



**GLAMOROUS START:** Actor Kriti Sanon and others perform during the inaugural ceremony of Women's Premier League in Mumbai, Saturday  
PHOTO: CRICINFO

## WESTERN ODISHA HIGH COURT BENCH BALL IN STATE'S COURT

State should provide infra required for HC bench, says Law Minister Kiren Rijiju

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 4: Hope for establishment of a permanent bench of Orissa High Court in western Odisha rekindled as the Centre Saturday said that it is ready to help the state after receiving a complete proposal from the state government.

Speaking to mediapersons here, Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju said, "The Orissa High Court and state government have to take the call on establishment of circuit bench of the High Court. We are ready to help the state as we will give approval to it." It is the responsibility of the state government to provide required infrastructure for establishment of a bench of the High Court, he said. "I have written a letter in this re-



**The state government has requested the Centre for setting up of HC benches in western and southern Odisha**

gard twice and even MPs from Odisha raised questions in the Parliament. In reply, all I can say is the Odisha government and Orissa High Court should take the matter forward and take necessary steps. We are ready to give approval," he added. The Union Law Minister was in Bhubaneswar

to attend 'Nyaya Yajna', the first conference of Central Government Councils of Eastern States.

Earlier, writing a letter to BJP MP Suresh Pujari, Rijiju had said that the High Court benches, at a place other than its principal seat, are established in accordance with the recommendations made by Jaswant Singh Commission and a judgement pronounced by the apex court in 2000.

The bench can be set up after due consideration of a complete proposal from the state government incorporating readiness to provide infrastructure and meet the expenditure, along with the consent of the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court and the consent of the Governor of the state, he had mentioned in the letter. **Contd...P4**

## Mines dept official held with 368% DA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 4: The Vigilance department Saturday arrested additional director of Mines, Umesh Chandra Jena, after detecting ₹1.64 crore in cash and other disproportionate assets (DA) in his possession.

An official said that after his arrest, Jena was taken to the court of a special judge, Vigilance for possession of DA to the tune of 368 per cent against his known sources of income.

The anti-corruption wing officials Friday conducted raids on the properties of Jena at 13 places in Khurda and Keonjhar districts.

Apart from the cash, the sleuths also detected one multi-storey building in Bhubaneswar and three buildings at Keonjhar, five plots in Keonjhar, two four-wheelers, two two-wheelers, 650 gram gold from the mining department official, they said.

Similarly, additional chief engineer of Bhawanipatna Minor Irrigation Circle (KBK), Kandarpa Pradhan was also arrested by Vigilance for illegally accumulating DA to the tune of 75 per cent of his known sources of income. A case (5/23) has been registered in this regard with Bhubaneswar Vigilance police station here.

WEATHER		BHUB	CTK
TEMP		38.5°C	37.0°C
MAX		38.5°C	37.0°C
MIN		20.8°C	21.0°C
Humidity		64%	72%
Rainfall		Nil	Nil
	Forecast	Dry weather most likely	

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



**I'm an honest person. This is for buying vegetables, groceries, petrol and cooking gas**

## IMA advises against antibiotics use

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 4: A persistent cough, sometimes accompanied by fever, running through India for the past two-three months is due to Influenza A subtype H3N2, ICMR experts said.

The H3N2, which has been in wide circulation for the past two-three months, causes more hospitalisations than other subtypes, said Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) scientists who keep a close watch on ailments caused by respiratory viruses

through the Virus Research and Diagnostic Laboratories network.

They have also suggested a list of Dos and Don'ts for people to follow to protect themselves from contracting the virus.

The Indian Medical Association (IMA) has advised against indis-

**H3N2 CAUSING FEVER**  
The fever goes away at the end of three days but the cough can

persist for up to three weeks, the IMA's Standing Committee for Anti-Microbial Resistance said.

The association also asked doctors to prescribe only symptomatic treatment and not antibiotics.

"Right now, people start taking antibiotics like Azithromycin and Amoxiclav etc, that too without caring for dose and frequency and stop it once start feeling better. This needs to be stopped as it leads to antibiotic resistance. Whenever there will be a real use of antibiotics, they will not work due to the resistance," the IMA said.

## ₹5,827cr investments okayed

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 4: The state government Saturday approved 25 industrial projects worth ₹5,827.27 crore, which will create employment for 25,000 persons.

The State Level Single Window Clearance Authority (SLSWCA) led by Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena has approved the projects during its 115th meeting. The panel has also recommended to the High-Level Clearance Authority (HLCA) three large-scale projects worth ₹28,000 crore with employment opportunities for around 19,000 people.

The approved projects will be set up at various places of Khurda, Cuttack, Jajpur, Jagatsinghpur, Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh and Bhadrak districts. The SLSWCA approved three projects in plastic sector, which reflect total investment of ₹392.10 crore and are jointly expected to provide employment opportunities to 664 people of the state.

Altogether eight projects worth ₹2,418.49 crore have been approved in the steel segment, which include three projects in the steel downstream segment and two projects in the steel, ferro alloys segment. **Contd...P4**

Government of Odisha

### A New Milestone in Odisha's Health Education System

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Health & Family Welfare Department

Approved by

## SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha  
on  
5th March 2023

**Panchayati Raj & Lokaseva Divas**

OIPR-10003/13/0161/2223



## GAGA HINTS AT QUITTING SPOTLIGHT AFTER 15 YEARS

Singer-actress Lady Gaga has indicated that she might disappear from the spotlight. Gaga said she prefers a slower pace of life these days and wishes she knew that she didn't have to be jumping for attention all the time like she was in her younger days, reports *Mirror.co.uk*.

## KIM READY TO DATE AGAIN, BUT NOT A CELEBRITY NOW

Reality TV star Kim Kardashian is ready to date again but has told her friends she doesn't want a relationship with a celebrity. The 42-year-old took a breather after breaking up with Pete Davidson and hinted that she is open to having more kids and remarrying one day, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
Today will be an industrious day. The stars foretell that you may visit a historical place, or perhaps a museum. However, Ganesh says, you may need to pay a little attention to your health. If such is the case, it would be better to take the evening off for yourself.

**TAURUS**  
Today, Ganesh sees your mind shifting from your professional affairs and drifting, time and again, towards your home and family. You are likely to return home early and get happily engrossed in discussing pressing domestic issues with your family members. This will possibly be followed by a festive evening filled with fun and laughter.

**GEMINI**  
There is a possibility of conflicts brewing at your home today. The demands made by your family members will increase and you may struggle to cope to meet them. This could make you ill-tempered. You will encounter large expenses in meeting these demands. You need to cut down on your expenses and increase your savings, says Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
The day shall find you in buoyant spirits, indicates Ganesh. As you are feeling lively and full of beans, you will not mind slogging it out, even if in some mindless activities or chores. It is a perfect day for activities like gardening, cooking, baking and even for a nice house warming get-together.

**LEO**  
Financial gains in shares and stocks are indicated. If you are an investor, your investments will yield substantial profits. Long-standing debts are also likely to be cleared, and pending dues will be settled. Expenses for the purposes of entertainment are a possibility, says Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
You will be in a very ambitious and conscientious mood today. Your actions will speak louder than words. You set the pace with your meticulous planning and careful execution. Ganesh says you may expect a lot of appreciation and recognition for your work coming from your boss and your colleagues.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says today is a day where you will spend happy moments with your family members. You will feel happy and will get to spend some romantic time with your beloved. Your innermost feeling will be showcased in the internal thoughts of your life partner and both of you will be in tandem with each other today.

**SCORPIO**  
Just another mundane day in store for you. At work, pressure may mount and lead to a hectic and tedious day. You may even feel irritated at times. Thus, feeling the need to unwind, you may invite your sweetheart for the cup of coffee and spend quality time together.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Variety is the spice of life. Add variety of activities to your daily schedule and nothing would seem boring any more, foretells Ganesh. Indulge in creative activities like writing, cooking, gardening or even reading.

**CAPRICORN**  
You will feel little lost in the maze of problems and tricky situations. You will, however, find a way out, feels Ganesh. You like to be in a commanding position at work where you guide others and call the shots. But, it has a flip side, too.

**AQUARIUS**  
If you are an astrologer, doctor or a spiritual leader, today is a favourable day for you. Those who may want to challenge you must reconsider the thought of testing your strengths, says Ganesh. Doing charity work, helping the needy, and working for humanitarian causes give you a feeling of contentment.

**PISCES**  
You will be inspired to travel to a far off place or to a foreign land because of a very warm invitation. Some old friend or relative residing in a foreign land will get in touch and please you today.

## Sara reveals her ambitions

**Mumbai:** Actress Sara Ali Khan aims high and constantly believes in working towards it. Recently, during a podcast shoot with Ranveer Alhabadia, Sara opened her heart like never before and spoke at length about her learnings, her ambition, her career goals and what keeps her growing and going as an actor.

On being asked about how far she can go for her ambitions, Sara responds, "The furthest." She further adds, "There is no anyone, that's where I want to be, where it's not about a benchmark. It's about just being better than I am every single day and so much better that I am just my best." The interviewer then asked, "Do you think you are going to get there?" To this Sara confidently replied, "Yes."

On the work front, Sara is currently gearing up for the release of her next *Gaslight*, directed by Pawan Kriplani March 31, 2023. She also has *Ae Watan Mere Watan*, *Murder Mubarak*, Maddock Films' next opposite Vicky Kaushal and Anurag Basu's *Metro.. Inn Dino* in the pipeline.

IAN S

## Piyush was sexually abused in Class VII

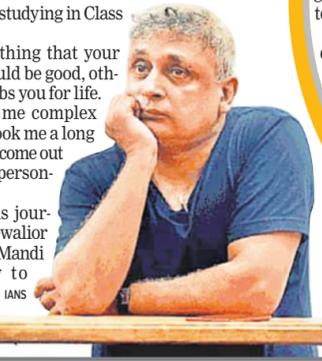
**New Delhi:** One summer day some 50 years ago, a young Piyush Mishra faced sexual assault at the hands of a distant female relative. The incident scarred him for life, something that he has written about in his just released autobiographical novel *Tumhari Aukaat Kyu Hai Piyush Mishra*.

The *Maqbool* actor says he has changed only the names and kept the truth intact in his book, as 'revenge' was not his purpose.

"It left me shocked. I was surprised at what had happened," said Mishra while reflecting on the incident that had happened when he was studying in Class VII.

"Sex is such a healthy thing that your first encounter with it should be good, otherwise it scares you, disturbs you for life. That sexual assault gave me complex throughout my life and it took me a long time and several partners to come out of it," the multi-talented personality said.

The book that traces his journey from narrow alleys of Gwalior to Delhi's cultural centre of Mandi House and eventually to Mumbai.



IAN S



## Nandita expresses concern over colourism

**Mumbai:** Nandita Das is gearing up for the release of her directorial, *Zwigato*, starring Kapil Sharma. The well-known activist recently opened up about her experiences facing colourism and the gravity of the issue after so many young girls spoke her about it.

While addressing the issue of colourism, Nandita Das said, "I remember that two or three times this has happened in a college, where a girl has raised her hand and asked, 'Ma'am, how come you are so confident despite being dark?' And I used to say, 'Wow', because I had never thought of it. I did not grow up with the much complex because my parents didn't put it in my head. But if I visit a cosmetic shop, they will immediately bring out the anti-tan cream and be like, 'Ma'am, this will remove the tan'. To which I reply, I was born with this tan and will die along with it. So please do not give me anything that will make me remotely white."

The actress-director has several accolades to her merit list and is the first Indian inducted into the International Hall of Fame of the International Women's Forum in Washington, DC.

AGENCIES

## Huma on representation of women in movies

**Mumbai:** It is an exciting time for female artistes in cinema, believes actor Huma Qureshi, who says there has been an interesting 'shift' in the way storytellers are approaching female characters on screen.

"In recent years, we are seeing more of these (women-centric) films; the new term is female-led films. The narrative has changed for the character of a girl, who is not someone waiting for the war hero to return. The shift is questioning why a girl can't go on the border," the 36-year-old actor said in a recent interview Friday.

Huma referred to Alia Bhatt's *Darlings* and the 2020 drama *Thappad*, with Taapsee Pannu in the lead, as some of her recent favourite films that broke stereotypes in terms of storytelling.

"In a country where domestic violence is quite prevalent, to talk and fight about it is one 'Thappad' in itself. Along with the complexities of conventional theatrical business, where the audience and return on investment matter, the film came out and did well at the box office. It gave me a lot of heart", she added.

The Delhi-born actress also spoke on the importance of having more representation of women at work places to create a safe environment.

AGENCIES

### FUN post

#### PEANUTS



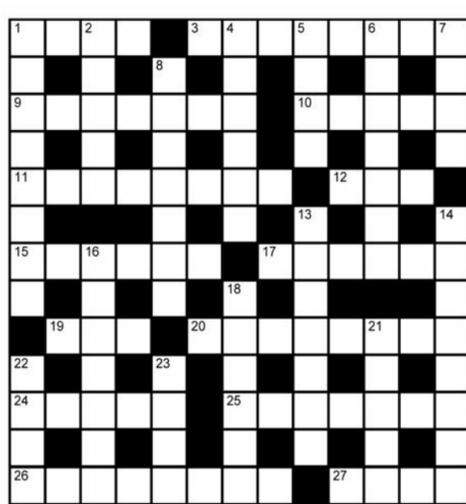
#### CALVIN AND HOBBS



#### BREVITY



#### CROSSWORD



#### Across

- 1 Long arduous journey
- 3 Ceremonial staffs
- 9 Mode of transportation
- 10 Aromatic wood
- 11 Iron or wood, e.g. (4,4)
- 12 Cooking substance
- 15 Fisherman
- 17 Foot appendage (3,3)

#### Down

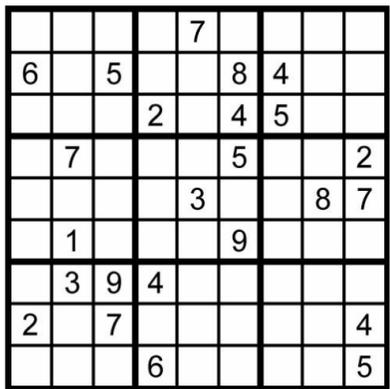
- 19 Word after price or name
- 20 Fossil fuel (5,3)
- 24 Coral reef
- 25 Tableland
- 26 Imaginary sea creatures
- 27 Suspicious

#### Across

- 5 Stride
- 6 Effulgent
- 7 Nimble
- 8 Winter hangers
- 13 Gushing speaker
- 14 Green-eyed monster
- 16 Beauty
- 18 Photographer's aid
- 21 Drama set to music
- 22 Produce producer
- 23 Dog bane

#### 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.

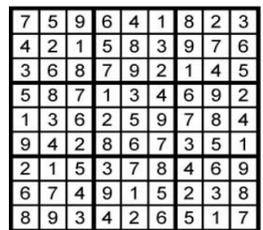


#### SOLUTIONS

#### CROSSWORD



#### SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

## Police should clear doubts: LoP

PNN & AGENCIES

**Sambalpur, March 4:** Leader of Opposition in Odisha Assembly Jayanaryan Mishra said questions have been raised about the mysterious death of a B.Tech graduate in Burla and police should clear the doubts.

The body of B.Tech graduate of Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology (VSSUT), Burla, Chinmayee Priyadarshini Sahu was fished out from the power channel of Hirakud Dam March 1.

Speaking to media persons Friday, Mishra alleged that police are trying to suppress the issue. Doubts have been raised in the death incident of the girl and police should try to clear the doubts, he said.

The BJP leader said that if the police don't take appropriate steps, the issue would be raised in the Assembly. Chinmayee, who was from Madanpur Rampur in Kalahandi dis-



### CHINMAYEE DEATH CASE

trict, allegedly jumped into the power channel of Hirakud Dam after receiving her degree in the convocation, which was held February 28. Her family members, however, alleged that alleged that Chinmayee

was strangled to death before she was thrown into water.

Sources in VIMSAR, where the autopsy was conducted, said, the autopsy report has already been handed over to the police and the report found drowning to be the cause of death.

Police said, prima facie, no evidence substantiating the allegation, made by the family, has been found. However, the investigation into the matter is still on and it is being investigated on the basis of the allegation. To investigate all possible angles of the case, police have also formed special teams.

Inspector-in-charge (IIC) of Burla police station, Susant Dash said, a team has been sent to Bhubaneswar. The team will search the rented room of Chinmayee in Bhubaneswar to find if there is any written document related to the incident. Moreover, a scientific team visited the spot, where the inci-

### POLYGRAPH TEST ON DEY, TUDU

**Bhubaneswar:** Burla police Saturday carried out lie detection or polygraph tests on Pritiman Dey and Manas Tudu at the State Forensic Science Laboratory (SFSL) in Bhubaneswar in connection with the suspicious death of Chinmayee Priyadarshini Sahu, a former student of VSSUT, Burla in Sambalpur, February 28. Police asked several questions to elicit vital clues from both Dey and Tudu during the test which continued for around four hours. They tried to ascertain whether he was present at the bridge along with the deceased, the conversation that transpired between the duo on the fateful day, and the nature of the relationship between them.

dent took place, Friday. This apart, some friends of Chinmayee are also being interrogated, he said.

## Sputnik vax scientist killed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Moscow, March 4:** Andrey Botikov, one of the scientists who helped to create the Russian Covid-19 vaccine Sputnik V, was strangled to death with a belt at his apartment here and police have arrested a suspect in connection with the murder, according to a Russian media report Saturday.

Botikov, 47, who worked as a senior researcher at Gamaleya National Research Center for Ecology and Mathematics, was found dead in his apartment Thursday, Russian News Agency TASS quoted the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation as saying. Russian President Vladimir Putin honoured the virologist with the



Order of Merit for the Fatherland award for his work on the COVID vaccine in 2021. Botikov was one of 18 scientists who developed the Sputnik V vaccine in 2020, according to reports. His death is being investigated as a murder, the committee, which is the investigating authority in Russia, said in a Telegram statement.

According to investigators, a 29-year-old young man strangled

Botikov with a belt during an argument and fled. Law enforcement agencies said the murder was a domestic crime and the result of a conflict, the report said.

The suspect was arrested shortly after Botikov's body was found, the federal investigative agency said in the statement.

"The location of the attacker was established in short order. During the interrogation, he pled guilty and was charged. The defendant has a previous criminal record, as he stood trial on charges of committing a serious crime. In the near future, the investigation plans to petition the court to place the defendant in custody pending trial," the Investigative Committee said.

## CBI gets 2 more days of Sisodia's custody

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, March 4:** A Delhi court Saturday extended by two days the CBI custody of former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia, arrested in a corruption case related to the excise policy. Special judge MK Nagpal directed the agency to produce the Aam Aadmi Party leader before the court Monday.

The CBI had sought three more days of custody of Sisodia after producing him before the court on expiry of his three-day remand granted earlier.

The CBI's plea was opposed by Sisodia's lawyer who said the inefficiency of the agency to complete the probe cannot be ground for remand and he cannot be asked to incriminate himself. P9

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Har Dil Aapke Saath

ନିଗମ ଶକ୍ତି | ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର | 5

ନୂଆପଡ଼ା ଜିଲ୍ଲା • କଳାହାଣ୍ଡି ଜିଲ୍ଲା  
'ବିଜୁ ଏକ୍ସପ୍ରେସ୍ ଡେ' ଲୋକାର୍ପଣ

୫୯୦ କୋଟି ୮୪ ଲକ୍ଷ ଟଙ୍କା ବ୍ୟୟରେ ନିର୍ମିତ  
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କଳାହାଣ୍ଡି, ବରଗଡ଼ ଓ ନୂଆପଡ଼ା ଜିଲ୍ଲା ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଉନ୍ନତିମୂଳକ ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପର ଉଦ୍‌ଘାଟନ ଓ ଭିତ୍ତିପ୍ରସ୍ତର ସ୍ଥାପନ ଏବଂ ମିଗନ ଶକ୍ତି ମହିଳାଙ୍କ ସମ୍ପର୍କକରଣ

ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ମାନ୍ୟବର ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଶ୍ରୀଯୁକ୍ତ ନବୀନ ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକଙ୍କ ଦ୍ୱାରା ଶୁଭାରମ୍ଭ ପଞ୍ଚାୟତି ରାଜ ଓ ଲୋକସେବା ଦିବସ ୫ ମାର୍ଚ୍ଚ ୨୦୨୩

# On a mission for world class education in state: Naveen



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bhubaneswar, March 4:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday said his government is on a mission to provide global standard education to the children with the provision of all modern facilities.

Patnaik said this while inaugurating Utkal Gourav International School in Berunapadi of Odisha's Keonjhar district on virtual platform.

Citing the school transformation programme of his government, Patnaik said, "We have transformed more than 4000 schools with smart classrooms, modern libraries, laboratories, facilities for sports, and about 3000 schools are in progress under 5T school transformation."

Congratulating the founders and the mentors for leading an initiative to transform education, he said that it is a system of education that aims at physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing of our future generation.

The Chief Minister further said that modern education provides us knowledge to understand the world

**Modern education provides us knowledge to understand the world around us, and use it to our advantage for sustaining seamless growth**

NAVEEN PATNAIK | CM

around us, and use it to our advantage for sustaining seamless growth.

"However, as human beings, we also need to look within. We also have our emotional and spiritual needs. Therefore, we must come together to create a model world civilization where each child from the villages and cities in India would be able to develop material efficiency along with spiritual magnificence," he stated.

Under the Mo School programme, the state government is connecting former students to their alma maters, where they are contributing to the growth of education in their schools.

"The objective is to involve an entire society in our education, our development process. As a society, we all must take responsibility and grow together," he added.

# CM flags off pilgrimage train from City rly station



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, March 4:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik virtually flagged off the special Barishtha Nagarik Tirtha Yatra pilgrimage train from Bhubaneswar railway station Saturday.

The special senior citizens tirth yatra train departed from Bhubaneswar railway station for Ajmer and Pushkar Saturday.

CM said that for the last two years this pilgrimage train was stopped due to the pandemic. He said that senior citizens will return with new and unique experience from this trip.

The special train will take around

one thousand senior citizen pilgrims to various religious places including Ajmer and Pushkar. Senior citizens from seven districts including Puri, Khurda, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur and Dhenkanal have been selected for this journey.

The government of Odisha started this Barishtha Nagarik Tirtha Yatra Yojana to facilitate free pilgrimage for the senior citizens of the state to various places of India. About seven special trains have been planned. The government has made arrangements for free travel, accommodation, fooding and sightseeing of the pilgrims.

# Ball in state's court

Continued from P1

Notably, the state government has requested the Centre for setting up of HC benches in western and southern regions of Odisha.

Following this, the central government has requested the state, time and again, to work out details of proposed benches including its location in consultation with High Court of Orissa. However,

the state is yet to respond to it. Notably, the Supreme Court, in December last, had rejected the demands of advocates for violence during protest by advocates during a protest in Sambalpur.

Hearing the case, a bench of Justices SK Kaul and AS Oka of the SC has observed the demand for establishing a permanent bench of the High Court in Western Odisha seems to have be-

# KIIT launches programmes to mark Int'l Women's Day

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, March 4:** KIIT DU has launched a week-long celebration to commemorate International Women's Day which is being observed March 8. The main theme is 'DigitALL: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality'. It is being organised by KIIT Women Forum. The Forum is the brainchild of the Founder of KIIT and KISS Achyuta Samanta to focus on closing gender gaps and building a gender equality policy.

The International Women's Day is commemorated to celebrate the achievements of women and mark a call to action for gender equality. KIIT has remained at the forefront of promoting women's rights and has been ranked 8th best university worldwide by Times Higher Education for gender equality. Fifty per cent of its workforce comprises women.

March 1, a special talk on the sub-theme 'Women, Law and Leadership' was held at the KIIT School of Law. It was addressed by speakers such as Director of KIIT School of Law Bhavani Prasad Panda and Faculties of Policy Studies, Doshisha University at Kyoto, Japan Keiji Kawai and Akira Kawaguchi. While Keiji spoke on the life of women in Japan, Kawaguchi discussed the gender gap in Japan.

The special talk was followed by a dialogue on 'Women Security @ cyber space' the next day, where speakers emphasised on the potential of technology for women's empowerment.

Principal Technical Officer of National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT) Prashant Gupta sensitised the staff about the use of mobile phones and the internet, advising all to avoid getting lured with offers and sharing sensitive information. Technology remained the central



theme of both the discourses Wednesday and Thursday, especially in the context of greater women's participation in the fast-evolving tech industry. Sanghamitra

Patnaik in her presentation said that more and more should exploit the potential of technology.

The dialogue on women's security and cyberspace was attended,

among others, by KIIT VC Samanta Samanta and the Registrar Jnyana Ranjan Mohanty. The speakers commended the untiring efforts of Samanta towards women's empowerment, saying that the importance given to women in the field of education and employment at KIIT cannot be overstated.

March 3, a seminar on 'Reproductive Health' was held at KIMS, a constituent of KIIT DU. The participants at the seminar were sensitised about the overall health of the reproductive system, prevention of sexually transmitted infections, safe pregnancy and delivery, among others.

Principal of KIMS School of Nursing Niyati Das, Superintendent of Nursing Sushma Sahu, Vice Principal of KIMS School of Nursing Kajyani Rath and members of KIIT Women Forum such as Soumya Mishra and Deepali Mohanty were present, among others.

# National conference on solid waste management



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, March 4:** A national conference on Circular Economy (CE) was recently organized jointly by Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and State Pollution Control Board. The conference focused on "Focusing on Waste Management Technologies, Sustainability and Achieving Net Zero". The programme was inaugurated under the chairmanship of ICC Chairman JB Pany with Steel and Mines Minister Prafulla Kumar Mallick as the chief guest. State Pollution Control Board Member Secretary and K Murugesan, IFS Kalyan Charan Mohanty, Executive Director of IPICOL joined as guest of honour.

NR Sahoo Chairperson ICC ESH committee along with Regional head ICC Odisha council JP Pal also joined the inaugural session.

Inaugurating the event, Mallick said that our primary responsibility is to protect the environment. Steps have been taken for effective mining framework for environmental protection. The effective implementation of new Mining Policy 2019, which promotes strict rules for environmentally sustainable mining practices, remains a challenge.

Murugesan stated that CE principle is the key to achieve sustainable development. Odisha being a mining and mineral based economy has ample scope to harness CE principle. The state has now taken

initiative to open up the waste management sector.

On this occasion, pankaj satija, Chairperson ICC Mining committee while citing example of the Netherlands, which has targeted zero waste by 2050, said, "I see that Odisha can do with so much intelligence and with so much ethnic diversity and tribal population. I am sure that we will be able to achieve what the Odisha government is aiming for."

By sharing his views, Pany told that circular economy has the potential to capitalize upon emerging digital technologies like Big Data, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Block Chain and the Internet of Things (IoT).

The guests present on this occasion were Kalinga Keshari Rath, Founder and Managing Director of Evos Buildcon, Srinibash Sahu, Managing Partner of Raikela Iron & Ore Mines, Commodore G Prakash, Retired Vice President of Nava Bharat Ventures Limited, Alok Srivastava, COO & Director Medical services, Apollo Hospitals, Arpit Kumar Dixit, Assistant Vice President of Shree Cement, Ramesh Deshpande, COO of Runaya Group and Ajay Gupta of Grasim Industries, Ganjam.

# 'New age managers need to upgrade skills'



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, March 4:** "Industry 4.0 comes with new requirements and technological innovations seek to make the present job structure redundant which will make it imperative for new age managers to upgrade their skills," Bijoy Ketan Mishra, Resident Editor of Political and Business Daily, said while addressing the inaugural function of 'Convergence-2023', the two-day annual function of Institute of Business and Computer Studies (IBCS), faculty of management of Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA), here.

"You need to modify your skill to be industry ready," Mishra, who was the chief guest on the occasion, said.

India, he said, had failed to capitalize during the first and second industrial revolutions as it was under colonial rule and lacked electricity when it happened in that order. But it had gained mar-

ginally during the third industrial revolution as it had an educated population, Mishra said.

Presently, with a large percentage of the country's population job ready, India must not miss the bus this time, he said adding the challenge would be to convert the workforce into smart workers and embrace the fast changes in technology.

Siddharth Mishra, Medical Superintendent of AMRI Hospitals, who attended as the guest of honour, urged the students to work hard. "Success is not an accident, you have to work hard to achieve it," he said.

Bijay Kumar Sahoo, Vice-Chancellor of SOA, Anup Samantaray, Dean of IBCS, and Jyoti Ranjan Das, Dean (Students' Welfare) also addressed the students. Ayasanta Mohanty, Professor, coordinated the programme while Sarju Prasad, Associate Professor, proposed the vote of thanks.

# Workshop on bamboo craft inaugurated

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, March 4:** A State level Workshop on Bamboo Craft under Odisha Bamboo Development Agency (OBDA) was inaugurated at Odisha State Guest House Saturday on the topic "Potential Areas of Development in Bamboo as a Craft in Terms of Design, Sustainability and Product".

Nearly 100 artisans, master crafts persons of Bamboo Craft from five districts of Odisha namely Jajpur, Dhenkanal, Mayurbhanj, Subarnapur and Bargarh along with Awardees of Bamboo Craft of the State participated in the workshop.

The workshop was inaugurated by Principal Secretary, Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts Department Dr Arbinda Kumar Padhi. Others present on the occasion are Director of Handicrafts Shyambhakta Mishra, State Mission Director, OBDA Sudeep Nayak, PCCF and HoFF, Odisha Debidutta Biswal, Deputy Director Sisir Kumar Rath and officers of Directorate of Handicrafts.

# CARE CONNECT programme for paediatric cardiac patient

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, March 4:** CARE Hospitals Bhubaneswar organised an interaction activity with paediatric heart surgery patients as part of CARE connect programme here Saturday to relieve the recovered patients of any existing trauma of their past experience.

In the first-of-its-kind patient centric initiative, recovered patients along with their family members were invited to engage socially with the doctors, nurses and staff who had treated them. Both patients and hospital staffs met informally outside the hospital environment, shared their experiences and had a good time.

Hospital chief operating officer of Care Hospitals Bhubaneswar Kishlay Anand said, "Paediatric cardiac care in Odisha has grown from the infancy stage to childhood. CARE Hospitals has taken the



first step towards making the state self-sufficient in delivering this facility. With CARE being the household name for cardiac procedures in Odisha, we are aiming at establishing the same credibility for paediatric cardiac procedures."

Senior consultant of paediatric cardiology in Care Hospitals in Prashant Prakash Rao Patil said, "Paediatric cardiology is outgrowth from the shadows of adult cardiology and cardiac surgery departments in India. It promises to be an attractive and sought-after sub-spe-

cialty of pediatrics, dealing not only with congenital cardiac diseases but also metabolic, rheumatic and host of other cardiac diseases.

AVP of Business Development Lokanath Dash spoke about the importance of government health schemes like Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana which has enabled patients from economically vulnerable families to avail high quality healthcare services. We will also be launching paediatric cardiac surgery to treat complex cases which needs surgery, he added.

# SCERT hails state's school transformation initiatives

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, March 4:** A 10-member delegation from State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), Delhi applauded the school transformation initiative of Odisha Government and praised the state for undertaking several initiatives to up-skill students and teachers of government and aided schools of the state. During their visit to the state office of Mo School Friday, the team led by SCERT Nodal Officer (International and National Exposure) Preeti Khatri, appreciated the series of reforms brought in by the state government as part of its comprehensive policy.

"The transformed schools of Odisha have been equipped with smart digital equipment and it's heartening to see that teachers and students of rural Odisha schools being trained with advanced technologies and 21st century skills," Khatri said.

# ₹5,827cr investments okayed

Continued from P1

These projects are estimated to provide employment opportunities to over 3,000 people.

In food processing segment also, the government has approved three projects with a total investment of ₹164.99 crore and is expected to generate 491 employment opportunities. Two infrastructure projects with an investment of ₹213

core were also approved by the SLSWCA. These projects are jointly expected to generate 6,340 job opportunities. A hotel project with an investment of ₹80.62 crore also got the approval from the government. It will provide employment opportunities to more than 150 persons. In IT & ESDM (Electronics Systems Designing and Manufacturing) segment, the au-

thority has approved two projects with a cumulative investment of ₹203.71 crore.

In green energy equipment sector, Ampin Solar Private Limited got approval to set up its manufacturing facility of solar cells and modules at EMC Park (Infovalley). This company will invest ₹950 crore and provide employment to 1,750 persons.

With a total investment of ₹96.96 crore, Royale Hotels Private Limited will set up an IT park at Khurda.

In the pharmaceutical segment, SLSWCA gave a nod to Tropic Resources Private Limited which is expected to set up an IV Infusion and a Mineral Water Plant at Rourkela, with a cost of Rs 100.90 crore.

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# Naveen's new Odisha

With Naveen Patnaik completing 23 years as Chief Minister and Odisha celebrating Panchayati Raj Diwas Sunday that coincide with the birth anniversary of legendary leader Biju Patnaik, **Orissa POST** takes a stroll down the memory lane

**N**aveen Patnaik will be completing 23 years as the chief minister of Odisha Sunday—March 5. Under Patnaik's 23 years of visionary leadership, Odisha has transitioned from a backward state into a thriving development laboratory with remarkable progress in terms of human development indices.

When Naveen became the chief minister in early 2000, the state was still recovering from the super cyclone of 1999, which claimed thousands of lives in coastal districts, and facing the ignominy of poverty. The coastal state was dependent on others for its food security.

In these 23 years, Odisha has transformed itself into a food surplus state adding to the country's public distribution system. Starvation death is now a thing of the past.



Naveen Patnaik sworn in as Chief Minister of Odisha in 2000

Odisha's economy has reached Rs 2,30,000 crore from Rs 20,000 crore in these years. As compared to 2000, the programme expenditure has witnessed a 35-time rise and reached Rs 1,25,000 crore, while the capital expenditure saw 60-time growth to reach Rs 51,000 crore. Odisha is the only state to witness such rise. Odisha has become a number one state in the country in fiscal management from its earlier performance of making overdraft for 28-days to pay the salaries to employees. It has also carved a niche for itself by becoming the revenue surplus state in the last few years.

The per capita income has increased from Rs 12,400 to more than Rs 1.5 lakh in the last few years, which is more than the national average.

Odisha has made remarkable progress in agricultural production by becoming the fourth highest rice producing state in the country. It is producing in such quantities that the Centre is unable to procure all paddy from farmers.

Odisha first put a way forward by encouraging millet cultivation in hilly areas where water availability is less and now the whole country has adopted it. The UN has also given its acceptance to millet cultivation which has helped protect the life and livelihood of tribals.

Odisha has achieved rapid strides in irrigation during last 23 years. Irrigation facility for Kharif and Rabi season was only for 36 lakh hectare in 2000, but it has now grown to 66 lakh hectare. Gangadhar Meher project in Bargarh and a few other projects which will be operational soon will increase the irrigation to 72 lakh hectare by 2024.

Odisha has also become the number one state in infrastructure construction. The state is leading the work on its own fund while the Centre is neglecting it in air, rail and road connectivity.

The state fulfilling its election promise it made in 2014 has completed the construction of 546 km road consisting of four lanes from Rourkela in Sundargarh to Amapani in Nabarangpur. The construction of Biju Expressway has benefited residents of Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Bargarh, Nuapada, Kalahandi and Nabarangpur. It will pave the way for economic development of the districts and more employment opportunities for the people as

various companies have expressed their interest for setting up their plants by this expressway.

Similarly, the construction of 335 km of Biju Expressway-2 has also been announced which will be built at an expenditure of Rs 6,100 crore.

Investment in the industrial sector during last two decades has turned Odisha into an industrial prosperous state. It has become the number one state in steel and aluminium production while the maximum phosphate fertiliser is also being produced in the state. Industrial houses from country and abroad have agreed to invest over Rs 10 lakh crore during the Make in Odisha Conclave. Infrastructural development has prompted firms like Deloitte and IBM to open their branches in Odisha.

The state has constructed industrial estates, MSME parks and food parks while it is going to spend an additional Rs 3,500 crore in industrial infrastructure development to attract more investments from industrial houses to Odisha.

The CM has taken Odisha to a new height in development of educational infrastructure during last 23 years. Smart classrooms, e-libraries and modern science laboratories have been built in 8000 schools under school transformation programme which is on its last leg. Developmental works in schools have been expedited under Mo School Abhiyan in which over 33 lakh students have registered their names. Over 7.5 lakh alumni have donated around Rs 200 crore for the development of their alma mater while the state government has donated Rs 600 crore for it.

Appointments are being made in phases to fill up the vacant post of teachers while the state is going to appoint around 25,000 teachers soon. Odisha Adarsha Vidyalayas have been established in each blocks to impart teaching in English.

The state has implemented 'Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana' which aims to provide cashless treatment to 3.30 crore people belonging to 96 lakh families in all hospitals. The state has increased the number of medical colleges to nine while four more medical colleges are soon going to become operational which will produce more doctors in the state. The state will produce 2200 doctors from 13 government medical colleges and other private medical colleges.

Over 70 lakh women through 7 lakh SHGs have become self reliant by adopting various trades and vocation. Now, Mission Shakti is trying to make these women and entrepreneur while plans are afoot to provide Rs 50,000 crore loan to these SHGs within next five years.

The work of the government has helped in reduction of infant mortality from 91 to 36 (per 1000) while the maternal mortality has reduced from 450 to 119 (per one lakh) in the state. Earlier, low voltage problem and power cut were acute in the state but large scale reforms brought in the power sector has helped stop undeclared power cuts in the state.

## BIJU PATNAIK: A DISTINCT VISIONARY

Freedom fighter, fearless pilot, visionary industrialist, statesman, philanthropist, unofficial security advisor to Prime Minister.. the list is endless. He was the ultimate trendsetter India has ever produced. As Odisha celebrates Biju Patnaik's 107th birth anniversary, **Orissa POST** takes a look at some of his lesser known achievements

**'ABSCONDERS' PARADISE:** Biju Patnaik used to give asylum to freedom fighters to evade their arrest by British police. A foreign freedom fighter who was aware of this had named his house 'Absconders' Paradise.'

**BRITISH HONOUR:** He was honoured by British rulers for his act of releasing some British families who were imprisoned by Japanese during the World War II.

**FRIEND OF RUSSIA:** He helped the Soviet Army fight Hitler during second World War and was honoured by the Russians for his service.

**NEHRU'S SECURITY ADVISOR:** During the Indo-Chinese War in 1962, the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru used to consult Biju Patnaik on war situation. For some time he turned the former Premier's defence counsel, unofficially of course.

**KALINGA ON SLEEVE:** Most of his ventures were named Kalinga, the erstwhile name of Odisha. He set up Kalinga tubes, Kalinga Airlines, Kalinga Iron Works, Kalinga Refractories and Kalinga, a daily Oriya newspaper. In 1951 he established the international Kalinga Prize.

**PROUD ODIA:** When the Central government refused to give funds to build the Paradeep port, Biju Patnaik: To hell with the Government of India. I will build the port with state government and my own money. And he spent Rs 1.60 billion on it. Later, of course, Nehru sanctioned funds for the project.

**AVID PEDALLER:** Biju Patnaik was an avid cyclist too. He was spotted many a time cycling to the State Secretariat. When he was studying, he had cycled all the way from Cuttack to Peshawar (now in Pakistan) to spread the message of humanity.

**RARE HONOUR:** When Biju Patnaik died, the national flags of three countries - India, Indonesia and Russia were wrapped on his body in his last journey. Heads of countries, Premiers often do not have such privilege.



Biju Patnaik pedalled his way to Secretariat during Gulf War in 1991



PM Jawaharlal Nehru, Biju Patnaik and others during the inauguration of Paradeep Port



A young Naveen with Biju Patnaik and Gyan Patnaik



Biju Patnaik, Indira Gandhi and former CM Nandini Satpathy during Gandhi's visit to Odisha

## CM to unveil Dakota today

The people of Odisha will now be able to have a glimpse of the iconic Dakota aircraft. The reassembled Dakota DC-3 VT-AUI aircraft is all set to be on display outside the Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA) here for public viewing starting Sunday, the birth anniversary of the legendary leader Biju Patnaik. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is slated to unveil the aircraft. "It is a matter of pride for the Odisha government to unveil the Dakota DC-3 aircraft which was relocated from Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport in Kolkata to Biju Patnaik International Airport. Public display of the aircraft will serve as an embodiment of the former Chief Minister's courage and adventurousness, and inspire people of Odisha to dream big," an official said. It may be recalled that the parts of dismantled Dakota aircraft had been brought to Bhubaneswar from Kolkata January 18. The aircraft, which was parked at Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport in Kolkata, was dismantled and its parts were safely loaded on three trailers and brought here on road. The state



Biju Patnaik and others with an old Dakota

government had roped in Odisha Police and asked them to coordinate with their West Bengal counterpart in order to ensure the safe passage of the dismantled aircraft weighing over 8 tonne and around 64 feet 8 inches long with wings that extend upto 95 feet. A special team of experts inspected the aircraft after its arrival at BPIA. A team of engineers, technicians and experts undertook the assembling of the dismantled aircraft. The Airport Authority of India has allotted 1.1 acre of land for the aircraft to be placed in front of the airport named after the legendary leader for display of the DC-3 aircraft. A memorial has been built for this purpose. Before joining politics, Biju Patnaik had floated Kalinga Airlines which had a fleet of 15 Dakotas.



## 'None loved Odisha & Odias more than Biju Babu'

DEBI MOHANTY

**A**ge has failed to have an impact on Rasananda Lenka's memory. The 92-year-old senior advocate at Rairangpur sub-divisional court recalls every important incident of his life without much effort.

He recalls how, as a ninth grader at MKC High School, Baripada, he had gone to the Baripada market in the evening of August 14, 1947 to celebrate the Independence of India. By the time he arrived, a huge crowd had begun dancing. The festivities increased and got noisy as the evening moved towards midnight. Sweets were distributed as they patiently heard Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's historic speech that epoch-making night. "As soon as the brief speech ended, the entire crowd erupted into a roar of happiness, celebrations continued till the morning. But no one was tired," he thunders.

The nonagenarian doesn't get tired, when he speaks of another.

A 'pucca Congress worker' by his own admission, Lenka was active in college elections before he became councillor for two consecutive times in the Rairangpur NAC in 1962. He had just begun his law career at the sub-divisional court in the sleepy town. Three decades later, in 1997, India's present President Droupadi Murmu became a councillor in Rairangpur- which earned municipality status in 2014.



Lenka who worked for the Congress till 2014 elections, had been appointed as the organising secretary of the state youth Congress. It provided him the opportunity to move around the state, and more importantly work closely with the top leaders of the state. "The tallest of all, in stature, was of course, Biju Babu (Biju Patnaik). Biju Babu was one of the leading faces in the country too," thunders Lenka.

As the organising secretary, Lenka organised political seminars, where senior leaders and intellectuals deliberated on different topics. However, he says, funds crunch was a huge issue.

For one such seminar, as suggested by some party seniors, he went to invite Biju Patnaik. The real motive, though, was to get some sponsorship for the three-day event near Puri.

Lenka vividly remembers the meeting. The maverick Biju Babu asked about the topic of the seminar. 'Role and Responsibility of the President', replied Lenka.

"What have I got to do with it, you bet-

ter invite constitutional expert Prof Shriram Das, he can speak much better," Lenka recalls the iconic leader's words.

For a minute there was complete silence. Lenka was standing there. Perhaps, aware of the intention of the invite, a minute later, Biju Babu enquired in his typical style, what more could he do for the event. Lenka, who was waiting for this, requested for some financial assistance.

Immediately, Biju Babu asked for the estimate, which Lenka lacked. A furious Biju Babu shouted, "Hopeless fellow, you have come here for aid without an estimate." "I didn't feel bad, rather I was happy within," Lenka says. He returned to Baripada.

However, in the morning of the inauguration of the event, one of the first to be present at the venue was Biju Babu. Not only he was present in the event for three days, he also asked the manager of Kalinga Tubes - which he owned - to bear the entire expenses. "He had a large heart, much larger than any leader I have come across in seven decades of my association with politics. No one's as generous as Biju Babu," Lenka tells **Orissa POST**.

Lenka cherishes many such incidents involving the maverick leader. He says it's for Biju Babu that he could be part of the youth Congress delegation to Belgrade in 1962. "No one loved Odisha and the Odias more than him," he says.

In our defeated hearts  
God's strength survives.  
SRI AUROBINDO



# Preening & Pretending

Some things happened this week that require reflection. They are different things but we shall try to join them. The mother of democracy hosted her children at the G20 meeting. There were some step-children in attendance also, like our nameless neighbour on the east and Gulf states, who are not democratic, and some others like Russia and Turkey which are democratic only in name.

A few questions come to mind when thinking about our position in the grand scheme of things. The first one is our demand that the international order be modified and we be given our rightful place on the United Nations Security Council. This demand was repeated again this week and of course has found its place on the ruling party's manifestos. The question that occurs is why does the nation that is already vishwaguru need to be on the Security Council? The answer is not known perhaps because the question has not been asked before, but we have to consider it seriously since the claim is serious, just as the claim that we have been elected head of the G20 is serious. Also, if we are vishwaguru why not just take the place on the Council rather than ask for it? If someone is stopping us, who dares do that to vishwaguru? Again, the answer is not obvious.

The other thing related to this issue is what happened at the G20 meeting in Delhi. It was a meeting of the foreign ministers and The Hindu reported the event under the headline 'G20 foreign ministers meeting: Divisions between Western countries, Russia-China derail joint statement'. The context was the war in Ukraine, which also derailed the joint statement last year in Bali (when Indonesia was G20 president though it was not vishwaguru). The question that occurs is simple: can our presidency not produce anything different from Indonesia's or anyone else's, and if it cannot then what is the point of all the song and dance? This is a rhetorical question.

The next thing that happened is that India has, in addition to being mother of democracy and vishwaguru, become the world's most populous nation. This news came to vishwaguru from the outside. The World Population Review database says that on Friday, March 3, our population was 142 crore and 80 lakh people, while China's was 142 crore and 50 lakh people. When this becomes official there will be a lot of song and dance about it but remember that it is the second time that India is ahead of China. The first was of course all the years before 1947 when, if you assume a united India, it was always the most populous part of the world.

Why do I say that the news came to us from outside? That is because we have not conducted a census for the first time in over a century and we do not know when it will be conducted. The second last thing on this subject is that along with becoming the world's populous nation our fertility rate has been falling. It stands at 2.0, which is right at the point of replacement, and it continues to fall. Meaning that in a few years our population will start to decline. There is something to be said here against those people who keep scaremongering on the basis of faith, but this is not the place to discuss that. However we should, and this is the last thing, consider that a few years ago we began our demographic bulge, when the number of working-age people in the population began to maximise.

However, this is also the same period when our labour force participation rate and our unemployment rose, according to the government's figures. A combination of a record population and record unemployment, what will that bring? We will see.

The last item in this column deals with the Union budget. The Prime Minister this week referred to it as Amrit Kaal budget when talking about such things as education. The first point of Amrit Kaal according to him is that by or in 2047 India would become 'developed'. Now if we go by the growth rate we have achieved since 2014 which is an average of 5.7 per cent growth per year; where would we be in 2047? The answer is at \$8800 per capita. That is \$4000 less than China is today, and less than one fourth of Japan's current per capita and about one ninth of America's current per capita GDP.

If we will call ourselves developed are we going to do so by changing the definition of development? Or do we expect the others to come down? Or do we expect to grow faster than we have since 2014? If we expect to grow faster than how and what are we doing or going to do that is different from what we have done since 2014?

This is again, a rhetorical question because there are no answers. Our solutions lie in acronyms, slogans, coining new words and phrases and pretending to be something we are not and are not about to be. Getting great powers to agree to something against their will requires either hard power or at the very least great moral authority, neither of which, truth be told, we have. A government that cannot count its own people, cannot count its own record of growth and extrapolate it, that does not acknowledge its own data on employment and joblessness will not be taken seriously. On the positive side, nobody can stop us from preening, from bombast and from pretending. And so we can expect that to continue.



Aakar Patel

Our solutions lie in acronyms, slogans, coining new words and phrases and pretending to be something we are not and are not about to be



DK Giri

GERMANY AND INDIA SHOULD WORK IN TANDEM TO PROMOTE MULTILATERALISM

The German Chancellor Olaf Scholz was in India, 25 and 26 February. It was his maiden visit after he helmed the German leadership in December 2021. Two developments would have influenced his agenda in India; one, the ongoing Ukrainian war, which is causing deep concern for Europe, and of course, the rest of the world, second, the G-20 Summit taking place in India later this year. Therefore, Scholz's agenda consisted of defence and security, in the wake of the war, and economic cooperation, green technology and India-Pacific strategy, which may bear upon the negotiations and transactions around the G-20 events.

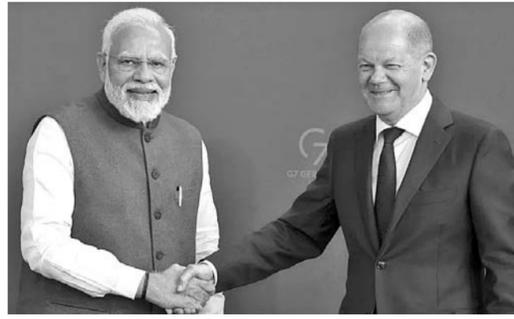
The German Chancellor was accompanied by a business delegation comprising twelve major companies and from medium and small sectors. The visit was significant for another reason. In the wake of the war, Germany is redrawing its foreign policy, namely the defence and security policy. The soundings are that Germany is seeking to emerge as an independent global player in a multilateral world. While consolidating its pre-eminent position in 27-country European Union, it is reaching out to other strategic partners across the world. India could be one of them. Bilaterally, Germany is the biggest European investor, ninth largest in the world, for India. It is also one among the top ten global partners of India.

Giving clear indication of Germany's leadership in Europe, the Chancellor promised India that he would advance trade talks between India and EU. Deepening the partnership, the Chancellor offered to build six submarines in India to help New Delhi modernise its maritime forces. He also offered to create a new system to facilitate migration of Indian professionals into Germany.

The security imperative in the visit was evident in the press statement of German Ambassador to India, Philipp Ackermann, on the eve of the visit, "the Chancellor will talk geopolitics with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. You will see Russia and Ukraine very high on the agenda." He explained at the press briefing that, "India buying oil from Russia is not of our business.

## FOCUS INDO-GERMAN TIES

# QUEST FOR MULTILATERALISM



Germany is unwilling to see the world divided into two antagonistic blocs. It believes that addressing global challenges requires multilateral efforts; they cannot be met by a divided world

Basically, that is something that the Indian government decides. What we would like to see, of course, is an Indian engagement at some stage. This obvious German concern should not have been lost on Indian leadership. German interests and economy are badly affected by the war, placing heavy burden on the state's exchequer; what to speak of the rising costs of fuel and electricity which has quite an uncomfortable consequence for German way of life.

From the Indian point of view, the war is turning out to be a major concern for India's security. As the war pushes Russia closer to China, New Delhi should be wary because of China's belligerent postures on the borders. There is also a rethink in EU as well as in US on diverting trade from China. If that be so, a big market like India could be the only and obvious alternative to China. This is where the Indian and German interests should converge. But do they?

India, a big country in Asia, and Germany a strong economy in the West with similar approaches to democracy, human rights and a rules-based international order should come really close. The onus lies more on Germany as a bigger economy. However, Germany's attitude toward India is contingent upon Berlin's equation with Beijing. Also, it hinges on

Germany's conception of multilateralism, as referred above.

Surprisingly, the German Chancellor dashed to Beijing after Xi Jinping was re-appointed as the head of CCP in its 20th Party Congress. The visit was explained away as Germany's compulsion of protecting their heavy trade and investment in China, an understandable national interest and priority. However, a systematic assessment of China is found in SPD position paper on New Foreign and Security Policy Agenda. Although Scholz heads a coalition government, he belongs to SPD, the largest partner in the coalition and the oldest democratic party of Germany.

The policy document states that, since China, failed to condemn the Russian attack on Ukraine, it is obvious that China under Xi Jinping is a global power that intends to shape world politics in its own interests. Germany contends that decoupling from China is not advisable as Beijing has become 'an indispensable player' in international politics in dealing with several global challenges.

At the same time, Germany is pushing their own companies and the European ones to diversify their value chains and sales market. They must find an alternative supplier and minimise their economic dependence on China. Germany

also is looking out for partners in the world and in the India-Pacific region where India's stakes lie. Germany will like to reach out to those countries including India which feel threatened by China. The document says, "We must take these concerns and fears seriously and take them into account in our policy towards China." This is where India should come in.

The other variable in Indo-German relationship is the latter's attitude towards NATO. Although there was a rupture in US-European ties on NATO during Donald Trump's tenure, under the Biden regime, it was reaffirmed that USA and NATO still serve as the guarantors of European security. So, Scholz administration will like to strengthen EU's military capabilities while relying on NATO. New Delhi should be sensitive to US and Europe partnership in security while laying out its own security agenda.

Finally, on multilateralism, Germany is unwilling to see the world divided into two antagonistic blocs. It believes that addressing global challenges requires multilateral efforts; they cannot be met by a divided world. Germany recognises the legitimate claim of countries in Global South to participate in shaping a just international order. EU itself is a multilateral body. That is why Germany and European countries put their faith in multilateral institutions for global peace, prosperity and security. India holds a similar position in international politics. So conceptually, Germany and India should work in tandem to promote multilateralism.

I have maintained that a united world, manifested in genuine multilateralism, notwithstanding the paucity of international institutions, is a utopia. History does not support that aspiration. A balance of power is more realistic. However, developments involving human beings are quite complex creating new realities from time to time. Hence, if Germany and India want multilateralism, so be it. More power to them.

The writer is Professor, International Relations, JIMMC. @INFA

## SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

# Climate finance for developing world

Recent estimates suggest that the developing world will need \$1 trillion of external climate finance annually by 2025, and \$2.4 trillion per year by 2030, to meet the goals enshrined in the Paris climate agreement. But these targets will not be met unless international financial institutions and governments create stronger incentives, paying special attention to three key areas.

First, the world needs a more robust and consistent international process of price discovery for new offerings such as carbon offsets, green hydrogen, direct carbon capture, and battery storage. Because price-discovery mechanisms currently vary from country to country, the international community must come together to establish an overarching framework, which, by enabling offtake (pre-purchase) agreements, would help clean-energy manufacturers attract more investment, escaping the "chicken-egg" scenario in which many currently find themselves.

A credible international carbon price is crucial for driving greater investment toward clean-energy projects, as well as for gradually reducing - and eventually eliminat-

ing - fossil-fuel subsidies. Speaking at COP27 last November, IMF's MD, Kristalina Georgieva, stressed that the price of carbon should rise to \$75 per tonne by 2030 to impel consumers and businesses to change their behaviour. But in 2021, the global average carbon price was just \$3 per tonne (though some regions have far exceeded that). To get to \$75, policymakers will have to work closely together at the global level, finding new ways to bring detractors on board.

A second important issue is the establishment of multi-sovereign loan guarantees, which are needed to strengthen the creditworthiness of clean-energy projects and attract more private capital to developing countries. Leveraging this mechanism to its full potential will require clearer assessment standards. Equally, boosting the sums of climate finance requires better concessional rates to companies and entities involved in the shift to clean energy. The IMF and multilateral development banks (MDBs) have a significant role to play here, as do national banks at the local level.

Multi-sovereign guarantees and other climate-finance initiatives should be applied across regions and

spread throughout the value chain, from the mining of minerals and equipment manufacturing to clean-energy generation and transportation. Getting to scale will require reforms to multilateral lenders' shareholding arrangements and risk-tolerance standards, as well as faster disbursements and greater transparency concerning investment data.

Finally, the international community needs to forge a consensus on green-investment standards. A May 2022 proposal for a "green hydrogen standard" was a step in the right direction, but it remains to be seen if it will be approved and adopted by all. India has made huge strides in renewables in recent years, becoming the third-largest renewables market in the world. With the government having set a target of net-zero emissions by 2070, developments are now moving fast. Since COP26 in November 2021, India has introduced a national hydrogen plan and established new incentives for electric-vehicle and battery manufacturers.

Yet, as it stands, India is still the world's third-largest emitter of greenhouse gases, and much of its clean-energy investment has come from

domestic sources. As strong as our climate commitments are, developing countries like India need external support to shift away from traditional energy sources such as coal.

COP27 brought a major advance with last-minute agreement on a "loss and damage" fund to support developing countries that are being hit hardest by climate-related disasters. But MDBs and governments can and should be doing more to encourage climate investment in developing countries. MDBs need to make greater use of concessional finance, including grants, to mobilise investments where benefits are shared globally. Helping middle-income countries move away from coal should be a top priority, along with offering stronger borrowing terms and de-risking clean-energy investments across developing world.

Without a greater impetus from governments and global financial institutions, there is a risk that by the time global economic conditions improve, the window for achieving net zero by mid-century will have already closed. We must not let that happen.

The writer is CEO and Founder of ReNew Power. @PROJECTSYNDICATE

## WISDOM CORNER

- Kindness in words creates confidence. Kindness in thinking creates profoundness. Kindness in giving creates love. LAO TZU
- Everything that irritates us about others can lead us to an understanding of ourselves. CARL JUNG
- The first step in solving a problem is to recognize that it does exist. ZIG ZIGLAR

## WORDSWORTH

### Gibberish

To describe some attempt at communication as gibberish today is most likely to disparage it as mere meaningless verbiage. But at its strongest, in its earlier days, gibberish was speech that belonged to no known language. It was worse even than calling it double Dutch or asserting that it was all Greek. Etymologists have been scratching their heads over its origin almost since it first appeared in the language in the middle 1500s. There's a set of similar words - gibber, jibber, jabber, gobble and gab (as in gift of the gab) - that may be related attempts at imitating incomprehensible utterances. But how they arrived and in what order is unknown. An eighteenth-century writer linked gibberish with the French word geber, meaning to cheat, which is now not thought to be in the least likely. Other experts prefer an origin in an unrecorded Germanic word. The best of the invented stories about its origin is the one that Dr Samuel Johnson subscribed to in his Dictionary of 1755: "[I]t is probably derived from the chymical cant, and originally implied the jargon of Geber and his tribe." Geber is a Latinised form of the name of a prolific eighth-century Arabic writer, Abu Musa Jabir ibn Hayyan. His name is attached to hundreds of books, covering such an encyclopaedic range that some scholars have argued he was the pseudonym of a syndicate and was awarded authorship by posterity. One notable point about gibberish is that it has shifted pronunciation. Today, it's almost always said like jibberish, with a soft g sound. But at one time, it had a hard g; some current dictionaries give that as a variant pronunciation though it survives only to a small extent - a British survey in 1998 found the hard g form was used by only 4% of respondents. That version may suggest a closer connection with gobble and gab and a lesser one with jibber and jabber.



Sumant Sinha

INDIA HAS MADE HUGE STRIDES IN RENEWABLES IN RECENT YEARS, BECOMING THE THIRD-LARGEST RENEWABLES MARKET IN THE WORLD

## Landmark judgement

Sir, This refers to "PM, LoP, CJI panel to choose CEC, ECs," Orissa POST, March 3. Thanks to the SC for its landmark judgement on the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners. The issue of appointment of ECs had been a bone of contention between the Central government and the Opposition, since the poll panel, for long, was acting as an arm of the ruling BJP, and in many instances the EC had refused to take action against violation of model code of conduct by the ruling party leaders. That the EC is continuously making flip flops and it is facing a credibility crisis are well-known. The SC's verdict gains a lot of significance as it has come ahead of a series of assembly elections this year and the LS polls to be held next year.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

## Check secessionists

Sir, This refers to "Congress demands arrest of Amritpal, his supporters," Orissa POST, March 2. Better late than never; the Opposition Congress woke up to act against the dangerous incident in Anjala of Punjab. It was a dark day for Punjab when the state police decided to cancel the FIR against a close aide of self-proclaimed religious leader and Khalistan backer, Amritpal Singh, on the ground that the protesters proved the innocence of the accused, Lovepreet Toofan, a close aide of Amritpal. Instead of tackling the problem with an iron hand, the AAP government has chosen to blame Pakistan for the Khalistan tendencies surfacing in India. The protest itself was a violent one and when something of this magnitude happens close to the border of our enemy nation, it should have provoked all political parties and organisations to demand stern action against Amritpal and his followers immensely. Sadly, national interest does not figure anywhere in the agenda of most of our parties. The attack on a police station with guns and swords and lathi-wielding followers of the extremist forces was not tackled as the police sought to handle the situation gently as they were carrying the holy Guru Granth Sahib. Amritpal Singh has openly backed the Khalistan movement. It is not an ordinary movement as it seeks the separation of Punjab from India. Singh incidentally acts like terrorist Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale and is following in his footsteps. The rise of Amritpal Singh and the kind of violence witnessed recently in Punjab does not bode well with national security.

N Sathasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

# 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, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

# national

## of the day quote

The high prevalence of anaemia among postnatal mothers and children aged between 6 and 59 months in Bihar is posing a challenge to health authorities

TEJASHWI YADAV | BIHAR DEPUTY CM

India's sole nomination for recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage Site this year, 'Maidams' or the burial mounds of Ahom royalty in Assam's Charaideo district, have met the technical requirements

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's faith in the Indian scientific community and stellar healthcare professionals across the country helped India conquer unsurmountable challenges during the pandemic

MANSUKH MANDAVIYA | UNION HEALTH MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### HSPDP MLA's office set on fire

**Shillong:** HSPDP MLA Methodius Dkhar's office in Shillong was set on fire allegedly by members of his own party as he supported the NPP-BJP coalition, senior NPP leader Prestone Tynsong said Saturday. Dkhar along with party MLA Shakhar Warjri on Friday pledged support to the NPP-BJP alliance, which staked claim to form the next government in the state under the leadership of Conrad K Sangma.

### 2 held for attack on MNS leader

**Mumbai:** The Crime Branch of Mumbai Police on Saturday arrested two men for alleged involvement in an attack on local Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) leader Sandeep Deshpande. The police were searching for two more persons in connection with the incident that took place on Friday when Deshpande was on morning walk near his residence in Dadar area, said an official.

## Pandits 'surrender' as govt 'stops' salaries

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jammu, March 4:** Kashmiri Pandit government employees demanding relocation outside the Kashmir Valley in the wake of targeted killings by terrorists, suspended their 310 days long strike, saying they were "surrendering" as authorities had "stopped" their salaries. The protesters comprised

Kashmiri Pandits working in different government departments under a prime minister's employment package. The Jammu and Kashmir administration has neither accepted nor rejected the demand but the protest had to be suspended as stopping of salaries is "choking us financially", protesters affiliated to the All Migrant (Displaced) Employees Association



Kashmir (AMEAK) said. Last year in May, following the killing of their colleagues Rahul Bhat and Rajini Bala by terrorists, many had also moved to Jammu from the Kashmir division of the

Union Territory. While Bhat was shot dead inside his office in central Kashmir's Budgam on May 12, Bala, a school teacher, was gunned down in south Kashmir's Kulgam district on May 31 last year. The employees said the core committee of AMEAK will meet to take a decision over resuming their duties in the Kashmir Valley.

## First bamboo crash barrier installed on Maha highway

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Nagpur, March 4:** Union minister Nitin Gadkari Saturday said a 200-meter-long bamboo crash barrier has been installed on a highway connecting Chandrapur and Yavatmal districts in Maharashtra, which he termed as the "world's first" such exercise.



Calling it a "remarkable achievement" for the country and its bamboo sector, he said this crash barrier offers a perfect alternative to steel and addresses environmental concerns.



**BJP's defeat in the Kasba Peth Assembly bypoll proves that people are considering an alternative. Winds of change are blowing across the country**

SHARAD PAWAR | NCP CHIEF

## HIGHWAY OPENS

After remaining closed for a day due to repair and maintenance work, the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway has been opened for passenger traffic from both sides, officials said Saturday



## Migrant workers safe in TN: Stalin

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chennai/Patna, March 4:** Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin Saturday reassured his Bihar counterpart Nitish Kumar that all migrant workers are safe and the police of the southern state registered cases against two journalists including the editor of a Hindi daily for spreading rumours.

The issue of fake claims on attacks in Tamil Nadu on migrant workforce snowballed into a political slugfest between the ruling DMK and the BJP and on the same issue, Saffron party targeted the Nitish Kumar-led regime in Bihar, which dispatched an official team for fact finding.

Stalin said he spoke to Nitish Kumar over phone and assured him that no harm would befall workers and conveyed to him that "all workers are our workers who help Tamil Nadu's growth and nothing will happen to impact them, I have assured him."

Addressing an event in Chennai, Stalin said nobody could create differences among parties opposed to the BJP. He reiterated tough action against elements disrupting law and order, which is seen as a veiled attack on BJP.

A four-member team of officials from Bihar arrived in Chennai and held discussions with authorities including Labour department officials and they are expected to meet senior State officials and Bihar workers as well in places like the textile hubs of Coimbatore and Tirupur.

In Chennai, Bihar Rural Development Secretary D Balamurugan told reporters that talks with TN officials was satisfactory and that Tamil Nadu government extended full support and cooperation. "The circulation of fake videos caused apprehension among Bihar workforce. We held discussions with police officials. We will visit Tirupur and other districts for spot assessment. Later, we will hold discussion with senior State officials. Ours is a two-day visit," Balamurugan said.

In Patna, police said the Bihar team comprising D Balamurugan, the Secretary for Rural Development, P Kannan, the Inspector General of Police (CID), Alok Kumar, the Labour Commissioner, and Santosh Kumar, SP, Special Task Force would meet top TN officials.

Senior TN police officials in districts with sizable population of migrant workers including Tirupur addressed them and requested them to be vigilant and not fall prey to rumours. Hindi speaking IPS officers have also spoken to them.

On the political front, DMK squarely blamed the BJP for playing dirty politics over the issue by levelling false allegations and Tamil Nadu BJP chief K Annamalai alleged that during the last



Those spreading rumours that workers from other states are being attacked in Tamil Nadu are against the Indian nation, they infringe the national integrity. Some doing cheap politics over a non-issue is condemnable

MK STALIN | TN CM

two years after the DMK came to power, many derisive speeches were made by DMK MPs and ministers against north Indian workers.

Addressing Kumar as his 'revered brother', Stalin said in an official release that workers from northern states need not have any kind of apprehensions over working in Tamil Nadu. In the unlikely event of somebody intimidating them, they may immediately inform police and immediate action shall be taken.

Stalin's reassurance followed false claims in social media platforms that migrant workers, especially 'Bihari labourers' in Tamil Nadu were attacked. The TN CM said: "Those spreading rumours that workers from other states are being attacked in Tamil Nadu are against the Indian nation, they infringe the national integrity. Some doing cheap politics over a non-issue is condemnable."

Industry bodies in Tamil Nadu urged Stalin to disseminate messages in Hindi to "ease tension" among migrant workforce. The administrative and police authorities in Tirupur and Coimbatore districts, where a high number of migrant workers are employed in the textile industries warned of tough action against those spreading rumours.

Speaking to reporters along with Bihar officials, an office-bearer of Bihar Association in Chennai said there cannot be a place better than Tamil Nadu for migrant workers in terms of hospitality and safety.

"We are attending calls from Bihar. We can tell you for sure that all the videos claiming attacks in TN are fake. These have emerged from Bihar. I cross-checked claims and these are false," the association office-bearer said.

## SC seeks Centre's reply on tiger deaths

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, March 4:** The Supreme Court has directed the Centre to inform it about reported deaths of tigers in the country.

A bench of justices KM Joseph and BV Nagarathna sought the information after taking note of newspaper reports about tiger deaths. The apex court was hearing a petition filed by advocate Anupam Tripathi in 2017 seeking to save endangered tigers whose numbers are dwindling across the country.

"Though the petitioner is not present, respondents will ascertain about reported deaths of the tigers in India. List the mat-



ter after three weeks," the bench said.

According to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), India lost 1,059 tigers since 2012 with Madhya Pradesh,

which is known as the 'tiger state' of the country, recording the highest number of deaths (270).

On January 27, the Centre had told the top court that there

are 2,967 tigers in the country spread across 53 tiger reserves, according to a 2018 report. Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhat had told the bench that lot of work has been done for the conservation of tigers and increasing their population.

The top court in 2017 had issued notice to the Ministry of Environment, the National Board for Wildlife and the National Tiger Conservation Authority on the plea which had also sought relocation of people living near tiger reserves.

The petition had said tigers were being killed either by poisoning by locals or the authorities, shooting by forest guards or by poaching.

Bank of India			POSSESSION NOTICE	
Zonal Office : Star House, 1/1D, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015			[Rule-8(1)] of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules-2002	
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of India, Concerned Branches under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices calling upon the Borrower/Co-Borrower in the loan account given below to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest & expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Co-Borrower 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 Borrower/Co-Borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the Bank of India, Concerned Branches for an amount mentioned below with interest & expenses 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 redeem the secured assets.				
BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrower/Co-Borrower	Liabilities due as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice/ Date of Possession	Description of the Immovable Properties	
<b>SINGHIPUR BRANCH /</b> Borrower: Mr. Bipin Das, S/o.: Sanatan Das / Co-Borrower: Mrs. Aparajita Das, Both are At: Jhatinuagaon, P.O.: Bhusandpur, Dist.: Khordha, Odisha - 752021	₹ 13,16,659.57 + interest & expenses thereon	02.11.2022 / 03.03.2023	All that part and parcel of the property situated over Khata No.: 131/253, Plot No.: 250/702, Area: Ac.0.153 Dec i.e. 6665.00 sqft, KISSAM: Gharabari at Mouza: Both are At: Jhatinuagaon, P.O.: Bhusandpur, Dist.: Khordha, Odisha - 752021, Standing in the name of Mr. Bipin Das, Bounded by North: Ghordhari Swain, South: Dillip Sahoo, East: Road, West: Govt. Land/School Play Ground	
<b>SAMANTRAPUR BRANCH /</b> Borrower: Mr. Sushil Kumar Swain / Co-Borrower: Mrs. Minati Pradhan, Both are At: Plot No.: 22/23, Annapurna Residential Complex, Shelter Chhak, Cuttack - 753008	₹ 1,10,72,325/- + interest & expenses thereon	30.12.2022 / 03.03.2023	All that part and parcel of the Residential property situated at Plot No.: 1327/1340, Khata No.: 319/258, Area: Ac.0.032 Dec 9 Kadi i.e. 1431 sqft, Mouza: Cuttack Sahar Unit No.: 5, P.S.: Bidanasi, Dist.: Cuttack, Odisha, Standing in the name of Mr. Sushil Kumar Swain, Bounded by North: Netaji Nagar, South: 20 ft wide Road, East: Sub Plot No.: 21, West: Plot No.: 608(P)	
Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 05.03.2023			Authorised Officer, Bank of India	

### IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER OF SETTLEMENT AND CONSOLIDATION, BERHAMPUR, GANJAM

Sri Sudhansu Sekhar Panda ..... Petitioners  
Parakunsha Sudaram and others ..... Opp. Parties

#### NOTICE UNDER ORDER-5, RULE-20 C.P.C.

- Parakunsha Sudaram
  - Parakunsha Balakrishna Rao
  - Parakunsha Venket Subha Rao
  - Parakunsha Venket Srinivas Rao
  - Parakunsha Venket Ramana Murty
- All are sons of Late Parakunsha Venket Rama Das, Residing at Old Berhampur, P.O. - Berhampur, P.S. - Berhampur Town, Dist.: Ganjam, Odisha
- Bachu Rama Gopal
  - Bachu Gopal Swamy
  - Bachu Balaram Das
  - Bachu Raghunath Das
  - Bachu Madan Mohan Das, Opp. Party Nos.6 to 10 are Sons of late Bachu Jagannath Das,
  - Bachu Satyanarayan Murty
  - Bachu Venkateswara Rao
- Opp. party Nos. 11 and 12 are Sons of late Bachu Ramakrishna Rao Opp. Party Nos.6 to 12 are residing at Old Berhampur, P.O. - Berhampur, P.S. - Berhampur Town, Dist.: Ganjam
- Pamarti Jagannatham, S/o late P. Suryanaryan, Resident of Kamapalli, P.O. - Berhampur, P.S. - B.N.Pur, Dist.: Ganjam
  - Balaram Panda (Dead), S/o late Patitapaban Panda,
  - Bimala Devi Panda (Dead), W/o late Balaram Panda, (Both are dead, their legal heirs are Added in this case as a necessary parties)
  - (a) Madhusudan Panda, S/o late Balaram Panda, Resident of Shyamakali Lane, South Gate, At/P.O./P.S. Puri, Dist.- Puri
  - (b) Damodar Panda, S/o late Balaram Panda, Resident of Bhaba Nagar 2nd Lane, P.O. - Berhampur, P.S. - B.N.Pur, Dist.: Ganjam
  - (c) Kishore Chandra Panda, S/o late Balaram Panda, resident of Old Cinema Hall, Chatrapur, P.O./P.S. - Chatrapur, Dist. Ganjam
  - (d) Kailas Chandra Panda (dead), S/o late Balaram Panda (Being dead behind his LRS)
  - (i) Smt. Swarnalata Panda, W/o late Kailash Chandra Panda, Residing at Plot No. 77E, Brahmeswarpatna, Near Rabi Talkies Square, At/P.O./P.S. - Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda
  - (e) Bijaya Kumar Panda, S/o late Balaram Panda, Resident of Gajpati Nagar, 13th Lane, P.O. - Berhampur, P.S. - B.N.Pur, Dist. - Ganjam
  - (f) Bipini Bihari Panda, S/o late Balaram Panda, Resident of Arpana Naga, Chowalia Ganja, Cuttack, P.S. - Cuttack, Dist.: Cuttack.
  - Chakrapani Panda (Dead), S/o late Kapila Panda, Being dead behind his LRS
  - (a) Smt. Indumati Panda, W/o late Chakrapani Panda, Residing at Balaram Nivas, backside of B.N.Pur Police Station, P.O. - Berhampur, P.S. - B.N. Pur, Dist.: Ganjam
  - (b) Golak Bihari Panda, S/o late Chakrapani Panda, Opp. Party Nos. 16(a) & 16(b) are residing At: Balaram Nivas, Backside of B.N.Pur Police Station, P.O. Berhampur, P.S. - B.N.Pur, Dist.: Ganjam
- Notice is hereby given to the above named Opp. Parties that the petitioners have preferred the above case against you before this Court for correction of ROR No.98 of Mouza Mardarajpur (Old Mouza Goulandi) pertaining to the land scheduled below in their names which has been purchased by them from the ROR holders and their legal heirs. Although notices were issued to you several times through Regd. Post, the same were returned unserved. It is alleged by the petitioner that you are willfully avoiding to receive the notice.
- Therefore you are hereby called upon through this notice to appearing this court in person or through your authorized representatives or Advocate well versed with the matter to answer the same and to file objection with documents, if any, on the date fixed for hearing on 02.05.2023 at 11.00 A.M. failing which the matter will be heard and decided on merit in your absence as per law.

**SCHEDULE OF LAND**  
The land situated in Mouza: Mardarajpur (Old Mouza Goulandi) coming under Berhampur Tahsil, Dist.: Ganjam relating to Sabik Khata No.3, Sabik Plot No.569 now claiming from Hal Plot No.18, Khatian No. 98 measuring to an extent of Ac. 0.030 Dec. Berhampur Date: Sd./Addl. Commissioner Settlement & Consolidation, Berhampur, Dist.: Ganjam

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  - (a) Madhusudan Panda, S/o late Balaram Panda, Resident of Shyamakali Lane, South Gate, At/P.O./P.S. Puri, Dist.- Puri
  - (b) Damodar Panda, S/o late Balaram Panda, Resident of Bhaba Nagar 2nd Lane, P.O. - Berhampur, P.S. - B.N.Pur, Dist.: Ganjam
  - (c) Kishore Chandra Panda, S/o late Balaram Panda, Resident of Old Cinema Hall, Chatrapur, P.O./P.S. - Chatrapur, Dist. - Ganjam.
  - (d) Kailas Chandra Panda (dead), S/o late Balaram Panda, (Being dead behind his LRS)
  - (i) Smt. Swarnalata Panda, W/o late Kailash Chandra Panda, Residing at Plot No. 77E, Brahmeswarpatna, Near Rabi Talkies Square, At/P.O./P.S. - Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda
  - (e) Bijaya Kumar Panda, S/o late Balaram Panda, Resident of Gajpati Nagar, 13th Lane, P.O. - Berhampur, P.S. - B.N.Pur, Dist. - Ganjam
  - (f) Bipini Bihari Panda, S/o late Balaram Panda, Resident of Arpana Naga, Chowalia Ganja, Cuttack, P.S. - Cuttack, Dist.: Cuttack.
  - Chakrapani Panda (Dead), S/o late Kapila Panda, Being dead behind his LRS
  - (a) Smt. Indumati Panda, W/o late Chakrapani Panda, Residing at Balaram Nivas, backside of B.N.Pur Police Station, P.O. - Berhampur, P.S. - B.N. Pur, Dist.: Ganjam
  - (b) Golak Bihari Panda, S/o late Chakrapani Panda, Opp. Party Nos. 16(a) & 16(b) are residing At: Balaram Nivas, Backside of B.N.Pur Police Station, P.O. Berhampur, P.S. - B.N.Pur, Dist.: Ganjam
- Notice is hereby given to the above named Opp. Parties that the petitioners have preferred the above case against you before this Court for correction of ROR No.98 of Mouza Mardarajpur (Old Mouza Goulandi) pertaining to the land scheduled below in their names which has been purchased by them from the ROR holders and their legal heirs. Although notices were issued to you several times through Regd. Post, the same were returned unserved. It is alleged by the petitioner that you are willfully avoiding to receive the notice.
- Therefore you are hereby called upon through this notice to appearing this court in person or through your authorized representatives or Advocate well versed with the matter to answer the same and to file objection with documents, if any, on the date fixed for hearing on 02.05.2023 at 11.00 A.M. failing which the matter will be heard and decided on merit in your absence as per law.

**SCHEDULE OF LAND**  
The land situated in Mouza: Mardarajpur (Old Mouza Goulandi) coming under Berhampur Tahsil, Dist.: Ganjam relating to Sabik Khata No.3, Sabik Plot No.569 now claiming from Hal Plot No.18, Khatian No. 98 measuring to an extent of Ac. 0.031 Dec. Berhampur Date: Sd./Addl. Commissioner Settlement & Consolidation, Berhampur, Dist.: Ganjam

# Himachal brings OPS for existing, future employees

IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE OPS BENEFICIARIES WOULD ALSO BE BROUGHT UNDER THE AMBIT OF GPF AND THOSE EMPLOYEES UNDER THE NEW PENSION SCHEME (NPS), WHO RETIRED AFTER MAY 15, 2003, WILL BE GIVEN OPS FROM THE PROSPECTIVE DATE



AGENCIES

**Shimla, March 4:** The Himachal Pradesh government Friday decided to implement the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) from April 1 in the state, according to an official statement issued here.

The Himachal cabinet, which was presided by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, gave its nod to the implementation of the OPS which would put a burden of Rs 1,000-crore on the state exchequer, it said.

The cabinet also approved the repealing of Himachal Pradesh Loktantra Prahari Samman Adhiniyam, 2021, and Himachal Pradesh Loktantra Prahari Samman Niyam, 2022, providing a monthly pension of Rs 11,000 per month to persons who were jailed during the Emergency, it said.

The cabinet decided that the employees will also be brought under the ambit of General Provident fund (GPF), the statement said.

The employees under the New Pension Scheme (NPS), who have retired after May 15, 2003, will be given OPS from the prospective

date. The decision would put a burden of Rs 1,000-crore on the state exchequer during 2023-24 financial year, it added.

Sukhu said the decision has been taken after making necessary amendments in the rules.

The contribution towards NPS by the government and the employees would stop from April 1, 2023. If any employee wants to opt for NPS, he/she can give the consent to the government, he said.

The cabinet has passed a resolution, asking the Union government to return an amount of Rs 8,000 crore under the NPS to the state and asked the state Finance department to amend the rules and issue necessary instructions in this regard, the statement said.

In another important decision, the cabinet decided to engage 780 ASHA workers under National Health Mission (NHM) on an incentive basis to provide affordable and reliable healthcare to the people, it said.

It also gave its nod to the guidelines for the engagement of ASHA facilitators under the Community

Process Programme in NHM.

The Cabinet decided to transfer Rs 600 per student to all girls, Schedule Caste (SC), Schedule Tribe (ST) and Below Poverty Line (BPL) boys of class 1 to 8 through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), in lieu of providing them free school uniforms, benefitting about 3.70 lakh students in the state, the statement said.

The Cabinet approved leasing out toll barriers under Himachal Pradesh Tolls Act, 1975, through auction-cum tender process for 2023-24.

Approval was also accorded to rationalize the engineering staff of the Forest department while the services of 26 engineering staff would be absorbed into Public Works Department, Jal Shakti Vibhag, HP State Industrial Development Corporation, HP State Electricity Board and HP Power Corporation Ltd, it said.

The Cabinet also approved merger of "excise civil areas" from Yol Khas Cantonment Board with the adjoining Gram Panchayats Rakkar, Baghni, Tangorti Khas and Narwana Khas.

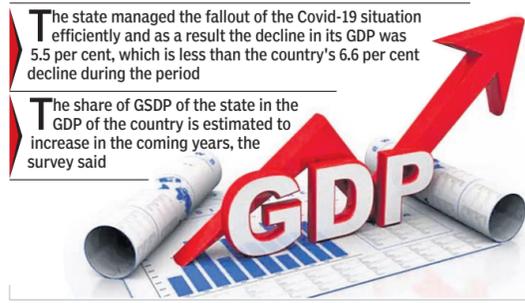
# J'khand GDP to grow 7.4% in FY'24: Survey

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Ranchi, March 4:** Jharkhand economy is expected to grow by 7.4 per cent in the fiscal beginning April 1, 2023 and is on the road to recovery despite being severely battered by the pandemic, the state economic survey said.

"The state grew at the rate of 8.2 per cent in 2021-22. It is estimated to grow by 7.8 per cent in the current financial year of 2022-23 and by 7.4 per cent in 2023-24," said the economic survey tabled by Jharkhand Finance Minister Rameshwar Oraon in the state Assembly.

The survey, that detailed the state of the economy ahead of the government's Budget for 2023-24, said that despite the second and the third waves of Covid-19 the economy of the state recovered in



The state managed the fallout of the Covid-19 situation efficiently and as a result the decline in its GDP was 5.5 per cent, which is less than the country's 6.6 per cent decline during the period

The share of GSDP of the state in the GDP of the country is estimated to increase in the coming years, the survey said

2021-22. "In the current financial year 2022-23 while the growth rate of the country has been estimated to grow by seven per cent that of Jharkhand will be 7.8 per cent. In the coming financial year of 2023-24 when the country is estimated to

grow in the range of 6 to 6.8 per cent, Jharkhand is estimated to grow by 7.4 per cent," it said.

The survey said that the per capita income in Jharkhand which had declined during the years of economic slowdown and lockdown, has also recovered. "The per capita income at constant price increased from ₹51,365 in the year 2020-21 to ₹55,126 in the year 2021-22 and the per capita at current prices increased from ₹71,071 in 2020-21 to ₹78,660 in 2021-22. They are estimated to grow further by 6.7 per cent at constant price and 9.4 per cent at current prices in 2022-23 ... They are estimated to be ₹58,819 at constant prices and ₹86,060 at current prices in 2022-23," it said.

Regarding inflation, the survey said it remained high in the state most of the time throughout 2022 at above six per cent, which is RBI's stipulated upper limit.

In 2019-21 the percentage of multi-dimensional poor decreased to 36.6 per cent - 42.2 per cent in rural areas and 11.1 per cent in urban areas, the Jharkhand economic survey added.



Leader of Opposition in Himachal Pradesh Assembly Jai Ram Thakur with BJP leaders and supporters participates in a protest rally in Kullu

# Efforts on to curb drug menace in HP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Shimla, March 4:** Himachal Pradesh Education Minister Rohit Thakur Saturday directed officials of his department to make necessary changes in the education system for eradication of drug menace from the state.

Presiding over a review meeting of the education department here, he said ignorance about the consequences of drugs, curiosity, and psychological reasons often draw students into drug addiction.

"It has become imperative to in-grain in the mind of every child in Himachal Pradesh that we together can fight this evil and can contribute towards building a healthy society," the minister said.

He asked the National Council for Education, Research and Training (NCERT) and Himachal Pradesh Board of School Education (HPBOSE) to prepare an age-appropriate curriculum to educate children about the ill effects of drug abuse and integrate the same into the curriculum of schools and colleges.

# AFTER BOKARO, BIRD FLU OUTBREAK IN RANCHI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Ranchi, March 4:** A bird flu outbreak has been reported in Jharkhand's capital Ranchi barely a week after the disease in Bokaro district led to the culling of 4,000 chickens and ducks.

H5N1, a type of avian influenza virus, was confirmed among poultry in Ranchi, an official said.

"The Centre in a letter to Chief Secretary, Jharkhand, Sukhdev Singh March 3 has confirmed the outbreak of avian influenza (H5N1) in poultry at Ranchi, directing the state for its control and containment," he said.



The letter from the Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying read, "The samples from the said epizootic centre (Jail More, Ranchi Municipal Corporation) were sent... To the ICAR-National Institute of High Security Animal

last week, a total of 3,856 birds, including chickens and ducks, were culled in Bokaro district after confirmation of the bird flu outbreak among 'Kadakhath' chicken, a variety of the protein-rich breed

Meanwhile, Director, State Animal Husbandry, Chandan Kumar has asked the officials to identify birds for culling by declaring areas within a 1 km radius of the epicentre as the af-

fect zone. Areas within a 10 km radius will be declared as surveillance zone.

Last week, a total of 3,856 birds, including chickens and ducks, were culled in Bokaro district after confirmation of the bird flu outbreak among 'Kadakhath' chicken, a variety of the protein-rich breed. Symptoms of the infection among humans include severe upper back pain, fever, cough, shortness of breath, cold and blood in the sputum, officials said.

The Animal Husbandry Department has issued an advisory, urging people to inform it if they see dead birds.

Diseases (NIHSD) Bhopal which confirmed March 30, 2023 that samples are found positive for H5N1 avian influenza."

The state government has been asked to take immediate measures including declaration of infected and surveillance areas, restricting access to infected premises, destruction of birds and disposal of dead birds and infected material.

# Villagers join hands to build road in HP



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Hamirpur, March 4:** After waiting for years for authorities to heed their requests to build a road, residents of three villages here donated their lands and arranged funds for the construction of a 500-metre road. The road will connect three villages - Lambloo, Ghumarin and Gumar - of the Lambloo gram panchayat.

According to villagers, they decided to take matters into their own hands after waiting for years for the authorities to act on their requests to build a road.

Gram panchayat pradhan Kartar Singh Chauhan said on Saturday that he appealed to villagers to come forward for the cause, following which Vishal Kanungo, Vishal Bhardwaj and Ashok Kumar from the three villages offered their lands for building the road and provided funds for it. They also arranged a JCB machine to complete the task.

# J'khand Assembly adjourned twice



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Ranchi, March 4:** The Jharkhand Assembly was Saturday adjourned twice after the BJP-led opposition members created a ruckus on the issue of the new employment policy.

The opposition legislators and a ruling party MLA alleged that the draft of a new employment policy was passed in the state cabinet without taking the House into confidence. They demanded that government should clarify it. A new employment policy had earlier been unanimously passed in the House but was scrapped by the High Court of Jharkhand last year.

The treasury bench tried to pacify the opposition MLAs assuring them that it would give a reply on the issue March 13 but BJP MLAs came to the well of the House in protest. The House was

first adjourned till noon and then till 2 pm. After functioning of the House for about 40 minutes amid uproar in the second half, it was adjourned till March 13.

At the beginning of the day's proceedings, senior JMM leader Lobin Hembrom said that there is confusion in the state after the cabinet reportedly approved a new recruitment policy. "If the government passed any employment policy in the cabinet, it should be announced in the Assembly. If not, it should be considered as contempt of the House," he said.

The Jharkhand Cabinet Thursday approved amendments to various rules related to the Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission (JSSC) examinations, including doing away with a clause that disallowed candidates, with academic certificates from institutions outside the state, to appear in the test.

# Warmer days ahead for Himachal

The precipitation in March 2023 would be below normal (minus 20 per cent to minus 59 per cent) over most parts of Northwest India, including Himachal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Shimla, March 4:** Warmer days are in the store for Himachal Pradesh. Minimum temperatures and maximum temperatures are expected to settle above normal in most districts.

Maximum and Minimum temperatures are likely to be above normal over most parts of Himachal Pradesh during March and would stay above normal from March to May, the local MeT of-

rice said and predicted enhanced probability of occurrence of heat wave during March to May.

The rainfall in the first week is mainly negative in all of the districts. The forecast for rainfall in the second week of March is predominantly negative throughout the state.

Maximum temperature for the second week would be above normal in lower and mid hills and normal in upper hills while Minimum temperature would be



below normal in parts of tribal Lahaul and Spiti and normal in the rest of the state.

Meanwhile, the maximum day temperatures rose by a few notches and Una was hottest in the state

with a high of 32.4 degrees Celsius, which is 7.5 degrees above normal. Barring mild snowfall at isolated places in tribal areas and rains at some places, the weather remained dry in rest of the state. Gondla in Lahaul and Spiti, and Kalpa in Kinnaur district recorded 2 cm and 1.6 cm of snow while Manali and Sarahan received 12 mm and 7mm rains.

The minimum temperatures also remained above normal and Bilaspur was hottest during the night with a low of 15 degrees Celsius, seven notches above normal while Keylong was coldest in the region with minimum temperature at minus 2.7 degrees Celsius.

# Over 20% of inmates held for crimes against women

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Shimla, March 4:** More than 20 per cent of the total inmates lodged in 15 prisons in Himachal Pradesh have been booked for crimes against women, police officials said.

As many as 598 inmates, including 333 undertrials and 265 convicts, lodged in the jails have been arrested on charges of rape and other crimes against women, they said.

The total capacity of the 15 jails



in the state is 2,560 and presently 2,901 inmates are lodged in them, the officials said. Robust trial management system ensuring deposition by the witness and police to reduce pendency of cases of crime against women has led to expeditious trials in courts and improved convictions, and as a re-

sult the number of such criminals has increased in jails, said DGP Sanjay Kundu.

A total of 543 cases of rape and POCSO Act were registered in the state in 2022 (as compared to 612 in 2021), out of which 170 has been decided by various courts and in 40 per cent cases the accused have been convicted.

Himachal is the first state to start register Number 26 for sexual offenders and 4,300 sexual offenders have been identified so far out of which 55 are repeat offenders. The crime against women declined from 1,700 in 2021 to 1,606 in 2022.

The police department has established Women Help Desk num-

ber 1091 for redressal of grievances and women police stations have been made functional in all districts of the state except Lahaul and Spiti and Kinnaur districts.

Moreover, a new scheme known as "Veerangna on Wheels" has been started throughout the state for combating crime against women besides installation of CCTV, the officials added.

As per an analysis of official data, relatives were involved in 48.5 per cent of rape cases from January 2020 till October 2022, out of which fathers/step fathers were accused in 10 per cent, cousin in 6 per cent, grandfather in 1.4 per cent, uncle in 6.6 per cent and other relatives in 75.7 per cent cases.

## of the day quote

The party is committed not only to increasing agricultural production but also taking measures for the welfare of the farmers, workers and artisans dependent on agriculture

**BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA** | CONGRESS LEADER

Punjab is land of great gurus, saints and seers who have shown the way of communal harmony, peace and brotherhood

**BHAGWANT MANN** | PUNJAB CM

Those defeated in the country are portraying the danger to dynasty as a threat to democracy to sabotage the strong democratic and constitutional values of the nation

**MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI** | BJP LEADER

## SHORT TAKES

### Teacher dies

**Amaravati:** The spate of incidents of individuals dying of sudden cardiac arrest while attending their daily chores continued in the Telugu states as a school teacher succumbed in Andhra Pradesh on Saturday while teaching children. The latest incident occurred at a government primary school in Vakavari Palem village of Vetapalem mandal in Bapatla district of Andhra Pradesh. According to locals, P. Veera Babu (45) died sitting in the chair while taking a class. As the teacher suddenly turned motionless, the children alerted other teachers in the school.

### Man arrested

**New Delhi:** The Crime Branch of Delhi Police has arrested a 32-year-old notorious robber who was on the run in an attempt to murder and riot cases, said an official Saturday. The accused was identified as Robin alias Sunny, a resident of Khara Khurd, Delhi and he was wanted in cases of attempted murder and riots registered in Mukherjee Nagar police station. According to police, specific inputs were received that a wanted criminal would come near SurajMal Stadium, Nangloi, Delhi following which a police team was formed to nab him.

### One dead, 4 hurt

**Guwahati:** One person was killed and four others were injured in an elephant attack at a tea estate in Assam's Nagaon district, officials said Saturday. The incident took place in the Kaliabor Hatigaon tea estate on Friday. Witnesses have claimed that the wild tusker frightened the tea garden workers who were taking a break after a long day of work. One of the workers, Laxman Minj, was rushed to a nearby hospital but died of his injuries.

### Liquor seized

**Ranchi:** An illegal liquor factory was busted in Jharkhand's Bokaro district and spurious liquor worth around Rs 1 crore was seized, an Excise department official said. After getting a tip-off, a team of the excise department raided the illegal factory at Ganjori village, some 120-km from the state capital Ranchi, on Thursday midnight, the official said. "The factory was running in a bunker in Ganjori village. We have seized 2,000 litres of spirit, 300 cartons of spurious liquor and other items required for making liquor from the spot. The price of seized liquor will be around Rs 1 crore," excise inspector Praveen Choudhary said.



**Gehlot and Pilot have left no stone unturned in targeting each other. In their tussle, they pushed Rajasthan backwards**

**VASUNDHARA RAJE** | BJP LEADER

## Sisodia's CBI custody extended

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, March 4:** A Delhi court Saturday extended by two days the CBI custody of former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia, arrested in a corruption case related to the now-scrapped excise policy, and directed the central probe agency to produce him on Monday.

Special judge M K Nagpal also directed the CBI not to ask him the same questions repeatedly after Sisodia termed it as "mental harassment". "They are not using third-degree. But sitting for eight to nine hours and answering the same questions again and again, that too is mental harassment," Sisodia said.

To which the judge, who had on the last hearing directed the CBI not to use the third degree on the accused, told the probe agency not ask the "same questions again and again. If you have something new, ask him."

During the arguments, Sisodia's counsel also told the court that his wife's health was very poor and that she was basically in a "vegetative state". "While considering all things, my wife's medical condition has been brushed aside. She is basically a vegetable and her body is degenerating," the coun-



Special judge MK Nagpal directed the CBI not to ask him the same questions repeatedly after Sisodia termed it as 'mental harassment'

During the arguments, Sisodia's counsel also told the court that his wife's health was very poor and that she was basically in a 'vegetative state'

sel said on behalf of Sisodia.

The former deputy chief minister of Delhi made these arguments while opposing the CBI plea seeking his further custody on the ground that he was not cooperating.

The CBI's plea was opposed by Sisodia's lawyer who said the inefficiency of the agency to complete the probe cannot be ground for remand and he cannot be asked to incriminate himself.

"Non-cooperation cannot be a ground for remand. They cannot say we will wait till he confesses. They should have completed the investigation. Their failure to complete investigation can't be a ground for remand," senior advocate Dayan Krishnan, appearing for Sisodia, said.

The court, meanwhile, issued notice to the CBI on Sisodia's bail

## REMARKS AGAINST MAMATA Congress leader granted bail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, March 4:** West Bengal Congress spokesperson Kaustav Bagchi was granted bail by a court in Kolkata Saturday evening, hours after being arrested for his alleged comments against Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

A huge team of the Burtolla police station in Kolkata raided Bagchi's residence in Barrackpore in North 24 Parganas district around 3.30 am, and arrested him after a few hours. Bagchi, also a lawyer, was granted bail on a personal bail bond of Rs 1,000 by the additional chief metropolitan magistrate at Bankshall court.

The court directed him to meet the investigating officer once a week. The prosecution prayed for Bagchi's police custody till March 10 for questioning him, alleging he was involved in a conspiracy.

Praying for bail, Bagchi's lawyers questioned why a lawyer was arrested by the police early in the morning from his residence, instead of serving him a notice. The arrest was not necessary since the charges against him in the FIR do not entail a sentence of over seven years, his lawyers told the court.

Bagchi was arrested on the basis of a complaint filed at the Burtolla police station on Friday night by one Sumit Singh, who claimed to be a TMC supporter; for his alleged comments against the chief minister. Bagchi allegedly criticised Banerjee for making "personal attacks" on state Congress president Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury after the party snatched the Sagardighi seat in Murshidabad district from the TMC in a bypoll.

He was booked under several sections of the IPC, including 120-B (criminal conspiracy), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace) and 506 (criminal intimidation). The Congress workers protested against the arrest at various places across the state.

## Sibal's new platform to fight 'injustice'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, March 4:** Alleging that a government working against the citizens is at the helm, Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal Saturday announced a new platform 'Insaaf' to fight "injustice" prevailing in the country and called on everyone, including Opposition parties' chief ministers and leaders, to support him in his endeavour.

Sibal said he would hold a public meeting of the new platform at Jantar Mantar on March 11 and will put forward a new vision of India there.

He said it was an open invitation for everyone, including opposition leaders and common people, to join him at the event.

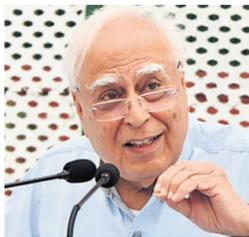
"Will give a new vision of India, a positive agenda. Main koi Modi ji ko criticise nahi karne baitha, main unko sudhaar doonga (I am not here to criticise Prime Minister Narendra Modi, but will reform him)," he said at a press conference at his residence.

Sibal alleged that injustice is prevailing in every nook and corner of India. Injustice is being done to citizens, institutions, political Opposition, journalists, teachers, and medium and small businesses, he claimed.

"We have started a website 'Insaaf ke Sipahi' where anyone can register. This will be a national level platform where lawyers will be at the forefront," the former Congress leader said.

"It is with great deliberation that I have decided that people need to be awakened and asked to become our 'Insaaf ke Sipahi' and wherever injustice is happening, they should fight it. I want all Opposition chief ministers and leaders to support me in this endeavour and we start a national movement to free ourselves from this slavery," he said.

Sibal said efforts will be made



After 2014, they (the BJP) have toppled eight governments be it in Meghalaya, Manipur, Madhya Pradesh or Maharashtra. Tell me if there is any other country where elected governments are toppled through inducements and buying of legislators. Courts, lawyers and people are silent, this is political injustice

**KAPIL SIBAL** | RAJYA SABHA MP

to bring Opposition leaders and parties to jointly fight injustice in the country, but asserted that his motives were not political but to fight for constitutional values.

The initiative by Sibal, an Independent Rajya Sabha MP who is considered an important voice of the Opposition, and his talk of bringing parties and leaders together for the "fight against injustice" comes amid a crack in Opposition ranks with the Congress and Trinamool Congress (TMC) trading barbs repeatedly.

"Through you (media) I am requesting everyone to be part of this, then we will take this forward," he said.

Responding to a question, Sibal said he wants the Congress also to join the initiative but asserted that this was aimed at being a people's movement and political party.

## FLIGHT DIVERTED

A Patna-bound Spicejet flight was diverted to Varanasi after glitch in brakes, sources said Saturday. The plane took-off from Delhi and was scheduled to land at Patna airport at 8.30 a.m Friday



## Future of EVs in India is incredibly bright: Nayyar

Business is combined efforts of an individual or a group of people to produce and sell goods and services for making profits, says Jyoti Swaroop Nayyar, director of Unique Resources Pvt Ltd in an interaction with Orissa POST. Excerpts:



What are the major problems that the Indian automobile industry is facing?

A host of factors like the new environmental safety regulations, fuel price hikes, liquidity crunch among others are challenging the growth of Indian automobile sector. One of the biggest issues that disturbed the automobile industry is global shortage of semi-conductors. Several automakers including Ford, General Motors, and Hyundai had predicted the near two-year chip constraint to ease by the end of 2022. However, automotive chip-makers, on the other hand, anticipate the industry to take longer to recover. Meanwhile, the precarious global economy is threatening to further shrink the revenue pool for the market.

How can we improve sales and services in automobile industry?

To improve sales one must build trust with the customers. You can also adjust your campaign budgets based on buying trends. Targeting the right customer base for a product and being there with the clients can be a game changer. We in Unique Resources also check the product-market fit which is the degree to which a product satisfies a strong market demand and has unique value propositions. Focusing on existing customer base and why customers buy a particular product is very beneficial for steady growth. Hence, we need to increase the number of customers, raise the average order size and escalate the number of repeat purchases.

What is your opinion about future of electric vehicles in India?

The future of electric vehicles in India is incredibly bright, thanks to the advent of path-breaking EV technologies in India as well as the world. Willingness to share these technologies for the global good has led to low manufacturing and driving costs. The Economic Survey 2023 predicts that India's domestic EV market will see a 49% compound annual growth rate (CAGR) between 2022 and 2030, with 10 million annual sales by 2030. Additionally, the EV industry is projected to create around 50 million direct and indirect jobs by 2030. In recent years, EVs have become increasingly popular in India owing to growing eco-consciousness, efforts to reduce dependence on fossil fuels, and rising fuel costs. 2022 saw a rise in EV sales, especially two-wheeler EV, which has seen a whopping rise of 300% compared to the year 2021. This shows the promise of EV market in India. Not only will it grow if it gets the right push, but India also has the potential to be a global pioneer in the EV sector. The key focus of the EV industry should now be on building scale and capacity.

How has been your journey so far and what does your organisation aim for?

We started our journey in 2003 and now Unique Resources has a strong presence in trading, crushing, hospitality and logistics. We

have also taken the distributorship of TVS in Sundargarh district from September 2019. At Unique TVS, I learned proper management of people, assets and risk to make the business expand and develop. I learned the ability to keep going in the face of hardship. My greatest assets are my people. When you look after your people, you are investing in the success of your company and safeguard its future too. It is very important to take care of your employees' work environment, health, mental well-being and in turn their performance at work. In short, with all these above activities my journey has been good so far, but there is a lot to achieve in terms of growth, growth of my staffs and their well-being.



## Eight injured in Tripura

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Agartala, March 4:** At least eight people were injured in post-poll violence in Tripura, police said Saturday.

Twenty people have been arrested in connection with the post-poll violence incidents in the state, the police said. Chief Minister Manik Saha who visited the injured persons at GBP hospital on Friday asked the police to take stern action against the miscreants in order to maintain peace and tranquility.

Most of the post-poll violence cases were reported from Sepahijala and Khowai districts where a few persons were injured and shifted to nearby health facility but no death is reported yet, Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIG), Law and Order, Jyotishman Das Chowdhury said.

## POST-POLL VIOLENCE

"So far five specific FIRs have been registered in this regard and eight people were grievously injured. Over twenty miscreants were arrested for their alleged involvement", he said, adding that around 70 such incidents have been reported across the state since the election results were announced.

All the police stations have been alerted following post poll violence, he said, adding that the police are working in coordination with the local administration to maintain peace.

In Sepahijala district, Charilam, Sutarmura and Lalsinghmura witnessed violence but there was no major incidents due to timely intervention by the police and administration, he said.

## GUTKHA BAN

## SC ISSUES NOTICE ON TN GOVT'S PLEA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, March 4:** The Supreme Court has sought a response to a plea challenging an order of the Madras High Court quashing a May 2018 notification prohibiting the sale, manufacture and transport of gutkha and other tobacco-based products.

A bench of Justices KM Joseph and BV Nagarathna issued notice to Food Safety Commissioner, Jayavilas Tobacco Traders and others on a plea filed by the Tamil Nadu government.

"Issue notice in the special leave petition. Issue notice in the prayer for interim relief also" the bench said.

Additional Advocate General Amit Anand Tiwari, appearing for the state, argued that orders of the Food Safety Commissioner banning the sale, storage, manufacture, etc. Of gutkha and other tobacco products are backed by Regulation 2.3.4 of the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on Sales) Regulations, 2011.

The high court had set aside a notification issued by the Food Safety Commissioner on May 23, 2018, banning the manufacture, storage, transport, distribution and sale of gutkha, pan masala and other chewable food products containing tobacco/ nicotine as ingredients.

It had held that allowing the Food Safety Commissioner to impose a permanent ban on tobacco products by issuing successive notifications year after year would amount to conferring a power that was not provided in the law.

## Sangam era terracotta lamps unearthed from TN river

ACCORDING TO RESEARCHERS WHO CARRIED OUT THE EXCAVATIONS, THE TERRACOTTA LAMPS THAT WERE UNEARTHED FROM THE THENPENNAI RIVERBED, WERE OF VARIOUS SHAPES AND SIZES AND PERFECTLY HANDMADE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, March 4:** Archeologists have unearthed a few terracotta lamps stated to be of the Sangam era from the river bed of the Thenpennai river in Panruti.

The unearthing of the lamps has created excitement among researchers on human settlements and archeology. The terracotta lamps that were unearthed from Thenpennai river bed in the past two days resemble that of terracotta lamps that were found at Keeladi in Sivaganga district and Arikamedu in Pudukchery.

These two sites were arche-



logical sites believed to have the story of a rich civilisation hidden beneath. The finding of terracotta lamps from Panruti in Cuddalore district from the Thenpennai river

is also considered to be a finding which has far reaching significance in the archeological and anthropological studies that are being conducted in Tamil Nadu by the

state archeological department and the Archeological Survey of India (ASI).

According to researchers who carried out the excavations, the terracotta lamps that were unearthed from the Thenpennai riverbed, were of various shapes and sizes and perfectly handmade.

C. Immanuel, who is an archeological researcher, and Prof D. Ramesh, History Professor of Villupuram Arignar Anna Arts College who have found these terracotta lamps from the Thenpennai riverbed said that these lamps were both in black and red colour. They said that one lamp was red

in colour and disc-like with a depression in the middle and had four points for wick to be placed to lit up. The other one was black in colour and had one point to hold the wick. However, both the lamps were damaged but made with excellent craftsmanship.

The researchers said that the lamps were an indication of the domestication process of human beings who wanted light for a long time in closed places. It is to be noted that terracotta lamps were found also from Paiyampalli and Appukal in the Vellore district and Mothur in Erode district of Tamil Nadu.

# international



**Make no mistake: Communist China is the strongest and most disciplined enemy we have ever faced. We need to hold China accountable. Let us start with Covid**  
NIKKI HALEY | REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL ASPIRANT

## ANOTHER HINDU TEMPLE VANDALISED IN AUSTRALIA

A prominent Hindu temple in Brisbane was attacked by pro-Khalistan supporters Saturday, in the latest incident of vandalism against Hindu temples in Australia. The incident took place at the Shree Laxmi Narayan Temple in Brisbane



### of the day quote

Increasing violence against both Israelis and Palestinians has had tragic consequences on the innocent people

VOLKER TURK | UNITED NATIONS (UN) HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

I want to ask the facilitators why they want to save a person (Imran Khan) because of whom the country's fate has sunk. That person drowned himself, but why are you people bent on (losing) your jobs?

MARYAM NAWAZ | PAKISTAN MUSLIM LEAGUE-NAWAZ SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT

Argentina has chosen to step away from an agreement that has brought comfort to the families of those who died in the 1982 conflict

DAVID RUTLEY | UK'S MINISTER FOR THE AMERICAS



People take part in a theatrical procession with a model of St. Casimir, the patron saint of Lithuania, during the traditional St. Casimir's Fair, a large annual folk arts and craft fair in Vilnius, Lithuania. The festival honors St. Casimir, the patron saint of Lithuanian who was born in the 17th century to whom this fair was dedicated in the 19th century

## China hints at hiking defence budget

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Beijing, March 4:** Beijing, Mar 4 (PTI) China Saturday signalled at increasing its defence budget, the second biggest after the US, citing "complex security challenges" ahead of its annual Parliament session during which it will unveil a new ministerial and official leadership, including a successor to Premier Li Keqiang.

Over 5,000 deputies and advisors will take part in the two sessions lasting for over a week during which China will formally unveil its new ministerial and top official leadership including a new Premier to succeed Li, who will be retiring.

Li is widely expected to be succeeded by President Xi Jinping's loyalist Li Qiang. Except for President Xi, 69, all top officials will be replaced as part of the practice of changing the leadership team every 10 years.

Xi and a new set of officials -- mostly stated to be his loyalists -- were elected to various key posts of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) at its once-in-a-five-year Congress here in October last year.

Xi, regarded as the most powerful leader holding the key posts of head of the party, the military and the Presidency, has been elected for an unprecedented third five-year term continuing in power beyond the 10-year tenure followed by his predecessors.

Ahead of the NPC session, its spokesman Wang Chao signalled an increase in its defence budget, which last year totalled \$230 billion after a 7.1 per cent rise, the second largest after the US defence spending of \$777.1 billion.

Wang, while not disclosing the amount, which he said will be formally revealed at the NPC on



China's steady increases in annual defence budgets, saying China's defence spending as a share of the GDP was lower than the world average. China has been ramping up its defence expenditure as it vied with the US for global influence.

China's steady increases in annual defence budgets, saying China's defence spending as a share of the GDP was lower than the world average. China has been ramping up its defence expenditure as it vied with the US for global influence.

On Friday, Guo Weimin, spokesperson of the CPPCC said the allegations of "debt traps" linked to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) are a groundless smear, and Beijing will not stop the initiative from going forward.

China's investments like that of Sri Lanka's Hambantota port which it acquired as part of a debt swap led to allegations of debt traps.

Guo said to avoid creating new debt risks for countries participating in the BRI initiative, China has taken into account their conditions when offering loans for their projects. The BRI, which involves mainly infrastructure and production, has added to high-quality assets in participating countries, he said. By mid-February, China had signed more than 200 BRI cooperation documents with 151 countries and 32 international organisations, Guo said.

Its last year's defence budget was over three times that of India's defence spending of about USD 70 billion

Wang said the increase in the defence budget is needed to meet the "complex security challenges for China to fulfil its responsibilities as a major country"

China's military modernisation will not be a threat to any country but a positive force safeguarding regional stability and world peace, Wang said

The annual season of China's rubber-stamp Parliament began Saturday with the opening meeting of the top advisory body the CPPCC while its national legislature, the NPC, will begin its session Sunday

### SHORT TAKES

#### Indonesia fuel depot fire kills 18

**Jakarta:** Indonesian rescuers and firefighters Saturday searched for more than a dozen missing under the rubble of charred houses and buildings, after a large fire spread from a fuel storage depot in the capital and killed at least 18 people. The Plumpang fuel storage station, operated by state-run oil and gas company Pertamina, is near a densely populated area in the Tanah Merah neighbourhood in North Jakarta.

#### Storms roll eastward after slamming Texas

**California:** A large storm system spouting heavy winds and possible tornados in Texas, Louisiana and Kentucky damaged homes and buildings, downed trees, left thousands without power and was blamed for the deaths of two people Friday as it marched eastward, threatening heavy snow in the Midwest and Northeast. After spawning likely tornados overnight in Texas and Louisiana that damaged a university campus, the storms threatened the Tennessee and Ohio valleys with high winds and more tornados as they moved toward New England.

#### 16 killed in traffic accident in SA

**Johannesburg:** Sixteen people were killed in a traffic accident involving two minibus taxis and a heavy vehicle on the R579 in Motetema, Limpopo province, the Limpopo Department of Transport and Community Safety said. One of the minibus taxis involved was transporting learners to school; drivers of the two taxis and six learners were among the 16 killed, Chueane said, adding that law enforcement officers at the scene cite reckless driving as a possible cause of the crash.

## KING CHARLES TO BE ANOINTED WITH HOLY OIL

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**London, March 4:** The oil which will be used to anoint King Charles III during his coronation May 6 will not include any ingredients from animals, the media reported Saturday.

The "chrism oil" for the coronation was consecrated Friday by the Patriarch of Jerusalem and the Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem, at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, built on the site where it is believed Jesus Christ died and was buried, reports the BBC. This was carried out in one of the city's holiest Christian sites,



the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Previous versions have included civet oil, from the glands of the small mammals, and ambergris from the intestines of whales. There had been concerns about animal cruelty and the need to protect wildlife and the latest formula for the holy oil for King Charles's coronation will be animal free.

## UN nuclear head meets Iranians

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Dubai, March 4:** The head of the UN nuclear watchdog was meeting with officials in Iran Saturday, days after it was revealed that the country had enriched particles of uranium to near weapons-grade, raising new alarm over its long-disputed nuclear programme.

Rafael Mariano Grossi, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, declined to comment on his discussions during a press conference with the head of Iran's nuclear programme, saying the delegation's work was still ongoing.



"It's an atmosphere of work, of honesty and cooperation," Grossi said. He later met with Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi and was expected to speak with reporters upon his return to Vienna. The confidential quarterly report by the IAEA, which was dis-

## Civilians flee embattled town as Ukrainian pullout looms

ASSOCIATED PRESS

tributed to member states Tuesday, came as tensions were already high amid months of anti-government protests in Iran and Western anger at its export of attack drones to Russian forces fighting in Ukraine.

The IAEA report says that inspectors in January found that two cascades of IR-6 centrifuges at Iran's Fordo facility had been configured in a way "substantially different" to what had been previously declared.

The IAEA took samples the following day, which showed particles with up to 83.7 per cent purity, the report said.

Pressure mounted Saturday on Ukrainian troops and civilians hunkering down in Bakhmut, as Kyiv's forces tried to help residents flee amid what Western analysts say may be preparations for a Ukrainian withdrawal from the eastern city that Russian forces have spent months trying to capture.

A woman was killed and two men were badly wounded by shelling while trying to cross a makeshift bridge out of Bakhmut Saturday, according to Ukrainian troops who were assisting them.

A Ukrainian army representative who asked not to be named for operational reasons told The Associated Press that it was now too dangerous for civilians to leave the city in Donetsk province by vehicle and that people had to flee on foot instead.

Bakhmut has for months been a key target of Moscow's grinding eastern offensive, with Russian troops, including large forces from the private Wagner Group, inching ever closer to Kyiv's key eastern stronghold. An AP team near Bakhmut Saturday saw a pontoon bridge set up by Ukrainian soldiers to help the city's few remaining residents reach the nearby village of Khromove. Later, they saw at least five houses on fire as a result of attacks in Khromove.

## Chennai, Kolkata at particular risk due to sea level rise: Study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Washington, March 4:** Sea level rise this century may disproportionately affect certain Asian megacities as well as western tropical Pacific islands and the western Indian Ocean, according to a new research.

The study looked at the effects of natural sea level fluctuations on the projected rise due to climate change, it said. It did so by mapping sea level hotspots around the globe.

The study is published in the journal Nature Climate Change. Scientists have long known that sea levels will rise with increasing ocean temperatures, largely because water expands when it warms and melting ice sheets release more water into the oceans.



Studies have also indicated that sea level rise will vary regionally because shifts in ocean currents will likely direct more water to certain coastlines, including the north-eastern United States. What is notable about this study is the way it incorporates naturally occurring sea level fluctuations caused by such events as El Nino or changes in the water cycle, a process known as internal climate variability, the study said.

According to the study, by using both a computer model of global climate and a specialised statistical model, the scientists could determine the extent to which these natural fluctuations can amplify or reduce the impact of climate change on sea level rise along certain coastlines.

The study showed that internal climate variability could increase sea level rise in some locations by 20-30 per cent more than what would result from climate change alone, exponentially increasing extreme flooding events, it said.

In Manila, for example, coastal flooding events are predicted to occur 18 times more often by 2100 than in 2006, based solely on climate change, the study said.

But, in a worst-case scenario, they could occur 96 times more

often based on a combination of climate change and internal climate variability, it said. Internal climate variability will also increase sea level rise along the west coasts of the United States and Australia, it said.

The study drew on a set of simulations conducted with the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR)-based Community Earth System Model that assume society this century emits greenhouse gases at a high rate.

The simulations were run at the NCAR-Wyoming Supercomputing Center. The paper stressed that the estimates of sea level rise come with considerable uncertainties because of the complex and unpredictable interactions in Earth's climate system.

THE RESEARCH TEAM IDENTIFIED SEVERAL ASIAN MEGACITIES THAT MAY FACE ESPECIALLY SIGNIFICANT RISKS BY 2100 IF SOCIETY CONTINUED TO EMIT HIGH LEVELS OF GREENHOUSE GASES: CHENNAI, KOLKATA, YANGON, BANGKOK, HO CHI MINH CITY, AND MANILA

# business

## of the day quote

Infrastructure development is the driving force of the country's economy. Now we have to improve our speed and move in top gear



**NARENDRA MODI** | PRIME MINISTER

There is a fundamental reset underway in semiconductor, electronics and innovation world order post-Covid, and like-minded nations need to work together on a cooperative framework to shape the future of technology



**RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR** | MINISTER OF STATE FOR IT

The interest rates will remain at higher levels as it looks unlikely that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will cut rates. There is a possibility of another rate hike based on how inflation turns out in the coming month



**MADAN SABNAVIS** | CHIEF ECONOMIST, BANK OF BARODA

## SHORT TAKES

### Twitter's revenue drops 40% in Dec

**San Francisco:** Despite Elon Musk's efforts to monetise Twitter, the micro-blogging platform reported a massive 40 per cent drop in revenue and adjusted earnings for December 2022, the media reported Saturday. Several advertisers "ditched the social-media platform following Elon Musk's takeover," the Wall Street Journal reported, citing sources. In an update to investors, Twitter reported a 40 per cent decline (year-over-year) in both revenue and adjusted earnings for December. The company recently made a first interest payment to banks that lent \$13 billion to help Musk buy Twitter. Musk had predicted in November that Twitter may go bankrupt. He fired thousands of employees and shut down offices across the world in order to cut expenditures. The company had lost half of the top 100 advertisers in less than a month after the billionaire took office. Later, some advertisers returned to the platform.

### HDFC subsidiaries get merger nod

**New Delhi:** The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) Friday gave its approval for the merger of HDFC Property Ventures and HDFC Venture Capital with HDFC Capital Advisors, taking the merger of the parent with HDFC Bank a step closer. The tribunal is yet to approve the merger of its two insurance arms and the asset management company as also the patent into the bank as part of the \$40-billion reverse merger. In its final order, the NCLT sanctioned a composite scheme of amalgamation of HDFC Property Ventures and HDFC Venture Capital into HDFC Capital Advisors, HDFC said in an exchange filing. This approval will help pave the way for the merger of HDFC into HDFC Bank expected to be finalised by the third quarter of next financial year. The proposed entity will have a combined asset base of around ₹18 lakh crore.

### Airbnb lays off 30% of staffers

**San Francisco:** Online hospitality major Airbnb has laid off 30 per cent of its recruiting staff. The cuts affected 0.4 per cent of the company's total workforce of 6,800, as it plans to increase headcount this year. Amid the pandemic, Airbnb had laid off 25 per cent of its workforce, or about 1,900 employees.



At a time when the world has so many challenges, it's inspiring to visit a dynamic and creative place like India

**BILL GATES** | CO-FOUNDER, MICROSOFT

## HEATWAVE FEAR FOR WHEAT PRODUCTION

A heatwave in northern and central India at a time the crop is ripening is threatening to damage grains and dent the country's wheat production for the second straight year. The reduction in production amid a drop in inventories to the lowest level in 6 years may force the world's second-biggest producer of the grain to allow imports after banning exports last year



## SLOWDOWN CONTINUES

# 2023 holds little promise for tech IPOs

2023 DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE PROMISING AS OF NOW AS CONSUMER DEMAND IS EXPECTED TO STAY LOW OVER THE COMING QUARTERS, AS INFLATION CONTINUES TO RISE, CREATING A FURTHER SLOWDOWN PHASE FOR THE STARTUPS IN THE COUNTRY

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, March 4:** The global economic crisis, which hit the companies' initial public offering (IPO) plans in India in 2022, continues to haunt the founders and CEOs and the first two months of the new year went completely dry as no public offering was launched amid recession fears.

Although some IPOs appear to be in the offing this month, the mood among the companies, investors and the public is yet to be lifted after a dismal December.

Forty Indian corporates raised ₹59,412 crore through IPOs in calendar year (CY) 2022, half of the ₹1,18,723 crore (all-time high) mobilised by 63 IPOs in 2021, according to Prime Database, India's pre-

mier database on the primary capital market.

When it comes to big new-age internet companies, only fully-integrated logistics service provider Delhivery (Rs 5,235 crore IPO) and data intelligence firm Tracxn Technologies (Rs 309.38 crore) took the public offering route last year.

Dronecharya Aerial Innovations also went public, with an aim to raise approximately ₹34 crore through a new issuance of shares. In 2021, 11 startups went public, including Zomato, Paytm, Policybazaar and Nykaa.

Market experts believe there will be many more IPOs from March onwards.

There is an ongoing risk of further escalation in the war on Ukraine and the current wheat



crop being impacted by hot weather conditions, according to market research firm Redseer Strategy Consultants.

Consumer perception of the general economic condition continues to be pessimistic as per the Reserve Bank of India's Consumer Confidence Survey of January 2023, where more than 50 per cent of consumers reported it to have

Startups and tech companies that deferred their public offerings last year included Oyo, Snapdeal, Ola, Droom, MobiKwik, PharmEasy, BoAt and Flipkart

ier funding environment.

"Therefore, startups must focus on efficient unit economics and improving profitability by sticking to their core offerings," according to the RedSeer report.

In some good news, as the stock performances of tech IPOs, compared to other consumer companies, witnessed a steeper crash, India is poised to see more than 100 large-scale profitable/path-to-profitability startups in the next five years.

With about 20 of them already being listed, about 80 start-ups have the potential to look at an IPO journey by Redseer Strategy Consultants with HSBC. The learning is that there may be more time, maybe a few quarters, for the markets to recover.

## Windfall tax on diesel slashed to ₹0.50/litre, nil on aviation fuel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, March 4:** The government slashed windfall profit tax on export of diesel to its lowest of ₹0.50 per litre and nil on jet fuel (ATF) while the levy on domestically produced crude oil was marginally increased, according to an official order.

The levy on crude oil produced by companies such as Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has hiked to ₹4,400 per tonne from ₹4,350 per tonne, the order dated March 3 said.

Crude oil pumped out of the ground and from below the seabed is refined and converted into fuels like petrol, diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF).

The government has also cut the tax on export of diesel to ₹0.5 per litre from ₹2.5, and the same on overseas shipments of ATF was cut to nil from ₹1.50 a litre.

The new tax rates come into effect from March 4, the order said. This is the second reduction in rates in a fortnight. Rates were cut February 16.

The export levy on diesel and ATF is the lowest since the tax was introduced in July last year.

The tax rates are reviewed every fortnight based on average oil prices in the previous two weeks.

India first imposed windfall profit taxes July 1, joining a growing number of nations that tax super normal profits of energy companies. At that time, export duties of ₹6 per litre (\$12 per barrel) each were levied on petrol and ATF and ₹13 a litre (\$26 a barrel) on diesel.

A ₹23,250 per tonne (\$40 per barrel) windfall profit tax on domestic crude production was also levied.

The export tax on petrol was scrapped in the very first review.

Reliance Industries Ltd, which operates the world's largest single-location oil refinery complex at Jamnagar in Gujarat, and Rosneft-backed Nayara Energy are primary exporters of fuel in the country.

The government levies tax on windfall profits made by oil producers on any price they get above a threshold of \$75 per barrel.

The levy on fuel exports is based on cracks or margins that refiners earn on overseas shipments. These margins are primarily a difference between the international oil price realised and the cost.

## RECORD JET ORDER

# IndiGo in talks with Boeing, Airbus

IndiGo is looking to order around 500 jets just after Air India closed the biggest aviation deal in history to buy 470 aircraft at a list price of \$70bn

REUTERS

**Delhi, March 4:** Indian budget carrier IndiGo is in talks with both Boeing and its current supplier Airbus to order more than 500 passenger jets, potentially smashing an industry record set by domestic rival Air India a few weeks ago, industry sources said.

India's largest airline has until now been an exclusive buyer of narrow-body jets from Airbus and French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said last month that IndiGo was close to ordering several hundred planes from the European planemaker.

But negotiations to keep renewing the budget carrier's fleet from the end of the decade have also broadened to include mid-sized wide-body jets, sparking a contest between Boeing's 787 Dreamliner and the upgraded Airbus A330neo,



the sources said.

IndiGo, owned by InterGlobe Aviation Ltd, is also comparing the A320neo with the Boeing 737 MAX as it weighs a major new order for narrow-body jets, they added. The split between wide- and narrow-body jets was not immediately clear.

An IndiGo representative told Reuters the airline is constantly in talks with manufacturers as it plans its next phase of growth. "However, we haven't finalised anything till now," Airbus declined to comment on any talks, saying it is "always in contact with existing and potential customers". Boeing had no immediate comment.

IndiGo, which counts a 55% share of the domestic market, is widely expected to maintain Airbus as its supplier of narrow-body jets to squeeze out further economies of scale.

It is already one of Airbus's largest customers and has so far ordered a total of 830 Airbus A320-family jets of which 488 are still to be delivered.

But Indian analysts say Airbus will face a tougher fight for the wide-body order. In a departure from its single-aisle strategy, IndiGo last month began international operations with a Boeing 777, its first wide-body aircraft, taken from codeshare partner Turkish Airlines, which provides the pilots.

## RECORD DEMAND

Efforts by Indian carriers to keep pace with the world's fastest-growing aviation market, serving what is soon to become the largest population, have sent industry records tumbling even though manufacturers are struggling to meet output goals.

Tata-owned Air India last month sealed deals for a record 470 jets from Airbus and Boeing and plans to lease another 25 for immediate needs, bringing the acquisition to 495 aircraft.

The head of budget airline Akasa Air told Reuters last month it would place a "substantially" large order for new narrowbody jets this year on top of an existing Boeing 737 MAX order.

Indian aviation has been hobbled in the past by airline failures, weak infrastructure and questions over the rights of foreign leasing companies that step in to finance the sales.

Indigo began operations in 2006 and flies to more than 75 Indian cities including to remote destinations in the country's northeast. It also flies internationally to nearby places including Dubai, Singapore, Hanoi and Maldives and is expanding into Europe through its partnership with Turkish Airlines.

## Bank of India organises SHG loan fair

Bhubaneswar:

Bank of India, Bhubaneswar Zone organised SHG loan fair for women Self Help Group (SHGs) at Nuasantha Branch of the bank. Dipti Hota, Chief Manager (Credit Department) Zonal Office, Bhubaneswar Zone distributed sanction letters to 15 SHGs. Pipli Star Bikash Kendra in charge Nutan Mishra, BLC Sabyasachi Moharana and Sarpanch of Nuasantha Gram Panchayat Prafulla Kumar Swain were present on this occasion. The main motto of the fair was to make women financially independent and include them in various government sponsored financial schemes. Branch Manager Sujata Das presided over the programme and Abinash Samantray conducted the programme.



## Foxconn seeks chip, EV cooperation with India

REUTERS

**Taipei, March 4:** Major Apple Inc supplier Foxconn said Saturday it was seeking cooperation in India in new areas like chips and electric vehicles (EVs) after a visit to the country by its chairman, Liu Young-way.

Apple has been shifting production away from China after the country's strict Covid-19 restrictions disrupted the manufacturing of new-model iPhones and other devices, and amid tensions between Beijing and Washington.

In January, India's trade minister said Apple, which began iPhone assembly in the country in 2017 through Wistron Corp and



later Foxconn, wants India to account for up to 25% of its production from about 5% to 7% currently

Taiwan's Foxconn, the world's largest contract electronics maker and formally called Hon Hai Precision Industry Co Ltd, said Liu had visited India from February 27 to Saturday. "My trip this week supported Foxconn's efforts to deepen partnerships, meet old friends and make new ones, and seek cooperation in new areas such as semiconductor development and electric vehicles," Liu said.

"On the basis to share, collaborate and thrive together, Foxconn will continue to communicate with local governments to seek the most beneficial development opportunities for the company and all stakeholders," Liu added. He did not mention any new concrete investment plans, and Foxconn has not announced any since his trip.

Apple's iPhones will soon be assembled at another site in Karnataka, and 300 acres have been aside to set up a factory, the state government said.

Currently, iPhones are assembled in India by at least three of Apple's global suppliers - Foxconn and Pegatron in Tamil Nadu, and Wistron in Karnataka.

# Startups struggling to raise funds, investors retreat

ONLY 53% OF STARTUPS SAW POSITIVE FUNDRAISING EXPERIENCE IN 2022, DOWN FROM 92% IN 2021

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, March 4:** The economic turbulence of 2022 has entered 2023, even getting worse, and startup founders are finding it all the more difficult to raise funds amid the global macro-economic conditions.

Amid a deepening funding winter, only 53 per cent of startup founders had a positive fundraising experience (71 per cent of those who attempted to raise) in 2022, down from 92 per cent in 2021.

Startup founders expect this year to be challenging, with 58 per cent of founders expecting a tough fundraising environment, according to a recent report by InnoVen Capital, Asia's leading venture debt firm.

Fintech startups in India raised

\$5.65 billion in 390 rounds last year, a massive drop of 47 per cent in terms of funding amount and 29 per cent in the number of rounds when compared to 2021.

This drop in funding can be attributed to the decline in late-stage funding from \$8.3 billion in 2021 to \$3.7 billion in 2022, a drop of 56 per cent, according to data provided by global software-as-a-service (SaaS)-based market intelligence platform, Tracxn.

"The country is currently experiencing a funding winter. Growing inflation and macroeconomic tensions have made the investors step back from making big investment decisions," the Tracxn report said.

In 2023, the tightening funding environment has also led to an increased focus on profitability and

The year 2022 was challenging for the startup ecosystem with an end to cheap money, rising interest rates and a challenging geopolitical environment. The positive aspect of the slowdown has been an increased appreciation for building sustainable business models

**ASHISH SHARMA** | MANAGING PARTNER, INNOVEN CAPITAL INDIA

unit economics.

"While both growth and profitability are important, for the first time in seven years, founders had a higher bias for profitability over growth. Around 55 per cent of founders cited profitability as a bigger focus area in 2023, com-

pared to only 17 per cent in 2021," the InnoVen Capital report said.

Startup founders are also increasingly looking towards a domestic IPO as the likely mode of exit, despite the recent volatility of public market tech companies.

As Indian startups face turbu-

lence in the global funding winter, experts said they need to reserve cash, create a long-term goal and adopt a culture of customer feedback to survive in 2023.

According to Ritesh Malik, Director, Alliance for Digital India Foundation (ADIF), startups must

hear back from their customers.

"The more you hear from your customers, the more you will be able to understand their changing needs. And the more your product becomes dynamic, you constantly change that product to the whims and fancies of the customer," he told IANS.

Ravish Naresh, CEO and Co-founder of Khatabook, said that there is a stronger acknowledgment of Indian startups' role in solving core problems of emerging economies to bridge the socio-economic gaps.

"This year, our primary aim is to turn profitable and scale up the digital lending offerings to meet the unmet credit demand of Indian MSME businesses. We are optimistic about the Indian economy and its opportunities for the startup ecosystem," he said.

# Mumbai Indians slay Giants DC hold slight edge over RCB



HARMANPREET KAUR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, March 4:** In a mismatch of epic proportions, Mumbai Indians crushed Gujarat Giants by 143 runs to stamp their authority with an all-round show as the Women's Premier League got underway here Saturday.

After posting a mammoth 207/5, powered by captain Harmanpreet Kaur's sensational 30-ball 65 (14x4), Mumbai Indians' bowlers led by Saika Ishaque (4/11) produced a superb show to restrict Giants to just 64/9 in 15.1 overs and make a dream start to the competition.

Giants captain Beth Mooney suf-

fered an injury in the first over and retired hurt after initial checkup on the field, and could not return to bat again.

Mumbai not only dominated Giants right from the start but also showcased their aggressive style of play both with the bat and the ball in the first game itself, delighting a fairly-packed crowd.

Kaur recorded the first-ever half century of WPL with stunning strokeplay and added 89 runs from just 42 balls with New Zealand's Amelia Kerr (45 n o, 24b, 6x4, 1x6) after Hayley Matthews (47, 31b, 3x4, 4x6) provided the initial fireworks.

Kaur's innings was straight out

of textbook for all the domestic players watching in her team, competition and beyond. She found gaps at will, connected the ball perfectly, and did not give a single chance to the opposition bowlers to capitalise.

But before Kaur's onslaught, it was the aggressive West Indies batter Matthews who looked set to score the first fifty of the tournament but unfortunately fell just three runs short.

Matthews added 54 runs for the second wicket with Nat Sciver-Brunt, an association that laid the platform for a strong first-innings total for the winning side.

England star Sciver-Brunt was

in her elements as after smoking 5 fours for her 18-ball 23, she returned an opening spell of 2-0-5-2 that helped derail the Gujarat Giants off the track.

It was certainly a forgettable first outing for Giants who did not have much to cheer about. After their bowlers were hammered all over the park for a grand total of 31 fours and 6 sixes by the Mumbai Indians, the wheels came off completely when they were left tottering at 23/6 after 7.1 overs.

With the pounding received in the first half of the game, the matters became worse for the Giants as soon as their chase began.

In the first over, Giants' captain and arguably the best batter in the side, Mooney retired hurt after facing only her third ball. She is believed to have injured her left knee after making a few paces for a run but deciding against it.

On the final delivery, Sciver-Brunt drew the first blood getting Harleen Deol caught at deep third man for a two-ball duck. The England player returned in the third over to hurt Giants further, this time cleaning up opening batter Sabhineni Meghana.

But before they lost Meghana, Giants had suffered a huge blow in the form of Ashleigh Gardner, with Matthews taking a sharp catch at the first slip off the right-arm pacer Issy Wong (1/7) to walk back for a golden duck.

Ishaque removed Annabel Sutherland (6) in the fifth over, and returned in the seventh over of the innings to clean up Georgia Wareham (8), making the most of the pressure created by the impressive right-arm seamer Wong from the other end. The pair of Dayalan Hemlatha (29 n o) and Mansi Joshi (6) did their best to delay the inevitable, but Mumbai completed the win with 29 balls to spare.

### BRIEF SCORES

Mumbai Indians Women (Harmanpreet Kaur 65, Hayley Matthews 47, Amelia Kerr 45 n o; Sneha Rana 2/43, Tanuja Kanwar 1/12) beat Gujarat Giants Women 64/9 (Dayalan Hemlatha 29 n o; Saika Ishaque 4/11, Nat Sciver-Brunt 2/5, Amelia Kerr 2/12, Issy Wong 1/7) by 143 runs.



CHOICE OF DOMESTIC PLAYERS A WORRY FOR MANDHANA, WHILE LANNING HAS ADVANTAGE IN THIS REGARD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, March 4:** Smriti Mandhana's languid grace will meet its match in Shafali Verma's brute power when Royal Challengers Bangalore take on Delhi Capitals in a WPL here Sunday.

RCB have prepared a fantastic roster in terms of international recruits, including skipper Mandhana, who is the highest paid player of the league at Rs 3.40 crore. With Ellyse Perry, Heather Knight, Sophie Devine and the marauding Richa Ghosh in their ranks, the team do have a formidable look.

But on paper, the multiple World Cup-winning legendary Australian Meg Lanning's Delhi team will have a slight edge over their opponents in terms of pure Indian talent.

While Lanning along with Jess Jonassen, Marizanne Kapp and Alice Capsey are likely to be the four overseas players, DC's Indian lineup is both formidable and scary at the same time. Shafali, Jemimah Rodrigues, Shikha Pandey, Poonam Yadav, Arundhati Reddy, Taniya Bhatia, Radha Yadav are all seasoned India players.

In U-19 World Cup-winning

### THE TEAMS

#### DELHI CAPITALS

Meg Lanning (C), Shafali Verma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Jess Jonassen, Alice Capsey, Tara Norris, Laura Harris, Marizanne Kapp, Poonam Yadav, Shikha Pandey, Taniya Bhatia (wk), Aparna Mondal (wk), Titas Sadhu, Arundhati Reddy, Radha Yadav, Minnu Mani, Jasia Akhtar

#### RCB

Smriti Mandhana (C), Richa Ghosh (wk), Dane Van Niekerk, Heather Knight, Ellyse Perry, Megan Schutt, Sophie Devine, Erin Burns, Disha Kasat, Sahana Pawar, Renuka Thakur, Komal Zanzad, Poonam Khemnar, Kanika Ahuja, Preeti Bose, Shobhana Asha, Shreyanka Patil, Indrani Roy (wk).

seamer Titas Sadhu, hard-hitting Kashmir woman Jasia Akhtar and keeper Aparna Mondal in the mix, Delhi Capitals have procured the best possible Indian talent on offer:

"I have had a few chats with the players and I'm just getting to know their strengths, what they like to do and how they think about things. Hopefully, I can learn something

from the girls and give them a little bit of knowledge as well," Lanning was quoted as saying in a DC release.

For Lanning's South African teammate Kapp, the match will see her battling it out with Dane Van Niekerk, who is in the RCB team.

"We've got a wonderful group of girls and let's see what everyone brings to the table. It'll be challenging to go against some of my fellow South Africans in the league as they know me very well. But it's also exciting and I am happy that there are a few players from our nation in India this year," Kapp said.

For Mandhana, it is easy to choose her four foreign players - Kapp, Knight, Perry and fast bowler Megan Schutt. But her problem will be to fix the slot for at least four quality Indian players with three, including the skipper herself, Richa and seamer Renuka Thakur being automatic choices.

Which four among Komal Zanzad, Shobhana Asha, Indrani Roy (toured England with Indian team in 2021), Poonam Khemnar, Kanika Ahuja and Preeti Bose, Sahana Pawar fit the bill as per team combination will determine RCB's run in the event.



(From L): Beth Mooney (DC), Beth Mooney (GG), Harmanpreet Kaur (MI), Smriti Mandhana (RCB) and Alyssa Healy (UPW) unveil the Women's Premier League trophy before the tournament opener in Mumbai, Saturday



Nat Sciver-Brunt and Saika Ishaque rejoice after the latter gets a wicket

## Santosh Trophy 1st domestic tourney to feature VAR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Riyadh, March 4:** The Video Assistant Referee (VAR) made its debut in a domestic tournament during the Santosh Trophy third-place match between Services and Punjab at the King Fahd International Stadium here Saturday.

Two officials from Saudi Arabian Football Federation (SAFF) - Khaled Alturais and Faisal Alqhtani - oversaw the match as VAR and assistant VAR. Match referee Mohammed Al Daqqash, however, did not find a single occasion to use the VAR during the contest.

The semifinals, third-place match and the final of the national football championships for the Santosh Trophy are being played in Saudi Arabia, a first in the history of the event.

The players from Punjab and Services thus became the first Indian footballers to play under the VAR. The VAR has been used on Indian soil on two occasions earlier - AFC Women's Asian Cup (from quarterfinals) and FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup (from knockout stage).

# Mentor Sania clear with her role

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, March 4:** Tennis legend Sania Mirza doesn't know much about cricket but as an elite athlete for the last two decades, she feels she can help Royal Challengers Bangalore women cricketers to deal with the mental aspect of things in the inaugural WPL.

Sania has been roped in as a mentor by RCB for the WPL. "I know nothing about cricket. I thought (when I was made mentor) what I am going to do, what am I going to talk to the girls. I am recently retired, last week actually. So I was thinking what's my next step in life.

"So my next step was try and help women athletes around and in India," Sania was seen speaking to RCB contingent, video of which has been posted on franchise's official twitter handle. "In any sport, to help with the mental aspect of things which I have been through for the last 20 years," Sania said.

Asked by a player how hard it was for her was to retire, Sania said: "I was actually ready. I have a son who is 4 and honestly the last one



Sania Mirza speaks to Heather Knight ahead of RCB's WPL campaign opener against Delhi Capitals

year has been a struggle. I had three surgeries. I just thought it was good to go out on top. I just wanted to stop," Sania said as mentor her role will be to help RCB in their jour-

ney towards maiden WPL title. "I was in individual sport, so photo-shoot, media attention everything I handled on my own, so I thought ok I can actually give something to

the girls," she said.

"It's normal to feel the pressure but you just have to know how to deal with it, block the noise a little bit and Indian media is tough."

Stating that struggle is part and parcel of every sportsperson's life, Sania reminded the RCB players their goals behind taking up the sport of cricket.

"There is struggle in everything. We didn't used to get courts, we used to cow dung based courts. We didn't have coaches. The coaches who were there were not experts. Then there is normal struggle of girls," she said.

Sania said champions are the ones who win even when situations are adverse. "Our job as an athlete is to inspire the next generation. You are only as good as how you perform on that day. The champions are one who are not winning all the time, the champions are one who are winning when they are not playing well.

"You have to remember why you started playing cricket, because you love the game," Sania concluded on her first day with the side.

# INDIAN PLAYERS BACK IN NETS



MOHAMMED SHAMI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, March 4:** A day after an embarrassing nine-wicket rout at the hands of Australia, some of India's Test squad members were back at the Holkar Stadium for a gruelling 90-minute net session.

With head coach Rahul Dravid and batting coach Vikram Rathour for company, opener Shubman Gill, middle-order batter Shreyas Iyer, all-rounders Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, and left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav sweated it out in two nets adjacent to the match strip.

The third Test, played on an extremely turning pitch with variable bounce, ended in just over two days. While Kuldeep had a long bowl at the nets, the other four enjoyed extended batting sessions against local net bowlers and also faced throwdowns.

There were no experimental or innovative shot selections but plain and simple copybook batting as they looked to get some form back before the fourth and final Test, starting in Ahmedabad from March 9.

### SHAMI SET TO RETURN

India's senior-most speedster Mohammed Shami is expected to feature in the playing XI for the final Test after being rested as part of workload management during the Indore game.

The Indian team management, in consultation with its medical staff, has decided to space out the pace bowlers, who are going to play the IPL and are in the ODI

World Cup plans.

Hence Shami, who had played the first two Tests and is also a part of the ODI squad, was rested for the third game. In his place, Umesh Yadav was drafted in as the second pacer after Mohammed Siraj.

With Siraj bowling only 24 overs in the first three games for one wicket, Umesh, with his better show in Indore, and who is not part of the white ball set-up, stands a good chance to share the new ball with Shami in Ahmedabad.

Siraj is likely to feature in all three ODIs March 17 to 22 and will probably get some time off during the final game at the Narendra Modi Stadium.

Shami, who has been the best pacer on view across both teams with seven scalps from 30 odd overs in the series, will be needed on a dry Motera surface that might be conducive for reverse swing.

India are currently leading the series 2-1 but need to win the last game, in order to nullify the result of Sri Lanka's upcoming away series against New Zealand, and qualify for the World Test Championship final.

### KOHLI'S TEMPLE VISIT

With the third Test ending way before schedule, star batter Virat Kohli and wife Anushka Sharma Saturday visited Shree Mahakaleshwar Temple in Ujjain to offer prayers.

While some of the players stayed back in Indore, a few, including skipper Rohit Sharma, returned to Mumbai and will join the team in Ahmedabad March 6.

## ATKMB see off Odisha FC, set up meeting with Hyderabad FC



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, March 4:** ATK Mohun Bagan (ATKMB) beat Odisha FC 2-0 to set up a semifinal date with defending champions Hyderabad FC (HFC) in the ISL here Saturday.

ATKMB will face HFC in a two-legged semifinal March 9 and 13.

Goals from Hugo Boumous and Dimitri Petratos were enough to end Odisha FC's first ever playoff run and secure semifinal qualification for the Mariners.

In the opening 10 minutes, Odisha FC dominated possession but were unable to test Vishal Kaithi in goal. After a few missed chances, the deadlock was broken less than 10 minutes before the break.

Petratos' effort from range was palmed over the bar for a corner that was taken quickly by the striker. Manvir Singh arrived at the near post just in time to flick it across an open goal before Boumous drove it in at the far post.

In the second half, Odisha FC hovered around the ATKMB's box in the opening couple of minutes. Jerry Mawihmingthanga came close to pouncing on Diego Mauricio's header across the face of goal, but couldn't test ATKMB.

Approaching the hour-mark, McHugh recovered the ball in mid-field and exchanged a pass with Boumous before rolling it through to Petratos near the edge of the box. The striker moved his season's tally into double digits as he slotted his side's second goal past Amrinder.

## Man City stay in touch with Arsenal



Phil Foden (in sky blue) scores Man City's first goal against Newcastle

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Manchester, March 4:** Manchester City passed a huge test of their Premier League title credentials by beating Newcastle 2-0 Saturday as a couple of big calls by Pep Guardiola paid off in a match between the wealthiest teams in English football.

Phil Foden was handed a start over Riyad Mahrez on the right wing and gave City the lead in the 15th minute when his driving run into the area ended with a shot that deflected past Newcastle goalkeeper Nick Pope.

City never looked comfortable against a powerful Newcastle team that was dangerous on the counterattack but got the crucial second goal three minutes after Guardiola

took off Kevin De Bruyne, who endured a rare ineffectual performance.

De Bruyne's replacement, Bernardo Silva, scored with one of his first touches, poking the ball past Pope from 15 meters in the 67th after collecting a flick from Erling Haaland.

By becoming just the second team - after Liverpool - to defeat Newcastle in the league this season, second-place City kept the pressure on leader Arsenal, which was playing later Saturday at home to Bournemouth. The teams came into the weekend separated by five points.

It was another blow to Newcastle, who lost the English League Cup final to Manchester United last weekend and whose league form has dipped in recent weeks.

The northeast team has dropped out of the top four in their bid to qualify the Champions League and stayed four points behind fourth-place Tottenham, which has played one game more.