what President Donald Trump has done to Syria’s Kurds, who helped the US defeat the Islamic State during his first term, but has now dropped them and cozied up to Syria’s young president, Ahmed al-Sharaa, a former al-Qaeda commander.

It may suit Israel to balkanize the entire Middle East, leaving no powers capable of challenging its regional hegemony. But does that goal serve the interests of the US or the rest of the region?

In case Trump has forgotten, his other “tough guy” friend in the region, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, has spent decades fighting Kurdish separatism. Having deployed its own military might to roll back the Syrian Kurds and crush the Kurdistan Workers’ Party in his own country, Turkey, a NATO member, is not



Michael Burtleigh

A BALKANIZED IRAN WOULD BE HIGHLY UNSTABLE, SUBJECT NOT JUST TO BOUTS OF ETHNIC CLEANSING BUT ALSO TO THE PREDATIONS OF GREEDY OR NERVOUS NEIGHBORS

“Abnormality in Nature is no objection, no necessary sign of imperfection, but may well be an effort at a much greater perfection.”
SRI AUROBINDO



Succession Signals

Delhi loves a vacancy, especially when it comes with a corner office and access to the Prime Minister’s calendar.

With BVR Subrahmanyam finishing his extended run at NITI Aayog, the capital’s favourite parlour game is back: guessing the next CEO. No prize money, just prestige, and perhaps a discreet nod from someone who “knew it all along.”

For now, Nidhi Chhibber is holding additional charge. In babuspeak, that means, “Please keep the engine idling while we decide who gets to drive.” It’s efficient, practical, and wonderfully non-committal.

But this isn’t merely about replacing a nameplate. NITI Aayog may have replaced the Planning Commission in structure, but in political weight, it’s arguably more consequential. It’s where policy ambition meets political reality. The CEO doesn’t just shepherd reports; he or she sits at the intersection of reform, federal negotiation, and prime ministerial priorities. That requires administrative gravitas, but also ideological alignment and antennae sharp enough to detect shifting winds before the curtains flutter.

Subrahmanyam brought visibility and velocity to the role. The next incumbent will reveal the government’s current mood. Does it want a bold reformist? A steady institutional manager? Or a low-decibel loyalist who prefers execution over headlines?

In today’s governance ecosystem, “think tank” is almost a misnomer. NITI doesn’t just think; it nudges, coordinates, occasionally prods. The CEO’s chair is less about theorising India’s future and more about ensuring that flagship schemes don’t vanish into inter-ministerial black holes.

So yes, the whispers will continue until Holi colours wash them away or confirm them. The next NITI CEO won’t just run a policy institution. They’ll embody a phase of governance. And that’s why the suspense matters.

Procedure triumphs over accusation

Delhi’s favourite babu courtroom drama is back, and this time the script has been edited.

The Delhi High Court has set aside the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) order that had briefly shielded IRS officer Sameer Wankhede from disciplinary proceedings. Translation: the charge memo lives, and so does the inquiry.

For those who enjoy procedural nuance (and in Delhi, many do), here’s the crux. A charge memo is not a conviction. It’s the starting pistol. The High Court’s view is orthodox and clear: let the departmental process run its course unless there’s something fundamentally illegal about it. Don’t abort the race before it begins.

The CAT had earlier taken a far more dramatic stance, questioning the motives behind the action and hinting at bias. That was no small observation. But the High Court has effectively said allegations of malice can’t be presumed at the threshold.

Why does this matter beyond one officer’s career? Because this isn’t just about the aftershocks of the 2021 cruise case that once dominated headlines, it’s about how far tribunals and courts should step into service matters before an inquiry even tests the evidence. If every charge memo is judicially dissected at birth, departmental discipline becomes theatre. If none are, fairness risks becoming an afterthought.

The ruling restores balance, at least procedurally. Of course, in high-profile cases, the process is rarely quiet. Reputations are shaped long before findings are delivered. Wankhede’s case has already travelled through headlines, courtrooms and commentary columns. Now it returns to where it technically should have been all along, an internal inquiry.

In Delhi’s babu ecosystem, survival often depends less on the allegation and more on how long the litigation lasts. This round goes to procedure. The final act? Still unwritten.

Extension raj: How long is too long?

If bureaucratic tenure extensions were a sport, Awanish Kumar Awasthi would be vying for the podium. The seasoned 1987-batch Indian Administrative Service officer has just had his stint as Chief Advisor to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath extended yet again, for the fourth time. He will stay in the corridors of power until February next year.

Awasthi retired from formal service in August 2022 after a decades-long career that put him at the helm of some of UP’s most powerful bureaucratic bastions, including the Home Department, Information, you name it. But instead of fading gracefully into the sunset, he was handed a new “temporary” role: advisor to the CM. That role has now been extended for the fourth time, almost as if retirement was an empty suggestion rather than a life milestone.

Other babus take sabbaticals; he’s taking extensions. This latest extension comes at a politically juicy moment: assembly elections are looming in 2027, and having your closest administrative confidant around can be a big plus in managing both policy and political narratives.

Of course, this raises eyebrows. What does it say when a government effectively keeps a retired babu on a looped retainer? Is it continuity and experience? Or a kind of job security that would make even Hollywood sequels blush? Either way, the scene in Lucknow now resembles less a clean break between career and counsel, and more an open-ended contract with perks.

Share a babu experience! Follow [dilipthecherian@twitter.com](https://twitter.com/dilipthecherian). Let’s multiply the effect



BABUDOM BYTES
Dilip Cherian

SPECTRUM PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

Reining in the business of education



Dhurjati Mukherjee

THE QUESTION THAT IS BEING ALLEGED BY A LARGE SECTION IS WHETHER EDUCATION HAS BECOME TOTALLY PROFIT-ORIENTED

Just at the end of the year, the Supreme Court gave a landmark judgment whereby it has ordered nationwide audit of all private and deemed universities, transforming a student’s grievance into a deep scrutiny of India’s sprawling education sector. In a sweeping directive, the apex court asked the Centre, all states and UTs and the UGC to submit personally sworn affidavits disclosing how these institutions were set up, who governs them, what regulatory approvals they hold and whether they truly function on a not-for-profit basis. While this should have been investigated long ago, it remains to be seen that in the year ahead there would be a drastic review of private universities to highlight their shortcomings.

The question that is being alleged by a large section of scholars, and quite rightly, is whether education has steadily become totally profit-oriented. Undeniably, this is a fact and the reason why business houses are setting up universities and academic institutions across the coun-

try. But the point here is why should a business enterprise enjoy various types of facilities when it gives very little to society? This has never been questioned by the government or even by civil society in the right manner.

It is a well-known fact that private universities charge exorbitant rates and are profit oriented. Most business houses find education a safe business to invest where risk involved is virtually nil. Moreover, in the name of being not-for-profit, they get land from state governments at highly subsidized rates.

The current order is far-reaching as it questions how private universities acquire land, appoint leadership, handle finances and whether they have credible grievance redressal mechanism.

Has there been any investigation of the process of admissions to these institutions by any of the state governments?

While most engineering colleges have been set up by private parties the question remains about the quality of teaching. The chief of KMDA

(Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority), a veteran civil engineer and guest faculty of many institutes, had once told me that when he asked one of his relatives why she had not gone to college (engineering), the young student replied that classes are not held every day. Moreover, when my friend asked how the vast syllabus is completed and how they give their exams, she replied that questions are given and students can go to the libraries and consult books in writing the answers. She also said that some students take the question papers home and submit the written answers the next day. This college happens to be part of a very renowned group of private colleges and one deemed university of Bengal.

This very well reveals the standard of teaching of most engineering colleges. The pay structure of most of these institutes is much below their government counterparts. As such, it has been found that retired professors and those who would retire within six months or so leave gov-

ernment institutions to join deemed universities. As in most other sectors, there is absolutely no monitoring and control as these institutions are owned by powerful people who are hand-in-glove with the ruling party and are only interested in making money.

How and why business houses with no academic background can be allowed to set up educational institutions? Why can’t educationists, doctors and engineers be motivated and financially supported to set up educational institutions, medical colleges, engineering colleges and the likes?

At a time when there is a dire necessity to upgrade standards of education and bring transparency and fairness in admission, the implementation of the Supreme Court order is a direct necessity and timely intervention by the apex court, though it should have come much earlier. It remains to be seen whether the state governments will fall prey to manipulations or be honest in putting forth before the court the real situation.

INFA

WISDOM CORNER

“Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving.”
ALBERT EINSTEIN

“Just because something doesn’t do what you planned it to do doesn’t mean it’s useless.”
THOMAS A. EDISON

“To confine our attention to terrestrial matters would be to limit the human spirit.”
STEPHEN HAWKING

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 161: Marcus Aurelius declared himself and his adoptive brother Lucius Verus emperors of Rome, marking the first time two emperors would rule the Roman Empire simultaneously.
- 1850: U.S. Senator Daniel Webster spoke out in favor of the Compromise of 1850 (enacted in September), a series of moderate measures that addressed the question of slavery in U.S. territories.
- 1876: Alexander Graham Bell received a patent for the telephone. Just a few days later, he produced intelligible speech through a telephone for the first time.

Letters TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa Post are most welcome to contribute letters (100 words), articles and columns (between 600-1000 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

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

Boom Boom Bumrah

Sir, After India’s thrilling victory, Sanju Samson showed great sportsmanship by handing the trophy to Jasprit Bumrah, describing him as a “once-in-a-generation bowler.” It was a fine gesture that recognised the true turning point of the match, the 18th over bowled by Bumrah, in which he conceded just six runs. That over not only stifled the opposition but effectively “yorked” the England team, leaving them stunned and paving the way for an unexpected defeat. Bumrah’s calmness and humility also reflected the spirit of teamwork that defines great sides, inspiring young fans and reminding everyone that true champions celebrate collective effort over individual glory. With India’s momentum now carrying forward, fans can look forward to the clash against the New Zealand team. Given the current form of our players, especially the lethal precision of Bumrah in the death overs, one can hope to see the cup lifted by India once again. Boom Boom for India!

AP Thirwadi, CHENNAI

Tension in seas

Sir, The dispatch of the Iranian naval vessel IRIN Bushera to Sri Lanka to recover the bodies of sailors from the destroyed frigate IRIS Dena highlights the continuing tension in the region. Although the ship is on a humanitarian mission, concerns remain that it could again face danger at sea. However, another attack is unlikely because striking a non-operational vessel engaged in recovering the dead would bring severe international criticism without any strategic benefit to the United States. Statements by Pete Hegseth—that those shouting “Death to America” received “Death by America”—suggest a hard and unapologetic stance. Yet, according to the principles of the Geneva Conventions, even during war there are rules governing the treatment of wounded personnel, survivors, and the dead. Attacking a ship on a recovery mission could violate these humanitarian norms. Therefore, the UN should carefully examine the incident, encourage restraint from all sides, and reinforce adherence to international war protocols to prevent further escalation.

RS Narula, PATIALA



Under the Development of Applied Knowledge and Skills for Human Development (DAKSH), which is implemented with World Bank support, the institution of MAHIMA (Maharashtra Agency for Holistic International Mobility and Advancement) will be established

NODA INT'L AIRPORT GETS AERODROME LICENSE

Aviation watchdog DGCA has granted an aerodrome license for the Noida International Airport in Uttar Pradesh, the second big airport in the national capital region that is being developed in four phases.



of the day uote

If our daughters fall victim innocently, then you women must come forward like Laxmbai (legendary ruler of Jhansi known for her valour). Resolve to save the trapped daughter. If you stand with her instead of criticizing her, no one will be able to think of harassing her

While the good news is that 'Kerala Story' seems to be empty, and no one is watching it. It also shows that there are people, a majority of them, who haven't understood what Kerala is and its traditions and culture

From now on, we will undertake joint campaign meetings across the state. Discussions on some probable locations in Upper Assam have already taken place, and we will discuss other parts as well

VOTER ROLL DELETIONS MAMATA RETURNS TO STREETS

Beginning the sit-in at the politically symbolic Metro Channel in Esplanade, Banerjee accused the BJP and the EC of conspiring to "disenfranchise Bengali voters", signalling that the voter roll controversy would form a central political plank of the TMC's campaign ahead of the high-stakes elections expected in April

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, March 6: In a dramatic return to the street politics that once defined her rise, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Friday launched a dharna in central Kolkata against large-scale deletions in the state's voter rolls following the SIR exercise, escalating the TMC's confrontation with the EC weeks before the Assembly polls.

Beginning the sit-in at the politically symbolic Metro Channel in Esplanade, Banerjee accused the BJP and the EC of conspiring to "disenfranchise Bengali voters", signalling that the voter roll controversy would form a central political plank of the TMC's campaign ahead of the high-stakes elections expected in April.

"I will expose the BJP-EC conspiracy to disenfranchise Bengali voters," the TMC supremo said at the start of the protest. The dharna, which began around 2.15 pm, marks a sharp escalation by the ruling party after the publication of post-SIR electoral rolls that have significantly altered the



contours of the state's electorate. According to official data released February 28, as many as 63.66 lakh names, about 8.3 per cent of the electorate, have been deleted since the SIR process began in November last year, reducing the voter base from about 7.66 crore to just over 7.04 crore.

In addition, over 60.06 lakh electors have been placed under the "under adjudication" category, meaning their eligibility will be decided through legal scrutiny in the coming weeks, a development that could further reshape constituency-level electoral equations.

and could affect over 1.2 crore voters, a charge rejected by the EC. From the dharna stage, Banerjee claimed several voters had been wrongly declared dead in the revised rolls and said they would be presented at the protest site to highlight the alleged irregularities.

However, she did not specify how long the protest would continue, even as it comes just two

days before the proposed visit of the full bench of the Election Commission to the state.

The rhetoric sharpened further with TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee calling for a "social and political boycott" of the BJP.

Alleging that the SIR process had already led to mass deletions, he said, "First 58 lakh names were deleted in the draft list. By February 28, the number rose to 63-64 lakh. Over 60 lakh voters have been placed under adjudication. That means more than 1.2 crore voters are affected."

The protest also sparked controversy after TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee said he would have "cut the finger" of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar had the latter not been holding a constitutional post, alleging that the poll panel chief had behaved "very badly" with the chief minister during a meeting in New Delhi last month.

"If he had not been the CEC, I would have cut his finger that day," the Serampore MP said, drawing sharp criticism from opposition leaders.

Nitish Kumar's son Nishant to join JD(U)



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

"Lawmakers of the party were assured by the CM that he decided of his own accord and not under any pressure. He also assured that he would keep himself available to party workers in the state for guidance", state parliamentary affairs minister Vijay Kumar Chaudhary told reporters.

Asked about what post Nishant was likely to hold in the party and whether he was likely to join the new government that will be formed after Kumar steps down, Chaudhary quipped, "For some things, you should wait a little (kuchh cheezon ke liye kuchh intezaar kar lejiye)". Nitish Thursday caused a flutter by filing his nomination papers for one of the two Rajya Sabha seats which the JD(U) is contesting in the biennial elections, in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, among others, minutes after announcing the decision on social media.

Patna, March 6: JD(U) legislators in Bihar Friday conveyed their anguish to Chief Minister Nitish Kumar over his decision to move to Delhi as a Rajya Sabha MP, but drew solace from the imminent political entry of Nishant, the party chief's son.

Members of the party in the bicameral legislature, as well as both Houses of Parliament, who had been taken aback by the sudden move of the JD(U) president, got an opportunity to interact with him at a meeting held in the evening at the chief minister's residence.

AIRLINES CANCEL 278 INT'L FLIGHTS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 6: Domestic airlines are scheduled to operate 96 flights to and from the Middle East Friday while the carriers have cancelled 278 international services for the day, the government said Friday amid the conflict in the region.

The situation in the Middle East has disrupted flight operations as well as closure of airspaces. Some airlines have commenced limited operations to and from the region, where the conflict involving the US, Israel, and Iran has escalated in the last few days.

The civil aviation ministry Friday said due to the ongoing developments in West Asia and the resulting airspace restrictions, flight operations have been impacted across several sectors. "A total of 96 flight operations were scheduled today by Indian domestic carriers to and from destinations in the Middle East. As of 6 March, 278 flights scheduled to be operated today by Indian domestic carriers have been cancelled," it said in a statement. Earlier in the day, officials said more than 140 international flights were cancelled in Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, and Kolkata airports Friday due to the Middle East crisis.

They said at least 142 flights were cancelled at the four airports, with 39 departures and 34 arrivals cancelled at the Mumbai airport.

While the total flight cancellations at the Bangalore airport were 33, including 15 departures and 18 arrivals, at the Delhi airport 15 departures and 14 arrivals were cancelled.

US reprieve on Russian oil leads to political slugfest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 6: Opposition parties Friday accused the government of ceding diplomatic space after the US announced a temporary waiver to allow Indian refiners to purchase Russian oil, a step that the ruling BJP hailed as a success of "strategic oil diplomacy" under Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi alleged that India's foreign policy was a result of the "exploitation of a compromised individual", an attack on Prime Minister Modi. The Congress and its president Mallikarjun Kharge echoed the sentiment in separate social media posts hitting out at the government on its foreign policy and for "continuously ceding diplomatic space".

"India's foreign policy emerges from the collective will of our people. It should be rooted in our history, our geography, and our spiritual ethos based on

ED raids against people linked to Reliance Power

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 6: The Enforcement Directorate Friday conducted searches at multiple locations in Mumbai and Hyderabad as part of an investigation against entities linked to Reliance Power Ltd., a group

company of businessman Anil Ambani, officials said.

Reliance Power denied that the federal probe agency raided any of its offices or premises. About 10-12 locations linked to the said company and its executives are being searched in Mumbai and Hyderabad, the

officials said. About 15 teams of the agency are undertaking the action, they said. Reliance Power said in a statement furnished to the stock exchanges that "to the best of its knowledge, no such action has been carried out at any of the offices or premises of the Company."

'Iranian Navy vessel allowed emergency docking in Kochi'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 6: Days before the US torpedoed and sank Iranian frigate IRIS Dena, India approved emergency docking for another Iranian naval vessel in Kochi after it developed a technical glitch, government sources said Friday.

The vessel, docked in Kochi March 4 with its 183 crew members, is being accommodated at Indian naval facilities on humanitarian grounds, they said.

The ship IRIS Lavan developed urgent technical issues and was granted emergency docking approval on March 1 following a request from the Iranian side, the sources said. India was approached by the Iranian side days before IRIS Dena was sunk by a US submarine off the coast of Sri Lanka. IRIS Dena was returning home after participating in the Milan multilateral naval exercise hosted by India. At least 87 Iranian sailors were killed in the attack Wednesday.

Days before the IRIS Dena incident south of Sri Lanka, India was approached by Iran to take in the Iranian ship IRIS Lavan which was also in the region for the International Fleet Review, the sources said. This request was received February 28 indicating that a docking at Kochi was urgent as the vessel had developed technical issues, they said.

The approval was accorded for the docking of the ship on March 1. IRIS Lavan has since docked at Kochi March 4, the sources said. In this context, its crew of 183 are currently accommodated at naval facilities in Kochi, they said.

India's granting of emergency harbour to another Iranian naval vessel came to light against the backdrop of increasing spotlight on the US strike on IRIS Dena. Iran has reacted sharply to the sinking of the ship. "IRIS Dena was a training ship. It was invited by the Indian Navy to take part in an exercise. They went there as guests. They were unarmed," Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said.

THE VESSEL, DOCKED IN KOCHI MARCH 4 WITH ITS 183 CREW MEMBERS, IS BEING ACCOMMODATED AT INDIAN NAVAL FACILITIES ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS. THE SHIP IRIS LAVAN DEVELOPED URGENT TECHNICAL ISSUES AND WAS GRANTED EMERGENCY DOCKING APPROVAL ON MARCH 1 FOLLOWING A REQUEST FROM THE IRANIAN SIDE

POST OF THE DAY

In diplomatic circles, there is an old saying: "if you are not at the table, then you are on the menu." Not everyone will understand.

SHORT TAKES

ED attaches ₹441-cr assets in liquor scam

Amaravati: The Enforcement Directorate Friday said it has attached assets worth more than ₹441 crore of various accused involved in the Andhra Pradesh liquor 'scam' case, which allegedly took place during the previous YSRC regime in the state. The attached properties consist of bank balances, fixed deposits, land parcels and other immovable assets belonging to the prime accused Kessireddy Rajasekhara Reddy, his family members and related entities, other accused like Booneti Chanakya and his related entities and relatives and entities of Donthireddy Vasudeva Reddy apart from some others.

Cong holds protest against AAP govt

Chandigarh: Police used water cannons against Punjab Congress leaders and workers Friday after they tried to force their way through barricades to 'gherao' the state Assembly here as part of a protest against the AAP government. Police had erected barricades and deployed personnel outside the Punjab Congress office in Sector 15 to prevent party workers from heading towards the Vidhan Sabha.

EC training arm launches 3 initiatives

New Delhi: The Election Commission's training arm, IIIDEM, has launched three academic initiatives aimed at strengthening research, academic engagement and student participation in the field of democracy and election management. The initiatives also build upon the outcomes of the international conference on Inclusive Elections and Democracy 2026 and the ongoing symposium series organised by the India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM) to promote dialogue, research and global exchange on contemporary democratic practices.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA e-Procurement Notice, Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division, Angul Bid Identification No.-15 OF 2025-26

ODISHA SCHOOL EDUCATION PROGRAMME AUTHORITY "SHIKSHA SOUDHA", UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR-751001

Table with 3 columns: Sl. No., List of Key Events, Critical Dates

The proposal complete in all respects must reach the undersigned by Speed Post / Registered Post / Courier only latest by 05:30 PM of 30/03/2026 in a sealed envelope super-scribed as "EOI FOR SELECTION OF VTPS TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION"

 Axis Bank Limited AC Market Building , 4 th Floor ; 1, Shakespeare Sarani , Kolkata – 700 071 ;							Branch Name	Customer Name	Loan A/c No.	Amount Outstanding	Date of Demand Notice	Gross weight grams.	Net weight grams.
Public Notice for – E-Auction of pledged assets being Gold							CHANDIKHOLE [OR]	KALANDI CHARAN SAHOO	XXXXXXXXXX1120	379180.00	12/Feb/26	258.500	245.300
The Borrowers, in specific and the public in general are here by notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledge in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted by the Axis Bank at the below mentioned Branch. The below mentioned Borrowers has availed the credit facility from the Axis Bank Limited against the pledge of gold ornaments ("Gold Loan Facility") in favour of the Bank towards the security. The Demand notices were issued to the Borrowers/Guarantors calling up the Borrowers/Guarantors to pay their outstanding amount towards the Gold loan facility availed. As the Borrowers/Guarantors have failed to repay the outstanding loan amount, the bank is constrained to invoke the pledge and proposed to conduct an e-auction sale of pledged gold ornaments more particularly described in schedule of property hereunder on 17-3-2026 (dated) at 12.30 PM -3.30PM (time of e-auction) on "As In Where Is", "As Is What Is", "Whatever There Is" and "No Recourse Basis". Details of Borrowers and outstanding amount.							CHANDIKHOLE [OR]	NIHAR RANJAN SWAIN	XXXXXXXXXX0384	91527.00	10/Jan/26	19.200	19.000
							CHANDIKHOLE [OR]	SHAIK SIKANDAR ALAM	XXXXXXXXXX5883	142144.09	23/Jan/26	22.300	21.700
							CHANDIKHOLE [OR]	SHAIK SIKANDAR ALAM	XXXXXXXXXX9177	130319.00	9/Feb/26	20.700	20.200
							CHANDIKHOLE [OR]	SHRINIBAS JENA	XXXXXXXXXX6368	433363.00	9/Feb/26	68.500	68.100
							CHANDRASEKHARPUR, BHUBANESHWAR	JHARANA PRADHAN	XXXXXXXXXX1556	48745.00	17/Oct/25	9.600	9.400
							CHANDRASEKHARPUR, BHUBANESHWAR	SUKANYA PRIYADARSHINI	XXXXXXXXXX6573	21976.00	12/Feb/26	339.400	313.000
							CHATRAPUR CTRA OR	ANI SAHU	XXXXXXXXXX3062	307989.67	23/Jan/26	45.600	42.800
							CHATRAPUR CTRA OR	B SUJATA PATRA	XXXXXXXXXX4908	65951.00	9/Feb/26	9.000	8.400
							CHATRAPUR CTRA OR	SUBASI NAYAK	XXXXXXXXXX7547	169894.00	10/Dec/25	30.200	26.500
							CHHENDIPADA OR	AJAYA KUMAR SAHU	XXXXXXXXXX9251	310727.92	10/Jan/26	49.400	48.700
							CHHENDIPADA OR	JOGESWAR PRADHAN	XXXXXXXXXX3122	207687.07	9/Feb/26	31.100	30.700
							CHHENDIPADA OR	TARULATA PRADHAN	XXXXXXXXXX5475	141846.00	9/Feb/26	19.200	18.300
							COLLEGE SQUARE, CUTTACK [OR]	BASANTI PRADHAN	XXXXXXXXXX7182	1577841.54	9/Feb/26	260.400	218.600
							CRPF SQUARE, BHUBANESHWAR [OR]	RASHMITA BARIK	XXXXXXXXXX6162	143854.00	9/Feb/26	21.100	19.300
							CRPF SQUARE, BHUBANESHWAR [OR]	SILPA BARAI	XXXXXXXXXX1688	86060.00	12/Feb/26	30.000	30.000
							CRPF SQUARE, BHUBANESHWAR [OR]	SUBRAT ROUT	XXXXXXXXXX9359	782593.78	29/Sep/25	144.800	141.400
							CUTTACK [OR]	NARAYAN BEHERA	XXXXXXXXXX6913	1521470.98	9/Feb/26	207.400	199.050
							CUTTACK [OR]	RAKHI SAHOO	XXXXXXXXXX9039	445461.52	12/Feb/26	60.400	55.900
							CUTTACK [OR]	RASHMIRANJAN MOHARANA	XXXXXXXXXX9277	189998.00	10/Dec/25	26.900	25.800
							CUTTACK [OR]	TAPASWINI SETHI	XXXXXXXXXX6157	279122.30	9/Feb/26	39.200	36.800
							DARINGBADI OR	BRAHMANANDA NAYAK	XXXXXXXXXX7327	71907.00	16/Nov/25	12.700	11.000
							DARINGBADI OR	NAMITA PRADHAN	XXXXXXXXXX8141	30902.00	10/Dec/25	8.000	6.800
							DARINGBADI OR	RASTA PRADHAN	XXXXXXXXXX9742	93730.00	10/Jan/26	14.000	12.000
							DASAPALLA OR	PRIYA RANJAN BISWAL	XXXXXXXXXX2188	378675.40	12/Feb/26	80.800	78.200
							DASAPALLA OR	SHIBAJI DALEI	XXXXXXXXXX7376	77787.00	31/Jul/25	18.600	16.400
							DASAPALLA OR	YASHOBANT JENA	XXXXXXXXXX4113	114316.00	12/Feb/26	31.900	29.700
							DELTA COLONY, BH BHU OR	NILAKANTHA SETHI	XXXXXXXXXX4771	349791.70	19/Dec/25	46.500	45.500
							DEOGAON SUN OR	LIPIKA SAHU	XXXXXXXXXX6683	71447.00	6/Nov/25	13.200	13.200
							DEOGAON SUN OR	RANJITA MOHANTY	XXXXXXXXXX7973	70146.00	9/Feb/26	13.900	13.500
							DEOGARH, [OR]	REKHASHREE BHOI	XXXXXXXXXX4436	48417.00	19/Dec/25	10.700	10.200
							DEOGARH, [OR]	SUBASH CHANDRA BEHERA	XXXXXXXXXX8633	67363.00	23/Jan/26	11.800	11.100
							DHAMRAPORT [OR]	AMIYA KUMAR BEHERA	XXXXXXXXXX6271	78132.00	19/Dec/25	11.600	11.590
							DHAMRAPORT [OR]	JAGANNATH BEHERA	XXXXXXXXXX6037	121380.41	10/Jan/26	25.700	24.940
							DHAMRAPORT [OR]	SHUBHRAJIT MOHANTY	XXXXXXXXXX8338	124883.00	10/Dec/25	19.200	19.000
							DHARAMGARH DMG OR	PUNITRAM PATRA	XXXXXXXXXX1662	64675.89	9/Feb/26	15.200	14.000
							DHENKANAL [OR]	SANTOSH KUMAR BEHERA	XXXXXXXXXX9504	33306.00	16/Jun/25	6.700	6.200
							DIGAPAHANDI GNJ OR	PUSPANJLI PANIGRAHI	XXXXXXXXXX9021	169509.78	9/Feb/26	26.600	25.200
							DIGAPAHANDI GNJ OR	RUBI GOUDA	XXXXXXXXXX7561	182138.00	9/Feb/26	35.000	33.500
							DIGAPAHANDI GNJ OR	SANTOSHI GOUDA	XXXXXXXXXX1928	225299.52	10/Jan/26	36.100	32.500
							DUMUDUMA [OR]	GAYATRI DAS	XXXXXXXXXX9910	516843.00	10/Jan/26	90.200	87.000
							GADRAMUNDA NUP OR	PRASHANT PATEL	XXXXXXXXXX9105	38570.30	23/Jan/26	7.200	7.000
							GADRAMUNDA NUP OR	PUSPANJALI MAJHI	XXXXXXXXXX6787	17552.00	10/Jan/26	6.000	5.300
							GADRAMUNDA NUP OR	RAKESH CHINDA	XXXXXXXXXX3477	52891.66	9/Feb/26	6.200	6.200
							GANDHINAGAR PARA OR	DAKTAR BEHERA	XXXXXXXXXX2059	661917.00	4/Nov/24	143.920	140.790
							GOPALPUR CUT OR	ASHANTI PARIDA	XXXXXXXXXX6691	108623.14	19/Dec/25	29.100	27.200
							GOPALPUR CUT OR	SUNIL KUMAR SAHOO	XXXXXXXXXX5212	35651.13	10/Jan/26	9.000	8.500
							GUNUPUR [OR]	ADAPA TRINATH	XXXXXXXXXX5217	370800.00	12/Feb/26	67.700	66.600
							GUNUPUR [OR]	ADAPA TRINATH	XXXXXXXXXX7941	165600.00	12/Feb/26	29.600	28.400
							GUNUPUR [OR]	ADAPA TRINATH	XXXXXXXXXX4696	116238.43	10/Jan/26	23.300	22.800
							GUNUPUR [OR]	JAGANNATH PRASAD BHUKTA	XXXXXXXXXX1518	71000.00	12/Feb/26	16.500	16.000
							GUNUPUR [OR]	MRUTYUNJAYA PANDIT	XXXXXXXXXX3066	996194.42	12/Feb/26	158.800	148.700
							GUNUPUR [OR]	SHIV SHANKAR GOUDA	XXXXXXXXXX2472	40785.00	17/Oct/25	9.900	8.500
							HINJILICUT OR	RUNU BISHOYI	XXXXXXXXXX6313	434843.00	9/Feb/26	92.800	79.800
							HINJILICUT OR	SOUDAMINI NAHAK	XXXXXXXXXX3900	1058362.00	9/Feb/26	159.300	148.600
							HUGULI BALA OR	PIJUS DAS	XXXXXXXXXX7630	751313.03	9/Feb/26	105.500	89.300
							JAGATSIINGHPUR, BHUBANESHWAR [OR]	BANDANA MAJHI	XXXXXXXXXX1759	52671.00	10/Jan/26	15.700	15.500
							JAGATSIINGHPUR, BHUBANESHWAR [OR]	RAGHUNATH SWAIN	XXXXXXXXXX5501	1994888.70	9/Feb/26	233.200	228.600
							JAGATSIINGHPUR, BHUBANESHWAR [OR]	ZAKIR KHAN	XXXXXXXXXX4543	190856.64	9/Feb/26	27.800	27.500
							JAGESWARPADA JAGE OR	AISHWARIYA NAYAK	XXXXXXXXXX7447	169740.00	27/Jan/26	40.880	37.590
							JAGESWARPADA JAGE OR	BILASWINI PATRA	XXXXXXXXXX5770	46126.00	12/Feb/26	10.110	9.010
							JAGESWARPADA JAGE OR	SUBHASHREE PANIGRAHI	XXXXXXXXXX7767	189836.21	6/Nov/25	41.530	37.680
							JAGESWARPADA JAGE OR	TAPAS KUMAR NAYAK	XXXXXXXXXX7450	74740.00	23/Jan/26	11.230	9.740
							JAJPUR ROAD [OR]	JYOTIRANJAN ROUT	XXXXXXXXXX5336	351613.31	9/Feb/26	41.000	40.400
							JAJPUR ROAD [OR]	RANGARAJAN BEHERA	XXXXXXXXXX6953	103232.11	9/Feb/26	12.700	12.450
							JAJPUR ROAD [OR]	SHISHIRA JENA	XXXXXXXXXX1237	49292.00	9/Feb/26	8.100	7.800
							JAJPUR ROAD [OR]	VIJAY PRASAD GUPTA	XXXXXXXXXX9240	628076.00	9/Feb/26	102.600	98.400
							JAJPUR TOWN [OR]	GOBINDA CHANDRA OJHA	XXXXXXXXXX6235	48017.00	6/Nov/25	12.100	11.300
							JAJPUR TOWN [OR]	PABITRAMOHAN PANIGRAHI	XXXXXXXXXX2975	946358.00	9/Feb/26	116.500	112.000
							JAJPUR TOWN [OR]	RONITA BEHERA	XXXXXXXXXX5766	246091.21	9/Feb/26	39.800	39.000
							JAJPUR TOWN [OR]	SHISHIRA KUMAR JENA	XXXXXXXXXX2371	71177.00	12/Feb/26	11.010	10.810
							JALESWAR [OR]	SATYABRATA KAPUDI	XXXXXXXXXX4094	130170.31	27/Jan/26	41.000	37.800
							JALESWAR [OR]	SUMITA PATRA	XXXXXXXXXX3227	166941.00	10/Dec/25	33.200	32.500
							JALESWARPURA BALA OR	AJIT JENA	XXXXXXXXXX7438	144646.48	9/Feb/26	22.700	21.500
							JALESWARPURA BALA OR	BINOD CHOUDHAN	XXXXXXXXXX0256	282823.96	9/Feb/26	44.100	42.400
							JALESWARPURA BALA OR	KARTIK JANA	XXXXXXXXXX9218	70900.00	16/Nov/25	11.100	10.500
							JALESWARPURA BALA OR	SABITA PATRA	XXXXXXXXXX9147	53497.00	27/Oct/25	9.000	8.900
							JALESWARPURA BALA OR	SEKH JASED	XXXXXXXXXX7735	879750.00	9/Feb/26	114.900	109.500
							JALESWARPURA BALA OR	SHIBASHANKAR ACHARYA	XXXXXXXXXX2444	88868.00	10/Jan/26	15.200	14.000
							JANPATH BHU OR	SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA	XXXXXXXXXX3940	403738.00	10/Jan/26	52.900	51.800
							JATNI [OR]	JHUNI MOHANTY	XXXXXXXXXX5416	72434.00	27/Oct/25	11.500	11.000
							JATNI [OR]	MALATI PRADHAN	XXXXXXXXXX9151	93418.00	10/Jan/26	18.000	16.000
							JATNI [OR]	MALATI PRADHAN	XXXXXXXXXX8992	84665.00	9/Feb/26	15.200	14.500
							JATNI [OR]	PRAKASH CHANDRA MOHAPATRA	XXXXXXXXXX5516	114271.36	17/Oct/25	18.400	18.100
							JEYPURE [OR]	A KIRAN KUMAR REDDY	XXXXXXXXXX3926	53040.00	31/Jul/25	10.200	9.550
							JEYPURE [OR]	AHALYA ARLIA	XXXXXXXXXX8681	137280.00	16/Nov/25	42.800	40.900
							JEYPURE [OR]	AJIT MISHRA	XXXXXXXXXX5354	53058.56	23/Jan/26	6.600	6.400
							JEYPURE [OR]	AKASH KUMAR SAHU	XXXXXXXXXX1828	272751.00	27/Oct/25	49.700	47.800
							JEYPURE [OR]	BIBHUTIBHUSAN KHORA	XXXXXXXXXX3479	565859.00	16/Nov/25	90.800	89.400
							JEYPURE [OR]	K SAI RAGHVAN	XXXXXXXXXX0210	313000.00	10/Dec/25	54.500	49.900
							JEYPURE [OR]	NOBIN CHANDRA THAKUR	XXXXXXXXXX7826	143686.18	9/Feb/26	27.000	24.400
							JEYPURE [OR]	RABINDRA KUMAR PATRO	XXXXXXXXXX3075	1764993.00	9/Feb/26	243.300	233.700
							JEYPURE [OR]	SANGRAM JENA	XXXXXXXXXX3432	168112.00	17/Oct/25	26.100	25.600
							JEYPURE [OR]	SURJYA KANTA NANDA	XXXXXXXXXX6945	67908.00	31/Jul/25	13.600	12.900
							JEYPURE [OR]	SUSEN DEY	XXXXXXXXXX2604	415465.68	10/Dec/25	76.800	74.800
							JHARAPADA BHU OR	DEBASHISH DAS	XXXXXXXXXX5393	459404.74	10/Jan/26	75.400	74.400
							JHARSUGUDA [OR]	KRISHNA TIRIA	XXXXXXXXXX6584	70441.89	23/Jan/26	14.400	14.200
							JHARSUGUDA [OR]	SATYANARAYAN PATEL	XXXXXXXXXX8094	77247.00	27/Sep/25	13.800	13.600
							JIRAMALIA DHE OR	INDUMATI NAYAK	XXXXXXXXXX6691	55764.00	9/Feb/26	14.700	12.600
							JIRAMALIA DHE OR	SANJAY MOHANTY	XXXXXXXXXX1865	58339.54	10/Jan/26	12.100	12.000
							JUNAGARH JUNA OR	SUVENDU MUND	XXXXXXXXXX5861	258580.75	10/Jan/26	34.130	32.500
							KALPANA SQRE, BHUBANESHWAR [OR]	PURNA CHANDRA SATHUA	XXXXXXXXXX2262	113880.80	9/Feb/26	23.300	20.700
							KALPANA SQRE, BHUBANESHWAR [OR]	SUSHIL KUMAR DAKUA	XXXXXXXXXX7434	129223.14	9/Feb/26	19.400	18.100
							KANHEIPUR CKANH OR	BIKASH KUMAR SWAIN	XXXXXXXXXX8916	309137.25	9/Feb/26	52.500	50.400
							KANHEIPUR CKANH OR	JITU SAHOO	XXXXXXXXXX7284	88577.54	10/Jan/26	13.190	12.810
							KANIKA CHHAK CUT OR	MADAN MOHAN SAHOO	XXXXXXXXXX0437	44446.61	10/Dec/25	7.580	7.380
							KANIKA CHHAK CUT OR	ROJALIN NAYAK	XXXXXXXXXX5657	33595.26	23/Jan/26	6.530	5.980
							KANTABANI BALA OR	AMAR KUMAR NANDI	XXXXXXXXXX3509	257230.00	10/Dec/25	43.390	42.700
							KANTABANI BALA OR	AMAR KUMAR NANDI	XXXXXXXXXX6741	82706.00	10/Jan/26	14.160	13.730
							KANTABANI BALA OR	JYOTSNA RANI JENA	XXXXXXXXXX3121	97253.00	9/Feb/26	15.360	14.060
							KANTABANI BALA OR	PRAMILA DAS	XXXXXXXXXX7038	87027.00	10/Jan/26	18.350	17.720
							KANTABANI BALA OR	SASIKANTA BHUYAN	XXXXXXXXXX4205	241981.86	10/Jan/26	45.640	45.240
							KANTABANI BALA OR	SUVAN KUMAR DEY	XXXXXXXXXX4280	100165.50	27/Oct/25	15.730	15.430
							KANTABANI BALA OR	DALESWARI BAG	XXXXXXXXXX6869	97600.00	31/Jul/25	22.100	21.100

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS PRESENTS 1ST BUDGET AS CM

MUMBAI: The Maharashtra government Friday announced a farm loan waiver of up to Rs 2 lakh in the 2026-27 Budget, which also focuses on river-linking projects, women empowerment, youth development, health, start-ups and strengthening social welfare schemes. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis presented a Rs 7,69,467 crore Budget in the Assembly, and said Ladki Bahin Vojana will continue with adequate allocation for the scheme targeted at poorer women, who get Rs 1,500 a month.

VEHICLES SET ABLAZE, MASSIVE PROTEST BLOCKS ROAD IN UTTAM NAGAR

NEW DELHI: Tension escalated in southwest Delhi's Uttam Nagar Friday as a car and a motorcycle were set on fire, and a massive protest by Hindu political outfits blocked traffic for several hours here, following the death of a 26-year-old man in a clash during Holi celebrations. According to police sources, members of the Bajrang Dal and Vishwa Hindu Parishad staged a protest under the Uttam Nagar East metro station, blocking the main road and bringing traffic to a standstill for hours as they demanded strict action against those involved in the killing.

STUDENT STABBED TO DEATH BY CLASSMATE

DAMOH (MP): A Class X student was stabbed to death allegedly by his classmate outside an examination centre in Damoh district of Madhya Pradesh Friday, a police official said. Rishi Ahirwar (14) had come out after completing the final paper of the exams at the private co-education school at 12 noon when the incident took place, Kotwali Station House Officer Manish Kumar said.

Branch Name	Customer Name	Loan A/c No.	Amount Outstanding	Date of Demand Notice	Gross weight grams.	Net weight grams	Branch Name	Customer Name	Loan A/c No.	Amount Outstanding	Date of Demand Notice	Gross weight grams.	Net weight grams.
KENDRAPARA [OR]	SRIKANTA BEHERA	XXXXXXXXXX7608	2038500.00	9/Feb/26	254.100	245.500	POLASARA OR	PINKI SETHY	XXXXXXXXXX7850	78712.00	16/Jun/25	15.300	14.200
KENDUA MYU OR	RANJIT KUMAR SAHU	XXXXXXXXXX7597	113722.00	16/Nov/25	16.200	16.000	POLASARA OR	SANTOSH KUMAR JENA	XXXXXXXXXX2047	174956.00	9/Feb/26	31.900	27.100
KEONJHAR [OR]	DRAKSHAN ANJUM	XXXXXXXXXX4547	83438.00	9/Feb/26	14.500	14.400	POLASARA OR	SANTOSH SAHU	XXXXXXXXXX2537	107917.00	9/Feb/26	20.000	17.500
KEONJHAR [OR]	MITALI SETHI	XXXXXXXXXX5672	124388.00	9/Feb/26	15.500	15.180	POLASARA OR	SULATA DAKUA	XXXXXXXXXX4904	90816.00	6/Nov/25	18.400	15.400
KEONJHAR [OR]	MITALI SETHI	XXXXXXXXXX3140	100408.00	9/Feb/26	12.200	11.760	POLASARA OR	SUSHANT KUMAR PRADHAN	XXXXXXXXXX8452	707109.00	12/Feb/26	142.000	135.000
KEONJHAR [OR]	PRADIPTA KUMAR PATRA	XXXXXXXXXX5032	129653.57	23/Jan/26	16.000	15.730	PURI [OR]	CHINMOYEE PANDA	XXXXXXXXXX7807	408521.38	23/Jan/26	61.800	52.500
KEONJHAR [OR]	SABITA NAYAK	XXXXXXXXXX9241	54588.00	27/Oct/25	9.400	8.400	PURI [OR]	KAMADEB PARIDA	XXXXXXXXXX3046	595174.00	9/Feb/26	75.200	72.600
KEONJHAR [OR]	SETABANDHU NAIK	XXXXXXXXXX0763	59349.00	9/Feb/26	8.100	7.800	PURI [OR]	KAMADEB PARIDA	XXXXXXXXXX0610	185352.10	9/Feb/26	22.300	21.700
KEONJHAR [OR]	SWARUP RANJAN SAHU	XXXXXXXXXX2066	109064.00	9/Jun/25	23.100	23.000	PURI [OR]	MAHABIR PRATIHARI	XXXXXXXXXX2071	2388156.00	10/Jan/26	402.800	377.600
KHAGADAPAL BALA OR	RABISHANKAR KAMILA	XXXXXXXXXX0803	110730.00	12/Feb/26	21.100	20.700	PURI [OR]	RENUBALA NAYAK	XXXXXXXXXX3999	131880.00	23/Jan/26	23.100	21.900
KHALIKOTE KHLI OR	AMIT KUMAR PATNAYAK	XXXXXXXXXX7479	31893.00	10/Dec/25	6.700	6.000	PURI [OR]	SAIKRISHNA JENA	XXXXXXXXXX4194	527308.00	9/Feb/26	87.700	81.500
KHALIKOTE KHLI OR	ASHOK KUMAR SWAIN	XXXXXXXXXX1860	201100.00	12/Feb/26	47.200	44.500	PURI [OR]	SATYABHAMA SETHI	XXXXXXXXXX1807	39896.00	9/Feb/26	9.500	7.500
KHALIKOTE KHLI OR	DHARITRI JANI	XXXXXXXXXX5615	64124.00	28/Feb/25	15.100	14.000	PURI [OR]	SURYA NARAYAN NAYAK	XXXXXXXXXX1314	37757.00	10/Dec/25	6.800	5.500
KHALIKOTE KHLI OR	DIBYAJYOTI PRADHAN	XXXXXXXXXX5289	63024.00	27/Oct/25	12.800	11.500	PURUSOTTAMPUR OR	BADAKULU KAMARAJU PATRA	XXXXXXXXXX4318	300918.00	27/Oct/25	48.000	45.400
KHALIKOTE KHLI OR	GADADHAR PANDA	XXXXXXXXXX3159	384884.58	12/Feb/26	76.600	72.000	PURUSOTTAMPUR OR	BRUNDEBAN GOUDA	XXXXXXXXXX9290	901883.00	9/Feb/26	153.400	143.200
KHALIKOTE KHLI OR	PANCHANAN BARIK	XXXXXXXXXX8108	246320.57	16/Nov/25	60.300	52.000	PURUSOTTAMPUR OR	D. SHYAM ACHARY	XXXXXXXXXX4324	877608.00	9/Feb/26	167.800	160.500
KHALIKOTE KHLI OR	PRATIMA GOUDA	XXXXXXXXXX7763	57926.00	19/Dec/25	20.300	19.000	PURUSOTTAMPUR OR	DEEPAK PRADHAN	XXXXXXXXXX2699	72903.50	27/Sep/25	14.200	13.000
KHALIKOTE KHLI OR	RINA DAS	XXXXXXXXXX4926	61564.00	10/Jan/26	11.900	10.500	PURUSOTTAMPUR OR	DHANU GOUDA	XXXXXXXXXX7428	147344.50	23/Jan/26	29.000	26.500
KHORDHA [OR]	DIPTI RANJAN MANGARAJ	XXXXXXXXXX5378	74096.00	9/Feb/26	9.700	9.500	PURUSOTTAMPUR OR	KESHABA DAS	XXXXXXXXXX6321	111965.00	9/Feb/26	13.800	13.200
KHORDHA [OR]	INDAN KHAN	XXXXXXXXXX2376	115075.00	9/Feb/26	13.500	13.200	PURUSOTTAMPUR OR	KESHABA DAS	XXXXXXXXXX8858	53167.00	9/Feb/26	8.300	8.000
KHORDHA [OR]	KANHUCHARAN GUMANSINGH	XXXXXXXXXX0108	136737.00	9/Feb/26	21.300	20.900	PURUSOTTAMPUR OR	KRUSHNA CHANDRA BEHERA	XXXXXXXXXX7687	135743.98	9/Feb/26	21.000	18.500
KHORDHA [OR]	NIRUPAMA BHATT	XXXXXXXXXX0909	51571.00	12/Feb/26	6.400	6.200	PURUSOTTAMPUR OR	KRUSHNA CHANDRA PRADHAN	XXXXXXXXXX6440	66937.85	10/Jan/26	15.000	14.200
KORAPUT KOU OR	GOPAL CHANDRA SAHU	XXXXXXXXXX7895	124935.00	19/Dec/25	21.000	19.500	PURUSOTTAMPUR OR	LIZA RANI SAHU	XXXXXXXXXX3801	357573.00	27/Jan/26	74.600	63.300
KORAPUT KOU OR	MILAN GARADA	XXXXXXXXXX7381	57912.00	16/Nov/25	8.900	8.500	PURUSOTTAMPUR OR	MAHESWAR SAHU	XXXXXXXXXX6095	871960.28	27/Oct/25	137.900	131.800
KORAPUT KOU OR	RAHIM KHOSLA	XXXXXXXXXX1905	232749.42	23/Jan/26	29.600	28.000	PURUSOTTAMPUR OR	MANASI KUMARI NAYAK	XXXXXXXXXX8571	146400.00	12/Dec/25	37.500	35.500
KORAPUT KOU OR	SABITA MAJHI	XXXXXXXXXX7930	62018.00	27/Oct/25	10.400	9.500	PURUSOTTAMPUR OR	ORI DAS	XXXXXXXXXX0170	72508.00	27/Oct/25	16.500	15.000
KORAPUT KOU OR	SUNIL KUMAR JENA	XXXXXXXXXX4657	713760.47	10/Jan/26	122.200	109.600	PURUSOTTAMPUR OR	RAJIBA NAHAK	XXXXXXXXXX0457	622816.00	27/Sep/25	108.200	99.000
KOTPAD OR	BHAGIRATHI HARIJAN	XXXXXXXXXX3205	65855.00	10/Jan/26	9.800	9.000	PURUSOTTAMPUR OR	SACCHINDRA RAY	XXXXXXXXXX9658	245856.54	9/Feb/26	51.500	46.600
KOTPAD OR	GANAPATI NAYAK	XXXXXXXXXX7761	62649.00	12/Feb/26	15.400	14.500	PURUSOTTAMPUR OR	SANGRAM PRADHAN	XXXXXXXXXX2371	55682.00	10/Jan/26	7.500	6.900
KOTPAD OR	PADMANA BHATARA	XXXXXXXXXX6006	82904.00	6/Nov/25	20.100	15.700	PURUSOTTAMPUR OR	SUMITRA SAHU	XXXXXXXXXX3145	83975.00	16/Nov/25	15.200	13.700
KOTPAD OR	RAJU GAUDA	XXXXXXXXXX4211	54479.00	9/Feb/26	7.700	7.100	PURUSOTTAMPUR OR	SURYA NARAYAN PRADHAN	XXXXXXXXXX7515	99117.33	23/Jan/26	21.800	21.100
KUCHINDA KCHI OR	YAMINI MAHANT	XXXXXXXXXX9064	92458.00	9/Feb/26	13.200	12.500	PURUSOTTAMPUR OR	SWAPNA MAHARANA	XXXXXXXXXX5663	165972.00	27/Jan/26	40.600	33.900
LAXMIPUR OR	BHIMSEN KHARA	XXXXXXXXXX8069	46080.29	9/Feb/26	10.800	10.500	RAYAGADA [OR]	JYOTI HEMBRAM	XXXXXXXXXX9759	171186.00	9/Feb/26	22.900	21.900
LAXMIPUR OR	KOILASA KHOSALA	XXXXXXXXXX3125	97942.00	6/Nov/25	20.000	17.500	RAYAGADA [OR]	BHANJANA BAGHA	XXXXXXXXXX9612	48598.00	9/Feb/26	7.200	7.000
LAXMIPUR OR	KUNA BARADA	XXXXXXXXXX9093	571152.00	10/Jan/26	80.350	75.000	RAYAGADA [OR]	GURUNATH KOUSALYA	XXXXXXXXXX1191	240619.00	27/Oct/25	37.500	36.000
LAXMIPUR OR	P. TULU	XXXXXXXXXX0234	154394.54	9/Feb/26	24.400	23.500	RAYAGADA [OR]	KAMESWAR BIDIKA	XXXXXXXXXX7728	96929.41	10/Dec/25	21.900	21.200
LAXMIPUR OR	PRAHALLAD MANDINGA	XXXXXXXXXX5236	71686.68	9/Feb/26	12.250	11.000	RAYAGADA [OR]	M SANAMMA	XXXXXXXXXX6204	817562.00	9/Feb/26	99.400	97.800
LAXMIPUR OR	PRAMODA ADADI	XXXXXXXXXX6566	58142.17	9/Feb/26	11.500	11.200	RAYAGADA [OR]	RAMA KRUSHNA SENAPATI	XXXXXXXXXX5693	308080.00	10/Jan/26	52.700	52.100
LAXMIPUR OR	PRANAB KISHOR BAGHA	XXXXXXXXXX7416	179426.58	23/Jan/26	24.900	22.400	RAYAGADA [OR]	SARUK PAUL	XXXXXXXXXX4856	102225.00	12/Feb/26	22.300	18.800
LAXMIPUR OR	RENUKA BEHERA	XXXXXXXXXX2340	855457.92	9/Feb/26	152.500	137.000	RAYAGADA [OR]	SASMITA BARDHAN	XXXXXXXXXX7945	77615.00	6/Nov/25	11.600	11.500
LAXMIPUR OR	SUNILA KOUSALYA	XXXXXXXXXX6110	83288.38	9/Feb/26	12.250	11.000	RAYAGADA [OR]	SRIKANTH GULLIPALLI	XXXXXXXXXX2631	108503.00	27/Oct/25	16.100	16.000
LUNAHAR OR	SATYABHAMA SAHOO	XXXXXXXXXX7642	79261.00	10/Jan/26	12.640	11.400	RAYAGADA [OR]	UMAKANTI BIDIKA	XXXXXXXXXX7543	1014526.47	23/Jan/26	181.600	176.300
MAHADEV SARAI CMAHA OR	BHALASANKAR JENA	XXXXXXXXXX2309	174991.00	9/Feb/26	23.170	22.970	RAYAGADA [OR]	UMAKANTI BIDIKA	XXXXXXXXXX8049	315224.16	9/Feb/26	181.600	176.300
MAHADEV SARAI CMAHA OR	DEEPAK KUMAR SETHI	XXXXXXXXXX5260	49107.00	9/Feb/26	8.510	8.000	REDHAKHOL OR	UMAKANTI BIDIKA	XXXXXXXXXX2329	214159.63	23/Jan/26	37.700	32.900
MAHADEV SARAI CMAHA OR	DHIREN BARIK	XXXXXXXXXX4737	60944.00	10/Dec/25	8.400	8.150	REDHAKHOL OR	RAKA GHOSH	XXXXXXXXXX1055	114425.00	9/Feb/26	20.400	20.200
MAHADEV SARAI CMAHA OR	JAGABANDHU AICHA	XXXXXXXXXX1803	92047.72	9/Feb/26	11.170	11.000	REDHAKHOL OR	SANTOSHKUMAR DEO	XXXXXXXXXX9704	123758.00	12/Feb/26	23.190	23.000
MAHADEV SARAI CMAHA OR	MANJULATA DAS	XXXXXXXXXX9551	51364.00	10/Jan/26	8.020	7.870	RENUMA OR	MANORANJAN SAHU	XXXXXXXXXX2313	51208.00	31/Jul/25	12.600	12.480
MAHADEV SARAI CMAHA OR	NAFISA BIBI	XXXXXXXXXX8081	151251.00	9/Feb/26	18.950	18.110	RENUMA OR	PRADIPTA KISHORE MISHRA	XXXXXXXXXX2385	125240.37	12/Feb/26	15.100	15.000
MAHESWARPUR CMAHE OR	RASHMIREKHA DAS	XXXXXXXXXX3871	127374.38	10/Jan/26	25.000	24.000	SAHALA SOE OR	KSHAMESHWARI SAHU	XXXXXXXXXX4984	525664.71	9/Feb/26	70.000	66.600
MAHINSASURA MAHIN OR	ANCHAL KUMAR ROUT	XXXXXXXXXX6333	209821.00	23/Jan/26	28.900	28.450	SAHALA SOE OR	RITANJALI MISHRA	XXXXXXXXXX7305	164697.13	9/Feb/26	27.700	27.000
MAHINSASURA MAHIN OR	MANOJ KUMAR BHUYAN	XXXXXXXXXX2845	163411.00	10/Dec/25	25.800	25.250	SAHALA SOE OR	SAMBHUPRASAD SETHI	XXXXXXXXXX7730	89016.00	10/Dec/25	14.000	12.500
MAHINSASURA MAHIN OR	SUMANT KUMAR BISWAL	XXXXXXXXXX1840	158005.00	9/Feb/26	24.400	23.900	SAHEED NAGAR OR	HARAPRIYA SETHI	XXXXXXXXXX6345	268241.00	10/Jan/26	32.400	31.900
MALKANGIRI MKG OR	APARNA MANDAL	XXXXXXXXXX9415	129802.01	9/Feb/26	17.100	16.300	SAILO JAR OR	ANIL PARIDA	XXXXXXXXXX1966	67351.00	9/Feb/26	10.300	10.200
MALKANGIRI MKG OR	APARNA MANDAL	XXXXXXXXXX5285	91608.00	9/Feb/26	14.000	13.100	SAILO JAR OR	ANIL PARIDA	XXXXXXXXXX5056	38459.90	9/Feb/26	6.900	6.600
MALKANGIRI MKG OR	ASHOK KUMAR HALDAR	XXXXXXXXXX3435	1612009.18	9/Feb/26	217.200	211.000	SAILO JAR OR	PRAVAMAYEE SAHOO	XXXXXXXXXX4758	126427.00	27/Oct/25	22.000	21.300
MALKANGIRI MKG OR	DASARATH NAYAK	XXXXXXXXXX9687	95178.00	10/Jan/26	11.400	11.200	SAILO JAR OR	SUDHANSU SUKLA	XXXXXXXXXX2857	187656.00	9/Feb/26	28.000	27.900
MALKANGIRI MKG OR	SANJAYA MANDAL	XXXXXXXXXX6915	211746.00	23/Jan/26	32.700	30.800	SAKHIPARA SKP OR	ASHOK BARIK	XXXXXXXXXX8632	108140.00	31/Jul/25	21.100	18.800
MANDIAPALI GNJ OR	B HEMALATA REDDY	XXXXXXXXXX9670	81676.00	10/Dec/25	18.000	17.100	SAKHIPARA SKP OR	DHARMENDRA SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX7082	3474339.58	12/Feb/26	637.600	554.900
MANDIAPALI GNJ OR	DEVILAL GUPTA	XXXXXXXXXX4187	776708.61	10/Jan/26	169.500	152.500	SAKHIPARA SKP OR	PINKY SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX8086	2537029.89	12/Feb/26	446.300	426.600
MANDIAPALI GNJ OR	PANARSA SUMITRA	XXXXXXXXXX2705	163772.00	27/Oct/25	33.800	28.400	SAKHIPARA SKP OR	SWAGAT KUMAR BEHERA	XXXXXXXXXX7755	136719.00	23/Jan/26	25.500	19.100
MANDIAPALI GNJ OR	TAMARA SANTOSH REDDY	XXXXXXXXXX0911	754298.00	31/Jul/25	129.400	120.600	SAMANTARAPUR, BHUBANESHWAR [OR]	SAMIR KUMAR JENA	XXXXXXXXXX3426	98364.00	10/Jan/26	11.800	11.500
MUNIGUDA OR	BABULA KIMA	XXXXXXXXXX0766	127560.00	16/Jun/25	23.150	22.150	SAMBALPUR [OR]	PHAKIR MOHAN MERLI	XXXXXXXXXX2919	1045165.00	10/Jan/26	201.690	171.100
MUNIGUDA OR	BALAKRUSHNA BEHERA	XXXXXXXXXX6179	136058.00	10/Jan/26	24.190	21.430	SAMBALPUR [OR]	SNEHALATA BAG	XXXXXXXXXX8328	175382.00	10/Dec/25	27.640	27.000
MUNIGUDA OR	JANANTI MAJHI												

DAY 7: MIDDLE EAST CRISIS ESCALATES

Israeli airstrikes pound Beirut

REUTERS

Beirut/Jerusalem, March 6: Israeli airstrikes pounded the southern suburbs of Beirut overnight and Friday, smashing up city streets in an escalating conflict with Iran-backed Hezbollah that has sent tens of thousands of Lebanese from their homes.

Israel ordered everyone in the densely-populated suburbs, a Hezbollah stronghold, to leave before launching strikes that lit up the night sky. It earlier warned civilians to quit swathes of southern and eastern Lebanon, not just areas near its borders.

They were the widest evacuation orders ever given by Israel against Lebanon and prompted a huge exodus of people before bombardments that turned buildings into rubble and took the facades off apartment blocks.

"We're sleeping here in the streets - some in cars, some on the street, some on the beach," said Jamal Seifeddin, 43, who spent the night outside in the capital's downtown district.

"I've never slept on the ground like this. I've been forced to. No one even brought a blanket," he said.

FIGHTING IN THE SOUTH

Hezbollah said Friday morning it was fighting an Israeli ground incursion in the south, targeting a gathering of military vehicles near the town of Khayam, and telling residents of Israeli communities near the border to leave.

Lebanon was pulled into the war in the Middle East Monday, when Hezbollah fired rockets at Israel that ignited a new Israeli offensive against the Shi'ite Muslim group - Iran's most powerful regional ally - 15 months after their 2024 war.

Israeli attacks on Hezbollah will likely continue even if its joint air war with Iran were to end, a source briefed on Israel's military strategy has told Reuters.

A separate, Lebanese, security source said, "This is about ending Hezbollah once and for all", raising the prospect of a longer conflict in the country,



Smoke billows after reported strikes on Beirut's southern suburbs, following an escalation between Hezbollah and Israel amid the US-Israeli conflict with Iran, as seen from Baabda, Lebanon

Major strikes on southern Beirut

Growing offensive in south Lebanon

Huge numbers fleeing homes

Israeli attacks on Hezbollah may outlast Iran war, source says

where Hezbollah, while diminished, remains a powerful force.

ISRAEL SAYS IT TARGETS HEZBOLLAH FACILITIES

An Israeli military official said several waves of strikes were launched against Hezbollah in the southern suburbs, striking about 115 targets including in residential buildings that the official said the group used as headquarters.

Israeli airstrikes have also targeted Tripoli in the north of Lebanon, Tyre, Sidon and Nabatieh in the south, and Baalbek in the east, the official said. Israeli military video showed what it said were strikes on command centres and weapons facilities in Lebanon. Reuters could not independently confirm that the buildings Israel hit did contain command centres or weapons facilities.

Israel's military also told people in four towns in Lebanon's eastern Bekaa valley to leave Friday, the latest in a series of orders that an international aid official said had reached an extent never seen before.

"What we saw in the last couple of days is, I would say ... unprecedented in terms of the scale here in Lebanon of the warnings, the displacement orders, and the reaction, the panic also, that this has all created," Imran Riza, UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Lebanon, told Reuters.

The fighting was triggered by the Israeli and US strikes against Iran a week ago that killed the country's supreme leader, a figurehead for Hezbollah, and set the Middle East ablaze.

Hezbollah, a Shi'ite Muslim group established by Iran's Revolutionary Guards in 1982,

was badly weakened by Israel during the 2024 war and has been under pressure over the past year to demilitarise and give up its weapons.

The Lebanese health ministry has reported 123 people killed and another 683 wounded as a result of Israeli attacks this week. Its figures do not distinguish between civilians and combatants.

The UN refugee agency said Friday that nearly 100,000 people had already been displaced into shelters in Lebanon. That estimate may rise sharply, as the population of Beirut's southern suburbs that Israel has said should be entirely emptied numbers in the hundreds of thousands.

The UN human rights chief Volker Turk criticised Israel's evacuation orders, saying they raised serious concern under international humanitarian

law.

HEZBOLLAH TELLS ISRAELIS TO FLEE THEIR HOMES

Hezbollah, in a message published in Hebrew on its Telegram channel early Friday, warned Israelis to leave towns within 5 km (3 miles) of the border.

"Your military's aggression against Lebanese sovereignty and safe citizens, the destruction of civilian infrastructure and the expulsion campaign it is carrying out will not go unchallenged," Hezbollah said.

During fighting between Hezbollah and Israel in 2024, tens of thousands of Israelis were evacuated from towns in the border area but many have since returned. Israeli officials have previously said there are no plans to remove them for now.

There have been no reported fatalities in Israel as a result of Hezbollah attacks.

Sri Lanka moving 208 rescued Iranian ship crew to naval camp

REUTERS

Galle, Sri Lanka, March 6: Sri Lankan authorities said Friday they were escorting a second Iranian naval vessel to harbour and moving 208 of its crew to a camp, two days after a US submarine sank an Iranian warship in the same area.

President Anura Kumara Dissanayake said his island nation had a "humanitarian responsibility" to take in the crew, as the US and Israeli war with Iran raged, wreaking havoc on global markets and disrupting trade and travel.

The Sri Lankan Navy identified the second Iranian ship as naval auxiliary vessel IRIS Booshehr.

SECOND IRAN SHIP HAD ENGINE PROBLEMS

Iranian sailors were seen dragging suitcases and carrying bags as they disembarked in Sri Lanka, in pictures shared by the Presidential Media Division. Other images showed Sri Lankan navy tug boats and naval vessels approaching the Booshehr, which Dissanayake earlier said would be moved to the Trincomalee harbour on the eastern coast.

"About 15 crewmen are still aboard the Iranian ship to help with navigation," a Sri Lankan government source said.

The ship was experiencing engine problems, that source and another government official said. Both asked not to be named given the sensitivity of the issue. The crew was brought to the port in Sri Lanka's commercial capital Colombo where

- Sri Lanka aids Iranian vessel amid US-Iran conflict
- Vessel reported stranded after US sub sank Iran battleship
- Island had 'humanitarian responsibility,' resident says
- Iran says battleship unarmored, thanks Sri Lanka for rescue

they had medical check-ups and were then moved in groups to a navy camp in Welisara, about 18 km (10 miles) away, the officials added.

IRAN THANKS SRI LANKA

The ship Booshehr, which had found itself stranded in Sri Lanka's exclusive economic zone outside its maritime boundary, reached the area a day after the Iranian warship IRIS Dena was sunk while returning from India after a naval exercise.

Dena was hit by a torpedo from a US submarine in the Indian Ocean, about 19 nautical miles off Sri Lanka's coast, killing 87 people on board and dramatically widening the scope of the US-Israeli war on Iran.

Iran's foreign minister thanked Sri Lanka for helping rescue survivors from the warship. "That vessel ... was ceremonial, unloaded, unarmed," Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Saeed Khatibzadeh told reporters in New Delhi, where he is attending a conference.

Both Washington and Tehran are key trade partners for Sri Lanka. The United States accounts for about 40% of its apparel exports and Iran is one of its main tea buyers.



Azerbaijan evacuating its diplomats from Iran for their own safety



REUTERS

Baku, March 6: Azerbaijan is evacuating its diplomats from Iran for their own safety, Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov said Friday, a day after Baku said four Iranian drones had crossed its border and injured four people in the Nakhchivan exclave.

Speaking at a news conference in Baku, Bayramov said that Azerbaijan was evacuating employees from its embassy in Tehran and its consulate general in Tabriz, the largest city in Iran's northwest, where many ethnic Azerbaijanis live.

"On the orders of President Ilham Aliyev, instructions have been given to evacuate our embassy in Tehran and the consulate general in Tabriz from Iran, and these instructions are already being implemented. We cannot put the lives of our people at risk," he said.

Azerbaijan reacted angrily Thursday to what it said was an incursion by Iranian drones into its Nakhchivan exclave, with President Aliyev threatening retaliation. Iran said it had not launched the drones.

The two countries have long had tense relations, with Azerbaijan's close relations with Israel drawing Tehran's ire.

Azerbaijan shares a majority Shi'ite Islamic faith with Iran, but its government is firmly secular.

Trump downplays gas price surge

REUTERS

Washington, March 6: President Donald Trump said Thursday he was not concerned about rising US gas prices driven by the widening Iran conflict, telling Reuters in an exclusive interview that the US military operation was his priority.

"I don't have any concern about it," he said, when asked about the higher prices at the pump. "They'll drop very rapidly when this is over, and if they rise, they rise, but this is far more important than having gasoline prices go up a little bit."

The comments mark a shift in tone for the president, who touted a drop in gas prices in his State of the Union address last month and at a Texas rally focused on energy that took place just hours before the US launched its air strikes Saturday.

Political analysts say a persistent rise in gas prices could hurt Republicans in the November midterm elections when control of the US Congress will be at stake. Voters are already unhappy about the high cost of living and Trump's stewardship of the economy.

Despite Trump's public efforts to play down the price rises, White House Chief of Staff Susie Wiles and Energy Secretary Chris Wright have both engaged with oil CEOs to gauge possible options on combating rising energy prices, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said Thursday.

Trump has outlined a four-to-five-week timeline for the military campaign against Iran, but political and military experts have questioned it, noting that the US government has yet to articulate its end goal while the conflict continues to spread to the region and beyond.



- Rising fuel costs pose political risks
- Trump rules out tapping the Strategic Petroleum Reserve
- White House believes price shock will be short-lived

Global oil prices have jumped 16% since the war started Saturday, as the spreading conflict disrupted Middle East supplies.

The national average cost of gas has risen 27 cents since last week to \$3.25 per gallon, according to AAA, a US travel organization that tracks fuel prices. The current national average is 15 cents higher than a year ago.

Trump said the costs "haven't risen very much."

Wall Street's main indexes fell Friday, with the financial-heavy Dow at a more than three-month low, as the conflict raging in the Middle East threatened to fuel inflation and data showed the economy unexpectedly shed jobs in February.

The data pointing to a weakening jobs market came amid a strike by healthcare workers and harsh winter weather. The unemployment rate increased to 4.4%.

Despite the gloomy mood, US stocks have fared better than their Asian and European counterparts this week. Also supporting sentiment, the United States is perceived to be better shielded from energy shocks as it is a net exporter of oil.

Pakistani, Afghan border forces clash

REUTERS

Kabul, March 6: Pakistani and Afghan troops exchanged fire at dozens of points along their border Friday as the UN said their week-old conflict has forced the displacement of more than 100,000 people.

The South Asian nations show no signs of rapprochement in their worst fighting in years, adding to the volatility in a region also contending with US and Israeli strikes on Iran - a nation that borders both Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Combat has included Pakistani air strikes on Taliban government installations, such as the Bagram air base north of the Afghan capital Kabul.

Afghanistan's Ministry of Defense said Taliban forces struck Pakistani military installations in more than two dozen locations along the 2,600-km (1,600-mile) border, destroying 14 posts and shooting down a drone.

It said seven Afghan civilians and three Taliban fighters were killed in overnight fighting.

Pakistani security sources said they carried out ground and air operations against military targets including Kandahar, the heartland of the Taliban and where its core leadership resides, and destroyed several Afghan border posts.

Dozens gathered in Kabul Friday to protest Pakistan's attacks on Afghan territory, chanting anti-Pakistan slogans, a witness said, while the Bakhter news agency said a large gathering in Laghman Province demonstrated against Pakistan's recent attacks. People living in border towns have told Reuters that troops begin exchanging heavy shelling after sunset, placing homes in the firing line just as families sit down to break their fast in the holy month of Ramadan.

NEWLY RELEASED EPSTEIN FILES

Assaulted by Trump as minor: Woman

Justice Department releases missing FBI interviews in Epstein files with woman who made claims against Trump

REUTERS

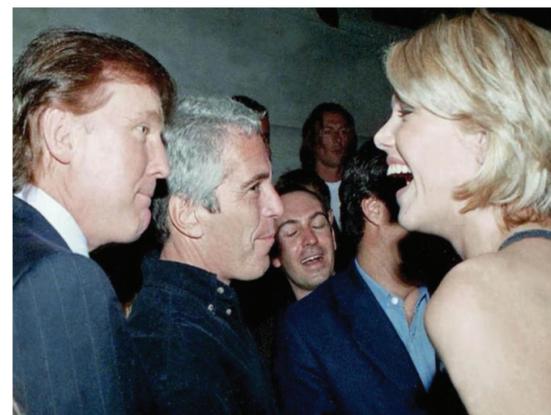
Washington, March 6: The US Justice Department released FBI records Thursday that summarize interviews of an unidentified woman in which she made accusations against President Donald Trump related to an alleged sexual encounter.

FBI agents interviewed the woman four times in 2019 as part of their investigation into accused sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein. The Justice Department had previously released a log confirming that the interviews took place but released a summary of only one of those four meetings, in which she accused Epstein of molesting her when she was a teenager.

The newly disclosed records, which were posted on the department's website Thursday, show she also claimed Trump attempted to force her to perform oral sex after Epstein introduced her to the future president in New York or New Jersey in the 1980s when she was between 13 and 15 years old.

The White House did not immediately respond to questions about the disclosures. Politico, which first reported the disclosures, said White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt called the woman's claims "completely baseless accusations, backed by zero credible evidence."

The Justice Department has cautioned that some of the documents include "untrue and sensationalist claims made against President Trump." Reuters could not independently confirm the accuracy of a woman's allegations, and FBI records suggest agents stopped speaking with her in 2019.



Justice Department releases missing Epstein records containing sexual allegations against Trump

White House denies unidentified woman's claims as baseless and lacking evidence

Justice Department faces scrutiny over handling of Epstein investigation documents

The Justice Department said in a post on the social media platform X that the records it released Thursday were among 15 documents that it had "incorrectly coded as duplicative" and not published as a result.

The disclosure comes as the Justice Department faces scrutiny in Congress over its handling of documents from the Epstein investigation, which it is required to make public. Democrats have accused Trump's administration of concealing records related to Trump, and a committee in the House of Representatives voted to subpoena Attorney General Pam Bondi so

lawmakers can question her about how the government is handling the disclosures.

Trump has said his association with Epstein ended in the mid-2000s and that he was never aware of the financier's sexual abuse. Records previously released by the department show Trump flew several times on Epstein's plane in the 1990s, which Trump has denied. After the financier was first accused of sexual misconduct, Trump called the police chief in Palm Beach to say that "everyone has known he's been doing this," according to an FBI interview record.

In the report of the woman's final, conducted in October 2019, during Trump's first presidency, agents asked whether she would be willing to provide more information about Trump. In response, the agent wrote, she "asked what the point would be of providing the information at this point in her life when there was a strong possibility nothing could be done about it."



We have an ambition to be profitable by the end of FY28
PATRIK ANTONI | CEO, IKEA INDIA

ASHOK LEYLAND OFFICIAL SPONSOR FOR CSK

Hinduja Group flagship company Ashok Leyland has become the official sponsor for the five-time IPL Champions, the Chennai Super Kings, a top official said Friday. As part of the strategic partnership, the logo of the city-headquartered heavy commercial vehicle maker would feature prominently on the front right of the IPL franchise's popular yellow jersey



of the day quote

Customer experience in India is at an inflection point. Enterprises have invested in AI, but the underlying infrastructure, a chaos of fragmented systems, disconnected data and siloed workflows, is holding them back

SUMEET MATHUR | SENIOR VP AND MD, SERVICENOW

From a global reference, India's fundamentals are on the high trajectory of growth and the government is taking a very sensible approach. We have set a fiscal deficit target of 4.3 per cent, instead of 4.4 per cent, so we haven't taken very exuberant targets, which gives confidence

AJAY SETHI | MANAGING PARTNER, BAKER TILLY ASA

We are seeing encouraging momentum in how women are being hired across India. Opportunities are expanding beyond entry-level roles into senior positions, higher salary brackets, and growing talent hubs across tier II cities

ANUPAMA BHIMRAJKA | VP - MARKETING, FOUNDIT

MIDDLE EAST MELTDOWN

RBI DEPLOYS \$12BN TO DEFEND RUPEE

Mumbai: India's central bank has mounted an aggressive defence of the rupee this week, deploying an estimated \$12 billion to contain the fallout from an escalating Middle East war that has pummeled markets and pushed the Asian currency to an all-time low, according to seven bankers. The figure is the median of estimates bankers shared with Reuters, with the projections ranging from \$9 billion to more than \$15 billion. The scale of the intervention underscores the challenge the Reserve Bank of India faces in containing volatility triggered by the Middle East conflict that has entered its seventh day. The conflict has widened across the Gulf, pushing oil prices up about 16% this week, leading to \$2 billion of foreign outflows from Indian equities and spurring importers to increase hedges of near-term payment obligations. The RBI's heavy intervention comes against the backdrop of India's foreign-exchange reserves, which at over \$723 billion, are among the largest in the world. All the bankers spoke on condition of anonymity as they are not authorised to speak publicly.

Ceramics, tiles sector faces shutdown

The US and Israel's war on Iran has disrupted fuel shipments from the Middle East, hitting an industry that relies on propane and natural gas to fire its kilns

REUTERS



Restarting production without certainty of fuel availability is economically unviable. The present situation could possibly be worse than the Covid-19 period for the industry

HITESH DETROJA | CHIEF, LEXUS GRANITO

- Ceramics hub in India's Morbi struggling with fuel shortages
- Could shut down after March 15 if no improvement: Official
- \$7 billion industry supports hundreds of thousands of jobs

Morbi, March 6: India's Rs 650 billion (\$7 billion) ceramics and tiles industry risks grinding to a halt as the escalating Middle East conflict crimps fuel supplies, threatening hundreds of thousands of livelihoods, industry officials said. Morbi, in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state of Gujarat in India's west, is one of the world's largest ceramic manufacturing hubs and the backbone of India's tile industry. The US and Israel's war on Iran has disrupted fuel shipments from the Middle East, hitting an industry that relies on propane and natural gas to fire its kilns.

Many of the cluster's roughly 800 ceramic units, which produce tiles, sanitary ware and other products, have been hit by fuel supply cuts and a pause in exports to the Middle East, the officials said. Several using propane have already shut or are close to shutting operations due to shortages, while arranging on-

site food and lodging to retain workers during the stoppage. Some companies that depend on natural gas have begun receiving force majeure notices from suppliers, forcing them to suspend production. Tiles and bathware maker Asian Granito said in a filing Friday that it was evaluating alternative fuels and operational measures to soften the impact. "If the fuel supply situation does not improve, all ceramic units in Morbi will observe a collective shutdown after March 15," said Manoj Arvadiya, president of the Morbi Ceramic Association. The industry is also unable to ship finished goods to the Middle East, which normally takes about a quarter of Morbi's 30,000 monthly export containers. "These shipments have come to a complete halt," said Niraj Kundariya, chief of global sales at Win-Tel Ceramics. Shipping companies have also hiked freight charges by 20-30 times, making exports unviable, he added. The industry has also urged the Gujarat state government to allow coal gasifiers - which convert coal into gas used as industrial fuel - as an alternative. Authorities banned them in Morbi in 2019 to curb air pollution.

Govt invokes ESMA powers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 6: The government invoked sparingly used emergency powers to direct oil refineries to ramp up LPG production as it looks to increase the availability of domestic cooking gas to hedge against potential disruptions from the widening Middle East conflict. India consumed 31.3 million tonnes of LPG in 2024-25, of which only 12.8 million tonnes were produced domestically, with the remainder imported. Imports have become increasingly vulnerable as 85-90 per cent come from countries like Saudi Arabia that rely on the narrow but critical Strait of Hormuz for transit. The Strait has been effectively blocked following a week-old escalation in the region, after US and Israeli strikes on Iran prompted Tehran to retaliate against US bases in neighbouring countries. While India has surplus oil re-

fining capacity, it is short in LPG production. And now all public and private sector refiners have been asked to "maximise and ensure that propane and butane streams produced... are utilised for production of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG)," according to an oil ministry order of March 5. LPG is a mixture of propane and butane. The order, issued under the powers derived from the Essential Commodities Act of 1955 (popularly called ESMA), asked the refiners to make such LPG produced available to three public sector oil marketing companies - Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) only. "All oil refining companies shall not divert, utilise, process, crack, convert or otherwise employ propane or butane stream for the manufacture of petrochemical products or other such downstream derivatives," the order said.

Centre orders refiners to ramp up LPG production

Gold dips to ₹1.64L/10g; silver slips to ₹2.71L/kg

Gold prices declined Rs 1,100 to Rs 1.64 lakh per 10 grams in the national capital Friday as traders booked profits at elevated levels for the second straight session, while silver also slipped to Rs 2.71 lakh per kilogram. According to the All India Sarafa Association, the yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity depreciated Rs 1,100, or nearly 1 per cent, to Rs 1,64,100 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes). Silver also fell Rs 600 to Rs 2,71,700 per kg (inclusive of all taxes) in the bullion market. Analysts said traders locked in gains after the recent sharp rally in precious metal prices, even as global trends remained mixed. However, in the international markets, bullion prices were trading higher on renewed safe-haven demand, with spot gold gaining \$14.70, or 0.29 per cent, to \$5,095.81 per ounce, while silver increasing 1.4 per cent to \$83.40 per ounce.



SHORT TAKES

Forex kitty at peak

Mumbai: India's forex reserves jumped \$4.885 billion to an all-time high of \$728.494 billion during the week ended February 27, the Reserve Bank said Friday. In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had dropped \$2.119 billion to \$723.608 billion. The previous all time high for the kitty was \$725.727 billion during the week ended February 13 this year. For the week ended February 27, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased \$561 million to \$573.125 billion, the data released by the central bank showed. Value of the gold reserves increased \$4.141 billion to \$131.630 billion during the week, the RBI said. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up \$26 million to \$18.87 billion, the apex bank said. India's reserve position with the IMF was also up \$158 million to \$4.87 billion in the reporting week, according to the apex bank's data.

Flipkart sacks 300

New Delhi: E-commerce major Flipkart has trimmed its workforce by 250-300 employees following its annual performance review, sources familiar with the matter said Friday. The job cuts, which span multiple departments and employee levels, come as the Walmart-backed firm continues senior-level hiring ahead of its planned initial public offering (IPO). "Flipkart conducts regular performance reviews aligned with clearly defined expectations. As part of this process, a small percentage of employees may transition from the organisation. We are supporting affected employees with transition support," Flipkart said in a statement, without specifying the number of employees impacted in the exercise.

EV registrations rise

New Delhi: Electric passenger vehicle retail sales rose 44 per cent year-on-year in February, dealer's body FADA said Friday. The overall sales rose to 13,733 units last month as against 9,505 units in the year-ago period. Tata Motors led the space with registrations of 5,568 units, up 38.5 per cent as compared with 4,020 units in February last year.

Khimji celebrates womanhood with special diamond offer

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 6: Celebrating the timeless elegance, strength, and grace of women, Khimji Jewellers has announced a special three-day campaign dedicated to women, offering exclusive benefits on its exquisite natural diamond collections. The campaign, aligned with the spirit of International Women's Day, will be held across all Khimji Jewellers stores from March 6 to 8.

As part of the celebration, Khimji Jewellers is offering a flat 100% discount on making charges of diamond jewellery, specially curated for women. The limited-period offer reflects the brand's effort to honour the individuality and brilliance of women through its elegant natural diamond creations. The campaign highlights the idea that every woman is unique, resilient, and precious—just like a natural diamond. From statement diamond necklaces and contemporary rings to delicate pendants and everyday luxury pieces, the collection has been designed to complement modern lifestyles while



preserving the timeless appeal of fine jewellery. In addition to the special offer, Khimji Jewellers stores will host a day filled with engaging activities, celebrations, and customer interactions, creating a festive shopping experience. Women visiting the stores will also get an opportunity to participate in fun activities and stand a chance to be recognised as the "Woman of the Day." Speaking on the initiative, Mitesh Khimji, Managing Director of Khimji Jewellers, said: "At Khimji Jewellers, we believe every woman is as rare and radiant as a natural diamond. Through this special celebration, we want to honour the strength, grace, and achievements of women while offering them jewellery that reflects their brilliance. Our diamond collections are crafted to celebrate life's precious moments and the remarkable women who make them meaningful."

Nissan unveils all-new 'Gravite' MPV

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 6: Nissan Motor India has introduced its new compact MPV, the Nissan Gravite, in the Indian market with a starting price of Rs 5.65 lakh (ex-showroom). The model was also unveiled at the Jahnvi Nissan Showroom Friday, marking a fresh push by the automaker to strengthen its presence in the country.

Designed and manufactured in India, the Gravite is targeted at modern Indian families, offering flexible seating configurations for two to seven passengers along with practical luggage space. Company officials said the vehicle reflects Nissan's renewed focus on delivering affordable and family-oriented mobility solutions tailored to domestic buyers. The MPV adopts Nissan's signature "C" design language, giving it a bold and contemporary look. Exterior highlights include strong character lines, large wheels, high ground clearance and a prominent front grille finished in piano black. The vehicle also features all-round LED lighting, including LED headlamps, tail lamps and fog lamps. Inside, the Gravite offers a



spacious three-row cabin with premium upholstery and improved legroom and headroom. Boot capacity varies depending on the seating configuration—625 litres in the five-seater layout, 320 litres in the six-seater configuration and 84 litres in the seven-seater variant. Safety features have also been emphasised, with more than 30 standard safety elements included in the MPV. These include six airbags, Electronic Stability Control (ESC) and Hill Start Assist, among others. Powering the Gravite is a 1.0-litre three-cylinder petrol engine that produces 72 PS of power and 96 Nm of torque. The engine is paired with either a five-speed manual transmis-

sion or a five-speed automated manual transmission (AMT). According to the company, the manual variant delivers a mileage of 19.3 km per litre, while the AMT version offers 19.6 km per litre. The vehicle will be available in several colour options, including Forest Green, Onyx Black and Blade Silver. The launch event was attended by several dignitaries, including Padmanava Pattanaik, President of Pahal; Prashant Bhatnagar, DGM Marketing at Nissan Motor; Yuvraj Patil, Regional Head (East Zone) Nissan Motor; Amit Kumar Jaiswal, Managing Director of Jahnvi Automobiles; and Sanjay Panda, GM - Sales and Operations at Jahnvi Nissan.

As live events boom, India's hotels ride the experience economy

REUTERS

Chennai, March 6: International music concerts and marquee sporting events are fast becoming a key growth driver for India's hotel industry, as younger consumers increasingly prioritise live experiences over big-ticket shopping, hotel executives said. From pop star Dua Lipa to rapper Ye, global artists are adding India to their tour calendars, filling hotel rooms just as corporate travel demand from IT services providers shows signs of cooling amid tighter spending, according to at least three executives. "We are now in the economy of experiences," Alan Watts, president of Hilton's Asia Pacific business, told Reuters. The effect has been hard to miss in host cities.



British rock band Coldplay's Ahmedabad show last year drew tens of thousands of fans, making the concert day the city's busiest for metro traffic and air arrivals and generat-

ing about \$70 million in economic gains, industry data showed. The momentum is underpinned by a rapidly expanding live events industry. India's

- Beyond music, cricket and other big-ticket sporting events are fuelling sharp, multi-day spikes in demand
- India's \$5.69bn event and exhibition market is forecast to grow to \$9.04bn by 2031, according to Mordor Intelligence

Coldplay has changed the game by coming to India. Concerts are going to be very helpful in terms of improving occupancies

VIAJ DEWAN | MD, APEJAY SURENDRA PARK HOTELS

\$5.69 billion event and exhibition market is forecast to grow to \$9.04 billion by 2031, according to Mordor Intelligence. Hotels are adjusting accordingly. Lemon Tree Hotels, one of India's largest mid-priced chains, is weighing proximity to concert halls and stadiums more heavily when

scouting new locations. "It will increasingly become important for everybody in the hotel industry," said Lemon Tree Hotels CEO Neelendra Singh. Beyond music, cricket and other big-ticket sporting events are fuelling sharp, multi-day spikes in demand. Every time there is a cricket match — in Ahmedabad, for instance — the spike is "phenomenal," said Nikhil Sharma, managing director and operating chief for South Asia at Radisson Hotel Group. But some executives were more skeptical. "You need sustained event programming through the year for it to have meaningful impact (to the bottom line)," said Arjun Baljee, president of Royal Orchid Hotels.

AI SHOCKWAVES

Foreign outflows from IT stocks at seven-month high

REUTERS

Mumbai, March 6: Foreign outflows from India's information technology stocks hit a seven-month high in February, on worries that artificial intelligence-led disruption could squeeze earnings.

Foreign portfolio investors sold IT stocks worth Rs 169.49 billion (\$1.85 billion) for the month. That triggered a 19.5% drop in the IT index, its worst monthly performance since September 2008, when the global financial crisis upended equity markets. National Securities Depository (NSDL) data showed Friday.

The 10 constituents of the index lost about \$62.8 billion in market capitalisation in February after US firms such as Anthropic and Palantir unveiled key updates in AI automation. Last year, FPIs offloaded a record Rs 750 billion (\$8.18 billion) of IT stocks on weaker earnings and softer client spending. "The IT sector is facing multiple headwinds, particularly from the rapid advancement of AI tools," said Piyush Gupta, fund manager at Alpha-Grep Investment Management.

Constructive collaborations between Indian IT firms and global AI leaders, such as the strategic partnership between Infosys and Anthropic, and improvement in earnings in the sector will be crucial to restore FPI interest in the sector, according to three analysts. Yet, February was not a one-way risk-off story. FPIs rotated aggressively into other pockets of the market, lifting overall inflows to Rs 226.15 billion, the highest in 17 months since September 2024. FPIs net sold Rs 175.70 billion of shares in just four sessions in March as the escalating US-Israeli war with Iran spiked oil prices and squeezed global risk appetite.

West Indies players remain stranded in Kolkata

Four SA players likely to leave for New Zealand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, March 6: West Indies players remained stranded in Kolkata for the fifth straight day after their exit from the T20 World Cup as international airspace restrictions triggered by the US and Israeli strikes on Iran continued to disrupt travel plans.

While a charter flight has been arranged for the Caribbean side to return home, the local sources said the final air traffic approvals are awaited.

"WI & SA both teams' departure details still awaited," a Cricket Association of Bengal official told PTI.

However, the official said four South Africa players are likely to depart for New Zealand Friday night for an upcoming bilateral series.



MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

land Friday night for an upcoming bilateral series.

"Four SA players might leave for NZ tonight... formal details awaited," the official added.

The Windies were knocked out of the T20 World Cup after India defeated them by five wickets at the Eden Gardens Stadium.

South Africa's campaign in the

T20 World Cup also ended after their defeat to New Zealand here in the first semifinal Wednesday. The Proteas are scheduled to take on the Kiwis in a five-match T20I series in New Zealand beginning from March 15.

It is still not clear when the rest of the South Africa squad will depart from the city.

The Cricket West Indies had

Thursday confirmed that arrangements were being made for a charter flight to take the team back home after they remained stuck in the city for more than four days due to international airspace restrictions in the Gulf region.

"During a high-level call earlier today involving CWI, ICC officials, a representative of team management, and a representative of the players, it was confirmed that a charter flight is currently being arranged for the team's departure from India, with the expected departure scheduled within the next 24 hours," CWI had said in a statement. "The departure time remains subject to final air traffic approvals. The team remains safe and well as arrangements continue to be finalized," the governing body had added.

The CWI said it had been in constant touch with the players, team management and the

International Cricket Council while working on travel arrangements.

"While the situation remains complex and fluid due to international airspace restrictions arising from security concerns in the Gulf region, CWI assures the public that every precaution is being taken to ensure the safe return of the team to the Caribbean," the board had said.

The development had come hours after West Indies head coach Daren Sammy voiced his frustration over the delay on social media in a post that he "just wanna go home".

Following the arrangement he had posted "Got an update. That's all WI wanted."

Zimbabwe players who were also stranded in India due to the same reason have begun returning home in batches after the ICC arranged alternative travel routes via Addis Ababa in Ethiopia.

T20 WORLD CUP

Sanju among eight nominees for Player of the Tournament

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Dubai, March 6: As T20 World Cup nears conclusion with India and New Zealand will lock horns in the summit clash Sunday at the Narendra Modi Stadium, the ICC has unveiled the best performers from the ongoing mega event who have made the Player of the Tournament shortlist.

India's Sanju Samson is among the eight nominees which includes, Will Jacks (England), Sahibzada Farhan (Pakistan), Lungi Ngidi (South Africa), Aiden Markram (South Africa), Rachin Ravindra (New Zealand), Shadley van Schalkwyk (USA), Tim Seifert (New Zealand).

Samson is getting better with every showing at the T20 World Cup, with the right-hander having delivered back-to-back Player of the Match performances in India's last two fixtures at the tournament.

He smashed an unbeaten 97* from just 50 deliveries in a crucial Super Eights victory over the West Indies and then delivered for his country once gain in the knockout semi-final when scoring a brisk 89 from 42 balls.

In the four matches, the wicketkeeper batter scored 232 runs at an average of 77.33 and 201.73 strike rate.

England's Jacks won four Player of the Match honours, including in the crucial Super Eight clashes against Sri Lanka and New Zealand.

Farhan provided the silver lining in another mercurial Pakistan campaign. The opening batter scored 383 runs in six innings to record the most runs scored in a single edition of a Men's T20 World Cup. He also became the first player to score two centuries at an single edition of the Men's T20 World Cup as he scored a hundred against Sri Lanka and Namibia.

Lungi Ngidi is a vital cog in South Africa's pace battery and was their most consistent fast bowler at the ongoing T20 World Cup. He began the tournament with a four-wicket haul against Canada, and followed it



up with a 3/26 against Afghanistan in the epic that was decided by two Super Overs.

Aiden Markram was central to Proteas' assured performances at this T20 World Cup, with the right-hander compiling three half-centuries across eight matches.

A big-hitting batter, Rachin Ravindra has proved valuable to his side with the ball as well at this T20 World Cup. After their opening Super Eight clash against Pakistan was washed out, the left-arm spinner gave New Zealand the edge in the clash against Sri Lanka.

Van Schalkwyk began T20 World Cup 2026 with a four-wicket haul against India February 7. He varied his pace to perfection to help reduce India to 77/6 at one point, though the co-hosts found a way out. In the next match against Pakistan, the pacer returned with identical figures of 4/25.

Seifert has played a major part in New Zealand's run to the T20 World Cup decider, with the right-hander having amassed 274 runs across eight matches with a total of eight half-centuries.

SHORT TAKES

Aravindh finishes 2nd; Gukesh ends draught

Prague (Czech Republic): World Champion D Gukesh ended a winless streak, beating David Anton Guijarro of Spain in the ninth and final round of the Masters section of the Prague International Chess festival that concluded here. But Aravindh Chithambaram sparked in the last round as well, defeating David Navara of Czech Republic to finish joint second. After a string of draws and three losses earlier in the tournament, Gukesh was finally able to show his mettle in what was a well-played game by the Indian ace. Guijarro, who succumbed to his third loss in a row, was no match for Gukesh in creativity and was grounded in the endgame. Meanwhile, Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan won the tournament after an easy draw with white against Hans Moke Niemann of United States. The Uzbek had earlier won the Tata Steel Masters in February and in another worthy performance he scored three victories and six draws to remain undefeated here. Parham Maghsoodloo of Iran, Jorden van Foreest of Holland and Aravindh scored an identical five points to tie for the second spot. For Aravindh, it was an excellent recovery towards the end just while it looked like he was struggling. Against Navara, the Indian played his trademark complicated chess and was rewarded when he created threats on both sides of the board.

Pink-ball Test: Aus seize upper hand

Perth: Australia seized the upper hand in the one-off pink-ball Test against India at the WACA Ground in Perth by ending day one at 96/3 and trailing by 102 runs, after debutant Lucy Hamilton and Annabel Sutherland starred with the ball Friday. Skipper Alyssa Healy, in her farewell international game, won the toss and sent India in to bat first under scorching heat. That decision paid off as Annabel found magnificent swing and seam to pick 4-46, while Lucy was accurate and found movement in taking 3-31, as India were bowled out for 198. For India, Jemimah Rodrigues scored a composed 52, and that was the only notable contribution, while debutant Kashvee Gautam added a useful 34 not out off 54 balls. India's innings was marked by them being unable to adapt to the rigours of Test match cricket, especially this being their first game in the longer format after June 2024.

INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE

Five-star Bagan sink OFC

Maclaren four-goal show powers table-toppers Mohun Bagan to facile 5-1 win over Odisha FC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, March 6: Defending champions Mohun Bagan Super Giant rode on a four-goal blitz from their Australian striker Jamie Maclaren to thrash Odisha FC 5-1 in an Indian Super League match at the Salt Lake Stadium, here Friday.

Maclaren struck four times (14th, 24th, 45+2nd, 88th) to record his maiden ISL hat-trick, while Spanish defender Alberto Rodriguez (42nd) also found the net for the home side.

Rahim Ali scored the lone goal for Odisha in the 43rd minute. With the result, Mohun Bagan consolidated their position atop the standings with 12 points from four matches, while Odisha FC remained on two points after enduring their first defeat of the season.

Mohun Bagan, who had also won their previous game by the same margin against local rivals Mohammedan Sporting, asserted control early. A clever move involving



Odisha FC suffered its first defeat of the campaign after two earlier draws and remained on two points from three matches

Dimitri Petratos released Subhasish Bose down the left and his cross into the box was met by Maclaren, who headed home

to open the scoring.

The hosts continued to dominate proceedings and doubled their advantage 10 minutes later.

Petratos again played a key role with a long pass that allowed Liston Colaco to break into space before setting up Maclaren, who calmly slotted the ball past goalkeeper Amrinder Singh.

Bagan extended the lead further when Rodriguez ventured forward and unleashed a long-range strike from around 35

yards that flew past the helpless Amrinder.

Odisha briefly reduced the deficit just before the interval when Rahim controlled a long ball, got past the defenders and rounded goalkeeper Vishal Kaith before finishing into an empty net.

However, Maclaren restored the three-goal cushion in first-half stoppage time after being set up by Colaco to complete his hat-trick.

The Australian forward added his fourth later in the second half to cap a dominant outing for the hosts as they sealed a convincing victory.

Ten-man Jamshedpur FC produced a gritty display to defeat Inter Kashi 1-0 in a high-energy Indian Super League match at the JRD Tata Sports Complex, here Friday.

Steven Eze scored the decisive goal, even as the home side played most of the match duration with 10 men after Vinicy Barretto was sent off in the 19th minute.

This was Jamshedpur's fourth consecutive win of the season.

NATIONAL RUGBY 15s C'SHIP

TOP CLUBS CLASH AT KALINGA STADIUM

The previous edition held in 2024 saw Odisha RFC clinch the title in the women's category while Delhi Hurricanes emerged as Champions in the men's competition

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 6: The National Rugby 15s Championship - Division 1 is all set to make its comeback, bringing together the country's top men's and women's rugby clubs for a week of high-intensity action at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.

Organized by the Indian Rugby Football Union with the support of the Sports and Youth Services Department and the Odisha Rugby Football Association, the tournament will be held from March 7 to 13.

The tournament will feature 10 teams in the men's competition and 6 teams in the women's competition, bringing together



some of the best club talent in the country, including historic

rugby institutions like Bombay Gymkhana and Calcutta Crick-

et & Football Club alongside emerging powerhouses of Indian club rugby.

In the men's competition, teams competing for the title include Delhi Hurricanes, Future Hope Harlequins, CC&FC, KISS RC, Rebels Rugby Club, Bombay Gymkhana, Sergeant Institute, Bangalore Rugby Club, Delhi Lions, and Odisha RC.

The women's competition will feature Odisha RC, Delhi Hurricanes, Future Hope Harlequins, CC&FC, Rugby Warriors Kerala, and Chandigarh United, promising exciting matchups as clubs battle for the big prize.

The National Rugby 15s

Championship is the biggest club rugby tournament in India, serving as a crucial platform for emerging players to showcase their skills and earn selection opportunities for the national 15s setup. With scouts and national selectors closely monitoring performances, the tournament continues to play a vital role in strengthening India's rugby talent pipeline.

The previous edition held in 2024 saw Odisha RFC clinch the title in the women's category while Delhi Hurricanes emerged as Champions in the men's competition.

PREMIER LEAGUE

Spurs on brink of relegation

Tottenham lose again to Palace and face fight for league survival

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, March 6: Tottenham's Premier League survival hopes took another blow with a 3-1 loss to Crystal Palace.

Spurs - one of the richest teams in Europe and a founding member of the Premier League - is just one point above the relegation zone and without a domestic win in 2026.

Spurs' latest defeat was the fifth in a row and the third under new coach Igor Tudor, who was tasked with the responsibility of turning the season around.

He watched as his team capitulated in front of a home crowd at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium - conceding three goals in the first half, having taken the lead and then gone down to 10 men when Micky van de Ven was sent off.

Palace took full advantage by scoring three times in seven minutes before the break.



Ismaila Sarr struck twice - one from the penalty spot - with Jorgen Strand Larsen getting the other for the visitors.

That was after Solanke had given Spurs the lead in the 34th minute. Van de Ven was red-carded four minutes later for bringing down Sarr in the

box and Palace took control. "I am very disappointed, like the fans," Tudor said.

"We know what the moment is and we need to keep working and believe."

"But after this game I believe more than before because I saw something in the team and in

the dressing room after the game. When we will be complete it will be good, I believe."

The deepening crisis at Tottenham comes after winning the Europa League last season and advancing to the knockout stage of the Champions League this term, where it faces Atletico Madrid in the round of 16 next week. But its desperate league form has carried on from last year when it finished one place above the relegation zone - its lowest final position in the Premier League era.

Its plight also comes amid a tumultuous period when it has had seven managers in less than seven years.

Tottenham has spent only one season out of England's top flight since 1950 and has been an established member of the Premier League since the competition's inception in 1992. It is a two-time English league champion and was a Champions League finalist in 2019.