



URVASHI'S FILM ON HOLD

Urvashi Rautela had to stop shooting in Ukraine and fly back to India, just two days before the war commenced

LEISURE P2



MAMATA'S MID-AIR TURBULENCE

West Bengal gov't seeks report from DGCA on CM's aircraft encountering mid-air turbulence while returning from Varanasi

TWO STATES P8



JADEJA PROPS INDIA

Ravindra Jadeja's 175 not out helps India post 574/8 declared, before restricting Sri Lanka to 108/4 at stumps

SPORTS P12

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Curtains down on campaigning for UP polls

Lucknow: The high-octane campaign for the seventh and final phase of Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections covering 54 assembly seats, including in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's parliamentary constituency Varanasi, ended Saturday, with the BJP and its rival parties attacking each other on a range of issues from Covid-19 handling, law and order, economic and security situation to farmers' stir. With this, the curtain came down on rumbustious electioneering over the last two months when assembly polls were also held in four other states - Goa, Uttarakhand, Punjab and Manipur. The campaigning in the last phase reached its crescendo with Prime Minister Narendra Modi leading the BJP's poll blitzkrieg in Varanasi and its adjoining districts. Besides addressing election rallies, he also held a roadshow for three Assembly constituencies of Cantt, Varanasi North and Varanasi South. The counting of votes will be undertaken March 10. **MORE P9**



Navy test-fires adv BrahMos missile

New Delhi: The Indian Navy Saturday said it has successfully test-fired the advanced version of the BrahMos missile, demonstrating the combat readiness of its frontline platforms. A Navy spokesperson said the missile hit the target with pinpoint accuracy. "The long-range precision strike capability of advanced version of the BrahMos missile was successfully validated," the official said. "The pin-point destruction of the target demonstrated combat and mission readiness of frontline platforms," he said. The BrahMos is a supersonic cruise missile manufactured by an Indo-Russian joint venture. The air-launched variant of the BrahMos was successfully test-fired from a Sukhoi-30MKI in November 2017.

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BJD picks Sulochana, BJP Suniti for City mayor post

BJD names Rajya Sabha MP Subhash Singh as its mayor candidate for Cuttack Municipal Corporation and Sanghamitra Dalei for Berhampur



Sulochana Das



Suniti Mund

Mund comes from a strong literary background and has authored 28 books. After holding several brain-storming meetings, the party has selected Mund as the mayoral candidate out of 25 applicants, she said. Similarly, the BJD has nominated Rajya Sabha MP Subhash Singh as the mayor candidate for Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC).

Likewise, the ruling party has nominated Sanghamitra Dalei as the mayor candidate for Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC). Dalei is the BJD women wing president of Ganjam district. Congratulating the party nominees, party supremo Naveen Patnaik, through twitter, advised them to get closer to people with a commitment for their services. He wished for the victory of all the three candidates in the election.

This is for the first time that the three municipal corporations will go to direct elections for the post of mayor along with chairpersons of 106 municipalities and NACs. This time, the government has reserved the mayor chair in Bhubaneswar and Berhampur for women while the post in CMC was kept unreserved. The elections will be held March 24 and the results will be declared March 26.

Evacuation of civilians comes to a grinding halt as Russian forces continue firing in Ukrainian city of Mariupol and its surrounding areas

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lviv, March 5: What looked like a breakthrough ceasefire to evacuate residents from two cities in Ukraine quickly fell apart Saturday as Ukrainian officials said shelling had halted the work to remove civilians, hours after Russia announced the deal.

The Russian defense ministry earlier said it had agreed on evacuation routes with Ukrainian forces for Mariupol, a strategic port in the southeast, and the eastern city of Volnovakha. The vaguely worded statement did not make clear how long the routes would remain open.

"The Russian side is not holding to the ceasefire and has continued firing on Mariupol itself and on its surrounding area," said Kyrylo Tymoshenko, the deputy head of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's office. "Talks with the Russian Federation are ongoing regarding setting up a ceasefire and ensuring



THE RUSSIAN SIDE IS NOT HOLDING TO THE CEASEFIRE AND HAS CONTINUED FIRING ON MARIUPOL ITSELF AND ON ITS SURROUNDING AREA
KYRYLO TYMOSHENKO | DEPUTY HEAD OF UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT'S OFFICE



An aerial view shows a residential building destroyed by shelling in the settlement of Borodyanka in the Kyiv region of Ukraine

REUTERS PHOTO

a safe humanitarian corridor." Russia breached the deal in Volnovakha as well, Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk told reporters. "We appeal to the Russian side to stop firing," she said. Meanwhile, Moscow outlet RIA Novosti carried a Russian defense ministry claim that the firing came from inside both cities against Russian positions.

The struggle to enforce the ceasefire showed the fragility of efforts to stop fighting across Ukraine as people continued to flee the country on the 10th day after Russian

forces invaded. "We are doing everything on our part to make the agreement work," Zelenskyy said. "This is one of the main tasks for today. Let's see if we can go further in the negotiation process."

Mariupol had been the scene of growing misery in recent days amid an assault that knocked out power and most phone serv-

11 FLIGHTS TO BRING BACK 2,200 INDIANS

New Delhi: Eleven flights with more than 2,200 Indian evacuees will operate from Ukraine's neighbouring countries to India Sunday, the Civil Aviation Ministry said. About 3,000 Indians were airlifted on 15 flights to India Saturday, the ministry's statement noted. "These included 12 special civilian and 3 Indian Air Force (IAF) flights," it added. The Ukrainian airspace has been shut since February 24 due to the Russian military offensive against it. Indian citizens who were stuck in Ukraine are being airlifted via its neighbouring countries such as Romania, Hungary, Slovakia and Poland.

ice and raised the prospect of food and water shortages for hundreds of thousands of people in freezing weather. Pharmacies are out of medicines, Doctors Without Borders said.

Meanwhile, the UN Security Council scheduled an open meeting for Monday on the worsening humanitarian situation.

OVER 350 CIVILIANS KILLED IN UKRAINE: UN

Zurich: At least 351 civilians are confirmed to have been killed in Ukraine since Russian troops invaded February 24, and another 707 wounded, although the true numbers are probably "considerably higher", a UN monitoring mission said Saturday. Most of the civilian casualties were caused by explosive weapons with a wide impact area, including shelling from heavy artillery and multi-launch rocket systems, and from missile and air strikes, monitors from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



No, he doesn't like cricket. He is mourning because he respects people who can spin!

NMC respite for medical students from abroad

AGENCIES

New Delhi, March 5: The National Medical Commission (NMC) has allowed foreign medical students with incomplete internship due to the ongoing situations, including the Covid-19 pandemic and the Ukraine crisis, to apply and finish their apprenticeship requirement in India but with conditions.

However, the Commission has said that the candidates must complete their Foreign Medical Graduates Exam (FMGE) before applying for internships in India.

"It has been observed that there are also some foreign medical graduates with incomplete internship due to such compelling situations like Covid-19 and the war. Considering the agony and stress faced by these foreign medical graduates, their application to complete the remaining part of their

internship in India is considered eligible," the NMC said in a notice.

"Accordingly the same may be processed by the State Medical Councils provided that the candidates have cleared FMGE before applying for the completion of their internship in India," the notice read.

The Commission is expected to issue the guidelines for State Medical Councils in this regard soon.

"The commission decided to issue the detailed guidelines, process which is required to be followed by State Medical Councils for grant of registration of FMGs till further instructions from the commission or implementation of NEET exam whichever occurs earlier."

The Commission further directed the State Medical Councils to follow these conditions while processing for registration of FMGs.

THE BURNING TRAIN



Flames rise after a fire broke out in Saharanpur-Delhi passenger train at the Daurala railway station in Meerut, Saturday

Retd govt official gunned down

POST NEWS NETWORK

Mahakalpara, March 5: In a shocking incident, a retired government official was shot dead while his wife and son sustained critical injuries after miscreants barged into their house and fired indiscriminately at them over suspected past enmity at Babkarpur village in Alailo panchayat under Mahakalpara police limits in Kendrapara district, Saturday.

The deceased was identified as Arabinda Mishra, 62, a retired government official in the village. His wife Minati, 55, and son Subhakesh, 35, sustained bullet injuries and shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack.

Sources said, two youths arrived in the village and went to Mishra's residence after parking their bike near a mandap in the village. Once inside his residence, they fired around eight rounds at Mishra, a former official of Kendrapara block and tried to escape.

Hearing his screams, Minati and Subhakesh came running and confronted the assailants when they shot at them too. They were trying to escape when locals overpowered two of the miscreants and beat them up black and blue before handing them over to police.

The assailants were identified as Sonu Panda and Kalia Singh of Binjarpur area in Jajpur district. The injured assailants were first admitted to Mahakalpara CHC and later shifted to Kendrapara headquarters hospital.

Two revolvers, equal number of mobile phones and some other materials including some medicines were seized from them.

IIC Manoranjan Choudhury said the motive behind the murder is yet to be ascertained. "Further investigation is underway after registration of a case-43/22," he added.

Under-construction bridge of Khurda-Bolangir rly line caves in

Locals demand a probe into the alleged substandard work, action against the contractor and reconstruction of the bridge as per guidelines mentioned in the original design

POST NEWS NETWORK

Boudh/Baunsuni, March 5: Labourers had a providential escape when a portion of the roof of an under-construction railway bridge of Khurda-Bolangir railway line collapsed near Purumunda Primary School in Khaliapali panchayat of Sadar block in Boudh district Saturday.

The Khurda-Bolangir rail route is billed as the lifeline of Western Odisha for which 110 km of rail route is being constructed on 3067.075 acres of land in Boudh



The construction of the track for Khurda Road-Bolangir rail route is in full swing. The under-construction railway

line connecting Purunapani in Manamunda and Lunibahal collapsed after the roof was laid late Friday night. A major mishap was averted as no injury or casualty was reported in the incident.

Locals alleged that the bridge collapsed due to substandard work by the contractor and lack of monitoring by the district administration. They demanded a probe into the irregularities, action against the contractor and reconstruction of the bridge as per guidelines mentioned in the original design. They claimed that the bridge, a

central project involving crores of rupees, collapsed due to unholy alliance of unscrupulous engineers and contractors.

They have expressed their displeasure over the bridge construction as the road which connects it passes through a school. The villagers claimed that the bridge will pose serious threat to the lives of the students if the connecting road passes through the school.

They alleged that though they have raised the issue with the local administration earlier, no step was taken in this regard.

SUBSTANDARD WORK ALLEGED

- The Khurda-Bolangir rail route is billed as the lifeline of Western Odisha for which 110 km of rail route is being constructed on 3067.075 acres of land in Boudh district
- The under-construction bridge of the railway line connecting Purunapani in Manamunda and Lunibahal collapsed after its roof was laid late Friday night
- A major mishap was averted as no injury or casualty was reported in the incident

leisure



THE BOYS ACTOR ANTONY STARR ARRESTED FOR ALLEGED ASSAULT

Actor Antony Starr, who is known for his work in the superhero series *The Boys*, has been arrested in Alicante, Spain. Starr, in an inebriated state, assaulted a young chef at a pub in Alicante.

SMITH, JORDAN JOIN FORCES FOR I AM LEGEND SEQUEL

Hollywood stars Will Smith and Michael B. Jordan are set to star and produce the sequel to *I Am Legend*. The film will be written by Akiva Goldsman for Warner Bros Studios.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Go with the flow. At least that's what Ganesh suggests where relationships are concerned. You can be your assertive self some other time. Today, you can be large-hearted and fulfill your beloved's wishes, maybe even propose. What say?

TAURUS
You are likely to get into arguments today, predicts Ganesh. You should avoid any open confrontation. Legal disputes may bother you as well. Try your hand at meditation or resort to music of your preference to relax and unwind. It is best if you delay the start of any important activity today, suggests Ganesh.

GEMINI
Today, your house gets a facelift – a new rug, matching cushion covers, or a brand new kitchen. This will take up most of your time. First, you will be busy furnishing and setting up your home, and then you will spend your time flaunting it to your friends, relatives, neighbours, bosses, colleagues, acquaintances.

CANCER
A string of domestic responsibilities awaits you; today, you are about to realise that it is a long, long string. Chances are that this sudden rise in work pressure may also lead to blood pressure problems. Ganesh advises you to stop presuming how people may react to everything; also, avoid being too proud to avoid excess heartache.

LEO
Nothing will overshadow your love for your kids today, and they will be the number one priority for you. It seems like a good day to take time out and monitor their progress in school; so, do not skip that PTA meeting. Remember, there are various ways to teach children, so consider taking them out on a small picnic or a field trip to help educate them better. Since it's all about children today, you may also end up pampering them with goodies of their choice. Spoil them a bit, says Ganesh. After all, they are the source of your pride and joy!

VIRGO
A fear of the unknown will keep lurking in your mind today. The shadow will only grow larger as the day progresses. You may find yourself spending too much on your foreign friends. Ganesh advises you to be cautious in this regard today.

LIBRA
Ganesh says your children will gain achievements that will have you feel proud of them. You will get monetary benefit either by increment in salary or by inheritance. You will be able to gain substantial gains by investing in real estate or buying insurance policies.

SCORPIO
It's the same old rut today, says Ganesh. Nothing new, nothing exciting. People from the opposite sex, however, may bring you out of the routine and try to enliven your spirits, predicts Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
Your stars are aligned in a way that you may have to travel long distance, either for business or for leisure. Socially, you are active as you are likely to attend a function and take the centre stage. You may also participate in religious activities and give importance of rites and rituals, if need be, informs Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
You have sacrificed a lot on enjoyment with friends and family, done some back-breaking work and kept your focus to reach where you are right now. Ganesh gives you a pat on your back for all the hard work you've put in. Now, it is time to watch the tree bear fruits. With some additional responsibilities, promotion in terms of salary or position is on the cards for you. You will get so tied up in your work that you'll crave to have free time.

AQUARIUS
You will not need a reason to party today. Be it the news of a friend getting married or you buying a new car, you are in a mood to celebrate life like anything! Apart from this, you will have a smooth sailing through out the day, foresees Ganesh. If you are a businessman or a professional, you will move one step closer to your target.

PISCES
Looking at your planetary positions for today, there is a likelihood that you will suffer from reversals in fortunes financially. Hence be wary when it comes to financial dealings.

RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

Urvashi's upcoming projects postponed



Urvashi with the Ukrainian singer Dmitry Monatik

MUMBAI: The *Hate Story IV* fame actress Urvashi Rautela was recently shooting in Ukraine's Kiev and Odesa for her Tamil film. In the middle of the shoot, the actress had to fly back to India, just two days before Russia declared war on Ukraine.

Reportedly speaking about the same, Urvashi mentioned that there was a lot of tension while she was shooting in Ukraine. However, the whole team took one day at a time. Urvashi's brother was worried for the actress, but since her father was also in Ukraine for work, she had a sense of security.

Reports also add that Urvashi was supposed to meet the Prime Minister of Ukraine Denys Shmyhal. However, the ongoing crises led to the cancellation of the plan. The actress believes that there is nothing uglier than a war. She is worried and concerned about the people of Ukraine. She has family and friends there, and she

keeps a constant check on them. The horror and futility of the war are simply terrible.

She was also supposed to do an international collaboration with the Ukrainian singer Dmitry Monatik, which too has been put on hold as of now.

She expressed her disappointment through her Instagram handle, she posted, "#TBTOTHE BEAUTIFUL TIMES WITH UKRAINIAN SUPERSTAR @monatik_official & OUR MASSIVE COLLABORATION WHICH WE HAD PLANNED. NEVER THOUGHT SOMETHING LIKE THIS WOULD HAPPEN. TAKE CARE @monatik_official & MY UKRAINIAN FAMILY. STOP WAR IN UKRAINE".

She wishes that the current situation resolves soon so she can resume her plans. Also, she sends her deepest condolences to the people of Ukraine and hopes for a peaceful world to be in. AGENCIES

John's Attack-Part 1 to hit theatres April 1

MUMBAI: The trailer of the John Abraham-starrer *Attack - Part 1* will hit the airwaves Monday with the film booking April 1 for worldwide theatrical release. The film, directed by Lakshya Raj Anand, also stars Jacqueline Fernandez and Rakul Preet Singh in lead roles.



It tells the story of a daring rescue mission led by India's first Super Soldier played by John Abraham. John's character in the film undergoes radical cybernetic modifications to enhance his biomechanisms in order to ward off terrorist threats on Indian soil.

The film, which has been produced by Dr Jayantilal Gada of Pen Studios, John Abraham's JA Entertainment and Ajay Kapoor Productions, has suffered multiple delays over the last two years owing to the pandemic. Originally scheduled to release on August 14, 2020, the film's shoot was suspended because of the pandemic.

As it prepared to hit the screens January 28, 2022, the omicron variant played spoilsport thereby pushing its release further. AGENCIES

Janhvi cuts b'day cake with paparazzi at Mumbai airport



MUMBAI: Actor Janhvi Kapoor is all set to turn 25 today. The *Gunjan Saxena* actress was recently spotted outside Mumbai airport Friday and had the cutest moment with a fan cum photographer.

As Janhvi Kapoor was in a rush to catch her flight to fly out of the city, a photographer surprised the diva with a pre-birthday cake and Janhvi's gesture towards the fan won millions of hearts. The actress happily accepted the cake and was seen cutting the birthday cake at the airport.

Janhvi was also seen saying 'So sweet of you,' and offers a bite to the photographer. The photographer also reminded the actress that she had cut a cake with them a couple of years ago too, to which Janhvi replies, 'Nahi, main nahi bhoolti (I don't forget)'. As soon as the video went online, it went viral. Fans spammed the comments section of the post



with heart and love emojis. She is so humble and sweet," one person commented on the video. Another fan wrote, "Kite pyaar se baat kar rahi hai. Another fan wrote, "She is very humble and down-to-earth human."

While talking about Janhvi's professional front, the actress will be seen in three projects this year. Janhvi will appear in Dharna Productions' *Dostana 2*, followed by *Good Luck Jerry* and the survival thriller *Mili*. AGENCIES

RAMP FOR CHAMPS



Specially-abled children walk the ramp as part of Bailou Exhibition organised by Zain Foundation in Bhubaneswar, Saturday. The event was conducted in the sidelines of the textile exhibition. OP PHOTO

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

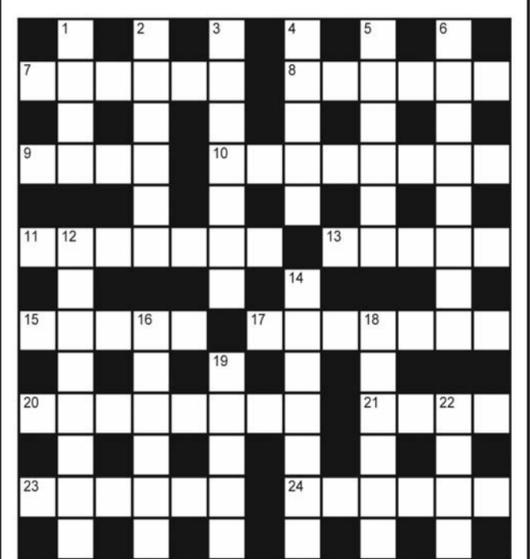


BREVITY



FUN post

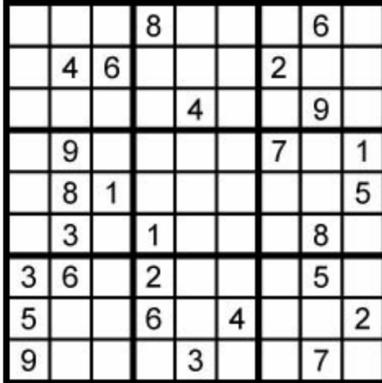
CROSSWORD



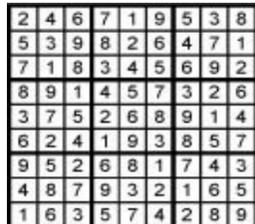
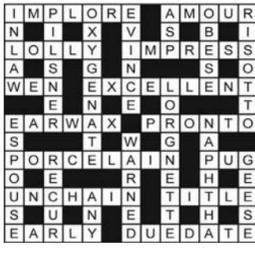
- Across**
- 7 Shocked
 - 8 Diminutive
 - 9 Greek salad
 - 10 Large long-winged warm-water seabirds
 - 11 Funny
 - 13 Jeweller's glass
 - 15 Bricklayer
 - 17 Bering and Hormuz, e.g.
 - 20 Bonding agent
 - 21 In person
 - 23 Terrified
 - 24 Bookstore section
 - 5 Building material
 - 6 Poker move (5,3)
 - 12 Switch positions (2,3,3)
 - 14 Endeavour
 - 16 Street sign (3-3)
- Down**
- 1 Folklore fiend
 - 2 African expedition
 - 3 Perfect
 - 4 Witch's forte
 - 18 Affiliated
 - 19 Gusty
 - 22 Diversify

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.



SOLUTIONS



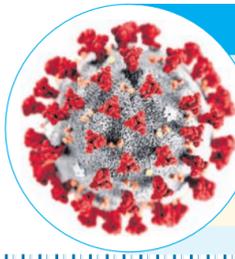
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



FITNESS MANTRA

Children perform yoga at Biju Patnaik park in Bhubaneswar, Saturday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	44,45,42,093	37,74,77,465	60,12,721
India	4,29,57,477	4,23,78,721	5,14,878
Odisha	12,85,760	12,75,228	9,098



1

Homage to Biju Babu

(1) CHIEF MINISTER NAVEEN PATNAIK PAYS TRIBUTE TO HIS FATHER AND LEGENDARY LEADER BIJU PATNAIK ON HIS 106TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY IN BHUBANESWAR, SATURDAY

(2) SPEAKER SURYA NARAYAN PATRO AND OTHER DIGNITARIES PAY HOMAGE TO THE FORMER CHIEF MINISTER AT ODISHA ASSEMBLY

(3) BJD LEADERS CONGREGATE AT THEIR PARTY OFFICE TO CELEBRATE THE OCCASION



2



3

Students should make the most of hybrid model of edu: Pratap

Biju Patnaik Institute of Information Technology and Management Studies (BIITM) imparts management education which focuses on developing leadership competencies and managerial skills. The institute is committed to transforming the students into thoughtful leaders. In an interview to **Orissa POST**, BIITM Executive Director **Pratap Balabantray** speaks about the facilities provided to students during the Covid-19 pandemic, demerits of online teaching and many more issues. Excerpts:



classes were recorded and the recordings were sent to students for their future reference. Online attendance was taken for the record. The students were given 10 minutes break after every class to avoid continuous screen exposure. For online internal and university examinations, subject-wise model MCQs (multiple choice questions) with answer keys and explanations were prepared and sent to the students. Our institute was able to conduct placement activities including group discussion, written test and personal interview in the online mode. We set up an e-studio for holding webinars during the pandemic. Assignments were given to the students through Google Classroom platform with the facility of online copy correction.

This is not possible in online classes. It is difficult to conduct lab classes through the online mode. It was observed that some students were not attending the classes after logging into the online platform. The students in the rural areas were facing network issues. Besides, students could not do their summer internship programme.

- **What facilities did BIITM provide during the pandemic?**
- We decided to conduct online classes on Google Meet since it was found to be more user-friendly. The faculties were advised to take online classes from home. We supported them by providing laptops, high definition cameras, head phones and digitizers. This apart, the institute paid for the data pack charges. Online

- **What are the major demerits of online teaching?**
- In physical classes, teachers are able to connect with each student and interact with them by observing the facial expressions and gestures.

- **What is your opinion on students of Odisha?**
- Students usually prefer offline classes which are more effective for learning but after exposure to online classes, the students opted for hybrid model, which is a blended version of offline and online modes of learning.
- **How did BIITM motivate students?**
- Placement is the most important factor for students' success. We motivated students to prepare themselves to face online group discussion and personal interview. Our institute was able to organise placement activities effectively, which motivated the students to enhance their job worthiness.
- **What is your advice for aspiring students?**
- The students should take advantage of the hybrid model of education and develop their IT skills.

State presses for Paradip-Barbil eco corridor



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 5: The state government has drawn the attention of the Centre for development of an economic corridor from Paradip to Bhadrasahi-Barbil for smooth transportation of minerals and other goods. The issue was raised by Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra before Union Road Transport and Highways secretary Girdhar Aramane during a review meeting on National Highway (NH) projects Friday, sources said. Mahapatra highlighted the need for development of an economic corridor and advised the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to acquire land for 100-metre ROW (right of way) along this road for future use. He also assured that the state gov-

ernment would provide all support for land acquisition for the ROW. It was decided in principle that the NHAI and the state would jointly develop the ROW. Presenting updates about NH projects in Odisha, additional director general of NHAI, Dharmananda Sadangi, said 38 NHs running over 5,753 km pass through the 30 districts of Odisha. Out of this, 19 NHs of 2,920 km are being managed by NHAI and the remaining highways of 2,833 km are being maintained by the state works department. Out of the total 5,753 km of NHs, 243 km were developed to six lanes while 1,486 km were developed to four lanes. Around 1,934 km of NHs were developed to two-lane roads with paved shoulder, at least 1,257 km were de-

The issue was raised by Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra before Union Road Transport and Highways secretary Girdhar Aramane during a review meeting on National Highway projects Friday

Mahapatra highlighted the need for development of an economic corridor and advised the NHAI to acquire land for 100-metre ROW (right of way) along this road for all future use

He also assured that the state government would provide all support for land acquisition for the ROW. It was decided in principle that the NHAI and the state would jointly develop the ROW

veloped to two lanes and around 834 km were developed to single or intermediate lane.

Besides, 20 other projects worth Rs15,015 crore were taken up by the NHAI for improvement of around 901 km of roads. Similarly, 31 projects worth Rs 3,088 crore were taken up by the works department for improvement of 1,146 km of roads.

Works department secretary Krishan Kumar said the work for Panikoli-Rimuli section of NH-20 has been expedited. One side of Belabahali bridge was opened for traffic from the first week of January.

The Chief Secretary directed the officials to complete the project by June

this year.

The meeting revealed that substantial progress has been made in the development of the Rimuli-Koida section of the NH. A target has been set to start commercial operation on this road by March this year. Similarly, significant progress has been made in the development of Singhara-Binjabahal section of NH-49. Provisional commercial operation certificate for this road was issued January 19. The tolling operations were also initiated by the authorities concerned.

Kumar also highlighted the industrial and commercial potential of the proposed Paradip-Barbil economic corridor including importance of the road for evacuation of ever increasing quantum of minerals.

“Odisha model is very good for improvement of NHs. All officers from the level of Chief Secretary and Additional Chief Secretary to DFO and executive engineers are well conversant with alignment of the roads, progress of each project, and ground level issues that need to be tackled,” said Aramane.

The Chief Secretary also fixed timelines for different phases of the NH projects. The DFOs and the District Collectors were directed to resolve the issues proactively and provide all possible support for completion of the projects within the scheduled dates.

ILS Bhub scientist among 75 outstanding achievers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar March 5: Mamoni Dash of Institute of Life Sciences (ILS) has found a place among India's 75 achievers in the field of science and technology.

The Union Ministry of Science and Technology, in commemoration of India's 75 years of Independence, has selected her on the basis of her research and potential to shape India's present and future scenarios.

With post graduate degree from National Institutes of Technology (NIT) Rourkela, PhD from University of Pisa, and Post-Doctoral Degree from Belgium, Dash joined ILS as a Ramalingaswami Fellow in 2018 and as a faculty in 2021.

Her research focuses on developing biodegradable polymers that could finally be used as carriers of drugs or templates for tissue regeneration.

Currently, her research team is working on developing biomaterials for bone micro-environment. Her model of research is osteosarcoma and loss of bone due to the tumor.

Dash's research group is working on biomimetic nanosystems to deliver a relevant medicine to the tumor spot in a targeted manner, stopping tumor development while causing no harm to normal cells.

Notably, Dash has 27 research papers published in reputed international publications. She is the inventor of four patents and has given several talks and presented her research at national and international conferences.

Director of ILS Ajay Parida said, “Such recognitions will motivate young scientists to conduct scientifically intriguing and socially important research programmes in future, contributing to Indian growth.”

MANISHA MAKES STATE PROUD

BHUBANESWAR: Dr Manisha Acharya, CEO of the Centre for Innovation & Incubation at Utkal University campus, has been featured in the book 'She is' published under the aegis of British High Commission to commemorate India's 75 years of independence. Acharya is also a member of the Expert Advisory Committee (EAC) on Innovation - Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development (I-STED) program of Ministry of Science & Technology. Earlier, she was awarded the British Chevening Fellowship in science innovation & research at University of Oxford. The book is an initiative by the British High Commission to recognise 75 outstanding women in the fields of science, technology, engineering, applied arts and mathematics (STEAM). The women featured in the book have excelled in their respective fields. The names of the 75 women were jointly announced by the Chief Scientific Advisor to the Centre Professor K Vijayraghavan and High Commissioner of UK Alex Ellis.



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BMC ELECTIONS

WARD 65 WILL HOLD SWAY



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 5: Ward no 65 is expected to play a key role in the upcoming urban elections for which have been due for three years now will see about 7,25,765 voters select the City Mayor and corporators. As per the list, the highest number of voters is going to be from ward 65 at about 17,857.

The civic authority is also set to identify sensitive booths ahead of the elections

Booths are identified as sensitive or hyper-sensitive based on information by police and other authorities

Post identification, web casting is usually the preferred way at these booths to avoid any untoward incidents

candidates for the upcoming elections. Ward no 30 (Sahid Nagar) has the highest number of electors from the third category at 74. This is followed by ward no 54 (Gyana Nagar, Badu Sahi, Bindusagar Lake, Rameswar Patna, Barik Sahi, Kunjapatana Sahi, Mishra Sahi, Pujapanda Sahi, Mangala Sahi, Behera Sahi, Chemedi Bhoi Sahi, Darjee Sahi, Lingaraj Nagar, Dakabangala Sahi, Harachandi Sahi, Narada Sahi) with 60 voters.

Sources said the civic authority is set to identify sensitive booths ahead of the elections. Booths are identified as sensitive or hyper-sensitive based on information by police and other authorities. Post identification, web casting is usually the preferred move at these booths to avoid any untoward incidents.

Similarly, ward no 5 having areas such as Chakeisihani, Samegadgia, Mancheswar village, PHD Colony and Satya Vihar Nagar slum trails ward no 65 in terms of highest voters at 16,118 voters. These include 8,946 male and 7,168 female with four transgenders.

Meanwhile, about 440 voters from the trans category will choose their

Minor rape victim undergoes test, accused still at large

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 5: The commissionerate police Saturday conducted medical examination of the minor album actress who was allegedly raped by a fellow album actor on the pretext of offering a lead role to her in a YouTube album video late Thursday night.

Sources in the police also revealed that the victim's statement under Section 164 of the CrPC will be recorded Monday.

Meanwhile, investigating officials along with a scientific team of commissionerate police visited the house in Bharatpur area where the incident took place. They searched the house and collected various articles and other incriminating materials from the spot for examination.

Police have launched a manhunt to arrest the accused persons including the prime accused Saroj Kumar Biswal alias Suraj who are absconding now. Police sources revealed that probe is on to check the veracity of the allegations and arrest the absconding accused.

The victim, a backup dancer, Friday accused Biswal of sexually abusing her on the pretext of making her the lead actress in the album video based on the story of model Saumya Ranjan Panigrahi who ended his life in January this year over a failed relationship.

A junior artiste supplier, Bishnu recently contacted the girl and informed her about the offer to essay the role of Saumya's girlfriend in album. After the shooting of the first part of the video, the accused brought her to the rented accommodation of the accused Suraj.

Upon her arrival, Suraj along with another youth tied her legs and hands on the pretext of shooting an abduction scene. Later, Suraj raped the girl repeatedly and dropped the latter near her house in Laxmisagar area Friday morning.

Another actress too alleged that the accused persons had recently asked her to come to their house.

ENTERING THE FRAY



Candidates file their nominations for the civic body polls in Cuttack and Bhubaneswar, Saturday

OP PHOTOS

Make alternative arrangement for Ukraine returnees: Acharya

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, March 5: Biju Janata Dal (BJD) leader and Member of Parliament from Odisha Prasanna Acharya Saturday wrote to Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, urging him to make alternative arrangement for students who have been evacuated from war torn Ukraine.

In the letter, Acharya requested him to "seriously ponder for an immediate alternative arrangement for students who were forced to abandon their studies half-way in view of the situation." He said that all arrangements should be made for their entry into various medical colleges in the country, even by relaxing the prevalent rules and guidelines, if necessary.

The BJD MP has requested the Union Health Minister to analyse the reasons why such a sizeable number of Indian students are tempted to go to Ukraine for Medical education.

"I would also humbly suggest you to analyse the reasons why such a sizeable number of Indian students are tempted to go to Ukraine for Medical education. Is it because the number of medical seats in India is limited, the expenses for medical education in India are so high in comparison to other countries like Ukraine which the middle class Indian parents are not able to afford



letter read further. Underlining that at present, it does not seem likely normalcy would return in the war torn country in immediate future and these Indian students would not be able to resume their education there, he said that the future of such students will be doomed unless and until the Union Government and in particular health ministry take some immediate measures. The BJD Rajya Sabha MP also requested Mandaviya to find out suitable solutions to facilitate continuance of medical education of the Indian students who have left Ukraine.

or whether the standard of medical education in these countries are better than that of India!" the

NGT seeks action taken report on Polavaram

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, March 5: The National Green Tribunal sought a factual and action taken report in respect to environmental degradation due to Polavaram project from a joint committee comprising central ministry members and pollution control board.

A bench headed by Chairperson Adarsh Kumar Goel constituted a joint committee comprising MoEF (joint secretary level officer), Ministry of Jal Shakti, State PCB and Polavaram Project proponent, and sought a report within one month. "The committee will be at liberty to interact with concerned state holders. MoEF will be the nodal agency for coordination and compliance," the tribunal said.

Significantly, the tribunal's order came in an application against execution of Polavaram Irrigation Project by the Polavaram Project Authority, Hyderabad, without requisite fresh Environmental Clearance (EC) even though the scope of original project has undergone substantial change. It was further stated that vide order dated February 8, 2011, MoEF&CC issued stop work order but the same has been kept in abeyance for more than 11 years.

"This is resulting in continued violations of requirement of fresh EC before any substantial changes are effected in the original project for which EC was taken. Andhra Pradesh has given various assurances from time to time but in breach of the same, execution of the project is continuing with serious adverse impact on environment," the application reads.

51st National Safety Day feted at NTPC Darlipali

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 5: NTPC Darlipali celebrated the 51st National Safety Day Friday. The weeklong programme aims to raise awareness and commitment regarding safety protocols at the workplace.

AK Samaiyar, Chief General Manager (Darlipali), commenced the program by hoisting the safety flag. CGM (Darlipali) addressed the gathering on the theme "Nurture young minds - Develop a safety culture" and encouraged the gathering to improve safety culture.

GMs, senior officials, HODs and all the other employees took safety pledge on the occasion.

THEATRE FESTIVAL



Artists from Karmayogi Creative Group, Bhopal stage play *Keral Ka Krantikaari* at the National Theatre Festival organised by Odia Language Literature and Culture department and Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

OP PHOTO

Single test for over 50 genetic diseases to make diagnosis quicker

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, March 5: A team of international researchers have developed a new DNA test that can identify a range of hard-to-diagnose neurological and neuromuscular genetic diseases quicker and more accurately than the existing tests.

"We correctly diagnosed all patients with conditions that were already known, including Huntington's disease, fragile X syndrome, hereditary cerebellar ataxias, myotonic dystrophies, myoclonic epilepsies, motor neuron disease and more," said Ira Deveson, Head of Genomics Technologies at the Garvan Institute in Sydney.

The diseases covered by the test belong to a class of over 50 diseases caused by unusually-long repetitive DNA sequences in a per-

son's genes - known as short tandem repeat (STR) expansion disorders.

"They are often difficult to diagnose due to the complex symptoms that patients present with, the challenging nature of these repetitive sequences, and limitations of existing genetic testing methods," Deveson said.

The study, led by collaborators from Australia, the UK and Israel, and published in the journal 'Science Advances', shows that the test is accurate, and allows the team to begin validations to make the test available in pathology services around the world.

Further, the researchers noted that when patients present with symptoms, it can be difficult to tell which of these 50-plus genetic expansions they might have, so their doctor must decide which genes



to test for based on the person's symptoms and family history. If that test comes back negative, the

patient is left without answers. "This testing can go on for years without finding the genes impli-

We correctly diagnosed all patients with conditions that were already known, including Huntington's disease, fragile X syndrome, hereditary cerebellar ataxias, myotonic dystrophies, myoclonic epilepsies, motor neuron disease and more

IRA DEVESON | HEAD OF GENOMICS TECHNOLOGIES, GARVAN INSTITUTE, SYDNEY

cated in their disease. We call this the 'diagnostic odyssey', and it can be quite stressful for patients and their families," said Kishore Kumar, clinical neurologist at Concord Hospital.

"This new test will completely revolutionise how we diagnose

these diseases, since we can now test for all the disorders at once with a single DNA test and give a clear genetic diagnosis, helping patients avoid years of unnecessary muscle or nerve biopsies for diseases they don't have, or risky treatments that suppress their immune system," Kumar said.

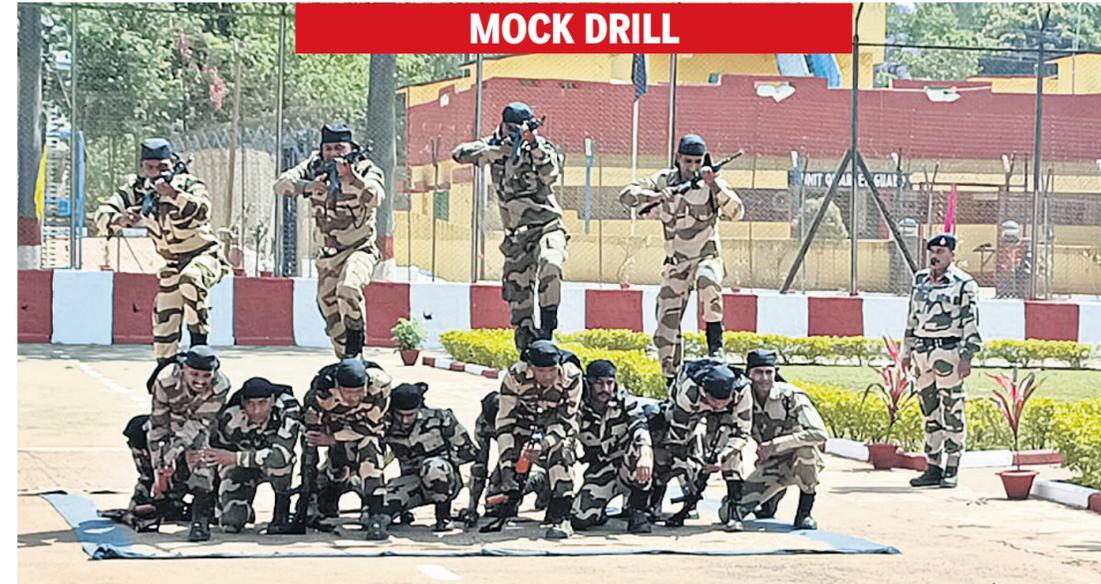
Using a single DNA sample, usually extracted from blood, the test works by scanning a patient's genome using a technology called Nanopore sequencing.

"In the one test, we can search for every known disease-causing repeat expansion sequence, and potentially discover novel sequences likely to be involved in diseases that have not yet been described," Deveson said. The team expects to see their new technology used in diagnostic practice within the next two to five years.

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MOCK DRILL



A mock drill was performed at the parade ground in Damanjodi of Koraput district on the occasion of 53rd Foundation Day of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) unit at Nalco

Women excel in Naveen's home turf

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, March 5: Women candidates in Ganjam, the home district of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, broke the quota ceiling as they were elected in a higher number of seats than what was reserved for them in the panchayat polls.

As many as 40 women candidates have been elected as members of the zilla parishad out of total 67 zones in the district.

The government had reserved 35 zilla parishad zones - 50 per cent of the total zones - for all categories of women. Seven had been reserved for Scheduled Castes, and two for the Scheduled Tribes.



REPRESENTATIONAL PIC

All the 40 elected women candidates belong to the Biju Janata Dal, Mamata Bisoi, zonal president of the party's women's wing, said.

In the 2017 panchayat elections, women were elected in 35 out of the

total 69 zones in the district. No women candidate was elected as a zilla parishad member.

BJD candidates won in 67 zilla parishad zones, while the BJP managed to clinch two zones in the district in the rural polls, which were held in five phases from February 16-24.

The BJP and Congress had fielded 38 and 37 women candidates respectively for the post of zilla parishad members in the panchayat polls.

Most of the elected women candidates are new faces, sources said.

The election for the zilla parishad president's post, reserved for women in the district this time, is scheduled March 13.

SHORT TAKES

Man hits younger brother to death

Bolangir: In a shocking incident, a man punched his younger brother to death at Rabidas Nagar under Sadar Police limits in the district. The deceased has been identified as Joseph Rohidas (25), younger brother of the accused Rajin Rohidas. According to sources, Joseph returned home in an inebriated state late Friday night. A fight broke out between the two brothers over some petty issue. In a fit of rage, Rajin strangled Joseph's throat and continuously punched him on his face. Family members rushed Joseph to Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital where doctors declared him brought dead upon arrival. Instead of lodging a complaint, family members came back home with the body. However, on getting the information, police reached their home and seized the body. Sadar SDPO Tofan Bag, Town police IIC Priyanka Routray reached the spot and launched a probe. The body was sent for post-mortem while the accused was arrested.

Youth kidnapped for ₹4 lakh, 3 held

Angul: The Pallahara Police Saturday arrested three persons on charges of kidnapping a youth and demanding a ransom of ₹4 lakh from his family. The victim has been identified as Priyabrata Biswal, brother of the complainant Debabrata Biswal. The cops have also seized a truck and a bolero from their possession. As per a complaint lodged by Debabrata, the three miscreants came in a white Bolero and abducted Priyabrata from Mahavir hotel of Pallahara. Later, after a few hours, the abductors contacted the victim's cousin and demanded a ransom of ₹4 lakh. With no option left, Debabrata approached Pallahara police who then launched a manhunt to nab the abductors. The kidnappers frequently changed their location. However, the cops kept chasing the abductors tracing their location and intercepted them in Barbil of Keonjhar district. The cops rescued Priyabrata and apprehended the three abductors. One of them belongs to Jharkhand.

BOTH BJD, BJP LACK MAJORITY IN BALASORE SADAR

Independents hold key

ANY PARTY CAN GET ITS CANDIDATE ELECTED AS BLOCK CHAIRPERSON WITH THE SUPPORT OF INDEPENDENTS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, March 5: Since the results of panchayat elections have been declared, leaders of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have been making all-out efforts to form the panchayat samiti by grabbing the post of chairperson in Balasore sadar block. But, independents hold the key to tilting the equation to any side here. In the block comprising 37 panchayats, a party needs support of at least 19 samiti members to elect the block chairperson. The BJD lacks the magic number of majority, as it has 15 samiti members. It still requires support of four samiti members to get the chairman post. Therefore, independents hold the key in the samiti



formation in this block.

The BJP has 14 samiti members while independents were elected from 8 seats. In view of such a hung situation, both the BJD and the BJP have been trying their level best to woo maximum number of independents to their sides. Meanwhile, many samiti members have gone into hiding.

The post of chairperson was reserved for women of scheduled caste. In the panchayat elections, the posts of samiti members have been reserved for scheduled caste category in Rasulpur, Kuradiha, Chhanua, Buanla and Ranasahi panchayats.

The post of samiti members in Rasulpur, Sasanaga, Odinga, Gudu

and Jaydevaksaba panchayats was reserved for women of scheduled caste category. Names of these samiti members are doing the rounds for the post of chairpersons to be fielded by both parties.

The BJD and BJP have kept their own samiti members in some hotels, resorts and farmhouses in Puri, Bhubaneswar and Kolkata, it is said. Leaders in view of possible shores trading and cross voting, frontline leaders of both the parties have been maintaining strict vigil on these samiti members, who are denied communication access to anybody during the stay. They will be holed up till forenoon of March 12 when election to the chairperson will be held.

POLLS FOR ANGUL ZP CHIEF, CIVIC BODY

BJD in a fix over chairperson pick

POST NEWS NETWORK

Angul, March 5: The ruling BJD is vexed with twin problems of finding a candidate for chairperson of Angul zilla parishad as well as nomination of candidates for the urban local body polls, a report said. The politics over panchayat elections is yet to get over. The party which registered landslide victories in panchayat polls in the state is yet to announce the candidates for the post of chairpersons, vice-chairpersons of many of the panchayat samitis as well as zilla parishads while the civic body poll dates have been announced.

The problem has become more acute when aspirants for the urban local body polls have been lobbying with the party lead-



ers for tickets. Meanwhile, the announcement of the civic body polls has heat up the politics in Angul town. The party leaders are racing against time to finalise the candidates for the election to the Angul Municipality with only a few days left to file nominations. The party leaders are regularly conducting meetings to finalise the name of the candidate for ward no-23 of Angul Municipality while the election of the zilla parishad chairperson is scheduled for March 13. The ruling party has se-

cured absolute majority by winning in 27 zilla parishad zones. As a result, it has become an uphill task for the party leaders to select one of them as chairperson with many of the winning candidates staking their claims for the post.

Many of the aspirants are MLA's loyalists. Vexed with the problem, the party leaders are planning to send a list of probable names to the state party president to select one of them as zilla parishad chairperson.

BJD has won in 27 out of 28 zones in Angul district. The party has become the only claimant for the chairperson's post with the magic number being 15 to form the council.

The appointment of chairperson will be held March 13.

Efforts on to kick start Kandhamal coffee farming

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Phulbani, Mar 5: A tripartite agreement has been signed to launch coffee plantation in Kandhamal district, aimed at boosting the economy of the tribal region, an official said.

The Coffee Board of India, the Kandhamal administration and the Tribal Development Cooperative Corporation (TDCC) last month signed a memorandum of understanding for the project, he said.

The board will provide technology and training to the farmers, the TDCC will be the marketing agency and the Soil Conservation and Watershed Development Directorate will monitor the project, the official said.

Around 1.09 lakh hectare of land has been identified in six tribal blocks of the district on a lease basis, he said.

High-yield seeds of different varieties of coffee will be planted in



MoU inked by the Coffee Board of India, the Kandhamal admin and the Tribal Development Cooperative Corporation (TDCC) last month

Around 1.09 lakh hectare of land has been identified in six tribal blocks

High-yield seeds to be planted in Daringbadi, Raikia, Tikabali, G Udayagiri, Phiringia and K Nuagam

Daringbadi, Raikia, Tikabali, G Udayagiri, Phiringia and K Nuagam,

official sources said. Over four decades ago, coffee

plantation was undertaken in Daringbadi and G Udayagiri blocks in small patches on an experimental basis, they said.

Coffee plantation usually requires 23-27 degrees Celsius temperature and annual rainfall of about 1,000-2,000 mm, experts said.

Kandhamal, with hilly ranges and narrow valley tracts, experiences an average maximum temperature of 45.5 degrees Celsius in summers and during the winter season, the average minimum temperature is 2 degrees Celsius, according to information available on the district website.

The average annual rainfall recorded is 1,522.95 mm.

The plantation will boost the economy of the region and lead the farmers towards adopting the cultivation of such cash crops, Kandhamal Collector Brunda Devrajan said.

NOTICE

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MISSING NOTICE

That, SMT. SUNARENU NAIK, wife of Sri Nilamber Naik, resident of Vill/PO-Naktiguda, PS-Tikiri, Dist.-Rayagada, Odisha had availed loan mortgaging the under scheduled property. That the concerned original Title Deed i.e. Regd. Sale Deed bearing Document No.191/1983 of Sub-Registrar, Kasipur has also deposited in the bank for the said loan and the same has been lost from the bank and the same is not traceable now. The loan dues of Smt. Sunarenu Naik has been fully recovered and closed on 31.10.2016. Further, the under scheduled property is free from all encumbrances as on date. An affidavit has also sworn vide Notary No.1370, dated 15.02.2022 before the Jyostna Rani Devi, Notary Public, Rayagada to that effect.

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(For Immovable Property)
[RULE 8(1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES - 2002]
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India, CDA BIDANASI BRANCH, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (second) Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices calling upon the Borrower/Guarantor in loan A/c mentioned 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 having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules. The Borrower/Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Union Bank of India, CDA BIDANASI BRANCH for an amount mentioned below with interest thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to the Borrower to redeem the secured assets.

CDA BIDANASI BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrower/Guarantor	Liabilities due as per Notice (in ₹)	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession	Description of Immovable Property
Borrower: M/s. Ganapati Infrastructure, Prop.: Mrs. Neha Agrawal, W/o.: Mr. Samir Kumar Agrawal, At: Ramachandrapur, P.O.: Mangarajpur, P.S.: Choudwar, Dist: Cuttack / Guarantor: Mr. Samir Kumar Agrawal, S/o.: Subash Chandra Agrawal, At: Kaligali, Cuttack.	₹24,06,407.63 as on 31.08.2021 with further interest cost & expenses	21.05.2021 / 04.03.2022	All that piece and parcel of Residential Land at mulla Khata No.: 241, Mutation Khatian No.: 230/23, Plot No.: 57/660/825, Area: Ac.0.73 Dec, Village / Mouza: Ramachandrapur, P.S.: Choudwar & No.: 02, Tahasil: Tangi-Choudwar, SRO: Jagatpur, Dist: Cuttack, Odisha Standing in the name of Mr. Samir Agrawal S/o.: Mr. Subash Chandra Agrawal, Bounded by North: Water canal, South: Plot No.: 63 (Patita), East: Plot No.: 664, West: Govt. Road.

Place: Bhubaneswar
Date: 05.03.2022
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Union Bank of India

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Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India, Concerned Branches under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices calling upon the Borrowers/Co-applicant/Co-obligant/Guarantor in loan A/c mentioned below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice plus interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Co-applicant/Co-obligant/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules. The Borrowers/Co-applicant/Co-obligant/Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the Union Bank of India, Concerned Branches for an amount mentioned below with interest thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to the Borrower to redeem the secured assets.

BRANCH / Name and Address of Borrowers/Co-applicant/Co-obligant/ Guarantor	Liabilities due as per Notice (in ₹)	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession	Description of Properties
KEONJHAR BRANCH- 2/ Borrower: Mr. Chitta Ranjan Giri, S/o: Pradeep Kumar Giri / Co-obligant: Mr. Pradeep Kumar Giri, S/o: Mr. Kamal Kant Giri, Both are C/o: Jayasri Das, At: Dhanurjayapur, Old Town-758001, Dist: Keonjhar, Odisha, 1452, Total Area: Ac 0.050 Dec., Bounded by East: Rabindra Das, West: Debendra Mohanty, North: Pond Embankment, South: Private Road	₹ 21,62,168/- as on 26.10.2021 + interest thereon	01.11.2021 / 02.03.2022	All that part of the property consisting of Residential Land and Building in the name of Chitta Ranjan Giri, S/o.: Pradeep Kumar Giri, At/PO.: Dhanurjayapur, Unit No.: 4, P.S.: Keonjhar Sadar, Dist.: Keonjhar, PIN-758001, Khata No.: 313/240, Plot No.: 492/ Town-758001, Dist: Keonjhar, Odisha, 1452, Total Area: Ac 0.050 Dec., Bounded by East: Rabindra Das, West: Debendra Mohanty, North: Pond Embankment, South: Private Road
KALIAPANI BRANCH-2/ Borrowers: 1) Mr. Nihar Ranjan Parida, S/o: Kailash Chandra Parida, The Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd, Gopabandhumarg, Bhubaneswar-751001, 2) Mrs. Manjulata Parida, W/o: Nihar Ranjan Parida, At/PO: Samanga, PS/Dist: Puri-752002, 3) Mr. Kailash Chandra Parida, S/o.: Hadu Parida, At/PO: Samanga, PS/Dist: Puri-752002 / Guarantor: Mr.Ranjit Majhi, S/o.: Purna Chandra Majhi, At.: IMFA Ltd. Mahagiri Mines Cromite Chirungia Camp (OMC), PO.: Kailapani, Jajpur-755028	₹ 18,30,707.25 as on 31.03.2021 + interest thereon	13.05.2021 / 05.03.2022	All that part of the property consisting of Land and Building Residential belonging to Mrs. Manjulata Parida and Kailash Chandra Parida, Khata No.: 110, Plot No.: 2276, Area: Ac.0.04 Dec., Mouza: Samanga, P.S.: Puri Sadar, Dist: Puri
DHENKIKOTE BRANCH-2/ Borrower: Shree Durga Traders, Prop: Mr. Jagabandhu Samal, Dhenkikote, Keonjhar, PIN-758029 / Co-applicant: Mrs. Pratima Jena, W/o: Kantha Jena, At/PO: Panchupalli, Via: Salapada, PS: Anandapur, Dist: Keonjhar, PIN-758020	₹ 10,11,469/- as on 01.11.2018 + interest thereon	01.11.2018 / 02.03.2022	All that part of the property consisting of Land and Building Residential Land belonging to Mrs. Pratima Jena, W/o.: Mr. Kantha Jena, At/Mouza: Panchupalli, Khata No.: 1050/398, Plot No.: 799, Door No.: 657/4595, Area: Ac. 0.28 Dec, bounded by East: Road, West: Medical Boundary, North: Sahadev Jena, South: Chandra Sekhar Mohanty.

Place: Balasore, Date: 05.03.2022
Sd/- Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India

Vain indeed is all overweening pride in the conquest even of the entire universe if one has not conquered one's own passions.

SRI AUROBINDO



Non-material Politics

What do we vote for? This is a question to consider as we approach the results of the elections in Punjab, Manipur, Goa, Uttarakhand and of course Uttar Pradesh. The results are important for us as a nation, whichever party one supports in them. If the BJP pulls off a win in Uttar Pradesh again (as I expect it to do, though narrowly) then we will continue down the same path we have gone in the last eight years. If it is defeated in UP, then the mood will change. The government will not be able to carry on with business as usual till 2024 if the BJP loses UP. However, this piece is not about the parties and elections but about the voter and why they vote in the way they do.

One of the more common ways in which voting is understood here is through the concept of 'anti-incumbency' which is not a phrase used in other democracies. In the United States, incumbent politicians have an average 8 per cent vote advantage over their rivals. Meaning that there is a substantial incumbency benefit. This is according to a 2001 study by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology which looked at all elections from 1942 to 2000. Presumably this advantage is because once elected, the politician uses the office to distribute benefits to voters, who then reward him by continuing to vote for him. In India the size of government is small and there is not enough resource to do this. And so parties who come into government try, and usually fail, to make a substantial difference to the lives of their voters. This is why, having spent five years in government, the party in power faces 'anti-incumbency'. And yet we have parties in power in some states for decades, suggesting that something else is also going on.

The other way to understand what we vote for is through what is called identity politics. This is not unique to us in India but we appear to do it more than in other democracies. Religion and caste are big factors and even primary factors for many of us meaning that we vote in a way that shows our support for our religion and our caste. What does this have to do with government? Not much, but consider that many if not most voters realise that little will change in their lives because of which party is in power.

This is a reality. Most Indians are poor and will die poor. Their children will not be educated in a government school any better than they are today because of the next chief minister. Their access to higher education will remain closed. The treatment they receive at their local healthcare centre (if they have one) or government hospital will not change in quality when the government changes hands. If they are in farming or in manual labour, which most Indians are, they will remain there all their lives. They will not become professors or scientists or chief executives of multinational corporations. Almost none of them will even carry the hope that they can achieve such things.

In essence, the State does not give them the opportunity to progress and they have no agency over the material part of their life. So what remains then? It is identity and religion and caste. Here a government can make a difference. Temples and statues and hate speeches and violence and laws targeting minorities are a part of this politics, and one reason why we are seeing more of them now is that the BJP has given up the idea that it can materially improve the lives of its voters. This shows clearly on every parameter of governance from the economy and employment downwards. However, it also has the advantage of dominating the non-material aspect of politics. If 'development' and jobs and such things are less important to many than identity then the BJP can dominate the discourse by stressing the largest marker of identity, which is religious nationalism. It has done so successfully in our time and the only reason this has taken so long was that the other parties did not choose to play up religion as much as the BJP has.

This appears to be a fairly dismal assessment of our democratic politics but it is not easy to read it in another way. And yet it is only a thesis. I could be very wrong in assuming that a large number of people vote for non-material politics or that even if that was the case in the past it may not continue into the future for any number of reasons. A recent report showed that UP's GDP grew at 6.92 per cent over 2012-17 in the five years under the Samajwadi Party. But under the BJP the growth rate has been only 1.95 per cent per year since 2017. Surely this is not a performance that could or should be rewarded. And yet, with only a few days to go, it will not surprise me to find out that it ultimately is rewarded.

The writer is Chair of Amnesty International India.

WISDOM CORNER

The whole secret of existence is to have no fear. Never fear what will become of you, depend on no one. Only the moment you reject all help are you freed. SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty. MAHATMA GANDHI

Keep me away from the wisdom which does not cry, the philosophy which does not laugh and the greatness which does not bow before children. KAHLIL GIBRAN

WORDSWORTH

Scrimshaw

Scrimshaw is ivory which has been adorned with carved or coloured designs. It's intimately associated with American whalers, who used walrus tusks and bits of whale teeth and jawbone to carve intricate designs in the few spare moments they had free. The tools used are of the roughest. Some old files, softened in the fire, and filed into grooves something like saw-teeth, are most used; but old knives, sail-needles, and chisels are pressed into service. The work turned out would, in many cases, take a very high place in an exhibition of turnery, though never a lathe was near it (The Cruise of the Cachalot, by Frank T Bullen, 1899). The best work of these times is still highly prized and very collectable. Someone who practises the craft is a scrimshoner. The origin of the word is mysterious; it was first recorded about 1825, but its spelling in the first half of the nineteenth century was highly variable, with forms such as scrimshonting, scrimshonging, scrimshandy, scrimshanking and scrimshander all appearing at various times. There's some suggestion that our modern spelling was influenced by the proper name Scrimshaw, but nobody seems to know quite why. Since a person who did this on board ship wasn't working, it may be that the British English scrimshank, to shirk one's duty, came from the same source.

STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRACY

FOCUS UKRAINE

Faced with Russia's authoritarian kleptocracy to their north and east, Ukrainians – off and on, and with periodic mass uprisings – have chosen a very different political path in recent decades. Through several cycles of elections and popular protest, Ukraine has moved toward the democratic ideals of the rule of law, protection of individual liberties, freedom of expression and association, free and fair elections, and the peaceful resolution of internal conflicts.

Today, international organisations classify Ukraine as a less-than-full – but aspiring – democracy. Russia and Ukraine's divergent paths – Russian President Vladimir Putin's ever-tightening dictatorship versus Ukraine's sometimes-chaotic open society – made the Kremlin's recent invasion more likely.

One of the key differences between autocracies and democracies is that democracies protect the rights of free speech and assembly, and hence of popular protest. As citizens of democracies know, some regulation of protests is necessary to keep the peace, and sometimes this regulation goes too far, preventing these rights from being exercised.

But dictatorships, like Putin's, simply cannot tolerate protests – at least of the sort that criticise the government. The Kremlin is now threatening Russians demonstrating against the war in Ukraine with "harsh punishment" for organising "mass riots." Russia's Putin-controlled parliament is considering a law that would impose 15-year prison sentences for those who "falsify" information about the "special military operation" in Ukraine.

Autocrats are also more likely to inflict physical harm on protesters. In fact, an earlier violent crackdown in Kyiv was the prologue to the eventual ouster of Ukraine's last



Russia's military assault on Ukraine caps a period of political attacks on democracy around the world. One must therefore hope that the invasion instills a renewed sense of common purpose among free societies, and dissuades other would-be autocrats from flouting the rules of the democratic club

pro-Russian president, Viktor Yanukovich, in 2014. In an attempt to placate pro-Western constituencies in Ukraine, Yanukovich flirted with the European Union, announcing in 2013 that his government would sign an Association Agreement with the EU. But in late November 2013, under pressure from Putin, he abruptly turned away from the EU and instead signalled a preference for joining the proposed Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union.

Stunned by Yanukovich's move, demonstrators converged on Kyiv's Maidan Square. In the early hours of November 30, a small group of protesters was lingering alongside municipal workers who were mounting a Christmas tree, when a contingent from the Berkut, a Ukrainian special police force, suddenly appeared, attacking the protesters and workers with boots

and batons. The violence against peaceful demonstrators, ordered by Yanukovich, was unusual for Ukraine at the time.

Images of bloodied young people being pushed into police vehicles sparked an enormous outpouring of anger, and more than half a million demonstrators were estimated to have packed into central Kyiv December 1. This was the beginning of the Euromaidan protests, which culminated in February 2014 with Yanukovich fleeing Ukraine into self-exile in Russia. Putin recently alluded to these events in a speech justifying the current onslaught on Ukraine, claiming in Orwellian language that Yanukovich was ousted in a "coup."

Putin's physical assault on Ukraine caps a period of political attacks on democracy around the world. Many of the assailants

have been elected leaders who, like Yanukovich, took aim at their own countries' constitutions and encroached on citizens' basic rights. Aspiring autocrats have followed this playbook in countries as diverse as Brazil, Venezuela, and Nicaragua; Hungary, Poland, and Serbia; and Turkey, the Philippines, and the United States.

These democratic backsliders have leaned on one another for support, forming an implicit alliance. Former US President Donald Trump was one of its linchpins, and worked hard to bolster like-minded leaders – including by offering them a coveted visit to the White House. Trump clearly demonstrated his preferences in 2019 by hosting Hungary's autocratic Prime Minister, Viktor Orbán, while demanding that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky pay his way to Washington by initiating legal proceedings against Trump's then-potential rival for the presidency, Joe Biden.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has shattered this unholy alliance of aspiring autocrats that viewed Putin as the ultimate strongman leader. Orbán has denounced the invasion, while Poland is accepting a flood of Ukrainian refugees. Both Hungary and Poland have new reason to value their NATO membership.

Let us therefore hope that Putin's aggression restores a sense of common purpose among free societies, and persuades would-be autocrats that peace, security, and national survival are well worth the price of admission into the democratic club. There, citizens' rights and freedoms will have a better chance of being respected.

The writer is Professor of Political Science and Director of the Chicago Center on Democracy at the University of Chicago.

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SPECTRUM SOCIETY

'Nari Shakti' enervated

In recent budget speech, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman recognised the importance of 'Nari Shakti' as the harbinger of India's bright future and for women-led development during the 'Amrit Kaal'. In her first budget speech in 2019, she had used the phrase "Nari Tu Narayani," recognising the importance of women empowerment. But in the last three years, 'Nari Shakti' has been more enervated instead of being invigorated.

Of course, the present time is not 'Amrit Kaal' but a tough time for women as inflation, privatisation, subsidy cut, health and economic crises have exacerbated the plight of women.

To emphasise 'Nari Shakti', Sitharaman said the government has comprehensively revamped the schemes of the Ministry of Women & Child Development. But the allocation for the ministry went up from ₹24,435 crore in 2021-22 to ₹25,172.28 crore in 2022-23, an increase of paltry 3%, which is negative in real terms.

Gender budgets have continued to remain under 5% of the total Union Budget since the exercise was made mandatory in 2006. In 2020-21 the gender budget was 4.7% of the total budget outlay. It had shrunk to 4.4% in 2021-22 and estimated to decline to 4.32% in 2022-23. What is reprehensible is that the government spent a whopping 80% of funds under its flagship Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme on media campaigns.

The waning of 'Nari Shakti' is

reflected in India's abysmal position in gender inequality index (GII) and World Economic Forum's gender gap index. This GI index as part of the Human Development Report (HDR) takes into account maternal reproductive health, parliamentary representation and female workforce participation. India has placed abysmally at 123rd place out of 162 countries in GI index 2020. Not only have we dropped a rank from 122nd in 2018, India remains well below neighbours China, Bhutan and Nepal in how it treats its women.

Similarly, according to global gender gap index 2021, India, home to 65 crore women, has widened its gender gap by 3% this year to 66.8%. This index benchmarks the progress toward gender parity and compares economies' gender gaps across four dimensions: economic opportunities, education, health, and political leadership. In India, in the 2020 index, it was expected that it would take 99.5 years to bring equality between men and women but as per the 2021 report, it would take 265 years.

In India, the decline also took place in the economic participation and opportunity subindex, albeit to a lesser extent. Most of the decline occurred on the political empowerment subindex, where India regressed 13.5%, with a significant decline in the number of women ministers (from 23.1% in 2019 to 9.1% in 2021).

At 21%, India has one of the worst labour force participation

rates by women, even not half the global average (47%). In other words, 79% of Indian women (aged 15 years and above) do not even seek work.

The flagging of 'Nari Shakti' is reflected through rising crimes against women. According to the NCRB, a total of 371,503 cases of crime against women were reported across the country in 2020. Domestic violence and sexual harassment have increased during the pandemic as women had to cope with agony, anguish of male members of family who lost jobs or remained home for longer periods.

As regards political empowerment of women, the bill to reserve 33% seats for women in Parliament and State Legislatures was passed in Rajya Sabha in 2010, but it was never introduced in Lok Sabha. No wonder, India ranks a dismal 146th in women's representation in Parliament. At the turn of the century, it ranked 66th.

As of October 2021, in India, as per the data compiled by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, of which India is a member, women represent 14.44% of the total members of the Lok Sabha and 10.5% of the total members of the Parliament. The scenario for women MLAs across all state Assemblies in India is even worse, with the national average being a pitiable 9%.

Gender bias or discrimination based on gender is pervasive in India due to a patriarchal system. Hence gender equality and gender justice should be important com-

mitments of the government. Women are more vulnerable to climate change. Hence, promoting gender equality and women's empowerment can help deliver better environmental outcomes. In this background, International Women's Day (IWD 2022) assumes significance. The theme for IWD 2022 is, "Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow," recognising the contribution of women and girls around the world, who are leading the charge on climate change adaptation, mitigation, and response, to build a more sustainable future for all.

The theme is aligned with the priority theme for the upcoming 66th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66): "Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes."

Hence, the campaign theme is #BreakTheBias, which highlights the importance of challenging biases and misconceptions in the interest of creating a more inclusive and gender-equal world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination. A world that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive. A world where difference is valued and celebrated. Together we can forge women's equality. Collectively we can all #BreakTheBias.

The writer is an Odisha-based economist and columnist. Views are personal.



Santosh Kumar Mohapatra

THE PRESENT TIME IS NOT 'AMRIT KAAL' BUT A TOUGH TIME FOR WOMEN AS INFLATION, PRIVATISATION, SUBSIDY CUT, HEALTH AND ECONOMIC CRISES HAVE EXACERBATED THE PLIGHT OF WOMEN

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Time to reform UN

Sir, The Russia-Ukraine war brings into sharp focus the failure of the United Nations (UN) as a negotiator and peacemaker. The inability of the UN to discharge its duties at a crucial time makes one wonder what the significance of the organisation is. It is ironic that an organisation formed to prevent war has failed miserably to do so on several occasions. As a consequence, nations have suffered a great deal of hardships. The UN's inaction casts suspicion on its neutrality. Many nations have levelled criticisms against the UN for following the dictates of a few powerful nations. Notwithstanding the fact that the ongoing war provided the UN an opportunity to improve its public image, nothing much was done. The futility of the organisation at crucial times like the ongoing war necessitates its reformation. The right time has come for the 200 member nations of the UN to devise plans to empower it to deal with similar situations. The first focus must be on restructuring the UN Security Council (UNSC). As the idea of permanent members is not in line with the changing world, it needs to be dispensed with. Members should be selected on rotational basis so that every nation gets a chance to contribute towards establishing world peace. Similarly, veto power must also be abolished. Otherwise, the UNSC cannot function in a significant way. If the UN is not reformed, the body can never discharge its duties as a custodian of world peace.

Venu GS, KOLLAM (KERALA)

Warne's legacy

Sir, This refers to the report 'Maverick man no more' (Orissa POST, March 5, 2022). The untimely demise of spin legend Shane Warne has left cricket fans numb. When I was in Standard I, I was so fascinated by Warne's bowling that I had pasted the name stickers of him in all my book covers. Shane Warne was among the few bowlers who brought a new life to the art of spin bowling in international cricket. Generations will remember his incredible delivery to Mike Gatting in the 1993 Ashes Test where the ball after pitching outside leg, drifted 90 degrees and crashed into the off stump. It is a great disbelief that the veteran bowler is no more with us. But the legacy he has left behind will keep on inspiring young and upcoming cricketers. May the Almighty take the departed soul to his Heavenly Abode!

Tushar Anand, PATNA

of the day quote

I can say this with confidence that the BJP will never break your trust. You have seen the work of all political parties in the country and assessed them. I can say that any individual from our party may promise something but not fulfill it, but if the party has made some promise, then it will fulfill it no matter what the cost. This is the character of the BJP

RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

Will personally bear the flight expenses (Delhi-Agartala flight) of the students of the state returning from war-torn Ukraine

BIPLAB KUMAR DEB | TRIPURA CM

Despite being blessed with resources, India has not attacked another country

M. VENKAIAH NAIDU | VICE-PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

2 women held

New Delhi: Two women, who claimed to be married to the same man, were arrested for allegedly manhandling a sub-inspector and breaking the mobile phone of another inside a police station in northwest Delhi's Rohini, officials said Saturday. The incident took place Friday evening. The accused were identified as Alka (29) and Hemlata (29), they said. According to police, one Mahesh Barwa was taken to South Rohini police station for investigation in connection with a case. He was later arrested for misbehaving with police personnel.

Polls today

Guwahati: Election for 80 municipal boards comprising 977 wards across Assam will be held on Sunday, State Election Commission (SEC) sources said. Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) will be used in the elections, for the first time in the history of civic elections in the state. As many as 2,532 candidates are in the fray, with BJP fielding maximum number of nominees at 825, followed by Congress with 706 candidates and Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) with 243 candidates, the sources said.

3 apprehended

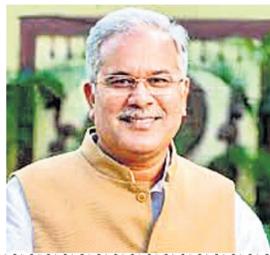
New Delhi: Three people, including a juvenile, allegedly tried to uproot a private bank ATM in west Delhi's Nangoli area after taking inspiration from a YouTube video, police said Saturday. Two of the accused were identified as Kundan Kumar (22) and Papu (22), both originally hailing from Bihar's Muzaffarpur district, they said.

Man killed

Mumbai: A man was bludgeoned to death with a cement block allegedly by his colleague in Girgaum in Mumbai over repayment of Rs 100, police said Saturday. Arjun Yashwant Singh Sarhar, who originally hailed from Rajasthan, used to do odd jobs in the locality and had borrowed Rs 100 from his colleague Manoj Marajkole, an official said.

Murder convict nabbed in Rajkot

Ahmedabad: Thirty-five years after being on the run, a murder convict, who had jumped parole, was apprehended by the Gujarat Anti-Terrorism Squad in Rajkot, an official said Saturday. An ATS team Friday nabbed convict Dheendra Dhanani from Jetpur in Rajkot district, where he was living under a fake identity, he said.



Farmers do not mean anything to this government. If they ask for their rights, the people in the BJP government run a car over them. Also the youths cannot raise their voice and ask for jobs, if they do so they are lathicharged

BHUPESH BAGHEL | CHHATTISGARH CM

WET SPELL OVER NW INDIA

The India Meteorological Department said there will be a wet spell over Western Himalayan Region and adjoining plains of Northwest India bringing light/moderate rainfall/snowfall till Monday



Violence mars last phase of Manipur polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Imphal, March 5: The turn out in the second and the final phase of Manipur Assembly poll Saturday was recorded at 76.04 pc amid stray incidents of violence in some places before and after the beginning of voting, election department officials said.

Voting was held in 22 constituencies across six districts amid tight security and strict adherence to COVID-19 protocol.

Senapati district, where polling was held in three assembly constituencies registered the highest turnout of 82.02 per cent followed by Thoubal district at 78 per cent. Thoubal has 10 constituencies, the officials said.

Ukhruel and Chandel districts which have three constituencies registered 71.57 and 76.71 per cent respectively while Tamenglong with three constituencies registered the least turn out with 66.40 per cent. Jiribam, the smallest dis-



PTI PHOTO

A damaged vehicle seen after poll violence during the final phase of Manipur Legislative Assembly election at Tobufii village in Senapati district, Manipur

trict with only one constituency recorded 75.02 per cent polling.

Polling was marred by violence in some places, as security forces deployed at Ngamju polling sta-

tion in Karong assembly constituency in Senapati district allegedly shot at two people, the police said.

The election agent of a BJP can-

Voting was held in 22 constituencies across six districts amid tight security and strict adherence to COVID-19 protocol

Violence was reported from some places of the north east state hours before the second phase of polling commenced as a BJP supporter was gunned down allegedly by a Congress worker

Polling was marred by violence in some places, as security forces deployed at Ngamju polling station in Karong assembly constituency in Senapati district allegedly shot at two people, the police said

didate in a complaint filed with the returning officer demanded a magisterial inquiry into the incident and polling has been halted at the Ngamju polling station, the election official said.

Violence was reported from some places of the north east state hours

before the second phase of polling commenced as a BJP supporter was gunned down allegedly by a Congress worker and a crude bomb exploded outside the residence of an expelled saffron party leader, police said.

A 25-year-old succumbed to bullet injuries early on Saturday at a hospital here, a police officer said. On Friday night unidentified miscreants lobbed a crude bomb at the residence of expelled BJP leader Ch Bijoy in Lamphel area in Imphal West district, police said.

Nobody was injured in the blast triggered by two masked persons, who came in a two-wheeler, they said. Among the early voters was Congress leader and former chief minister O Ibobi Singh in Thoubal district. Saturday's polling decided the electoral fate of 92 candidates, including 12 from the BJP, 18 from Congress, 11 National People's Party and ten each of the Janata Dal (United) and Naga People's Front.

Six killed in accident

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, March 5: Six people were killed and two others injured in a road accident in Telangana's Mulugu district Saturday, police said.

A speeding van hit a stationary auto-rickshaw at Errigattamma village, killing six people and injuring two others seated in the three-wheeler.

Four people died on the spot while two others succumbed at government-run MGM Hospital in Warangal. The injured were undergoing treatment at the same hospital.

According to police, except for the auto-rickshaw driver, the deceased were members of the same family. They were returning home after visiting Annaram Shareef dargah in Warangal district. All hailed from Komatipally village in Mangapet mandal of the same district. Ajay (12), Kiran (16), Kausalya (60) and auto driver Jani (23) died on the spot. Vansanta and Vennela succumbed at the hospital. A case has been registered and investigation initiated.

5 held for links with jihadi group

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati/Barpeta, March 5: Five persons have been arrested, including a Bangladeshi national, for alleged links with a jihadi group based in the neighbouring country, which is believed affiliated to the Al-Qaeda in Indian Sub continent (AQIS) from Assam's Barpeta district, Director General of police Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta said Saturday.

Based on an intelligence report shared by the Special Branch of the state police, the Barpeta police apprehended the five persons from areas under the Howlyand Kalgachia police stations, Mahanta said.

The DG said that the arrests could be brought about with co-operation of Muslim citizens of Assam, whom he praised for not responding to extremist messaging.

According to the police, the Bangladeshi national, identified as Md Suman alias Saiful Islam, had indoctrinated four others in a bid to develop Barpeta as a base for jihadi work for AQIS. The DGP said that several others from the group were still absconding and efforts



According to the police, the Bangladeshi national, identified as Md Suman alias Saiful Islam, had indoctrinated four others in a bid to develop Barpeta as a base for jihadi work for AQIS

were on to nab them.

There were intelligence inputs since September last year about the presence of Islam in the state and the police finally managed to track and arrest him and his associates last night. They were produced before the Court on Saturday and remanded to police custody for further investigations.

After the Chief of Ansarul Islam was arrested by Bangladesh Police, Islam was deputed by the organisation to spread the message of Jihad and indoctrinate young potential members in different parts of Assam, Mahanta claimed.

Islam, a resident Dhakaliapara village of Narayanaganj district of Bangladesh, worked as a teacher in

his village Masjid but also went around as a talent scout "with the motive of indoctrinating potential candidates for his extremist organisation.

The four others arrested are Khairul Islam, Badshah Suleiman Khan, Naushad Ali and Taimur Rahman Khan. The police recovered documents and several electronic devices including mobile, laptop, pen drives etc., along with jihadi literature.

"The modus of operation of the organisation is very sophisticated and the use of computers for communication, including transfer of funds. Involved very modern and high quality of technology," the DGP said.

Raut alleges phone tapping in Goa

Raut claimed that if Goa throws a hung Assembly, central probe agencies will shift focus to the tiny coastal state

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, March 5: In a veiled attack on senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis, Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut Saturday alleged that the "Maharashtra pattern" of illegally tapping phones of political opponents is being replicated in neighbouring Goa where results of the Assembly polls will be declared next week.

Talking to reporters here, Raut also claimed that the same pattern might be at work in Uttar Pradesh,

I met Goa Congress leader and former Chief Minister Digambar Kamat who expressed fear that his phone was being tapped. I say that not only him (Kamat), but phones of MGP leader Sudin Dhavlikar and Goa Forward Party's (GFP) Vijay Sardesai are also being tapped

SANJAY RAUT | SHIV SENA MP



where counting of votes will also be taken up on March 10. He said that the phone tapping apprehension was expressed by a senior Congress leader from Goa whom he met recently.

"I met Goa Congress leader and former chief minister Digambar Kamat who expressed fear that his phone was being tapped. I say that

not only him (Kamat), but phones of MGP leader Sudin Dhavlikar and Goa Forward Party's (GFP) Vijay Sardesai are also being tapped," Raut alleged.

The Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party (MGP) had contested the polls in alliance with the Trinamool Congress. The GFP has tied up with Congress. "Tapping

No relief for ex-NSE boss Chitra

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, March 5: A special CBI court in Delhi Saturday dismissed the anticipatory bail plea of Chitra Ramakrishna, the former CEO-MD of National Stock Exchange (NSE), in connection with a fraud case.

Ramakrishna, through her counsel, had approached the court seeking relief from her arrest. Her plea was opposed by the prosecution. After hearing the argument of defense and the prosecution, the court dismissed the plea.

On February 24, the CBI arrested Anand Subramanian, the ex-Group Operating Officer of NSE. He was later sent to CBI's custody till March 6.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probing the NSE fraud has been making efforts to find fresh clues to reach the mysterious Himalayan Yogi, with whom the classified information

were shared by Ramakrishna. It was learnt in the forensic report of Ernst & Young (E&Y) that Subramanian could be the mysterious Yogi. The SEBI had, on February 11, denied it.

The CBI is trying to corroborate the evidence it collected with the questioning of Subramanian. It is probing the matter since May 2018 but has failed to find any concrete evidence to identify the mysterious Himalayan Yogi.

Recently, the SEBI had imposed a fine of Rs 3 crore on Ramakrishna, following the market regulator finding that she allegedly shared vital inputs about the NSE with the yogi. "Information regarding organisational structure, dividend scenario, financial results, human resource policies and related issues, response to regulator, etc., were shared by her with the yogi," said the source.

Experts question study predicting fourth Covid wave in June

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 5: Forecasting models are good only for short-term projections and an IIT-Kanpur study predicting a fourth Covid wave in India in June may at best be "data astronomy" and guesswork, say several scientists.

Dispelling fears of another spike in cases in the next three months, they also took note of the fact that most people in India have had two vaccines and one natural infection. So even if there is a wave, the consequences in terms of hospitalisation and deaths should be manageable unless there is a new variant.

"Active cases are decreasing quite fast—and from looking at the current trends we certainly cannot say anything about a new wave in the future," said Sithabra Sinha, pro-

fessor at Chennai's Institute of Mathematical Sciences (IMSc).

The reproductive number (R)—the expected number of cases directly generated by one case in a population—for India is at the lowest value it has been since COVID-19 broke here in March 2020, he added.

According to the recent modelling study by researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur, the fourth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in India may start around June 22 and peak from mid to late August.

The yet-to-be-peer-reviewed study, posted on the preprint repository MedRxiv, used a statistical



Active cases are decreasing quite fast — and from looking at the current trends we certainly cannot say anything about a new wave in the future

SITHABRA SINHA | PROFESSOR AT CHENNAI'S INSTITUTE OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

model to make the prediction, finding that the possible new wave will last for four months. The research led by Sabara Parshad Rajeshbhai, Subhra Sankar Dhar and Shalabh of IIT

Kanpur, also noted that there is always a fair chance that a possible new variant of coronavirus may have an intense impact on the whole analysis.

The study led to animated debate with experts questioning the as-

sumptions made in it. The precise timing itself is suspect, said Gautam Menon, who has been tracking Covid numbers in India since the beginning of the pandemic. The methodology, in his view, is doubtful and any modelling exercise making predictions months in advance is not trustworthy.

"I would not trust any such prediction, especially one with precise dates and times," the professor, Departments of Physics and Biology, Ashoka University in Haryana, said.

"We can predict nothing about the future because what new variant may come along is unknown. What we can, however, do, is be vigilant and collect the data that enables us to react fast and effectively," he added. Public health expert Bhramar Mukherjee agreed, saying the kind of prediction made

in the IIT Kanpur paper is akin to data astrology, not data science.

"I do not believe in the former. In my experience, forecasting models are very good with short-term prediction two-four weeks ahead of time," Mukherjee, professor of Global Public Health at the University of Michigan, US, said. "Long-range predictions are not reliable. Could anyone predict Omicron during Diwali? We should have some humility of knowledge based on the past," the scientist added.

Theoretical physicist Sinha echoed the views of the others. "I would in any case be fairly sceptical of such long-range predictions. Given the large number of uncertainties involved, any statement about what's going to happen a few months down the line is no better than just pure guesswork."

More than 1 lakh daily visitors at Int'l Book Fair: Organisers



Kolkata, March 5: An estimated 6 lakh people have visited the 45th International Kolkata Book Fair since February 28, a senior official of the Publishers and Book Sellers Guild said.

On an average, more than one lakh visitors have turned up at the book fair at Central Park ground

book carnival of the world. This is obvious from their response this year," he said. The book fair, which was inaugurated February 28, will continue till March 13.

Guild secretary Tridib Chatterjee said the organisers are asking people to put on masks though some people may not be listening to the order. "The guild is doing everything to sensitise the people about the still existing threat of the pandemic," he said.

Veteran writer Sirshendu Mukherjee said, "I am so happy to find the same ambience in the book fair ground and meeting lots of my young fans. I don't feel stressed in their presence. This was unthinkable even some months back when the third wave struck."

The book fair was not held in 2021 due to the Covid pandemic.

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The book fair was not held in 2021 due to the Covid pandemic.

SERENE SLUMBER



A brow-antlered deer inside an enclosure of Alipore Zoological Garden in Kolkata, Saturday

Indigenous system KAVACH to cover 2,000km track

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, March 5: Indian Railways is planning to implement KAVACH protection system to an extent of 2,000km during the current financial year on high density routes like New Delhi-Mumbai and New Delhi-Howrah, Union Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw said here Friday.



IN A NUTSHELL

The 'KAVACH' - a state of the art Automatic Train Protection system was developed by the Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO)

South Central Railway has been closely associated with its implementation since the development stage and is facilitating trials to achieve the corporate objective of safety in train operations across Indian Railways

The system will be further extended to an additional 4,000 to 5,000km from next financial year. The indigenously developed KAVACH system costs Rs 40-50 lakh for each kilometre, whereas European models cost approximately Rs 1.5-2 crore for each kilometre

ASHWINI VAISHNAW | UNION MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS

It activates the train breaking system automatically if the driver fails to control the train as per the speed restrictions

its implementation since the development stage and is facilitating trials to achieve the corporate objective of safety in train operations across Indian Railways.

KAVACH is meant to provide protection by preventing trains to pass the SPAD i.e. Signal Passing at Danger (Red) and avoid collision. It activates the train breaking system automatically if the driver fails to control the train as per the speed restrictions.

In addition, it prevents collision between two Locomotives equipped with functional KAVACH system.

During the development phase, KAVACH was implemented for a length of 264 km covering 25 stations across Wadi - Vikarabad - Sanath Nagar and Vikarabad - Bidar sections over South Central Railway.

Later, the system has been further extended by additional 936km, taking the cumulative deployment of KAVACH to 1,200km.

MAMATA FACES MID-AIR TURBULENCE

Bengal govt seeks DGCA report; TMC cries foul



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, March 5: The West Bengal government Saturday sought a report from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's aircraft encountering mid-air turbulence while returning from Varanasi, a top bureaucrat said.

There should be a high-level probe by the DGCA covering all aspects from the aviation point of view. There should also be another probe by the Centre from the security aspect as the Chief Minister is entitled to Z category security

SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY | TMC NATIONAL SPOKESPERSON AND VETERAN RAJYA SABHA MP

The state government also wanted to know from the DGCA whether the route taken by the plane, in which the Chief Minister returned to the city from Varanasi Friday evening, had been granted prior permission, he said.

mum of 19 people, including two flight attendants.

The West Bengal Chief Minister was returning from Uttar Pradesh after campaigning for the Samajwadi party.

Meanwhile, the Trinamool Congress Saturday demanded a high-level probe into the incident of the Falcon aircraft, hired by the state government for the Chief Minister, encountering a spot of air turbulence.

When contacted, an official of the DGCA said that they have already started working on the report.

"We conduct investigations in all such cases and accord priorities where VVIPs are involved. We have already started working on preparing our report in this connection," he told media.

TMC national spokesperson and veteran Rajya Sabha MP Sukhendu Sekhar Roy told PTI that it was a serious matter and posed a threat to the chief minister.

On Friday evening, the chartered flight carrying Banerjee from Varanasi airport to the city hit an air pocket causing the plane to rock violently.

"There should be a high-level probe by the DGCA covering all aspects from the aviation point of view. There should also be another probe by the Centre from the security aspect as the Chief Minister is entitled to Z category security," he said.

The pilot managed to steer the plane out of the air pocket and land it safely in Netaji Subhas Chandra International Airport here though Banerjee suffered a back injury caused by the steep climb-down the flight had to make to cope with the turbulence.

Roy said the party wanted to know the reason why the aircraft of the Chief Minister had faced similar situations in past during her flight from Patna to Kolkata and from Bagdogra to Kolkata.

Banerjee was on board a Dassault Falcon 2000, which is a 10.3-tonne lightweight plane with a capacity of carrying a maxi-

The probe should cover all these aspects as well, the TMC national spokesperson said.

Telangana DGP back from 2-week leave amidst row



Two days ago, Mahender Reddy had condemned an allegation by Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee president A Revanth Reddy that the state government forcibly sent him on leave, and clarified that he availed medical leave due to hairline fracture

be joining the duty as per the advice of the doctors.

Revanth Reddy Wednesday claimed that Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has his roots in Bihar and also alleged that a group of IAS and IPS officers of Bihar origin were given key posts in the state.

He alleged that the chief minister made Anjani Kumar the DGP by sending the incumbent DGP on leave.

The IPS officers Association of Telangana strongly condemned the statement by Revanth Reddy. The Association termed this as a baseless statement.

It clarified that Mahender Reddy went on medical leave owing to injuries sustained by him at his home. In order to ensure proper healing of the hairline fracture, he was advised to take rest by the doctors and hence he proceeded on medical leave.

The statements regarding Mahender Reddy were made in an irresponsible manner without verification of facts and the reports of scientific diagnostic tests, it said.

"Instead of wishing him good health and speedy recovery, the said leaders have needlessly dragged the officer for the sake of publicity," the Association said in a statement.

The IPS officers' body said statements targeting IPS officer Anjani Kumar and some IAS officers from a particular state reflected biased thinking and lack of knowledge about the Constitution of India and the provisions of All India Services.

160 more Telugu students return home from Ukraine

With this, 354 citizens from Telangana have returned home since the evacuation began on February 26. Meanwhile, with the arrival of 66 students from Andhra Pradesh Friday, the total number of evacuees belonging to the state reached 270



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad/Amaravati, March 5: An additional 160 Telugu students have returned home from the war-torn Ukraine, officials said.

Friday, the seventh day of evacuation of Indian citizens, 94 students of Telangana and 66 of Andhra Pradesh landed in Delhi and Mumbai.

The officials of the respective state governments in Delhi and Mumbai helped the students in reaching their destinations.

The students hailing from Telangana arrived in the two cities on Friday by 16 flights from Ukraine's neighbouring countries.

The flights had taken off from Bucharest (Romania), Budapest (Hungary), Rzeszow (Poland), Kocise (Slovakia) and Suceava (Romania).

With this, 354 citizens from Telangana have returned home since the evacuation began on February 26.

Telangana Bhavan Resident Commissioner Gaurav Uppal and Additional DGP, Intelligence, Anil Kumar interacted with Telangana students at the Telangana Bhavan.

The government of Telangana has made arrangements to receive all returnees at Delhi and Mumbai airports. The state government also booked air tickets for them

from Delhi and Mumbai to Hyderabad.

Meanwhile, with the arrival of 66 students from Andhra Pradesh Friday, the total number of evacuees belonging to the state reached 270. After their arrival in Delhi and Mumbai, the state government officials booked tickets for them by connecting flights to destinations like Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Tirupati, Hyderabad and Bangalore.

The state government officials also received the students in Tirupati, Vijayawada and other airports and made arrangements for their onward journey to their hometowns.

TMC exercises unofficial emergency: Bengal BJP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Mar 5: BJP state President Sukanta Majumdar Saturday alleged the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) has unleashed an "unofficial emergency" in the state, where working for BJP was "nothing short of a crime".

Majumdar, who was addressing hundreds of party functionaries from all over state at the National Library auditorium here, also claimed the recently concluded municipal polls in the state were "farical" and only BJP put up a spirited fight. BJP could not win a single municipal body out of 108 which went to the polls earlier this week and ended up with a 12.57 per cent of the total votes cast.

TMC reacted to the charges claiming that these were "wild allegations" made by a party which did not enjoy the confidence of

We will certainly come out of this situation as we enjoy the trust and confidence of people which is not reflected in the municipality and panchayat vote results as TMC, in league with the administration and police, don't allow free and fair polls. This will change in the coming days

SUKANTA MAJUMDAR | BJP STATE PRESIDENT, WEST BENGAL



the electorate.

Majumdar in his speech to BJP workers charged, "In Bengal an unofficial emergency situation prevails."

"One is not targeted in the same way for being part of CPI (M), Congress or others, the way one is singled out for being part of

BJP," the BJP MP from Balurghat alleged. He claimed that police remains inactive when his party's 'karyakartas' (workers) "are beaten up or even murdered by Trinamool goons."

He was speaking at a 'Chintan Baithak' (Introspection meet) of the saffron party. Among others,

senior BJP leader and MP Locket Chatterjee had called for introspection following the party's debacle in the municipal polls and a drop in its party vote share from 38 per cent in the last year's assembly polls when it bagged 77 assembly seats to a mere 12.57 per cent in civic polls.

"We will certainly come out of this situation as we enjoy the trust and confidence of people which is not reflected in the municipality and panchayat vote results as TMC, in league with the administration and police, don't allow free and fair polls. This will change in the coming days," Majumdar claimed.

He added BJP will analyse in detail the way municipal polls were conducted recently to democratically fight the TMC in a more effective manner.

TMC state spokesperson Kunal Ghosh reacting to the BJP's charges averred, "Sukanta Majumdar knows very well his party doesn't enjoy the confidence or support of the people of Bengal."

He claimed the BJP leadership "wanted to deflect attention from their failure by making wild allegations."

of the day quote

The Centre would build AYUSH facilities, including an Ayurveda college, in Nagaland at Rs 100 crore

SARBANANDA SONOWAL | UNION MINISTER

Our country will become developed only when every youth of the country is skilled

MANISH SISODIA | DELHI DEPUTY CM

No state government can borrow money violating the rules made by the central government

ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CM

SHORT TAKES

Five killed

Jammu: At least five persons were killed and one was injured after a vehicle they were travelling in went out of control and fell in to a deep gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district Saturday, police said. According to the police, the vehicle was travelling from Samba to Srinagar and the accident took place in the district's Jamoda area.

NH closed

Srinagar: The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway has been closed for vehicular traffic due to shooting stones at Panthyal, officials said Saturday. "Jammu-Srinagar NHW blocked at Panthyal due to shooting stones. People are requested not to travel on Jmu-Sgr NHW till the clearance work is completed," police said. The highway is the lifeline of the Kashmir valley and the main road link connecting Kashmir with the rest of the country.

Fire breaks out

Srinagar: A major fire broke out at the Bone and Joint Hospital in Srinagar on Friday night. The police said the fire engulfed the hospital building as fire tenders fought the blaze, with the doctors and the staff of the hospital evacuating the patients. "The patients are being shifted to the Bemina Medical College and Hospital. The blaze has caused major damage to the building and the flames are still rising as over a dozen fire tenders are trying to bring the fire under control," the police said.

Driver helps cops

New Delhi: Two minor girls, who were kidnapped with a purpose for begging, were rescued by Delhi Police with the help of an E-Rickshaw driver, an official said here Saturday. The accused, identified Sanjay (40), a resident of district Chhappra, Bihar, had abducted two girls aged 7 and 4 years from the Vivek Vihar area of the national capital. Furnishing details, DCP R. Sathiyasundaram said a call was received at Vivek Vihar police station at 10.30 a.m. in which the complainant Bharamdutt Rajput, an e-Rickshaw driver, informed that a person with two little girls boarded his Rickshaw a while back from Balaji temple Vivek Vihar for Chintamani chowk.

3 children killed

Rewa: Three children were killed when a truck collided with their motorcycle and ran them over on a national highway in Madhya Pradesh's Rewa district Saturday, police said. The incident took place when the victims were returning home after giving their Class 10 final exams, sub-inspector Pragya Patel of Khatkhari outpost said. A speeding truck travelling in the opposite direction collided with the motorcycle and ran over the trio, killing them on the spot, she said.

Govt will be responsible, says student

AGENCIES

New Delhi, March 5: Several Indian students stranded in Sumy who decided to walk to the Russian border amid intense fighting in the region are now "confused" whether to continue their journey after the Ministry of External Affairs urged them to avoid taking unnecessary risks.

As evacuation from the shelling-battered city remains a challenge for Indian authorities, the students said they could no longer cope with the nail-biting cold, depleting food supplies and having to melt snow to get drinking water.

Around 700 Indian students are still stuck in the war-hit region, their evacuation hampered by the continuous fighting in the area. The students said they have run out of food and water.

The students have released several desperate videos on social media, saying they have decided to undertake the potentially fatal journey to the Russian border, some 50km from where they are, sending shockwaves in New Delhi.

They said they hope they would be picked up by Indian authorities from the Russians border. "We are afraid. We have awaited a lot and we cannot wait anymore. We are risking our life. We are moving towards the border. If anything happens to us, all the responsibility will be on the government and Indian embassy," a student, surrounded by a large number of his peers holding Indian flags, says in one of the videos.

In another video, students are seen filling up buckets with ice as they ran out of drinking water. This prompted the Indian Ministry of External Affairs to urge them to stay inside shelters and avoid taking unnecessary risks.

"We are deeply concerned about Indian students in Sumy, Ukraine. Have strongly pressed Russian and



An Indian student, evacuated from war-torn Ukraine, being welcomed by a relative upon his arrival at the IGI airport, in New Delhi, Saturday. PTI PHOTO

PM chairs another meeting on Ukraine crisis

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi called another high-level meeting Saturday evening to discuss the situation in war-hit Ukraine and India's evacuation efforts to bring back its citizens, official sources said. Since Sunday, Modi has chaired a number of such meetings, as his government works to bring back Indian students who have been scrambling to leave Ukraine after Russia launched an attack on it. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his cabinet colleague Piyush Goyal were part of the meeting chaired by Modi, besides several top bureaucrats. India has launched "Operation Ganga" to evacuate its nationals and sent four Union ministers as the prime minister's special envoys to Ukraine's neighbours to coordinate the exercise.

Ukrainian governments through multiple channels for an immediate ceasefire to create a safe corridor for our students," MEA Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said.

After the statement, the group of students have halted their journey for now.

"We had already started moving after we gave up hope on the government coming to our rescue. But now with the new advisory, we are confused whether we should take the risk at all. I am so scared," said Md Nizamuddin Aman (21), a first-year MBBS student at Sumy

State University.

Russia and Ukraine agreed Thursday to the need for creating humanitarian corridors to help civilians escape the war. Moscow calls its actions in Ukraine a "special military operation." The war in Ukraine has entered its 10th day with evacuation from war-hit cities remaining difficult. Students stranded in these areas are posting videos on social media, pleading with the Indian government to evacuate them.

To evacuate citizens from war-hit Ukraine, the Indian govern-

MAHA MAYHEM

Driver mows down 2 girls, truck gutted



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

The mayhem occurred near Morchundi village in Jawhar, when the inebriated Sharad Nisarge was speeding his truck and ran over two minor girls playing near the road

rushed to the scene grabbed Nisarge and thrashed him before dragging him to the local Mokhada Police Station.

The two minor girls, bleeding profusely with multiple injuries, were rushed to a nearby government hospital, but pronounced dead on admission, while the injured man is undergoing treatment.

They are identified as Archi N. Sonar, 5, and Payal B. Vargade, 9, who were returning home from school, when the tragedy struck.

Mokhada Police Station head Sanjay Brahmane said that as per preliminary investigations, the accused was attempting to flee the spot after the accident but banged into a tree.

The impact resulted in a short circuit and the truck caught fire and was gutted in minutes though Nisarge managed to jump out.

Palghar, March 5: In a series of shocking developments, a drunken driver mowed two minor girls, injured one man seriously, destroyed a shop and as he attempted to escape, his truck caught fire and was gutted, officials said here Saturday.

The mayhem occurred near Morchundi village in Jawhar, when the inebriated Sharad Nisarge was speeding his truck and ran over two minor girls playing near the road.

Panic, he stopped and attempted to reverse his truck and banged into a shop behind and injured a man standing there.

Somehow he reversed the truck and attempted to flee the accident site when his truck suddenly caught fire, forcing him to jump out, said a police official.

The local villagers who had

SPEEDING AWAY



People participate in a district-level bullock cart race, at Shenoli village in Karad, Saturday. PTI PHOTO

Rane, son quizzed in Disha Salian case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, March 5: Union minister Narayan Rane and his MLA son Nitesh Rane were quizzed by the police here for several hours Saturday in connection with a case registered against them for allegedly making slanderous and misleading statements about the death of Disha Salian, late actor Sushant Singh Rajput's former manager.

The Malvani police had earlier sent a notice to Nitesh Rane to appear before the investigating officer on Thursday. His father was asked to appear Friday. But their

lawyers had said that as the state legislature was in session, the two leaders would appear before the police Saturday.

A court here Friday had granted interim protection from arrest till March 10 to both Union minister Rane and his son.

The Ranes had filed anticipatory bail applications before the Dindoshi sessions court in suburban Malad fearing arrest in the case.

Curtains down on UP poll campaign



Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi during a roadshow for UP Assembly polls, in Jaunpur district, Saturday. PTI PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, March 5: The high-octane campaign for the seventh and final phase of the Uttar Pradesh assembly election covering 54 assembly seats, including in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's parliamentary constituency Varanasi, ended Saturday, with the BJP and its rival parties attacking each other on a range of issues from COVID-19 handling, law and order, economic and security situation to farmers' stir.

With this, the curtain came down on rumbustious electioneering over the last two months when assembly polls were also held in four other states - Goa, Uttarakhand, Punjab and Manipur. The campaigning in the last phase reached its crescendo with Prime Minister Narendra Modi leading the BJP's poll blitzkrieg in Varanasi and its adjoining districts.

Besides addressing election rallies, he also held a roadshow for three assembly constituencies of Cantt, Varanasi North and Varanasi South. This phase also saw Trinamool Congress leader Mamata Banerjee descending on the pil-

grim city to hold a joint rally with SP president Akhilesh Yadav and his RLD ally Jayant Chaudhary.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra had been camping in Varanasi for about four days and she along with her brother Rahul Gandhi addressed election meetings, whereas BSP supremo Mayawati also campaigned in the district and neighbouring areas.

Seeking to override anti-incumbency, the ruling party raised issues like forced migration and law and order problems during the previous Samajwadi Party government. The BJP leaders dubbed its rivals as "dynasts" and its star campaigners warned that the mafia elements, put in jail by the Yogi Adityanath government, will be out if the SP forms its government.

Besides highlighting the achievements of the 'double engine' governments, BJP has also been reminding the free ration distribution among the poor with Prime Minister Narendra Modi spicing up the campaign by mixing a salt allegory in his speech, to deftly play up salt's co-relation with loyalty.

K'taka minister sparks row

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shivamogga (Karnataka), March 5: Karnataka Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj K.S. Eshwarappa Saturday once again stirred a controversy by stating that there is a limit to patience of Hindus.

After meeting BJP worker Venkatesh at the Meggan hospital, who was attacked by miscreants on Thursday, Eshwarappa said that there is a limit to patience of the Hindu community. If the limits are crossed, it could lead to a real split in the society. "I am saying this as a minister," he underlined.

"After the murder of Bajrang Dal activist Harsha, the state government has taken necessary measures and arrested all the accused persons. However, the goonda mindset of certain community members has not yet gone," he stated.

Eshwarappa further said, "Our worker Venkatesh had been attacked by goondas of a particular community. Two of them have already been arrested. Because of a few, the image of the whole community is tarnished. Community leaders should initiate action on these persons."

All people of the community are not bad, only a few goondas are indulging in such activities. The community leaders must give attention to them, he said.

1 glass of wine a day can age your brain by 2 yrs: Study

IT IS ALREADY KNOWN THAT PEOPLE WHO DRINK HEAVILY HAVE ALTERATIONS IN BRAIN STRUCTURE AND SIZE THAT ARE ASSOCIATED WITH COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENTS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

of beer a day carries significant risk as it can cause changes to the brain equivalent to ageing two years, researchers have found.

It is already known that people who drink heavily have alterations in brain structure and size that are associated with cognitive impairments.

However, a team from the University of Pennsylvania found that even light-to-moderate alcohol consumption was associated with reductions in overall brain volume.

The link grew stronger the greater the level of alcohol consumption, the researchers showed. Going from two to three alcohol units at the same age was like aging



three and a half years. The team reported their findings in the journal Nature Communications.

"There is some evidence that the effect of drinking on the brain

is exponential," said co-corresponding author Remi Daviet, who was at Penn during the study, and now at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

"So, one additional drink in a day could have more of an impact than any of the previous drinks that day. That means that cutting back on that final drink of the night might have a big effect in terms of brain ageing."

In other words, Gideon Nave, Penn's Wharton School: "The people who can benefit the most from drinking less are the people who are already drinking the most." The researchers looked at brain MRIs from more than 36,000 adults.

When the researchers grouped the participants by average-consumption levels, a small but apparent pattern emerged: The gray and white matter volume that might otherwise be predicted by the in-

dividual's other characteristics were reduced.

Going from zero to one alcohol unit didn't make much of a difference in brain volume, but going from one to two or two to three units a day was associated with reductions in both gray and white matter.

Even removing the heavy drinkers from the analyses, the associations remained. The lower brain volume was not localised to any one brain region, the scientists found. And while the researchers underscore that their study looked only at correlations, they say the findings may prompt drinkers to reconsider how much they imbibe.

international

WAR FROM ABOVE



UKRAINIAN REFUGEES PLEAD

'Please close the sky'

AGENCIES
Medyka (Poland), March 5: Ukrainians fleeing into central Europe pleaded for Western nations to take tougher steps against Russia following Moscow's invasion that has created more than 1 million refugees.

At the Medyka crossing, Poland's busiest, along its roughly 500-kilometre border with Ukraine, refugees called for a no-fly zone over Ukraine - something NATO powers have so far ruled out on the grounds it would risk escalating the conflict beyond Ukraine. "Please close the sky," said Solomiya Zdryko, 18, who fled from Lviv in western Ukraine. "I know that it's not possible for us to join NATO but at least close the sky because people are dying."

"It's great that the whole world is watching us and supporting us, but it really needs to stop." Poland, whose Ukrainian community of around 1 million is the region's largest, has accepted nearly 800,000

Ukrainian refugees since the start of the Russian invasion February 24. Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs Pawel Szefernakier told reporters. More than 106,000 arrived from Ukraine in the last 24 hours, the highest figure since the war erupted. Russia said its forces had stopped firing near two Ukrainian cities Saturday to allow safe passage to civilians fleeing fighting, but was continuing its broad offensive in Ukraine, where the capital Kyiv came under renewed assault. Moscow says its invasion is a "special operation" to cap-

ture individuals it regards as dangerous nationalists and to counter what it views as NATO aggression, and has denied targeting civilians. Most escaping Ukrainians have crossed into the European Union in eastern Poland, Slovakia, and Hungary and northern Romania. With men of conscription age obliged to stay in Ukraine and help in the defence, it has been mostly women and children who have made the crossing. With Russian forces stepping up their attacks on Ukrainian cities, some refugees said that while they were grateful for the support they were getting, they wanted foreign powers to do more. "They could do more only by closing the skies," said a 33-year-old woman who arrived from Lviv and who gave her name only as Olha. She broke down in tears when talking about family members she left behind in Ukraine. "But I think that all countries have helped Ukraine very much and I am very thankful for their help."

EXODUS FROM UKRAINE
POLAND HAS ACCEPTED NEARLY 800,000 UKRAINIAN REFUGEES
140,000 PEOPLE HAVE CROSSED INTO HUNGARY SINCE THE START OF THE WAR
NEARLY 200,000 UKRAINIANS HAVE FLED TO ROMANIA
SOME 20,000 REFUGEES HAVE ENTERED BULGARIA, BORDER POLICE SAID



REJECTION OF NO-FLY ZONE

Zelenskyy blasts NATO



Kyiv: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy lashed NATO Friday for ruling out a no-fly zone over his country saying the Western military alliance knew further Russian aggression was likely. "Knowing that new strikes and casualties are inevitable, NATO deliberately decided not to close the sky over Ukraine," he said in a video published by the presidency. "Today the leadership of the alliance gave the green light for further bombing of Ukrainian cities and villages, refusing to make a no-fly zone." NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg said the alliance would not intervene in the conflict over fears of a direct clash with Moscow that could spiral into a wider conflict. "The

All the people who die from this day forward will also die because of you, because of your weakness, because of your lack of unity
VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY | PRESIDENT, UKRAINE

only way to implement a no-fly zone is to send NATO fighter planes into Ukraine's airspace, and then impose that no-fly zone by shooting down Russian planes," Stoltenberg said after the urgent meeting. "If we did that, we'll end up with something that could end in a full-fledged war in Europe, involving many more countries and causing much more human suffering."

'Russia now appears poised to bombard cities into submission'

US and NATO officials monitoring the war in Ukraine noticed a pronounced shift earlier this week in Russia's strategy, namely that Moscow now appears poised to bombard cities into submission which could inflict significant civilian casualties, CNN reported. The heavier weapons are not just heavier in their weight, they're also heavier in terms of the damage that they can inflict, one of the officials said. And they're far less discriminant. So, more casualties. It is a very crude approach, the official added. US officials have warned in recent days that Russia's strategy appeared to be shifting from focusing primarily on military targets to targeting civilians, amid the realisation that an initial plan to quickly capture Kyiv and topple the government had failed, CNN reported.

The Washington Post first reported that significant civilian casualties, massive loss of human life, are likely in the days ahead, according to a senior Western intelligence official.

West behaving like bandits: Kremlin

Moscow: The Kremlin said Saturday that the West was behaving like bandits but that Russia was far too big to be isolated as the world was much larger than just the United States and Europe. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters that the West was engaged in "economic banditry" against Russia and that Moscow would respond. "This does not mean Russia is isolated," Peskov told reporters. "The world is too big for Europe and America to isolate a country, and even more so a country as big as Russia. There are many more countries in the world."

UK urges nationals to leave Russia

London: The United Kingdom has urged its nationals to consider leaving Russia if it is not essential they remain in the country. "If your presence in Russia is not essential, we strongly advise that you consider leaving by remaining commercial routes," the UK Foreign Office said Saturday in its updated travel advice. Monday, the UK Foreign Office advised its citizens against all travel to Russia due to a lack of available flight options and increased economic volatility.

66K Ukrainians return to fight

Lviv: Ukrainian Defence Minister Oleksii Reznikov said Saturday that 66,224 Ukrainian men had returned from abroad to join the fight against Russia's invasion. "That's how many men returned from abroad at this moment to defend their country from the horde. These are 12 more combat and motivated brigades! Ukrainians, we are invincible," Reznikov said in an online post.

Musk refuses to block Russian news

Washington: SpaceX chief Elon Musk said Saturday that its Starlink satellite broadband service has been told by some governments, not Ukraine, to block Russian news sources. "We will not do so unless at 'gunpoint', sorry to be a free speech absolutist", he said in a tweet. Earlier this week, the SpaceX chief warned that there is a high chance that its Starlink could be "targeted" in Ukraine, which Russian invaded last week.

Pro-Russia Serbs march in Belgrade

BELGRADE: Thousands of Serbs waving Russian flags and carrying pictures of President Vladimir Putin marched through Belgrade to the Russian embassy Friday, in a rare show of public support for Moscow after its invasion of Ukraine. Serbia is performing a delicate balancing act between its European aspirations, partnership with NATO and its centuries-old religious, ethnic and political alliance with Russia.

GLOBAL NEWS MEDIA ON DEFENSIVE

Putin signs 'fake news' law

With Russia's attack on Ukraine drawing almost universal condemnation, Moscow has sought to hit back in the information war. It has blocked Facebook, citing 26 cases of discrimination against Russian media and have also restricted access to Twitter

Los Angeles, March 5: Global news media said they were suspending reporting in Russia to protect their journalists after a new law that threatened jail terms of up to 15 years for spreading fake news. Britain's BBC said Friday it had temporarily halted reporting in Russia, and by the end of the day, the Canadian Broadcasting Company and Bloomberg News said their journalists were also stopping work. CNN and CBS News said they would stop broadcasting in Russia, and other outlets removed Russian-based



journalists' bylines as they assessed the situation. Russian officials have said that false information has been spread by Russia's enemies such as the United States and its Western European allies in an attempt to sow discord among the Russian people. Lawmakers passed amendments to the criminal code making the spread of fake information an offence punishable with fines or jail terms. They also imposed fines for anyone calling for sanctions against Russia following the in-

vasion of Ukraine. News executives said the new law would hamper independent reporting and imperil journalists, and that their organizations must balance the obligation to audiences to report the news with protecting journalists against retaliation. Russia's Foreign Ministry says that the Western media offer a partial - and often anti-Russian - view of the world while failing to hold their own leaders to account for corruption or devastating foreign wars like Iraq.

Entire staff of Russian TV channel resigns live on-air

Moscow: The entire staff of a Russian television channel resigned live on-air after declaring "no war" in the final telecast. The decision was taken by the staff of TV Rain (Dozhd) after Russian authorities suspended its operations over its coverage of Ukraine war. Natalia Sindeyeva, one of the channel's founders, said "No war" in its last telecast as the employees staged a walkout from the studio. The channel later said in a statement that it has suspended the operation "indefinitely". Ekho Moskvy (Echo of Moscow) radio station, one of Russia's last remaining liberal media outlets, has also been dissolved by its board after coming under pressure over its coverage of the war in Ukraine,

its editor said Thursday. The station, one of the leading news and current affairs channels in Russia, had been taken off the air Tuesday though it appeared still to be broadcasting on YouTube after the board's decision was announced.



It's not only an attack on Ukraine, it's an attack on the security of Europe and on global peace and stability
JOE BIDEN | PRESIDENT, US

This is the fastest moving refugee crisis we have seen in Europe since the end of World War Two. The number of refugees fleeing the Russian invasion could potentially rise to 1.5 million by the end of the weekend from a current 1.3 million
FILIPPO GRANDI | HEAD, UNHCR

The days to come are likely to be worse, with more death, more suffering, and more destruction, as the Russian armed forces bring in heavier weaponry and continue their attacks across the country
JENS STOLTENBERG | NATO SECRETARY GENERAL

The UK has led the way with our toughest ever sanctions package against Putin's regime and we're bolstering this with new powers in our arsenal to go further and faster
BORIS JOHNSON | PRIME MINISTER, UK

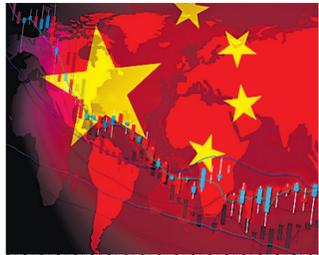




Quickly get your petrol tanks full. The Election offer of the Modi government is going to end soon
RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

CHINA LOWERS GDP TARGET

China has lowered its GDP target to 5.5 per cent for this year bringing it down from last year's 6.1 per cent. In 2021, China's economy grew by 8.1 per cent 2021 to about \$18 trillion stated to be the best in a decade. The pace of the growth was well above the government target of above six per cent in 2021



of the day quote

Under the current circumstances, we are suspending PayPal services in Russia. The company stands with the international community in condemning Russia's violent military aggression in Ukraine

DAN SCHULMAN | PRESIDENT AND CEO, PAYPAL

India has already shipped 4,000 tonnes of wheat to Afghanistan as part of its humanitarian aid to the troubled country through the Pakistan border, and the third batch of shipment of 2,000 tonne of the grain will be undertaken on March 8

SUDHANSHU PANDEY | FOOD SECRETARY

The new surge did not hamper and put any hurdle in the pathway of this growth. We hope that this variant is not as severe as the previous ones and that people recover quickly and remain safe

RP YADAV | CHAIRMAN AND MD, GENIUS CONSULTANTS

SHORT TAKES

Voda to infuse ₹3,375cr in Vi

New Delhi: Financially stressed Vodafone Idea Limited (Vi) will get fund infusion worth ₹3,375 crore from the promoter Vodafone as part of the company's proposed fund raising efforts worth ₹14,200 crore. Besides Vodafone, Aditya Birla Group plans to pump in up to ₹1,125 crore, according to a regulatory filing Friday. The telecom operator will seek shareholders' approval for raising up to ₹14,500 crore as well as increase its authorised share capital to ₹75,000 crore at its extraordinary general meeting (EGM) to be held March 26. The board of Vi has already approved the fund raising plan, which includes ₹4,500 crore coming in from Aditya Birla Group and Vodafone, while the remaining amount of ₹10,000 crore would be mopped up by way of equity or debt instruments.

Emami takes 19% stake in Tru Native

New Delhi: Kolkata-based FMCG major Emami Ltd Saturday said it has acquired 19 per cent equity stake in direct-to-consumer (D2C) nutrition firm Tru Native F&B Pvt Ltd. Tru Native F&B markets nutrition products under the brand TruNative, targeted at health and fitness enthusiasts. Emami did not reveal financial details of the deal. Commenting on the acquisition, Emami Ltd Director Harsha V Agarwal said, "With health and wellness being the buzzword for consumers today, we see tremendous potential in the nutrition segment. TruNative product offerings are very unique as they are based on real consumer habits and issues."

BSE joins hands with TN govt

New Delhi: Stock exchange BSE Saturday announced its collaboration with the MSME Trade and Investment Promotion Bureau (M-TIPB), Government of Tamil Nadu, for promoting awareness among micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) of the state about the benefits of listing. Through this association, M-TIPB will provide support in mobilising the SME representatives through district industries centres and will also help in mobilising state or regional associations to encourage their SME members to attend capacity building programmes, the exchange said in a statement.

RUSSIA-UKRAINE INVASION EFFECT

Wheat exports pick up amid war

The government has revised the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) of foodgrains for bulk consumers and private traders by restoring transportation charges that were waived last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic



WHEAT EXPORTS HAVE CROSSED THE HISTORICAL HIGH OF 6.5 MILLION TONNE ACHIEVED EARLIER IN 2012-13 FISCAL

WHEAT PRODUCTION ESTIMATED TO TOUCH A NEW RECORD OF 111.32 MILLION TONNE IN THE 2021-22 CROP YEAR

It is an opportunity for Indian exporters as the new wheat crop will be available early from March 15 onwards when compared to other global wheat producers

SUDHANSHU PANDEY | FOOD SECRETARY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 5: Wheat exports from India, the world's second-biggest producer of the grain, have picked up after global prices surged due to Russia's war against Ukraine, and total shipments from the country have already touched a record of 6.6 million tonne this fiscal so far. Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey said Saturday. Russia and Ukraine together ac-

count for almost a quarter of the global wheat supply. Their wheat crop will mature in August and September this year. As a result, global wheat prices have already gone up and are rulling in the range of ₹24,000-25,000 per tonne, he added. "Indian wheat exports, as a re-

sult, have picked up. By the end of February, we have already exported 6.6 million tonnes of wheat," Pandey told reporters in a virtual press conference.

"Still one month is left, you can expect roughly about 7 million tonne plus exports this year," he

War to push global gold prices to \$2k

New Delhi: Rush for safe haven investments during the ongoing market volatility triggered by Russian-Ukrainian conflict is expected to push global gold prices higher. Accordingly, the fears of supply shortages along with robust demand has kept prices higher. Besides, sanctions on Russia which is a major producer of Gold is expected to reduce supply. Last week, MCX gold prices increased sharply by 4.66 per cent to ₹52,559 levels. Besides, "Spot Gold" prices increased by 4.30 per cent to \$1,970.35 per ounce. Notably, gold prices have increased by more than \$40, accelerating a well-defined upward trend that began in the first week of March. "Geopolitical tension, sanctions over Russia as well as sell off in equity markets and depreciation in currency will increase Gold demand," said IIFL Securities VP, Research, Anuj Gupta. "We expect it to reach \$2,000 in international market and ₹54,000 on MCX in the short run," he added. According to Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities), HDFC Securities: "Gold prices are hovering near the resistance levels of \$1,970 per ounce reporting the biggest weekly gain in the last two years. The geopolitical risk premium over the Russia-Ukraine conflict and global inflation worries may continue to boost buying in gold despite the Fed policy change."



Mother Dairy hikes milk prices by ₹2/L

THE BRAND HAS ANNOUNCED PRICE HIKE WITHIN DAYS AFTER AMUL AND PARAG MILK FOODS INCREASED PRICES BY ₹2 PER LITRE EACH

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, March 5: Milk brand Mother Dairy has announced to increase the milk price by ₹2 per litre in Delhi NCR area. The price hike will come into the effect from Sunday. The milk brand has said that the

price has been increased because of rise in the procurement cost.

"In view of the rising procurement prices (amount paid to farmers), fuel costs and costs of packaging material, Mother Dairy is compelled to raise its liquid milk prices by ₹2 a litre in Delhi NCR with effect from March 6, 2022," the company said Saturday.

The brand has announced price hike within days after Amul and Parag Milk Foods increased prices by ₹2 per litre each.

After the price increase, the full cream Mother Dairy milk will cost ₹59 per litre and toned milk price will rise to ₹49 per litre. Currently, full cream milk costs ₹57 per litre and toned milk costs ₹47 per litre in Delhi NCR.



'Looking for mass EV tech to build in India'

THE SERIES OF DIALOGUES - A PART OF SILICON VALLEY MONTHLY DIALOGUE (SVD) -- HAS BEEN LAUNCHED BY THE FOUNDATION FOR INDIA AND INDIAN DIASPORA STUDIES (FIDS) ON THE OCCASION OF INDIA-AT-75 'AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, March 5: India is looking for a electricity-based technology for mass rapid transportation that is cost effective and such as can be made in the country, Union minister Nitin Gadkari has said.

"The ministry plans to undertake the development of ropeways as an alternate transport solution in the hill and congested, urban areas.

"Rope ways, cable car ... and particularly I'm very much clearly interested to work on the technology of light rail transport," Gadkari, the Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, said addressing a US audience here Friday.

Some of the US companies have also approached him with the technology, he said in his address on 'Rebuilding Infrastructure for India 2.0', a part of 'Reimagining India 2.0 series'.

"We are in search of the technology, which can be cost-effective and which we can make it in India for mass rapid transport



(system) on electricity," Gadkari said as he briefed Indian-Americans from Silicon Valley on the steps India is taking to bolster its physical infrastructure, in particular the transportation system.

The government, he said, is planning 11 ropeway projects to boost connectivity in Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, and Sikkim.

Port connectivity projects are being implemented to enable swift movement of cargo connecting all ports and inland water waste minerals to increase the efficiency of domestic and international

trade routes, he said.

As many as 65 projects with a length of 2,050 kilometers are planned for port connectivity which are in various stages of development, he said.

He said India is also developing 29 emergency landing facilities for fighter planes on national highways. "They are of strategic importance from a defence perspective."

"Technocrats like you can participate in the drive to develop the best system for India," he said, adding that India is allowing 100 per cent FDI in the road sector

and there are huge opportunities for joint ventures.

"US-based companies can collaborate with our research and development reports towards EV factory technology and the retrofitting industry. The government is strongly encouraging solar and the best charging mechanism for electric mobility," he said.

The government is working on the battery-swapping policy and standards for EV batteries, he said, calling it a huge opportunity for all the technologies as batteries swapping is a completely new sector.

"Both countries have a huge pool of young and talented engineers working on the most advanced technology. I sincerely hope you will come forward and form joint ventures to realize the benefit of advanced technology in the area of construction, alternative, prevail, and agriculture practices," Gadkari said.

Responding to a question, Gadkari said he is "very much confident that we will make the road infrastructure in India equal to that of USA by the end of 2024."

CUMULATIVE BONUS : IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW

The ongoing pandemic has made us understand the fragility of our ecosystem; it has highlighted the need for prudent risk management and financial planning. One of the most important elements of good financial planning is having comprehensive health insurance. Today, buying a health cover has become a necessity; health insurance gives you financial support by covering your medical expenses, cost of hospitalisation, consultation cost, ambulance charges and so on

Health insurance has many interesting and valuable features which can be of great advantage for you, one such feature is Cumulative Bonus. Cumulative Bonus in health insurance refers to the reward you gain if you haven't made any claim in the previous policy year. This bonus keeps accumulating over the years for each claim-free year, up to a certain limit and applies on

both, individual and family floater policy basis. Typically, the insurer gives this reward by increasing your sum insured by a certain percentage without charging any additional premium.

Let's understand how a cumulative bonus works. So, for example, your sum insured is ₹10,00,000, and your insurer gives a 5% bonus for the first claim-free year, which means your sum insured will in-

crease to ₹10,50,000. Likewise, for the second claim-free year, the sum insured will increase to ₹11,00,000. There is no fixed, year-wise slab for the increase in sum insured, and it varies from insurer to insurer and product to product. At present, there are a few health insurance plans that allow a maximum of 150%-200% sum insured enhancement.

Another interesting feature about the cumulative bonus is that, if you raise a claim during a specific year, you will not lose your entire bonus. Bonus will be reduced by the same rate at which it was granted. So, for example, if your insurer is giving a 10% bonus on your base sum insured for each claim-free year, and you have not made any claim for five consecutive

years, your sum insured would have increased by 50%. Now, if you claim in the sixth year, your sum insured will decrease by only 10%. Also, the insurer can only make deductions from the bonus sum insured, and not from the base sum in-



Aditya Sharma, Chief Distribution Officer - Retail Sales, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance

sured. Let's understand this with an example, your base sum insured is ₹10,00,000, the insurer grants a 10% bonus for each claim-free year, and by the end of five years, your sum insured has increased to ₹15,00,000. Now, if you raise a claim, your sum insured will be reduced by 10% and will come down to ₹14,00,000.

Cumulative Bonus is not available in every plan. Additionally, the bonus limits and rate varies from insurer to insurer. You must read the terms and conditions related to the cumulative bonus clearly to understand what is the maximum bonus that can be accumulated, at what rate the bonus will be given, and any other condition related to it. Also, now a few insurers offer a higher Cumulative Bonus for the first couple of years followed by the normal rates in subsequent years. Such a product may offer a 50% bonus on the first one or two claim-free years, followed by the normal 10%-5% in-

crease in the successive years. The rates and terms will vary from insurer to insurer and product to product.

Cumulative Bonus is a good way to get a higher sum insured, without bearing any extra cost. However, keeping in mind the ever-increasing medical inflation, you must not solely rely on a cumulative bonus for a higher sum insured. As mentioned earlier Cumulative Bonus increases by a certain percentage, and the upper limit for the same is capped; hence it is not prudent to only rely on Cumulative Bonus for a higher sum insured, especially today when medical inflation is increasing by 12%-15%. It is advisable to review the adequacy of your sum insured in very few years and accordingly increase the same if one finds it insufficient. This practice will ensure that during the time of need you are abundantly covered, and all your hard-earned savings are not spent in paying medical bills.

JADDU'S DAY OUT IN MOHALI



Skipper Rohit Sharma congratulates Ravichandran Ashwin after the latter got a wicket on Day 2 in Mohali, Saturday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mohali, March 5: Ravindra Jadeja paid a fitting tribute to one of his earliest mentors Shane Warne with a majestic 175 not out (228b, 17x4, 3x6) as India took complete command of the opening Test against Sri Lanka with a mammoth first innings total of 574/8 declared on the second day here.

After his batting heroics, Jadeja (1/30) contributed with the ball too as he, Jasprit Bumrah (1/20) and Ravichandran Ashwin (2/21) reduced Sri Lanka to 108/4 at stumps and made a three-day finish look imminent. Sri Lanka still needs 267 runs to avoid follow-on.

Jadeja or the Indian team management didn't feel that the all-rounder needed to go for a double hundred as hosts declared their innings after quite literally batting Sri Lanka out of the game.

In the final session, Ashwin (61, 82b, 8x4), having nicely warmed up with his 12th half-century, removed Lahiru Thirimanne and Dhananjaya de Silva to go past Sir Richard Hadlee's 431 victims.

Jadeja later celebrated his hundred once again by trapping Sri Lanka's best player and skipper Dimuth Karunaratne (28) leg before. Bumrah also chipped in with a wicket.

Jadeja's career-best knock, his

second ton in Test cricket, came less than 24 hours after the cricket world tried to come to terms with Warne's tragic end.

It was Warne, who first realised Jadeja's untapped batting potential during Rajasthan Royals' 2008 IPL campaign, where it was his late hitting that earned him the 'Rockstar' moniker from his mentor-captain.

Jadeja, over the years, has been one of the indispensable all-format players for India in Test cricket and more so for his batting abilities that make him a better package than Ashwin in overseas conditions.

On the day, he was at his imperious best as India scored 217 runs in two sessions because of his attacking batting. It did help that Sri Lanka were a pacer short with their fastest bowler Lahiru Kumara left indisposed due to a hamstring injury. He failed to complete his 11th over and over dependence on inexperienced Lasith Embuldeniya (2/188) also harmed their cause.

A partnership of 130 with Ashwin for the seventh wicket and another 103 runs with Mohammed Shami (20 n o) for the unbroken ninth wicket nailed Sri Lanka.

However, Karunaratne's captaincy and his field placing left a lot to be desired as not for once during the course of the two days, did it look that the islanders want to compete.

It was a very defensive game and the gulf between India and Sri Lanka was so evident in the manner, the two teams approached the match. Jadeja and Ashwin made India look proactive while Sri Lanka despite the hammering that they received weren't even reactive.

Bowling to Jadeja with a deep mid-wicket, long-off/on, deep extra cover and deep fine leg with an aim to stop the boundaries was a

'Rockstar Ravindra' scores second Test century putting India in driver's seat in the first Test against Sri Lanka as the visitors reach 108/4 after the hosts declare their innings at 574/8

negative approach and it didn't really make much of a difference.

Save veteran seamer Suranga Lakmal (2/90), none of the other bowlers pitched it in the right areas. In between, he refused the singles to shield Shami from strike. The customary sword celebration at 50, 100 and 150 brought a round applause from the crowd.

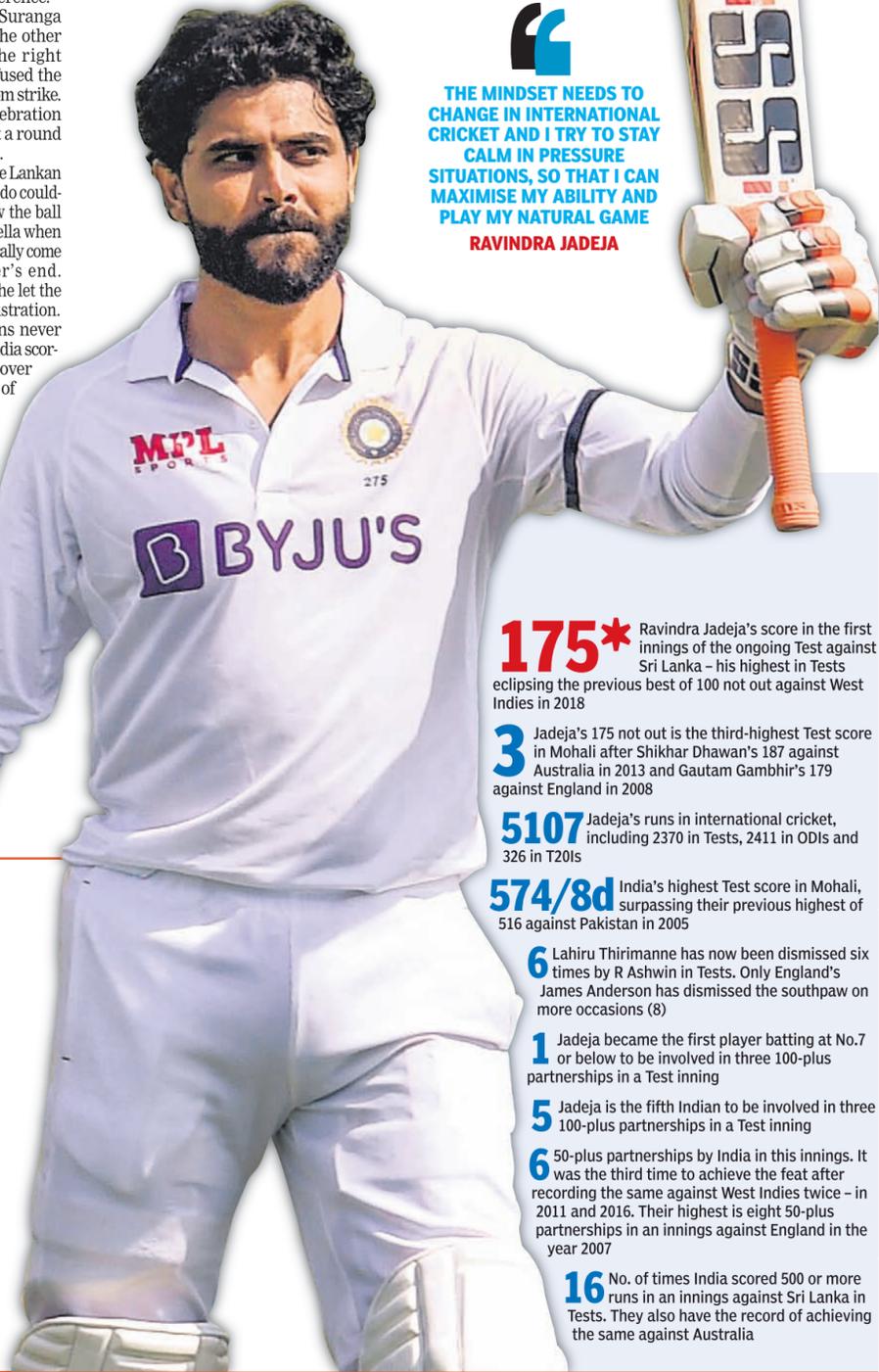
Such was the plight of the Lankan fielders that Viswa Fernando couldn't even pick up and throw the ball to keeper Niroshan Dickwella when Mohammed Shami had literally come down to the non-striker's end. Dickwella was angry and he let the bowler know about his frustration.

In general, the Lankans never looked competitive with India scoring runs at 4.43 runs per over during the entire course of 129.2 overs.

BRIEF SCORES: India 574/8 decl (Ravindra Jadeja 175 n o, Ravichandran Ashwin 61; Suranga Lakmal 2/90); Sri Lanka 108/4 (Dimuth Karunaratne 28, Pathum Nissanka 26 batting; Ravichandran Ashwin 2/21, Jasprit Bumrah 1/20, Ravindra Jadeja 1/30). Match to continue.

THE MINDSET NEEDS TO CHANGE IN INTERNATIONAL CRICKET AND I TRY TO STAY CALM IN PRESSURE SITUATIONS, SO THAT I CAN MAXIMISE MY ABILITY AND PLAY MY NATURAL GAME

RAVINDRA JADEJA



175* Ravindra Jadeja's score in the first innings of the ongoing Test against Sri Lanka - his highest in Tests eclipsing the previous best of 100 not out against West Indies in 2018

3 Jadeja's 175 not out is the third-highest Test score in Mohali after Shikhar Dhawan's 187 against Australia in 2013 and Gautam Gambhir's 179 against England in 2008

5107 Jadeja's runs in international cricket, including 2370 in Tests, 2411 in ODIs and 326 in T20Is

574/8d India's highest Test score in Mohali, surpassing their previous highest of 516 against Pakistan in 2005

6 Lahiru Thirimanne has now been dismissed six times by R Ashwin in Tests. Only England's James Anderson has dismissed the southpaw on more occasions (8)

1 Jadeja became the first player batting at No.7 or below to be involved in three 100-plus partnerships in a Test inning

5 Jadeja is the fifth Indian to be involved in three 100-plus partnerships in a Test inning

6 50-plus partnerships by India in this innings. It was the third time to achieve the feat after recording the same against West Indies twice - in 2011 and 2016. Their highest is eight 50-plus partnerships in an innings against England in the year 2007

16 No. of times India scored 500 or more runs in an innings against Sri Lanka in Tests. They also have the record of achieving the same against Australia

JADDU'S TAKE ON DAY 2

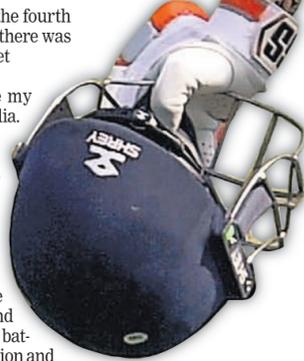
ABOUT DECLARATION: I told them that there is variable bounce and deliveries have started turning. So I sent a message that there is something on offer from the strip and I suggested that we should put them in to bat now itself. They were already tired fielding for nearly quarter to two days (five sessions). Since they were tired, it was not easy to play the big shots straightaway and bat for long hours. So plan was to declare quickly and exploit the fatigue of the opposition batters

PITCH CONDITION: When I was batting, there were some deliveries that turned and some kept low. There was natural variation off the surface and that was the plan. To keep the ball on the stumps and if we keep it on stumps, it can go straight or also turn from the same spot, and that's what happened. My first ball (to Karunaratne) turned and second

ball I thought that I will bowl on the fourth stump and if it turns or stays low, there was always a chance of getting a wicket

HIS KNOCK: I look to improve my game every single time I play for India. When I get an opportunity to score runs, I look to implement that opportunity in performance and so yeah, all in all, I am very much happy

BATTING POSITION: I used to bat at No.4 for Saurashtra so I had a lot of time to build my innings but here I bat No.7 but Rishabh, Ashwin and Shami all three supported me. As a batter, I give myself time in shot selection and I select my shot after analysing the behaviour of the strip



RR's class of 2008 walks down memory lane

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, March 5: For Yusuf Pathan, Shane Warne was the man who turned his cricketing career around and for the lesser known Dinesh Salunkhe, he was a hero to be worshipped from afar before the two ended up sharing the dressing room much to the Indian's amazement.

The 52-year-old old spin bowling icon, who breathed his last on Friday, leaving the cricket world heartbroken, meant more than just a great player for the Rajasthan Royals team of 2008 that won the IPL under his leadership against all expectations.

"I only dreamt of having a photo with him but I ended up playing and sharing the dressing room with him. He also mentions my name in his autobiography. What more could I have asked for?" said leg-spinner Salunkhe, for whom that triumph 14 years back remains the biggest career highlight of his life.

The 39-year-old, who coaches underprivileged kids these days, is stunned like much of the cricket fraternity that Warne will no longer be around to charm with his wit and sharp takes as an analyst, a role he perfected after giving up the game as a player.

"He was really extraordinary, always one step ahead of the others. He had two plans always ready, and played the match in his mind," recalled Salunkhe, who never played first-class cricket.

Warne was well aware that he was leading a team of underdogs but with his out-of-the-box approach, he transformed their weaknesses into strengths.

Be it Pathan, who went on to win two more IPL titles with a different team later, or the then relatively lesser-known Ravindra Jadeja,



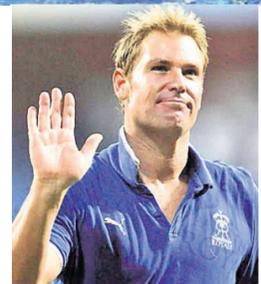
Warne got the best out of everyone. It was a career-turning season for Baroda's Pathan and he emerged as one of the most sought after utility players after that triumph.

"He was a captain, who turned around my cricketing career with the way he used my abilities, be it my bowling or power-hitting skills," Yusuf remembered Warne in an interaction with this agency.

Be it giving the new ball to Pathan, a tactic rarely used then, or using him at different positions in the batting order Warne got the best out of Yusuf who ended the season with 435 runs and eight wickets.

"His contribution in my cricketing career has been more than 100 per cent. I've not looked back since then. A true leader is someone who gets the best out of his player and he was one such.

"He always backed me and said 'Yusuf would win us the match today'. He was full of life enjoyed every moment with us. Whatever the situation he always backed his players," Pathan said. "It's really hard to digest that he's no more with us. The three years we played together will always remain special for me," the 39-year-old added.



In Swapnil Asnodkar, their un-capped opener from Goa, Rajasthan found someone who could give the team flying starts in the power-play. He ended up scoring 311 runs from nine matches with two half centuries.

Asnodkar remembers how Warne turned it around with his pep talk after they were outplayed by Delhi DareDevils by nine wickets, chasing down a modest target of 130 in 15.1 overs.

"He told us we lose as a family, and we win as a family. He was approachable to us all the time. Despite being such a legend, he was open to our ideas and treated us equally, made everyone special. He never

had that star-like attitude," Asnodkar said.

He recalled suffering from an injury and how it affected his morale but Warne pulled him out of it by simply telling him, "you're the backbone of the team". "He told me you are the backbone of the team, and I was full of confidence. He backed all the domestic (un-capped) players, and must have seen something good in us."

Asnodkar was left more astonished when Warne accepted his invitation to come to his home in Goa and spent a good amount of time with his family.

"There was a short break and management allowed us to go for vacation in Goa. There were a few like Warne, (Shane) Watson, Jadeja, Taruwar Kohli who came to Goa. And one day, I extended an invitation to Warne to visit my home," he said.

"Never in my wildest dream I thought he would accept the invitation and drop in to my house and interact with my parents, sisters and cousins. They still remember the day very fondly," Asnodkar, who is now the age group coach in Goa, said.

Odisha on verge of innings defeat against Mumbai

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 5: Odisha are starting at an innings defeat against Mumbai in their Ranji Trophy Elite Group D match in Ahmedabad. They were 84/5 at stumps Saturday, still 164 runs behind Mumbai's massive first innings total of 532/9 declared.

Odisha bowlers failed to restrict Mumbai batters as the overnight batters - Armaan Jaffer (125, 223b, 15x4, 2x6) and Sarfaraz Khan (165, 181b, 15x4, 2x6) - added 103 more runs to their overnight total of 250/3 and extended their partnership to 277.

Prasanta Rana (2/97) got rid of both the batters one after the other with the second new ball as Mumbai were reduced to 378/5. However, Aditya Tare (72, 115b, 5x4, 2x6) and Shams Mulani (70, 99b, 12x5) forged together 100 runs for the sixth wicket before losing wickets at regular intervals led to the declaration.

For Odisha, Rajesh Mohanty (3/123) couldn't add to his wicket tally while Rana, Pappu Roy (2/122) and Jayanta Behera (2/137) bagged two wickets each.

In response, Odisha batters, barring Anshy Rath (34, 59b, 5x4) and Abhishek Raut (31 batting, 54b, 5x4), hardly pose any threat to Mumbai bowlers. Mulani (3/30), who bagged a couple of wickets in the first innings, struck three times in his 11 overs, while Siddharth Raut (2/28) used the new ball wonderfully.

Brief scores: Odisha 284 & 84/5 (Anshy Rath 34; Shams Mulani 3/30); Mumbai 532/9d (Sarfaraz Khan 165, Armaan Jaffer 125, Aditya Tare 72, Shams Mulani 70, Rajesh Mohanty 3/123, Prasanta Rana 2/97). Match to continue.

Bopanna, Sharan keep India in World Group I

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Rohan Bopanna (L) & Divij Sharan

New Delhi, March 5: Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan saved three match points in an edge-of-the-seat thriller to prevail against a fighting Danish pair of Frederik Nielsen and Mikael Torpegaard as India kept its place in the Davis Cup World Group I by winning the Play-off tie 4-0, here Saturday.

Sharan, playing his first Davis Cup tie since February 2019, and Bopanna came from behind to win 6-7(4-7), 6-4, 7-6(7-4) in one hour and 58 minutes.

Yuki Bhambri and Ramkumar Ramanathan had given India a 2-0 lead on the opening day of the tie Friday. The tense win ensured that India will stay in World Group I for the 2022 season, while Denmark will now again go back to World Group II.

Serving to stay in the match in the 12th game of the decider, Sharan faced three match points but the Indian team held nerves to save all, two of them on second serves, to

force a final tie-breaker, in which they raced to a 4-1 lead and sealed the win when Torpegaard could not make a return on Bopanna's serve.

It was such a close match that only one break of serve featured when 2012 Wimbledon Champion Nielsen got broken at the beginning of the second set. Later in the first reverse singles, Ramkumar beat Joahhnes Ingildsen 5-7, 7-5, 10-7. The fifth match was not played.

Bopanna praised his partner Sharan for serving big under pressure. "We missed two volleys and that put us under pressure but with lefty serve when there is not enough space is tricky to return. Credit to Divij, he pulled off those second serves and then I had that reflex volley (executed)," Bopanna said of the crucial hold in the 12th game of the third set.

"Even Nielsen later said that the second serve on third match point was quicker than he expected, so he went for a big forehand and missed. I was just telling Divij that they will also feel the pressure."