



EXTENDED FAMILY

Actor Shradha Kapoor says she can share regular parts of her life on social media to be in touch with her fans

LEISURE P2



IRAN, SAUDI TO RESTORE TIES

Iran and Saudi Arabia Friday agree to reestablish diplomatic relations and reopen embassies

INTERNATIONAL P10



AUSTRALIA TAKE CONTROL

Usman Khawaja's marathon knock and Cameron Green's century help Australia post 480 in 1st innings against India

SPORTS P12



UNIQUE FEAT: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik receiving the Guinness Book of World Records certificate of recognition from adjudicator Rishi Nath for Rourkela's Birs Munda Hockey Stadium being the world's largest fully-seated hockey stadium. 5T Secretary VK Pandian looks on (Report on Page 3)

India reports 2 H3N2 deaths

SEASONAL INFLUENZA CASES LIKELY TO DECLINE FROM MARCH-END, SAYS GOVT

AGENCIES

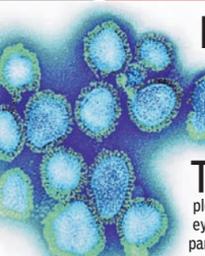
New Delhi, March 10: India has recorded its first two deaths due to seasonal influenza subtype H3N2, one each from Karnataka and Haryana, with the Union health ministry Friday saying it is keeping a close watch on the situation and cases are expected to decline from month end.

From January 2 to March 5, 451 cases of H3N2 have been reported in the country, according to data shared by the ministry. "It can be seen that Influenza H3N2 is the predominant subtype among the samples testing positive for influenza, since the beginning of this year," it said. "Young children and old age persons with comorbidities are the most vulnerable groups in context of seasonal influenza," the ministry said.

"India every year witnesses two peaks of seasonal influenza: one from Jan to March and other in post monsoon season. The cases arising from seasonal influenza are expected to decline from March end. State surveillance officers are therefore fully geared to meet this public health challenge," the ministry said in the statement. It said the ministry is monitoring and tracking cases across states through the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) network on real-time basis. In Karnataka, 82-year-old Hire Gowda died due to the H3N2 virus March 1, a state health department official said. The official said Gowda was a diabetic

VIRAL FLU

Seasonal influenza is an acute respiratory infection caused by influenza viruses which circulate in all parts of the world, and the cases are seen to increase during certain months globally



CMR has urged people to wash hands with soap and water if symptomatic, wear masks and avoid crowded places, and cover mouth and nose while sneezing and coughing

Young children and old age persons with comorbidities are the most vulnerable groups in context of seasonal influenza

The apex health research body also advised people to take plenty of liquids, avoid touching eyes and nose, and take paracetamol for fever and bodyache

ICMR HAS URGED PEOPLE NOT TO SHAKE HANDS OR USE OTHER CONTACT GREETINGS, SPIT IN PUBLIC, NOT TO TAKE ANTIBIOTICS OR OTHER MEDICINES WITHOUT CONSULTING DOCTOR AND EAT TOGETHER SITTING CLOSE TO OTHERS

and suffered from hypertension as well. In Haryana, a health department official said a 56-year-old man from the state, a lung cancer patient who died recently, had tested positive for the H3N2 virus in January. According to the latest data available on IDSP-IHIP (Integrated Health Information Platform), 3,038 laboratory confirmed cases of various subtypes of influenza, including H3N2, have been reported till March 9 by states. This includes 1,245 cases in January, 1,307 in February and 486 cases till March 9, the ministry said. Further, the IDSP-IHIP data from health facilities indicates that during January, 3,97,814 cases of acute respiratory illness or influenza like illness (ARI/ILI) were reported in the country, which increased slightly to 4,36,523 during February, it said. In the first nine days of March, this number stands at 1,33,412 cases, the statement said. The corresponding data for admitted cases of severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) is 7,041 cases in January, 6,919 in February and 1,866 cases during the first nine days of March. In this year, till February 28, 955 H1N1 cases have been reported. Majority of the H1N1 cases were reported from Tamil Nadu (545) while Maharashtra reported 170 cases, Gujarat 74, Kerala 42 and Punjab 28.

₹500-cr livelihood scheme for tribals

The state-funded scheme will be implemented in 119 tribal sub-plan blocks of the state through 22 integrated tribal development agencies

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 10: With an aim to provide livelihood opportunities to more than 1.5 lakh tribal households, the state Cabinet has approved a new livelihood and income generating scheme for tribals, having an outlay of ₹500 crore. The Cabinet headed by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has approved the scheme during its meeting held Thursday evening. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Niranjan Pujari said in the Assembly, Friday. The ST & SC Development, Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare department will implement the livelihood cluster development initiative under the Mukhya Mantri Janajati Jeebika Mission. The state-funded scheme will be implemented in 119 tribal sub-plan (TSP)

blocks of the state through 22 integrated tribal development agencies (ITDAs) utilising a total outlay of ₹500 crore over a period of three years (2023-24 to 2025-26). As per the scheme, over 1.5 lakh tribal households will be supported by ensuring timely access to quality inputs, infrastructure support incidental to livelihood, introduction of better production practices, training and capacity building support and marketing assistance in a convergence mode. The department, through this new scheme, will enable the tribal households to venture into well planned farm based & off-farm livelihood activities at the household level for enhancing their income and quality of life on a sustained basis, officials said. This new initiative will supplement the Odisha government's vision of improving lives and livelihoods of tribal communities in the state by enhancing their economic power and strengthening their sources of livelihood, they said.

Ruckus in House over Naba Das murder case

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 10: With the commencement of the second phase of the ongoing budget session, Opposition BJP and Congress MLAs Friday created ruckus in the Assembly over the Naba Das murder case. The House witnessed several adjournments throughout the day. As soon as the House assembled at 10.30 am, BJP and Congress members trooped into the well of the House and raised slogans against the government in the sensational murder of the then Health Minister. They demanded the resignation of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, who is holding the Home portfolio. Though Speaker BK Arukha appealed to the Opposition to go back to their seats and raise their issue during zero hour, the angry Opposition members did not pay any heed to the request. The Speaker was forced to adjourn the House till 11.30 am. There was no change in the situation when the House reassembled at 11.30 am to take up the zero hour. The Opposition BJP and Congress again rushed to the well and started raising slogans on the minister's murder issue. **Contd...4**

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



All key appointments should be made through a panel but power to give extensions should rest with the govt

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sisodia sent to ED custody till March 17

New Delhi: A city court Friday sent former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, arrested in a money laundering case related to the excise policy, to the Enforcement Directorate's custody till March 17. Special judge MK Nagpal allowed the anti-money laundering probe agency to interrogate the senior AAP leader in custody. The ED had sought Sisodia's custody for 10 days. Earlier the court heard arguments of the ED and Sisodia's lawyers on the AAP leader's custody. The lawyer for ED alleged Sisodia made false statements about the 'scam' and that it wanted to unearth the modus operandi of the perpetrators and confront him with the other accused. **P4**

'Spy' pigeon to be sent to CFSL

Bhubaneswar: A pigeon fitted with devices, with the police suspecting that the bird was being used for spying, will be sent to the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) for examination, police said. The bird was caught from a fishing boat off Paradip coast. The decision to send the bird to CFSL was taken after the State Forensic Laboratory here failed to elicit any data from a tiny camera like machine and a microchip attached to its legs, the police said. Jagatsinghpur SP Rahul PR said, "The words scribbled on the wings of the pigeon and the seized devices will be examined at CFSL, either in Kolkata or Hyderabad." **P4**

THE ISLAND EFFECT

Dwarf elephants, giant rats

AS PER A RULE IN EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY, LARGE-BODIED SPECIES TEND TO DOWNSIZE ON ISLANDS WHILE SMALL-BODIED SPECIES UPSIZE

REUTERS

Washington, March 10: A dwarf elephant the size of a Shetland pony once roamed the Mediterranean island of Cyprus. In the West Indies, a giant rat-like rodent tipped the scales at more than 400 pounds (180 kg), rivaling an American black bear. They were examples of the 'island effect,' a rule in evolutionary biology describing how large-bodied species tend to downsize on islands while small-bodied species upsize. These island dwarfs and giants - a menagerie also including pint-sized hippos, buffaloes and wolves - long have faced an elevated extinction risk that, according to a new study, is intensifying, imperiling some of Earth's most unique creatures. Focusing on island-dwelling mammals, researchers said they examined 1,231 existing species and 350 extinct ones span-



ning the past 23 million years. Extinction risk was seen highest among species that underwent more extreme body size shifts compared to mainland relatives. And the arrival of people on the islands raised extinction rates more than tenfold. "Unfortunately, the slope of the extinction curve that began with the arrival of the first human voyagers and continued with the later waves of colonisation has become even steeper in recent decades," said paleoecologist Roberto

Rozi of the Natural History Museum of Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg in Germany, lead author of the study published in the journal Science. Islands foster unique evolutionary dynamics. For large-bodied species, there is evolutionary pressure to get smaller because of limits to habitat area and food resources compared to the mainland. But small-bodied species, because there is a decreased risk from predators on islands, are emancipated from evolutionary constraints on their size. Some endangered island species today include: the dwarf buffalo Tamaraw on the Philippine island of Mindoro, 21% the size of its closest mainland relative; the spotted deer of the Philippine Visayan islands of Panay and Negros, 26% the size of its closest mainland relative; and Jamaica's hutia, a rodent 4-1/2 times bigger than its closest mainland relative. **Contd...4**

BUSINESS EMINENCE AWARDS

18th March, 2023

Bhubaneswar

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US CITY TO BE RENAMED AFTER TAYLOR SWIFT

The city of Glendale, Arizona, will be renamed in Taylor Swift's honour to celebrate the launch of her US tour, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*. The *Blank Space* star previously announced Glendale as the first stop on her tour when she confirmed the dates last year.

COURTNEY COX REGRETS OVERDOING COSMETIC FILLERS

Friends star Courtney Cox has looked back on her use of anti-ageing injectables and candidly admitted she 'messed up'. The actress, 58, confessed that she realises now that she overdid it with the fillers and says she rejects going overboard in a bid to improve her appearance, reports *Mirror.co.uk*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES
You spend happy times with your loved ones today. Ganesh suggests you learn to play some musical instrument as it is a good way to express emotions. Besides, it gives you a novel method to attract new people. Do it promptly before the mood changes.

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

GEMINI
You will be able to put forward your proposal and explain your feelings to someone dear to you, and can expect a positive response from them. You will come across as honest and sincere and hence will be accepted.

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

LEO
Long forgotten relationships may be renewed today. Old acquaintances, room partners, hostel mates and the like may bump into you today. You will be in a happy mood as a result. Marital life will be blissful, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
Business acumen is natural to you. Your management skills are immaculate. Move with imagination, innovation and motivation to further your enterprise, advises Ganesh. Feel free to express and exercise your sense of judgement, says Ganesh.

LIBRA
Ganesh says you will be more aware about your beauty and outward appearance and try to enhance it by going to a beauty parlor. You will spend most of your time looking after your external beauty. Due to this you will not be able to pay attention to anything else other than your looks.

SCORPIO
Despite a secured job and a harmonious home environment, you are still looking for something else. Long-term, financial security keeps bothering you. And your worries are solved to some extent as unexpected monetary gains are on cards today, predicts Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
Your business is likely to scale new heights, says Ganesh. You need to build up your confidence and move ahead with zest and enthusiasm. Rake in the moolah as the business yield profits.

CAPRICORN
Celebrations are in the offing and all the near and dear ones are invited to the party. Today, you will enjoy yourself to the fullest, feels Ganesh. You will get the desired profits in the business irrespective of how hard you have worked to achieve them. Really seems a good investment option for you. With cooperative bosses and supportive colleagues, today is a good day for professionals as well.

AQUARIUS
If the Almighty loads you with pain, He will also bless you with pleasure, assures Ganesh. You will begin the day with a long list of things to be done, but luckily you will be able to finish them off one by one. It will drain you out, so later on the day take a hot water bath, sit back and relax, says Ganesh.

PISCES
You are not by nature ill-tempered or jealous. However, you will need to be on guard against being both, today. Someone may try to sully your image or slander your name today. However, the best way to deal with provocation is not to lose your temper and to continue as usual, for things will take care of themselves soon enough, says Ganesh.

Kapil empathises with delivery boys



Mumbai: Ace comedian and actor Kapil Sharma spoke about his upcoming film *Zwigato* and the challenges of playing the role of a delivery boy. He also shared that the character made him realise how tough life is for delivery boys and that he has become more empa-

thetic towards them. Introspecting the role, he shared, "I remember once when my wife Ginni had ordered a cake, and it got spoiled during the delivery process. The delivery boy assured to replace it in 15 minutes. I was concerned that there might be a chance of his

salary getting deducted if he did so. This movie made me realise the challenges that delivery boys face on a daily basis, and I have learned to appreciate their hard work and dedication even more. I am not saying tip them, but I am just saying that we can at least say a

thank you with respect and that will make them happy." Directed by *Fire* fame actress Nandita Das, *Zwigato* has been extensively shot in and around Odisha's capital city Bhubaneswar. The movie is set to release March 30. IANS

Music launch of Mana Museum



A poster of Odia film *Mana Museum*

Bhubaneswar: *Mana Museum*, the first production of Sangita Motion Pictures, had a grand music launch event here in the presence of the cast and crew of the movie Friday, ahead of its theatrical release March 24.

Speaking to the media, producer Sangeeta Mohanty said, "*Mana Museum* is a content-oriented script, where we have tried to showcase an innocent love story of two school friends and its gradual evolution through time."

"This project is very close to my heart, as this is the story of a cinematographer", said director Dhruvananda Panda, a leading cine-

matographer from Odisha.

The movie stars Nihar Nayak and Upasana in the leads. Nihar is a professionally trained actor from The House School of Acting, USA. Upasana will be donning this role after the success of *Chumki Seta Panire Budiba Nahinki*.

Sarat Nayak scores the music, while Bijaya Malla is the lyricist. The screenplay and dialogues of the movie have been written by Bharadwaj Panda and Girish Mohanty has taken care of choreography.

The movie has seven beautiful songs that are sure to touch the souls of the audience, claim the makers. PNN

Ileana got banned from Tamil films!!

Mumbai: Ileana D'Cruz, who has been a part of some interesting and hit movies like *Barfi!*, *Baadshaho*, and others, has been missing from the scene for quite some time now. According to reports, the actress has gotten herself banned from the Tamil film industry. A Tamil producer has filed a complaint

claiming that the actress had taken advance payment for a project but then failed to partake in the shooting process.

According to a report in a news portal, this has resulted in heavy losses that have been endured by the producers. Following this, Ileana has been restricted from starring in Tamil films. However, there has been no official confirmation about the same.

In Tamil film industry, Ileana was last seen in the 2012 critically acclaimed film *Nanban*, which received positive reviews.

Recently, Ileana shared photos of herself from her hospital bed, where she was hospitalised due to ill health. She told her fans about her recovery through her Instagram story.

On the work front, she will next be seen in *Tera Kya Hoga Lovely* with Randeep Hooda.

Can share my real zone: Shraddha

Mumbai: Actress Shraddha Kapoor is really big on social media, where she says she can share regular parts of her life with her fans and be in her 'real zone'. Be it videos of her gorging on 'vada pav', chilling with her father-actor Shakti Kapoor, or just sharing morning selfies, the 36-year-old never shies away from putting out her daily monotony. Currently, she has a following of a whopping 79 million on Instagram and 14.4 million followers on Twitter.

Elaborating the importance of social media to a news

portal she said, "I don't see it as social media validation but I see it as a way of

being in touch with my fans and people who have loved and supported me because they have really showered me with a lot of love. In fact, I love that I share regular parts of my life with them. When they say, 'I also wear goggles' or 'I also like vada pav', I feel I can share my real zone."

Shraddha made a comeback after three years on the big screen with *Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar*. Looking forward, Shraddha has the second installment of the 2018 comedy-horror film *Stree*. IANS



Panchamveda's four-day drama fest from Mar 13

Bhubaneswar: Panchamveda, one of the prominent theatre troupes of the City, will organise its 19th drama festival here at Rabindra Mandap from Monday.

Four Odia plays will be staged at the festival while Panchamveda Samman-2023 and Amiya Pattanaik Smruti Samman-2023 will be presented to individuals for their contributions to the art and culture of Odisha.

The plays to be performed during the event are - *Full Tension* by Panchamveda (13.03.23), *Shesha Adhyay* by Uttar Purush, Bhubaneswar (14.03.23), *Punascha Abolkara* by Odisha Natya Sangh (15.03.23)



and *Odasha* by Vagdevi Literature Trust, Bhubaneswar (16.03.23).

Eminent theatre personality Bhaskar Puhan will get Amiya Pattnaik Smruti Samman-2023 while Panchamveda Samman will be conferred on Dhira Basa (actor-director), Ajay Kumar Pani (music director), Bijay Kumar Jena (classical singer), Prasanna Mishra (actor-director) and Manjulata Pradhan (actress). PNN

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

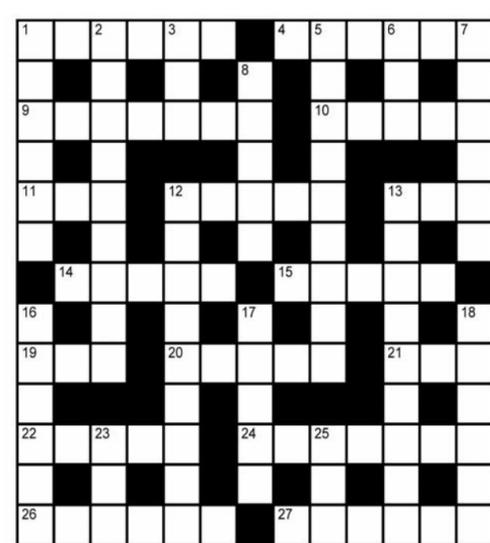


BREVITY



FUN post

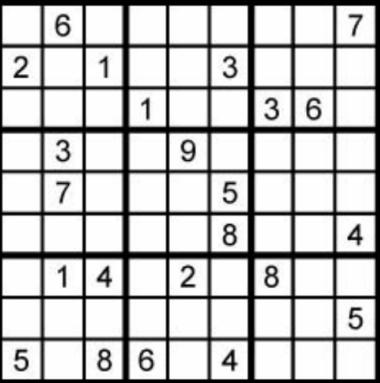
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Dictator
 - 4 Ship's garbage
 - 9 Enclosed porch
 - 10 Fencing move
 - 11 Goblet
 - 12 Unreactive
 - 13 Colour property
 - 14 Zany
 - 15 Essential
 - 19 Mutton cut
 - 20 Martini additive
 - 21 Total
 - 22 Undisguised
 - 24 Violent storm
 - 26 Zebra, for one
 - 27 Gentle wind
 - 6 Knight's title
 - 7 Violent disturbance
 - 8 Oasis
 - 12 Like some gains (3-6)
 - 13 Cemetary sight
 - 16 Small recess
 - 17 Songbird
 - 18 Hinder
 - 23 ___ de cologne
 - 25 Mongrel
- Down**
- 1 Instrument
 - 2 Robust
 - 3 Possess
 - 5 Feel sympathy for

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

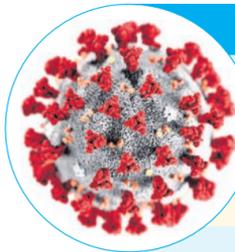


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



FACILITATING MARKET

A seminar on registration of MSMEs in government e-marketplace by OSIC was held in Cuttack, Friday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	68,13,01,970	65,41,92,815	68,10,359
India	4,46,89,512	4,41,55,439	5,30,779
Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204

CM launches sports projects in Sundargarh

POST NEWS NETWORK

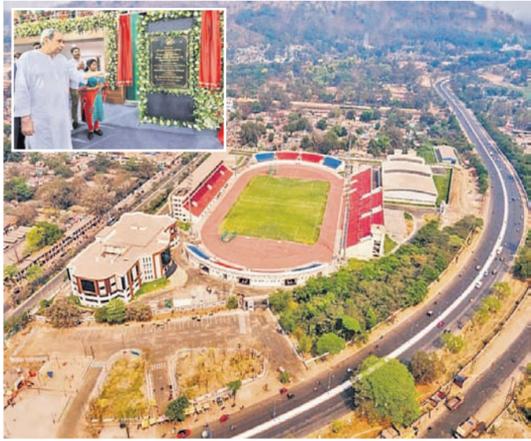
Bhubaneswar, March 10: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday inaugurated multiple sports projects in Sundargarh that are set to play a pivotal role in the holistic development of sports in the district.

Patnaik inaugurated the Birsa Munda Athletics Stadium Complex in Rourkela and three Hockey Training Centres at Bisra, Lahunipada and Manchmara.

Inaugurating the projects, Patnaik said Sundargarh has been the backbone of sports in the state. Not just in Hockey, it has also produced players of repute in athletics and many other disciplines, he added.

"The projects launched today will enable us to collectively nurture a large spectrum of sports talent from this district and the nearby regions," he said.

The Birsa Munda Athletics Stadium Complex in Rourkela features an athletics stadium with a 400-metre synthetic athletic track



Birsa Munda Athletics Stadium Complex in Rourkela. (Inset) Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurates the facility, Friday

and a natural turf football field with floodlights. The stadium has four galleries with a seating capacity of more than 9,000 spectators,

including seating for differently-abled people.

The stadium also has players' changing rooms, lounges, and other

ancillary facilities necessary for hosting national level events and competitions.

Besides, the complex houses an Olympic-sized indoor swimming pool along with players' changing rooms and allied facilities. With a gallery with seating capacity for 500 spectators, the pool is equipped to host regional-level competitions.

A multi-level car parking building with commercial office spaces is also part of the complex which can accommodate over 180 cars. The complex is spread over 11 acres with a total project cost of over Rs 148 crore.

The hockey training centres have category-3 FIH certified synthetic hockey turf with a changing room for players, admin room, gymnasium, first-aid room and seating for 200 spectators.

Residential facilities for coaches and support staffers have also been integrated there. The facility is spread over 3 acres with a total project cost of over Rs 11 crore spent per centre.

Panel to probe 'delay' in dousing Puri inferno

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Puri, March 10: With a major fire at a shopping complex in Puri town taking 36 hours to be put out completely, the district administration Friday formed a committee to probe into the cause of the blaze and the delay in containing it, officials said.

The team will be led by Puri sub-collector while the local tehsildar and inspector of the local town police station will be members of the committee.

The fire damaged 42 of the 43 shops in the complex, near Sriramandir. The firefighters had successfully evacuated about 140 people, including 106 tourists from Maharashtra, from the complex after fire broke out at the building Wednesday, the officials said.

Fire Services Central Range IG Ramesh Chandra Majhi said, "It was a real challenge for us as there was no adequate space for air passage in the market complex".

Majhi urged all the building owners to keep adequate open space and ventilation avenues for such emergencies. The narrow passage in the building and downed shutters created a problem for the firefighters and they could not use water canons to douse the blaze.

₹811cr for meritorious ST/SC students

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 10: ₹811 crore has been allocated towards scholarships to over 23 lakh students, 60 per cent of them being girls, belonging to the ST, SC, Minorities and Backward Classes in the State Budget 2023-24, said ST and SC Development, Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare Minister Jagannath Saraka, Friday.

Highlighting the allocation to the department in the Budget during a presser here, Saraka said ₹4,651.27 crore has been allocated to the ST and SC Development, Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare department for 2023-24. An additional ₹1,000 per child per annum has been allocated. "This will be exclusively spent on proper nutrition to nearly six lakh ST and SC boarders residing in more than 5,500 hostels," Saraka added.

This apart, ₹811 crore has been earmarked for scholarships to over 23 lakh students of which 60 per cent are girls, he said, adding that ₹124 crore has been allocated towards ANWESHA programme.

₹4 crore has been allocated to four hostels under AKANKSHYA. As many as 100 OBC hostels are under construction, the minister said.

Department's commissioner-cum-secretary Roopa Roshan Sahoo said all the dedicated high schools, which will be developed as Smart Learning Centres, will be launched by December 2023.

"Under the initiative, Coding, Tinkering, ICT labs will be established in all schools. An exclusive Tribal Livelihood Promotion initiative—Mukhya Mantri Janajati Jeebika Mission—will be taken up in 2023-24. It will cover 14.5 lakh households in phases. In the first phase, 1.5 lakh households will be

covered through a cluster approach by utilising ₹500 crore," added Sahoo.

As many as 23 exclusive 100-bed hostels have been taken up for members of the minority communities. 100 multi-purpose community centres will be built to preserve their cultural heritage. 100 minority educational institutions have been taken up on priority basis, she said.

Special Development Councils (SDCs) have been established in 2017-18 in nine tribal-dominated districts for preservation of tribal culture, tradition, heritage and unique identity. ₹281 crore has already been spent for sacred groves, tribal culture clubs, weekly market, musical instruments of their culture club, dance and costumes. "For this, ₹176 crore has been provided," said Sahoo.

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	59135.13 ↓ 671.15
NIFTY	17412.90 ↓ 176.70
DOLLAR	82.02 ↑ ₹0.13
EURO	87.49 ↑ ₹0.71
GOLD	₹55,975 ↑ ₹674
SILVER	₹63,043 ↑ ₹1059

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
MAX	32.2°C	33.4°C
MIN	22.1°C	22.5°C
Humidity	78%	76%
Rainfall	0mm	0mm
	Dry weather likely	



Girls queue up with their hall tickets at Capital High School in Bhubaneswar as the Class X exam kicks off, Friday

PIG: BIKASH NAYAK

CLASS X BOARD EXAM STARTS AT 3,218 CENTRES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, March 10: The annual Class X board examination began at 3,218 centres across the state Friday with more than 5.4 lakh students appearing in the test.

The Summative Assessment II of Class X students is conducted by

Board of Secondary Education (BSE), Odisha. The examination will continue till March 20.

BSE president Ramashis Hazra said the examination started at 8am. Students have been instructed to reach one hour early. All exams are being held in the first sitting.

The official said the students

were directed to only carry their admit cards, blue and black pens, pencils and geometry boxes. No other items including electronic watches were allowed inside the examination centre.

School Mass and Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash said, "The examination started peacefully

everywhere. The question papers were distributed to the students at 7:45am in the first sitting."

The minister said all necessary precautions have been taken for the peaceful conduct of the exam. The examination is being started at 8am keeping in view the rising heat across the state.

BSKY proves boon for Ganjam's Prabhasini

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 10: Concerted efforts by the state government agencies provided much needed relief to a mentally-retarded woman and her daughter of Kaithapoli Harijan Sahi under Bellaguntha block of Ganjam district.

Teams of Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY), district mental health programme (DMHP) and Bhanjanagar sub-divisional administration showed prompt action in treating and rehabilitating mentally-challenged Prabhasini and providing assistance to her daughter Barsa Naika, 17.

As per reports, condition of Prabhasini's family went topsy-turvy when her husband Hadibandhu Naika abandoned her and her children. Prabhasini could not bear the shock and turned psychoneurotic.

She used to cover herself entirely with a long stole and always tried to conceal herself from others. She used to stand quiet at a lonely place near a village pond throughout the day. Barsa had to do all the household chores and prepare food for her mother. All these jeopardised her studies and increased her stress as poverty was a double whammy for her.

With initiatives from BSKY team, Directorate of Public Health deputised district mental health team who reached the village with help of the medical officer Bellaguntha community health centre.

The family members, after thor-

ough counselling and deliberation, agreed for shifting the patient to a hospital for treatment.

Following due procedure, as prescribed under mental health care provisions, Prabhasini was brought to district mental health care and drug addiction unit located on the premises of MKCG Medical College and Hospital, Berhampur. She was provided treatment and medicines free of cost.

Close observation, sympathetic dealing, and procedural treatment led to remarkable success. Prabhasini was almost cured, and discharged from hospital March 9, 2023 with necessary medicines and advices for follow up services. Now, she is living almost a near normal life in her village.

In the meanwhile, Barsa has been provided financial assistance of Rs 5,000 from Red Cross Society by sub-divisional administration for meeting her immediate study expenses. She has also been provided books from book bank free of cost. Sub-Collector of Bhanjanagar has ordered for waving her college fees. The family has been covered under food security scheme. Steps are also being taken for including the family under rural housing scheme, said sources.

Prabhasini's son Deepak said, "Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik saved our mother and family. We owe our gratitude to him. My mother could recover from mental illness because of the Odisha government's initiatives. This scheme of our government is incomparable."



Prabhasini of Kaithapoli Harijan Sahi in Bellaguntha of Ganjam, (then & now)

Data breach: India second-most affected country

More than 1.8 crore personal records of Indian citizens were compromised through 10 data breaches in the past 20 years, says a study by Incogni, a leading data removal service by VPN service provider Surfshark

India is the second-most affected country when it comes to data broker breaches, and more than 1.8 crore (18.7 million) personal records of Indian citizens were compromised through 10 data breaches in the past 20 years, a report has revealed.

A data broker is a business that aggregates information from a variety of sources, processes it to enrich, cleanse or analyse it and licenses it to other organisations.

According to Incogni, a leading data removal service by VPN service provider Surfshark, India is among the top five countries most

affected by the most significant data broker breaches, led by the US which has seen a massive 207.6 million personal records of their citizens being compromised in the same period.

The other most affected countries are the UK, Brazil and Canada.

"Data privacy is becoming increasingly alarming, yet many people are still unaware of the hidden market in which data brokers operate. Upon reviewing the findings, we have seen that data brokers can also experience a data breach, just like any other company. However, they are the ones dealing



with massive amounts of sensitive data," said Dariusz Belejvas, Head of Incogni.

Incogni's researchers analysed 506 registered, US-based data brokers and found that in the past 20 years, 23 (4.5%) of these companies have suffered data breaches,

and at least 10 data broker breaches to date resulted in at least 1 million user records being leaked, exposing a total of 444.5 million records.

The People Data Labs breach was the most significant in each of these five countries.

This breach exposed a little over a third (35.2%) of breached US records, around two-fifths (42.1%) of the Brazilian records, more than half of the Canadian (54.3%) and UK (56.7%) records, and over two thirds (68.5%) of the Indian records.

The analysis of data broker breaches showed that since 2011, things started to go downhill, with a data breach happening almost every year—2014 and 2022 being the only two exceptions.

The year 2017 experienced a massive spike, with six companies being breached.

With the pandemic spreading,

2020 was a challenging year that witnessed a significant surge in cybercrimes.

The number of cybercrime victims increased dramatically by 69 per cent, highlighting the severity of the situation. As a result, it is perhaps not surprising that a total of nine data breaches occurred during this time, the report showed.

There was a decrease in the number of data breaches in 2021, with only three breaches reported.

"While no reports of data breaches were received in 2022, it's important to note that data breaches are not always immediately discovered. That's why the accuracy of this information is yet to be confirmed," the findings showed.

There have been a total of 40 events of data brokers suffering data breaches, starting with the Acxiom breach in 2002.

'Spy' pigeon to be sent to CFSL

The decision to send the bird to CFSL was taken after the State Forensic Laboratory in Bhubaneswar failed to elicit any data from a tiny camera-like machine and a microchip attached to its legs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, March 10: A pigeon fitted with devices, with the police suspecting that the bird was being used for spying, will be sent to the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) for examination, police said Friday.

The bird was caught from a fishing boat off the Paradip coast of Jagatsinghpur district. Some fishermen found the pigeon perched on their trawler a few days ago. The bird was captured and handed over to the marine police at Paradip Wednesday.

The decision to send the bird to CFSL was taken after the State Forensic Laboratory (SFL) here failed to elicit any data from a tiny camera like machine and a microchip attached to its legs, the police said.



Jagatsinghpur superintendent of police (SP) Rahul PR said, "The words scribbled on the wings of the pigeon and the seized devices will be examined at CFSL, either in Kolkata or Hyderabad."

The pigeon was found on the trawler when it was anchored around 35 km off the coast of Konark around 11 days back.

Pitambar Behera, an employee of the fishing trawler 'Sarathi', said he saw the pigeon perched on the boat.

"Suddenly, I noticed that some instruments were attached to the bird's legs. I also found that something is written on its wings. I could not understand it as it was not in Odia," Behera said.

He caught the bird as it came closer. Behera said he fed the bird broken rice for the past several days.

Women's Day at Cuttack MSME expo

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 10: International Women's Day was recently celebrated during the ongoing MSME Exhibition organised jointly by Cuttack District Industries Centre (DIC) and District Investment Promotion Agency (DIPA).

Cuttack DIC in association with DIPA has organised MSME Exhibition and talk sessions at Maritime Museum in Jobra from March 5 to 11 as part of the observance of Entrepreneurship Week.

A session on "Women Enterprises in Odisha - Status, Challenges & Future" was held in which several local dignitaries deliberated on issues pertaining to women entrepreneurship.

Speaking on the occasion, Zilla Parishad vice-chairman Subhadra Das shared her journey and her experiences with banks.

DIPA team leader Susnata Mohanty discussed the importance of celebrating Women's Day. "DIPA has been constantly engaged in helping entrepreneurs in starting their business," she said.

Odisha Assembly of Small and Medium Enterprises (OASME) Women Wing chairperson Jyotirmayee Mohanty spoke about the major challenges that entrepreneurs face while starting their ventures.

DIC assistant manager Pratap Kumar Sethi felicitated the guests. At the end of the session, an open house discussion was conducted in which the entrepreneurs voiced their concerns and the guests suggested them methods to overcome those.



MOMENT OF WONDER: Students from SAI International seen taking pictures near the Dakota aircraft during their visit to the Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar, Friday

SAI students visit iconic Dakota

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 10: To witness and learn about the heroics and bravery of former Chief Minister Biju Patnaik, more than 850 children of SAI International School, visited the renovated Douglas DC-3 'Dakota' aircraft displayed at the Biju Patnaik International Airport here Friday.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik unveiled the refurbished, re-assembled Dakota aircraft for public viewing at the Bhubaneswar airport Sunday, March 5, 2023, on occasion of the 107th birth anniversary of the legendary leader.

"Instilling 21st century skills of social and cultural awareness, SAI International initiated the visit to the airport. SAI students with great zeal and enthusiasm went around the place, learning about the history of how Patnaik had flown this aircraft to rescue former Indonesian Vice-President Mohammad Hatta and former Prime Minister Sutan Sjahrir," said a teacher accompanying the students.

The students were in awe viewing the aircraft while also learning about how the iconic aircraft (VT-AUI) was part of erstwhile Kalinga Airlines founded by the former CM and how he was the airline's chief pilot and how the airline had operated close to a dozen Dakotas, added the teacher.

"We want our SAI children to learn through experience and get inspired by allowing them to witness the heritage of our state and nation to build an India as envisioned by great leaders of the past", said SAI International chairperson Silpi Sahoo.

Probe starts into real estate fraud

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 10: The Economic Offence Wing (EOW) of state Crime Branch has launched a probe into the allegations of a real estate fraud worth over several crores by a city-based firm.

As per a complaint lodged by one of the victims, Kalyan Mishra of IRC Village area here, Maa Basudha Homes located at Kharavel Nagar had entered into an agreement with five land owners including the sons of Raghunath Panigrahi, the Padmashree awardee and the doyen of Odissi Music, and secured power of attorneys to develop and construct a market complex on their plots at Ashok Nagar area on the basis of profit sharing in February 2012.

He also claimed that the firm collaborated with the accused firm

ODYSSA Home & Commercial Pvt Ltd. for the construction, marketing of the said market complex project Basudha Trade Centre. ODYSSA Home & Commercial Pvt Ltd. was represented by its managing director Arabinda Santra and the director siblings, Manoj Panda and Saroj Panda.

The firm had also secured the power to accept bookings for the sale of the commercial units in Basudha Trade Centre project which excluded the units earmarked under land owners' share of 50 per cent. The complainant alleged that he booked three commercial units in the name of different members of his family in the proposed project.

Mishra had reportedly paid ₹50, 50,001 to ODYSSA Home & Commercial Pvt Ltd between 2015 and 2018. He accused the real estate firm of collecting huge amount

running into several crores from several others on the pretext of providing them commercial units in the market complex.

However, the firm neither completed the project nor handed over the units to the depositors. When Mishra tried to contact Snigdha Pradhan, the owner of the Maa Basudha Homes, he was shocked to know that Pradhan had died in an accident a few months back.

Later, he repeatedly approached the directors of the firm to get back the money, but in vain. A dejected Mishra finally lodged a complaint with EOW seeking action against the accused persons. A case was registered and a probe began.

Notably, the accused Manoj and Santra were earlier arrested by the EOW in another real estate fraud case last year.

Continued from P1

The island effect...

Indonesia's island of Flores is a remarkable laboratory for the island effect, also called 'Foster's rule,' based on observations by mammalogist J. Bristol Foster in the 1960s. It once was home to a dwarf elephant relative, giant rats and a giant stork, as well as a dwarf human species - Homo floresiensis, nicknamed the 'Hobbit,' standing just 3-1/2 feet (106 cm) tall. The Hobbit disappeared about 50,000 years ago, shortly after our species Homo sapiens reached Flores.

Islands are biodiversity hotspots.

Although they cover less than 2% of Earth's land area, they account for up to 20% of land species.

"Because of the island rule, you get all sorts of weird and wonderful animals on islands, many of which are already extinct. Of the still-extant species, islands harbour a large proportion of the diversity of terrestrial species on the planet and about 50% of them are at risk of extinction. It's incredibly depressing," said paleoecologist and study co-author Kate Lyons of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Ruckus in House...

In a chaotic scenario, the Speaker asked Parliamentary Affairs Minister Niranjan Pujari to table the Cabinet decisions taken Wednesday.

As soon as Pujari completed his readings, Arukha again adjourned

the proceedings till 4 pm.

In the post-lunch session too, the Opposition members continued their protest inside the Assembly. Finding no other solution, the Speaker convened an all-party meeting adjourning the House. The adjournment extended for three times.

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AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Executive Magistrate, Khallikote, I Mrs. Archana Kumari Jally, aged about 28 years, W/o.-Sanjay Sahani, permanent resident of Vill-Tentuliapada, PO-Khallikote R.S.P.S.-Khallikote, Dist-Ganjam, State- Odisha do hereby declare that in my Aadhaar Card my name has been wrongly mentioned as Mrs. Archana Sahani instead of my true and correct name Mrs. Archana Kumari Jally due to inadvertence both the above mentioned names belong to one and same person who is myself in the above mentioned locality. Henceforth I shall be known as Archana Kumari Jally for all purposes. Sd./- Archana Kumari Jally

DPS Kalinga observes prep graduation day



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 10: DPS Kalinga celebrated its Prep Graduation day here Friday to mark the heralding of the end of the pre-primary academic session 2022-23. The chief guest was Sangeeta Rath, who has been a professor in psychology at Utkal University for more than 2 decades.

Principal Anuradha Rakshit in her welcome speech threw light on the National Education Policy and the importance of competency based learning.

Pro-vic chairperson Mala Mishra spoke about the importance of family values and advised parents to be good role models for their children.

The chief guest in her speech spoke about positive parenting and advised the parents present to spend "unstructured fun-time" with their children.

Incentive package for IOCL plant gets Cabinet approval

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 10: The state Cabinet has approved a special package of incentives for a very large investment proposal of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL).

The Central public sector undertaking (PSU) has proposed to set up a mega dual feed cracker (DFC) at Paradip with an investment of ₹58,042 crore for production of ethylene, polypropylene, polyvinyl chloride (PVC), phenol, iso-propyl alcohol (IPA) and others with a total capacity of 2,822 kilo tonnes per annum (KTA).

The DFC will enable significant industrial development in various downstream industries like plastic, pharma, agro-chemical, personal care products, speciality chemicals, paints, packaging materials etc.

The IOCL and its downstream industries will generate employment for about 25,000 persons both directly and indirectly, sources said.

On the other hand, the state government has once again extended the licence of dealers of fair price shops (FPS) for another year.

The licence granted to the dealers for operating PDS centres was valid from October 2022 to March 2023. Now, it was extended for a further period of one year - from April 2023 to March 2024, Pujari said.



The PDS is managed by 13,428 FPSes out of which 6,568 are institutional dealers and 6,860 are private dealers.

The Cabinet has also approved a completely new Odisha Apartment Ownership Act, which will be tabled before the Assembly in this Budget session.

After the enactment of the Real Estate (Regulation & Development) Act, 2016, it has become expedient to bring forth Amendment to the Odisha Apartment Ownership Act, 1982. Hence, a new legislation has been proposed instead of going for an exhaustive amendment in the existing Act, said Pujari.

Moreover, the government has decided for conversion of all leasehold lands allotted for residential housing projects by Development Authorities (DAs) and Odisha State

The Central PSU has proposed to set up a mega dual feed cracker at Paradip with an investment of ₹58,042cr

Housing Board (OSHB), including the projects developed under PPP mode, to freehold status.

The above initiatives will benefit allottees of 99 projects executed by OSHB & Development Authorities and provide a much-needed relief to the bonafide allottees, who faced a lot of difficulties in beneficially enjoying their properties.

The state government has further decided to sanction lease of government land measuring 5 acres in Anladuva Mouza under Rairangpur tehsil in Mayurbhanj district in favour of the Secretary, Rairangpur Goshala Committee on free of premium and free of incidental charges.

The government has waived all the penalty, assessment and fine which the Goshala Committee is liable to pay to the government for occupying government land since 1958.

However, the Goshala Committee will have to pay annual ground rent at the rate of 0.25% of the market value of the land and cess at the rate of 75% of the ground rent for such sanction of lease.

Nat'l accolade for OSDMA in disaster management

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, March 10: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday lauded the work of the Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) in times of cyclones and other natural calamities while felicitating it with Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar, 2023, for its work in disaster management.

The Prime Minister also felicitated the Lunglei Fire Station, Mizoram, during the inaugural event of third session of National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) at Vigyan Bhawan here.

The PM mentioned that there were fatalities in hundreds due to cyclones hitting Odisha in past years, but with change in strategy the country is now capable of dealing with cyclones with damage to life and property being minimised to a great degree.

"We cannot stop natural calamities but we can definitely minimise their effects by putting better strategies and systems in place," Modi remarked as he emphasised on adopting a proactive approach rather than a reactive one.

The award was received by state Revenue and Disaster Management minister Pramila Mallik.

The OSDMA had been selected by the Centre in the institutional category for the prestigious Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar-2023 for its excellent work in disaster management.



The Union government had instituted the award to recognise and honour the invaluable contribution and selfless service rendered by individuals and organisations in India in the field of disaster management.

The award, which carries a cash prize of ₹51 lakh and a certificate in case of an institution and ₹5 lakh and a certificate in case of an individual, is announced every year January 23, on the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

Established on the aftermath of Super Cyclone-1999, OSDMA embarked on multiple initiatives including raising the Odisha Disaster Response Action Force (ODRAF), Multi-Hazard Early Warning Service (MHEWS) framework, and a cutting-edge technology-enabled web/smartphone-based platform 'SATARK' (System for Assessing, Tracking, and Alerting Disaster Risk Information based on Dynamic Risk Knowledge) for disaster manager.

This premier agency provided effective response during various cyclones like Hudhud (2014), Fani (2019), Amphan (2020) and floods (2020).

BJD absents from strike by BRS leader

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, March 10: The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Friday abstained from protest called by Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader K Kavitha seeking passage of the long-pending Women's Reservation Bill during the budget session of the Parliament.

According to BRS, 18 parties were invited to join the protest. However, only 10 political parties attended. Kavitha, the daughter of Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, led hunger strike at Jantar Mantar and appealed to all political parties to put

pressure on the Central government on this issue in the Parliament, noting that the Modi government has full majority and can easily pass the bill before the end of its term if it wishes so.

The six-hour hunger strike at Jantar Mantar was inaugurated by CPI-M leader Sitaram Yechury. Sanjay Singh (AAP), Naresh Gujral (Shromani Akali Dal), Shamima Firdous (National Conference), Subhasini Ali (CPI-M), Pooja Shukla (SP), Seema Malik (NCP), Anjum Javed Mirza (PDP), Narayana K (CPI), and Shyam Rajak (RJD) joined the event, while some other leaders extended support online.

The BJD and Congress were absent from the event.

Significantly, the passage of women's reservation bill has been a long-standing demand of the BJD.

The Odisha Assembly had passed a resolution in November 2018 demanding 33 per cent reservation for women in Parliament and state Assemblies. After that, as many as 22 BJD delegations were sent out to 22 national and regional parties by BJD President Naveen Patnaik asking for support for passage of Women's Reservation Bill. The BJD had also nominated women at 33 per cent Lok Sabha constituencies in 2019 Parliamentary elections.

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Dead migrant worker's wife returns to village with body

THE WOMAN HAD TO LEAVE HER MINOR DAUGHTER AS A BONDED LABOUR IN TELANGANA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Belpada, March 10: The heart-wrenching picture of migrant workers' woes was on display at Banamal village under Belpada block of Bolangir district as a woman returned to the village with her husband's body after his death in Telangana. As per reports, the woman had to leave her minor daughter as a bonded labour near their employer.

Sources said, Shukadev Parabhu of Banmal village along with his wife Usha and children, a son and a daughter, had migrated to work at a brick kiln at Telangana after taking ₹60,000 in advance



through local labour agents Ghana Sa and Bidyadhar Sahu.

After reaching there, Shukadev started working at the brick kiln but owing to the unhygienic environment and excruciating labour, his health started deteriorating.

Even though he approached the labour agent and the owner of the kiln for treatment at a hospital, his requests fell on deaf ears and he had to work despite unbearable harassment. Due to a lack of proper treatment, Shukadev succumbed to his illness March 8, his wife alleged.

After knowing that the kiln owner was planning to bury his body after post-mortem at the

nearby hospital, Usha pleaded before him to take the body back to the village. Finally, the kiln owner arranged an ambulance. Usha returned to the village along with younger child Pabitra (6) and her husband's body.

However, the kiln's owner has forcibly kept her daughter Kaikeyi (12) as a bonded labour as Shukadev was yet to pay his amount back, Usha alleged.

Informed, social activist Dr Johnson Nag and Dingar Kumbhar contacted labour officer Niranjana Bhuyan who visited the village and assured assistance to the deceased's family as per government's labour laws. He also promised to rescue the minor girl from the lime kiln owner adding that stringent action will be taken against the illegal labour agents. Local sarpanch Pradeep Behera met the deceased's kin and offered an assistance of ₹3,000 under Harischandra Sahayata Yojana.

Women operate heavy earth moving machinery in Keonjhar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, March 10: Women in tribal-dominated Keonjhar district are now operating Heavy Earth Moving Machinery (HEMM) in Joda-Koida mining region. Nine women are engaged by JSW Steel in such operations.

37-year-old Shanti Lakra said, "We never rode a motorcycle but are now operating HEMM." She said women are demolishing the patriarchal dominance in mining and performing tasks requiring endurance and mental agility.

According to JSW Steel (Odisha mines division), nine women HEMM operators are currently placed at Jajang mine, Keonjhar, while 32 others are undergoing training.

"They have fully proved themselves, deploying their physical abilities and mental fortitude in their performance," a company official said, adding, "These candidates underwent intensive training to hone their skills as HEMM operators. Post training, these women are deployed as assistant operators to operate dumper, dozer, shovel

and drill machines."

Giving them the opportunity to operate HEMM will surely boost their confidence to push for greater heights. Lakra feels that entering into a male-dominated sector and excelling in it has redefined her self-worth. "When I got a chance to work here, I went through four-wheeler training to use the steering. Later, simulator orientation was very helpful. I have been riding dumpers since April 2022 in JSW Jajang mine," she says. Another woman operator Monika Devi has learned about operating different types of machines through



field work and simulators.

"The trainers and existing operators helped us at every step and consistently motivate us to operate the machines ourselves so that we rise above any fear we may have. We are now more confident than we were in the beginning," she added. The company has recruited five

experienced trainers to administer the module to the participants. The minimum educational qualification for the operator is matriculation (Class X). However, experienced women operators in mining sector are exempted from submission of educational qualification.

Another woman operator Salu Ekka said, "Being an operator in mines was a challenging task. I had to venture underground often. Operating heavy machinery was difficult as well. However, the fear vanished and I eventually gained confidence with immense support from the trainers and other staff."

School merger: Travel allowance plan falters

Merger of schools had affected around 1,800 students of 110 schools in 10 blocks of Nabarangpur district

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nabarangpur, March 10: Even though the state government had announced to provide travel allowances to students after the merger of schools having less than 20 students, many of the students and parents in this district are left high and dry as the government is yet to fulfil its promise.

Reports said that students in remote parts of this district are risking their lives and travelling through hilly and forested roads to reach their schools. More than 25 students of previous Langalatala School travelling for over 6 km through hilly and forested roads to reach Muduliguda UP School is a case in point.

The students are complaining of body pain after negotiating through the arduous terrain. This forces them to visit the school only for three to four days a week. The parents are also reluctant to send their wards to the school due to the threats involved in travelling such a long distance.

The students who are not coming to schools regularly are yet to get travel allowance. Driver Bisoyi, a parent, and Premalata Jani, a student, have demanded either to reopen the closed schools or provide them with travel allowance.

Similar is the case with students in Nandahandi, Koshagumuda and Nabarangpur blocks where students have to traverse through hilly and forested roads to reach their new schools but are yet to get their travel allowance.

This act of the state government has



drawn flak from various quarters as the guardians have again demanded to reopen the closed schools.

Sources said the state government had decided to close down the schools having less than 20 students. As per the decision, the state government had shut 110 primary and 24 upper primary (UP) schools in Nabarangpur district and merged them with the nearest school in the academic year 2019-20.

While closing down the schools, the state government promised the guardians to either provide hostels for the students of closed down schools or give travel allowance to them. However, the state government is yet to live up to its promise.

Merger of schools had affected around 1,800 students of 110 schools in 10 blocks of Nabarangpur district. Around 14 schools each in Koshagumuda, Jharigaon and

Papdahandi blocks, 12 each in Chandahandi and Tentulikhunti blocks, 10 each in Nabarangpur and Umerkote blocks, 13 in Nandahandi block, nine in Raighar and two in Dabugaon block have been closed down.

The government had then promised to provide boarding facilities to the students in hostels but they are yet to be fully realised. Among them, only a few students were provided with hostel accommodation while it was decided to provide travel allowances to the rest of the students of the closed down schools.

The state government had decided to provide ₹600 as travel allowance to a student securing 75 per cent attendance in a month, ₹400 for 50 to 75 per cent attendance and ₹300 for 30 to 50 per cent attendance.

The state government had also asked the headmaster of the nearest

■ The state government had decided to provide ₹600 as travel allowance to a student securing 75 per cent attendance in a month, ₹400 for 50 to 75 per cent attendance and ₹300 for 30 to 50 per cent attendance

■ It was then decided to credit the allowance of 10 months to the savings accounts of the students. However, hundreds of students in Nabarangpur district are yet to get the travel allowance

schools in which the closed schools were merged to resolve all the problems of the students of the latter schools. The headmasters were asked to prepare list of the students of the closed schools and submit it to the block education officer (BEO). The BEO would then submit it to the district education officer which will be finally sent to the district project coordinator for disbursement of the funds.

It was then decided to credit the allowance of 10 months to the savings accounts of the students. However, hundreds of students in Nabarangpur district are yet to get the travel allowance.

When contacted, DEO Pradip Nag said, "The BEO has to first send the list of students to the district education officer which will then be forwarded to the state office. The students will be given away travel allowance after funds are sanctioned by the head office." Except for Koshagumuda, Nandahandi and Nabarangpur blocks, allowances have been disbursed to 550 students in other blocks, he added.

Student debarred from matric exam over dress code

POST NEWS NETWORK

Daspalla, March 10: A student was Friday debarred from the matriculation examination in this district over not wearing proper uniform pants.

According to sources, the Class X student Pradip Nayak arrived at the exam centre in the morning as the summative assessment-II for Class X students began Friday across the state. However, he was not allowed to enter the exam centre as he was wearing a black jeans instead of the uniform pants.

Pradip is a native of Krushnachandrapur Patana village under the Daspalla police limits and attends Radha Mohan Jew Nodal High School.

Upset, he left the place and later went missing following the incident, which led to high drama. On being informed, police initiated a search operation to trace him, but in vain. Later, locals spotted him sitting under a tree near Bhutapalli and informed his parents.



WORKS DEPARTMENT No.B-1336:
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MAYURBHANJ (R & B) DIVISION, BARIPADA
e-mail - bpd_eerb@rediffmail.com
Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No.-E.E.- 85/2022-23

- Number of works - 08 (Eight) number of work
- Approximate estimated cost: -15.86 lakh to 21.54 Lakh
- Period of Completion :-2 (Two) & 3 (Three) Calendar months
- Date & Time of availability of bid documents in the portal:- Dt. 15.03.2023 to 23.03.2023
- Last Date / Time of receipt of bid in the portal:- Dt. 23.03.2023 up to 5.00 PM
- Date of Opening of bid :- Dt. 24.03.2023 at 11.00 AM
- Name & Address of the Office inviting bid :- Executive Engineer, Mayurbhanj (R&B) Division, Baripada
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>.

Sd./- Executive Engineer
Mayurbhanj (R&B) Division
OIPR-34025/11/0025/2223

CUTTACK MUNICIPAL CORPORATION No.C-2618:
"e" Procurement Notice
Tender ID : 2023_ORULB_86781
Bid Reference No. MC(CMC)CTC_Div-I_No.2022-23
Tender Call Notice No.1108 (PW) Date. 09.03.2023
Name of Works : Civil Works
No. of Works: 09 Nos
Bid Value : Rs. 3.20 Lakh to Rs. 19.51 Lakh
Period of Completion : One Calendar Month to Two Calendar Months
Date and Time schedule :

Start	End	Opening
3.00 PM on dt.10.03.2023	5.00 PM on dt.20.03.2023	11.00 AM on dt.23.03.2023

Tender Details: can be seen from the procurement portal: www.tendersorissa.gov.in.
Executive Engineer, City Div-I
OIPR-13031/11/0139/2223

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, Kharvel Nagar Branch** 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 is 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, Kharvel Nagar Branch** for an amount mentioned below with interest & expenses thereon. **Amount paid if any after issuance of Demand Notice under SARFAESI Act, would be reckoned for ascertaining the dues payable at the time of realization/settlement. 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.**

KHARVEL NAGAR BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrower / Co-Borrower	Liabilities due as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice/ Date of Possession	Description of the Immovable Properties
Borrower: Mirza Yasin Baig, S/o: Late Abdul Mahasin Mirza Ismail Baig/ Co-Borrower: Arefa Tabassum, W/o: Mirza Yasin Baig, Both are at Plot No.: 186/1777, Mahadev Nagar, Jharpada, Bhubaneswar-751006	₹ 32,32,562.23 + interest & expenses thereon	30.12.2022 / 09.03.2023	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Khata No.: 459/667, Plot No.: 186/1777, Mouza: Koradakanta, Thana: Saheed Nagar, Tahasil: Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, Area: Ac.0.072 doml (3120 sq.ft.), standing in the name of Mirza Yasin Baig , Bounded by North: 20 ft wide Road left by Vendor, South: Rev. Plot No.: 268, East: 20 ft. wide Road left by Vendor, West: Rev. Plot No.: 187
Borrower: Sridhara Sahoo, S/o.: Ghan Sahoo / Co-Borrower: Ranjan Kumar Sahoo, S/o.: Srinchua Sahoo, Both are at AI/P.O.: Bainchua, Via: Balakati, Khurda, Bhubaneswar - 752100	₹16,30,675/- + interest & expenses thereon	30.12.2022 / 09.03.2023	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Plot No.: 1696/3207, Khata No.: 772/324, Mouza: Bainchua, P.S.: Baliaanta, Tahasil: Baliaanta, Dist: Khurda, SRO: Baliaanta, Area: Ac 0.14 Dec., Standing in the name of Sridhara Sahoo , Bounded by North: Vendor, South: Bhikari Patra, East: Kailash Chandra Sahoo, West: Vendee

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date:11.03.2023
Authorised Officer, Bank of India

बँक ऑफ महाराष्ट्र **BANK OF MAHARASHTRA** **POSSESSION NOTICE**
Bank of Maharashtra
ZONAL OFFICE : BHUBANESWAR
First Floor, Door Sanchar Bhavan, Unit-IX, Near Rupali Square, Bhubaneswar -751022, Email Id: dzmbbsr@mahabank.co.in
[Rule - 8(1)]

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **Bank of Maharashtra** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of the powers conferred under sub-section (12) of section 13 read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the Borrower/Co-Aplicant/Guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notice plus interest and 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-Aplicant/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken physical possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The Borrower/Co-Aplicant/Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Bank of Maharashtra** for an amount stated 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.**

BERHAMPUR BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrower/Co-Aplicant/Guarantor	Description of the Security Interest taken over possession / Type of possession	Liabilities due on the specified date as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession(Physical)
Borrower: Mrs. Narmada Kumari Beja, W/o.: Late Trinath Beja, Address: At/PO.: Khariaguda, P.S.: Jarada, Dist.: Ganjam, Odisha, PIN- 761209 / Co-Aplicant: Mr. Ranjan Kumar Beja, S/o.: Late Trinath Beja, Address: At/PO.: Khariaguda, P.S.: Jarada, Dist.: Ganjam, Odisha, PIN- 761209 / Guarantor: Mr. Ratnakar Beja, S/o.: Late Trinath Beja, Address: At/PO.: Khariaguda, P.S.: Jarada, Dist.: Ganjam, Odisha, PIN- 761209	Equitable Mortgage of Land and House situated at House site property bearing Khation SI. No.: 250/206, Survey/Plot No.: 163/855, SRO: Patrapur, situated at Mouza: Mukundapur, Tahasil: Patrapur, Dist.: Ganjam, Area: 1394 sq.ft. together with the Buildings and Structures/Residential Block constructed to/ to be constructed thereon admeasuring 1918 Sq. Ft (Carpet) i.e. 1918 sq.ft. (Built up) in aggregate consisting of 4 rooms on 2 floor/s and all the fixtures annexed thereto, standing in the name of Mrs. Narmada Kumari Beja , Bounded by East: Site of Dilip Kumar Guru, West: Road, North: Road, South: Govt. Land / Physical	₹28,13,639/- as on 06.09.2022 + interest & other charges thereon	06.09.2022 / 09.03.2023

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date:11.03.2023
Authorised Officer, Bank of Maharashtra

UCO Bank **Zonal Office, UCO Bank** **GOLD AUCTION NOTICE**
Building, 2nd Floor, C-2, Ashok Nagar, Bhubaneswar - 751009

The following persons, who have availed loans against pledge of gold ornaments, from **CONCERNED BRANCHES** of **UCO Bank**, have not repaid the amount in spite of our demand notice. Therefore, please take notice that if the principal, interest and other charges are not paid on or before **Dt. 24.03.2023**, the pledge ornaments will be publicly auctioned on **Dt. 27.03.2023 at 3.00 P.M. at Respective Branch premises**. The Bank reserves the right to cancel/ postpone the auction to any other convenient date without assigning any reasons.

Sl. No.	Name & Address of Borrowers / A/c. No.	Balance Outstanding	Weight in (Grams)
GANGADHARPUR BRANCH, DIST - KHORDHA, ODISHA NAME OF THE MANAGER: MR. BHAGIRATHI NAYAK, PH. NO.: 7609912299			
1.	Pravasini Subudhi, W/o- Rohit Subudhi, At/Po- Biribadi, Dist- Khurda / 10760610025666	₹ 22,000.00 + unapplied interest	15.00
2.	Rajani Subudhi, W/o- Rajendra Subudh, At/Po- Biribadi, Dist- Khurda / 10760610026557	₹ 19,983.42 + unapplied interest	10.00
3.	Sarojini Biswal, W/o- Prasanta Biswal, At/Po - Hatabaradi, Dist- Khurda / 10760610031353	₹ 45,000.00 + unapplied interest	14.00
4.	Meghanad Patra, S/o- Sanatan Patra, At-Gainanda, Po-Hatabaradi, Dist- Khurda / 10760610023259	₹ 15,041.00 / + unapplied interest	08.00
5.	Bilasini Dei, W/o- Raja Kishor, At/Po- Baulabandh, Dist- Khurda / 10760610023068	₹ 40,413.50 + unapplied interest	28.00
ASTARANGA BRANCH, AT/PO- ASTARANGA, PURI, ODISHA NAME OF THE MANAGER: MR. DIPANA SAHOO, PH. NO.: 8908729747			
1.	Jasobanta Swain, D/o- Babaji Charan Swain, At- Jiunti, Po-Kahal, Astaranga / 32100610016916	₹ 23,188.00 + unapplied interest	07.95
2.	Silba Charan Ojha, S/o-Bandhu Ojha, At -Dakinapantal, Po-Nagar, Astaranga, Dist -Puri / 32100610009024	₹ 22,000.00 + unapplied interest	09.00
3.	Kailash Chandra Sethi, S/o- Sankara Sethi, At- Bijipur, Po-Nomaro, Astaranga / 32100610020456	₹ 40,564.00 + unapplied interest	11.30
4.	Kailash Chandra Sethi, S/o- Sankara Sethi, At- Bijipur, Po-Nomaro, Astaranga / 32100610021354	₹ 1,13,476.00 + unapplied interest	34.50
5.	Sabita Mahanty, At- Jiol, Po- Kahal, Ps- Kakatpur, Kendrapati, Pin-752108/ 32100610017548	₹ 73,000.00 + unapplied interest	28.00
BADAKHOLI BRANCH, VIA-ASKA, GANJAM, ODISHA NAME OF THE MANAGER: MR. DEBABRATA PRADHAN, PH. NO.: 7749000878			
1.	K Ashok Kumar Dora, S/o- K Debendra Dora, At/Po Pandiapatnar, Ganjam / 11600610030691	₹ 75,901.00 + unapplied interest	30.00
2.	Ahalya Maharana, W/o-Santosh Maharana, Bada Sahi, Pandiapatnara, Sunapalli, Ganjam / 11600610033791	₹ 32,052.00 + unapplied interest	13.21
3.	Prasanna Kumar Jena, S/o- Late Ganapati Jena, At-Santrapur, Po-badakholi, Ganjam / 11600610032718	₹ 75,978.00 + unapplied interest	32.82
BIDYUTMARG BRANCH, BIDYUT MARG, SIKSHA SOUDHA(OPEPA), UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR NAME OF THE MANAGER: MRS. SOUMYA SUCHARITA PATNAIK, PH. NO.: 8763992940			
1.	Nilamani Sahoo, S/o- Late Behari Sahoo, OG-392, Unit 4, Kharvel Nagar, GPO, Bhubaneswar / 20740610013328	₹ 36,928.00 + unapplied interest	11.50
BHUBANESWAR MAIN BRANCH, BAPUJI NAGAR, BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA NAME OF THE MANAGER: MRS. PRATIVA BHARATI SANBARSA, PH. NO.: 8917399728			
1.	Abinash Dhirsamant, Plot No-194/161 & 162, Samant Mansion, Ogalapada, Janla / 04700610022351	₹ 4,14,502.94 + unapplied interest	115.00
BALIGUDA BRANCH, PATAKHANDA, AT/PO- BALIGUDA, ODISHA NAME OF THE MANAGER: MR. CHANDRA SEKHAR JANI, PH. NO.: 8249665605			
1.	Ranjit Sahu, S/o- Subash Chandra Sahu, At- Dandapadar, Po-Baliguda, Dist-Kandhamal / 29470610008195	₹ 52,000.00 + unapplied interest	23.00
2.	Bijay Ketan Raj, S/o- Narayan Raj, At- Damerikia, Po-Nuagan, Dist-Kandhamal / 29470610010976	₹ 1,05,000.00 + unapplied interest	35.48
3.	Radha Mohan Nayak, S/o- Jogendra Nayak, At-Patakhandasahi, Po- Baliguda, Dist- Kandhamal / 29470610011867	₹ 10,000.00 + unapplied interest	06.50
4.	Sachidananda Panda, S/o- Gopal Panda, At-Kanjamendi, Po- K.Nuagaon, Balliguda, Dist- Kandhamal / 29470610007327	₹ 31,000.00 + unapplied interest	19.50
5.	Sachidananda Panda, S/o- Gopal Panda, At-Kanjamendi, Po- K.Nuagaon, Balliguda, Dist- Kandhamal / 29470610007389	₹ 17,000.00 + unapplied interest	11.10

The intending bidders may participate in the auction by fulfilling the following terms:

- The Bank does not guarantee the weight or purity of the jewellery / coins, either of its gold contents or otherwise.
- The jewel is available for inspection by the intending bidders during business hours on any working day in the bank.
- The intending bidders have to contact the Respective Branch Head for the Reserve Price of each account.
- The intending purchaser shall make an earnest money deposit of 25% of Reserve Price (to be computed as per the balance outstanding).
- The jewel to be handed over to the highest bidder on payment of the balance amount within 24 hours or on the next working day of the bank during its business hours.
- If the successful bidder fails to pay the amount, the earnest money will be forfeited and the jewel may be resold within 30 days from the date of auction.
- The unsuccessful bidder shall be entitled for the refund of the earnest money immediately after the auction is over.
- It shall be lawful for the Bank to stop the auction at any stage without assigning any reason thereto in which case the earnest money shall be returned to whoever makes the deposit.

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 10.03.2023
Authorised Officer, UCO Bank



Do not belong to the past
dawns, but to the noons
of future

SRI AUROBINDO



SC's Shift in Stance

The Supreme Court has decided to revisit its last year's verdict in former West Bengal chief secretary Alapan Bandyopadhyay's case. At the time, the apex court had ruled that only the Delhi High Court and no other high court would have jurisdiction to entertain a plea against a decision taken by the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT). This may have implications beyond this particular case.

In January last year, the Supreme Court had allowed the plea of the Centre and set aside the order of the Calcutta High Court to transfer the hearing on Bandyopadhyay's plea against the Centre's disciplinary proceedings from the Calcutta bench of CAT to its principal bench in Delhi.

A similar situation had also cropped up in the legal wrangle between the Centre and Magsaysay award winner and IFOs officer Sanjiv Chaturvedi, with the Uttarakhand High Court quashing the Principal CAT Bench's order to transfer the case from the Allahabad bench to itself and the Centre questioning the jurisdiction of the HC in view of the apex court's last year order.

In this context, the bench has agreed to re-examine last year's verdict as it would create hardships for employees who had to travel to Delhi from far-flung areas to challenge the order. All 25 High Courts have equivalent jurisdiction, and no special treatment is envisaged.

PESB fills a long pending vacancy

As some babu watchers had observed some time ago, the Centre has named SAIL chairperson Soma Mondal as a Member of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB). The public sector spot on the board had been vacant for over 11 months, after retired Rear Admiral Shekhar Mital, former CMD of Goa Shipyard Ltd resigned. Mondal was slated to retire from SAIL next month and will now serve at PSEB for three years. She is also the chairperson of the Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE).



BABUDOM
BYTES

Dilip Cherian

The resolution pertaining to the composition of the selection board clearly indicates that one member post is earmarked for a top executive with wider experience in the public sector. Sources have informed DKB that it was no coincidence that the vacancy had been put on hold for over 11 months ahead of the SAIL Chairperson's retirement in April 2023. It was presumed that Mondal would emerge as the clear choice for the position. Can we call it advance planning?

With Mondal's appointment, the Board has now all members onboard. It is headed by Chairperson Mallika Srinivasan, and two other members, retired IAS officers Amarjeet Sinha and Sailesh.

Babus' spat could become a blockbuster film

There is no dearth of blockbuster entertainment in Karnataka these days, and it's got nothing to do with the impending assembly elections in the state. A public spat between two senior women officers of the state administration, IPS officer D Roopa and IAS officer Rohini Sindhuri, has generated sufficient excitement to even get two film directors interested in putting the 'story' up on the silver screen.

Though the government immediately transferred the two senior officers as soon as the fracas came to light, the fight intensified. A departmental inquiry is also probing the two officers, who complained against each other to the chief secretary, Vandita Sharma, who summoned them and sought an explanation. Sindhuri accused Roopa of personal vendetta and requested action against the IPS officer. Roopa sought an inquiry into the complaints against Sindhuri.

Now a Bangalore court has granted Sindhuri relief from the publication of "false and defamatory" allegations by IPS officer D Roopa and over 60 media outlets. Roopa claimed that Rohini Sindhuri had uploaded compromising photos of her on her social network and forwarded them to senior IAS officials, breaking service conduct guidelines. Roopa has charged Sindhuri with 19 offences, including charges of corruption.

As of now the spat between IPS officer D Roopa and IAS officer Rohini Sindhuri continues, so there is a chance that the script may change a lot by the time the films get made.

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

WISDOM CORNER

Music is the mediator between the spiritual and the sensual life.
LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

I wish I had given more time to learning classical singing.
LATA MANGESHKAR

Truth is like the sun. You can shut it out for a time, but it ain't going away.
ELVIS PRESLEY

WORDSWORTH

■ Aposiopesis

This rhetorical trick — suddenly breaking off in speech — is perhaps best illustrated by examples. One is from Zuleika Dobson, by Max Beerbohm: "If you are acquainted with Miss Dobson, a direct invitation should be sent to her," said the Duke. "If you are not..." The aposiopesis was icy." Another is from P G Wodehouse, in The Adventures of Sally: "So..." said Mr. Carmyle, becoming articulate, and allowed an impressive aposiopesis to take the place of the rest of the speech." It's a way to imply something without spelling it out, while at the same time suggesting unwillingness or inability to continue, as a result of being overcome by a passion such as modesty, fear or anger. The word is from Latin, one of that vast stock of rhetorical terms that was the backbone of political training in ancient Rome. When speech was the only way to persuade an audience, mastery of the tricks of oratory was vital. Its origins, however, lie further back, in the Greek aposiopian, be silent.

■ Wormwood

Alcohol awareness campaigners were horrified to learn that a British company plans to import and sell absinthe, the original version made with wormwood. There can hardly be an alcoholic drink with a worse reputation, even after nearly a century of prohibition in many countries. Two things made absinthe such a terror. It was about twice the strength of any other spirit. And the wormwood in it not only provided part of its green colour and a characteristic bitter taste, but also thujone, an hallucinogen that is a relative of the active ingredients in cannabis. No wonder it drove people mad and it was banned in many countries early this century. But the story of wormwood goes back much further than the absinthe manufactory set up by Henri-Louis Pernod in 1797. As a name for a native European species it originates in an old Germanic language, and it came into Old English as weremod or wormod. Its derivation is far from certain, but it may have been formed as a combination of wer, "man" (as in werewolf) and mut, "courage" (from which we get our mood). So it could be that its mood-altering properties were known from an early time. The name changed in medieval times, being thought by folk etymology to be a combination of worm and wood (the plant is rather a woody shrub), because it had been known since the time of the ancient Greeks to be an effective worming agent. We know of the plant also from the Bible and Shakespeare, often as gall and wormwood, implying something acutely mortifying or vexing. The word has long been employed figuratively for something bitter or unpleasant to experience, reflecting its best known characteristic, its taste.

ACTIVE NON-ALIGNMENT

FOCUS GEOPOLITICS

A fresh strategy has gained some currency as a part of new discourse and practice in international politics. It is being called ANA — Active Non-Alignment promoted and pursued so far by Latin American countries. India, as the founder of NAM — Non-Alignment Movement, seven decades ago, is expected to jump on the bandwagon and perhaps become one of its leading lights. Let us, however, pontificate about the viability of the concept as NAM was dead long ago. The new concept is pre-fixed by the word 'active', which makes it vibrant, claim its proponents.

Understandably, NAM operated from a position of neutrality, not participating in the affairs of the world, led or instigated by either of the blocs, US and NATO on the one hand and Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact on the other. ANA enjoins its adherents to actively participate in global activities in a non-partisan manner. That is the moot point. Is it possible to create a new bloc of countries of the Global South in order to lead the world on some issues? Is it credible to envisage that it can mediate between the two competing powers or antagonist blocs? Say, for instance, as it is claimed by some that the war in Ukraine could be ended by deploying the strategy of ANA quite unlikely.

Generally, the proposition (ANA) is not supported by any tangible evidence in the history of international politics, or by the national political culture or structures. So, before we assess the workability of ANA, the new incarnation of NAM, let us trace its origin. ANA emerged in 2019 in Latin America and developed in 2020 in response to the US-China spar for supremacy. Latin American countries, caught in the middle, were to take a call on which side to turn. They seemed to have taken a leaf out of NAM and improvised on it by adding a keyword, 'active'. ANA takes world developments on a case-by-case basis manifested in a balanced approach.

Thus, Latin American governments could participate in the China-Community of Latin American and Caribbean states



The rivalry in the past between two superpowers was militarily in nature focussing on security. Now the engagement is economic. Yet, the US and China as two world powers, between themselves, have not negotiated the nature and structure of the economy of the world

in Mexico City, and the Democracies Summit in Washington D.C. They seem to emulate India, as New Delhi is a part of Quad with the US as well as BRICS and SCO which include China. They applaud India for its balanced (Non-Aligned) stand in the Ukraine war. They believe India could play a pivotal role in brokering peace in Ukraine as China may. ANA is not passive neutrality but is actively engaging in finding solutions to world problems. It will be historic if that happens. But it has a thin probability for the following reasons. And worse, it risks loss of credibility in being proverbially seen as, "running with the hare and hunting with the hounds".

Quite apparently, ANA seeks to represent a 'third force' in international politics which obviously cannot influence the other two forces fiercely competing for world leadership. In the race for being the numero uno, one of the two may win or both settle one way or the other to share the space at the top. The world has always been largely divided into two blocs. Countries may join or opt out of any of these two groups. But they could not

create a third power centre. History shows clearly the configuration of world powers into two groups. The First World War was fought between the 'central powers' — Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and the Ottoman empire, and the Allied powers comprising Great Britain, France, Russia, Italy, Romania, Canada, Japan and the United States. Likewise, the Second World War brought two groups into the contest: the Axis powers (Germany, Italy and Japan) and the Allies (France, Great Britain, the Soviet Union and the United States). In the aftermath of the Second World War, the Cold War began between the USA and its allies, and the Soviet Union and its satellite states. This phase continued till the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991. Since then, we have been experiencing a unipolar world led by the United States.

The proponents of ANA reckon that the world is on the verge of a second cold war; this time between the US and China. It is not established yet. The United States and the Soviet Union were engaged in confrontation, collaboration and negotiation at several fronts. But

there have been no US-China summits on world affairs so far, although there are bilateral interactions and transactions as all other countries do. Remember, the historic disarmament talks between the US and the Soviet Union, which ironically escalated the arms race between them and across the world.

Admittedly, the mark of strength of a country has changed from military to economy. The rivalry in the past between two superpowers was militarily in nature focussing on security. Now the engagement is economic. Yet, the US and China as two world powers, between themselves, have not negotiated the nature and structure of the economy of the world. There is no single major event in the world which has been influenced only by these two countries; either the US has done it alone or through a multilateral forum.

Secondly, at national level, the political power is shared between two major political forces (parties) or two coalitions forged by parties. The Communist political system and autocracies are run by a single party whereas democratic politics is played out by two parties or two alliances. Democracies are so structured as to necessitate the constitution of a majority in the legislatures. So, the 'third force' has to go with either of the coalition to be effective in governance. It could, however, remain a voice of Non-Alignment without any impact on policy making. The same is the story of international politics. The third bloc has remained marginal.

Things could change. India could, through ANA, bring an end to the pathetic and devastating war in Ukraine and restore a rule-based world order. China could do the same. But it is not Non-Aligned. So, in the current formulation, China is out. The success of India and ANA could create history but as the proverbial dictum goes, "the proof of pudding is in the eating". At any rate, more power to the new concept!

The writer is Professor in International Relations, JIMMC INFA

IN JEST THIS

Getting in shape is easier than you think

When it comes to physical fitness, there are three kinds of people in the world: (1) those who are in good shape; (2) those who are out of shape; and (3) those who think they're in good shape but are actually out of shape.

Before you can take the necessary steps to get into shape, you have to figure out what kind of shape you're in — and I don't mean round, oval or rectangular. The human body can mold itself into all kinds of shapes, but it's important to realise that having a shape is not the same as being in shape.

If you're not in good shape, don't worry. There's never been a better time in human history to be in poor shape. Why do I say this? Well, for one thing, there are so many medical advances that can keep you alive if you happen to suffer a heart attack. Ambulances are also a little faster than they used to be. You'll be in the operating room before anyone has a chance to see if you can afford it.

But more than that, what makes this a particularly good time to be in poor shape is all the fitness-related research that scientists are conducting. Some of this research is



RESEARCH SUGGESTS THAT YOU DON'T REALLY NEED TO DO A LOT OF EXERCISE TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT GAINS IN YOUR HEALTH

showing that you don't really need to do a lot of exercise to make significant gains in your health. In fact, according to a study published recently in the British Journal of Sports Medicine, just 11 minutes a day (75 minutes a week) of moderate-intensity physical activity can lower your risk of cardiovascular diseases, such as heart disease and stroke, by 17 percent and cancer by 7 per cent.

Britain's National Health Service recommends at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity activity per week, but a research team led by scientists at University of Cambridge found that even half that amount lowers a person's risk of early death by 23 per cent.

Do you think you can spare 11

minutes per day to reduce your risk of early death by 23 per cent? Eleven minutes is nothing. The average person spends 11 minutes per day deciding what to watch on Netflix.

Unfortunately, deciding what to watch on Netflix does not qualify as moderate-intensity activity, but "Netflix and chill" certainly might.

The researchers provide several examples of moderate-intensity activity, including brisk walking, dancing, riding a bike, playing tennis and hiking. They describe moderate-intensity activity as any activity that "raises your heart rate and makes you breathe faster," but doesn't prevent you from speaking during the activity.

"Moderate activity doesn't have to involve what we normally think of exercise, such as sports or running," said one of the researchers, Dr. Leandro Garcia from Queen's University Belfast. "Sometimes, replacing some habits is all that is needed. For example, try to walk or cycle to your work or study place instead of using a car, or engage in active play with your kids or grandkids."

Everybody should be able to fit 11 minutes into their schedule, but I know what you're thinking: "Why 11 minutes? Why not 10 minutes? Actually, what is the shortest time I can exercise?"

Well, you'll be glad to know that about a decade ago, scientists in Norway found that just four minutes of intense exercise per day, three times a week, can improve your health and increase your endurance by about 10 per cent.

Intense exercise means that you need to achieve about 90 percent of your maximum heart rate. Would you rather run fast for four minutes or walk briskly for 11 minutes?

The latter is probably better for you, but whichever one you choose, the important thing is to be consistent and keep it going.

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

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Irresponsible remarks

Sir, The recent comment by Maharashtra MLA, Omprakash Babarao Kadu on sending stray dogs to Assam for consumption is outrageous and bizarre, and therefore, highly condemnable too. This is yet another case of irresponsible statement made in the Northeast. Earlier the Jharkhand BJP MLA Biranchi Narayan also commented in the state Assembly during the budget session that if the state government cannot find a solution of tackling the stray dog problem, call the people of Nagaland and the problem will go away. Time and again, people are making tasteless and ignorant remarks about Assam and north-eastern states, which is insulting for the decent and humble inhabitants of this region. As far as stray canine problems are concerned, that can be sorted out only by running the sterilisation campaign effectively. Unfortunately, the authorities responsible for implementing the programme are not running it properly in their respective states. On the other hand, aggressive behaviour develops in dogs that have been beaten or otherwise mistreated by people on city or town streets. They are enraged by the roadways' frantic and clogged traffic as well. Unquestionably, the only way to address this issue, which is characterised by an increase in the number of stray dogs, is with the aid of nonprofit groups dedicated to raising public awareness about animal conservation and social issues. Remember the indiscriminate culling of stray dogs will serve no purpose.

Amrapali Roy, JAMSHEDPUR

Nagaland breaks jinx

Sir, Many congratulations to Hekani Jakhlu and Salthoutuonuo Kruse for creating history, as both have become the first women MLAs from Nagaland after the state went for Assembly elections February 27, 2023. The victories of these two women have ended the 60-year long wait for Nagaland's first woman MLA. The continuous non-representation of women in the Nagaland State Assembly was a matter of concern, as this was the only state in India which hadn't a woman's representation to the Assembly in the 14 elections conducted between 1964 and 2018, and the jinx has been effectively broken now. For years, women's political consciousness in Nagaland has been historically fostered by women's organisations and the Naga Mothers' Association which shaped their political skills and proficiency. No wonder, their persistent efforts bore fruits now.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

of the day quote

Jawaharlal Nehru University is a relatively young institution and presents a lively reflection of the cultural unity of India
DROUPADI MURMU | PRESIDENT

Parliament resumes on March 13. We are preparing for our interventions to be expunged. But what cannot be erased out is 'Hum Adanike Hain Kaun'-26 bringing the total of direct questions of the PM so far to 78
JAIRAM RAMESH | CONGRESS LEADER

The day is not far when this budget, coupled with pragmatic policies of the state government, will usher in an era of progress in the state
BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB CM

SHORT TAKES

BSF shoots down drone

Chandigarh: The Border Security Force (BSF) on Friday recovered an AK series rifle along with two magazines and 40 rounds of ammunition from a field in Gurdaspur sector after shooting down a drone. "Troops deployed at the border heard a buzzing sound of a suspected flying object entering from Pakistan into India near Metla village in the district at around 1 a.m. on Friday in Gurdaspur," a BSF statement said.

Woman, daughters found dead

Aligarh: A woman and her two daughters were found dead under mysterious circumstances inside their rented house in Uttar Pradesh's Aligarh district. Neighbours claimed that three -- identified as Nagina Bano (55), Baano (17) and Paaki (19) -- allegedly consumed poison as they could not battle severe poverty and illness. Aligarh SSP Kalanidhi Naithani said: "Locals told us that the family had been battling extreme poverty. Due to their financial crisis, the family was apparently struggling to survive. Their bodies have been sent for post-mortem."

Man arrested

Guwahati: A man was arrested in Assam's Sonitpur district on Friday following accusations of murdering his one-year-old child. The arrest occurred after the man's wife filed a complaint accusing him of the brutal murder. The accused, identified as Sachin Bordoloi of Gohpur, is said to have left his home on Thursday with the infant but failed to return. Later, the child's body was discovered in a paddy field. Suspicions arose over Bordoloi's involvement in the crime as he was missing following the incident.



The Eknath Shinde- Devendra Fadnavis government is insensitive to the problems of farmers. Farmers' morale has plummeted because of the government's anti-farmer policies
AJIT PAWAR | LEADER OF OPPOSITION IN THE MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

JAPAN PM TO VISIT INDIA

Japanese Prime Minister Kishida Fumio will visit India on March 20 and 21 to explore ways to expand bilateral cooperation in a range of areas including trade and investment. The Japanese Prime Minister will hold wide-ranging talks with his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi



Temple attacks worrying: PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 10: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday raised concerns over recent attacks on temples in Australia as well as pro-Khalistani activities there with his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese, who assured him that the safety of Indians was a "special priority" for him.

After the first India-Australia summit talks on a range of key issues, Albanese said both sides are looking at firming up the ambitious comprehensive economic cooperation agreement (CECA) by 2023 and that progress has been made on a migration and mobility pact that will benefit students and professionals.

In his media statement, Modi, standing alongside Albanese, described as a "matter of regret" the reports of attacks on temples in Australia over the past few weeks.

"The Indian community is making a significant contribution to the society and economy of Australia. It is a matter of regret that attacks on temples have been regularly reported in Australia over the past few weeks," Modi said.

"It is natural that such news worries the people in India, and disturbs our minds. I have shared



I am proud of the existing cooperation between Australia and India on solar and hydrogen, two technologies that are critical to our energy transition goals and the opportunities for us to work more closely to secure critical mineral supply chains

ANTHONY ALBANESE | AUSTRALIA PM

The Indian community is making a significant contribution to the society and economy of Australia. It is a matter of regret that attacks on temples have been regularly reported in Australia over the past few weeks

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

these feelings and concerns of ours with Prime Minister Albanese. And he has assured me that the safety of the Indian community is a special priority for him. Our teams will be in regular touch on this topic, and will cooperate as much as possible," Modi said.

Briefing reporters on the summit, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said there were discussions on the disturbances created by pro-Khalistani outfits in Australia as well, adding Prime Minister Modi expressed strong concern on the incidents of van-

dalism and violence targeting the Indian community and temples in that country.

Kwatra said Prime Minister Albanese assured Modi that his government has a deep understanding and appreciation of India's concerns and will be taking all necessary measures to ensure that peace and harmony prevail in the society.

"Our concerns and our sentiments both relating to the incidents of vandalism of temples and the of pro-Khalistani activities in Australia were shared very frankly with the Prime Minister of Australia who in turn assured that they would look into this and take whatever is the suitable measures they need to take to address and mitigate this challenge," he said.

In his remarks, Modi described the security cooperation as an important pillar of the India-Australia comprehensive strategic partnership and said he and Albanese had a detailed discussion on maritime security in the Indo-Pacific region.

He said the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) signed by the two sides last year has opened up better opportunities for trade and investment between the two countries and "our teams are also working on the CECA."

Sisodia sent to ED custody for 7 days



Security personnel guard outside ED office before the arrival of AAP leader Manish Sisodia in connection with Delhi excise scam in New Delhi PTI PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 10: A city court Friday sent former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, arrested in a money laundering case related to the excise policy, to the Enforcement Directorate's custody till March 17.

Special judge M K Nagpal allowed the anti-money laundering probe agency to interrogate the senior AAP leader in custody. The ED had sought Sisodia's custody for 10 days. Earlier the court heard arguments of the ED and Sisodia's lawyers on the AAP leader's custody.

There was heavy security presence within and outside the Rouse Avenue Courts. The lawyer for the federal anti-money laundering probe agency alleged Sisodia made false statements about the 'scam' and that it wanted to unearth the modus operandi of the perpetrators and confront him with the other accused.

ED's counsel Zohab Hossain also claimed before a special court that Sisodia destroyed his phone, an important piece of evidence in the investigation. The lawyer for the federal anti-money laundering probe agency alleged Sisodia made false statements about the 'scam' and that it wanted to unearth the modus operandi of the perpetrators and confront him with the other accused.

SPECIAL JUDGE M K NAGPAL ALLOWED THE ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING PROBE AGENCY TO INTERROGATE THE SENIOR AAP LEADER IN CUSTODY

THE ED HAD SOUGHT SISODIA'S CUSTODY FOR 10 DAYS

The claims of the ED counsel were contested by a battery of lawyers who represented Sisodia. Senior advocates Dayan Krishnan, Mohit Mathur and Siddharth Aggarwal said the excise policy was accepted by the Lieutenant Governor who must have examined it.

Sisodia's lawyers while opposing the ED's plea for his custody, said it is the executive's job to make policy which goes through several layers of scrutiny. "How can ED look into policy making in money-laundering case," the AAP leader's counsel asked the court.

"ED has not found a single penny from my client...The case is entirely based on hearsay," the lawyer said. The ED arrested Sisodia on Thursday evening in the Tihar jail, where he was lodged in connection with a case being probed by the CBI pertaining to alleged corruption in the formulation and implementation of the now-scrapped Delhi Excise Policy for 2021-22.



Two hippos cool themselves in Vadodara's Sayajibaug zoo PTI PHOTO

6 YouTube channels blocked for pro-Khalistan content

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 10: At least six YouTube channels allegedly promoting pro-Khalistan sentiments have been blocked at the instance of the government, a senior official said Friday.

Information and Broadcasting Secretary Apurva Chandra said six to eight YouTube channels, operating from foreign countries, have been blocked over the past 10 days. He said the channels with content in Punjabi language were trying to foment trouble in the border state.

The government action came in the wake of supporters of radical preacher and Khalistan sympathiser Amritpal Singh storming a police station in Ajnala with swords and guns to demand the release of one of their aides.

Singh was last year anointed head of 'Waris Punjab De', which was founded by actor and activist late Deep Sidhu, at an event held at Moga's Rode, the native village of slain militant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale.

Another senior official said YouTube has been taking action on the government's requests to block channels within 48 hours. The official said that the government has also asked YouTube to use artificial intelligence and algorithms to identify and block objectionable content automatically.

However, in the Indian context YouTube was facing problems as content was being uploaded in regional languages and the systems were in place to screen content in the English language.

BIHAR MAN LYNCHED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Saran (Bihar), March 10: A 55-year-old man was beaten to death by a mob on suspicion that he was carrying beef in Bihar's Saran district, police said Friday.

Three persons were arrested in this connection and the police are looking for two others allegedly involved in lynching Naseem Qureshi, a resident of Hasanpur village of Siwan district. According to a local police officer, the incident took place on Tuesday when Naseem and his nephew Firoz Qureshi were going to meet their relatives at Jogia village in Saran district.

"Both were intercepted by locals near a mosque...and it was followed by a heated argument. While Firoz managed to escape, the mob

Three persons were arrested in this connection and the police are looking for two others allegedly involved in lynching Naseem Qureshi, a resident of Hasanpur village of Siwan district



allegedly thrashed Naseem with sticks," Superintendent of Police Gaurav Mangla said.

Later, the attackers handed over Naseem to the police. The man was taken to a government hospital where he died during treatment, he said. Additional Director General of Police (headquarters) J S Gangwar said it is being investigated whether the deceased was carrying any meat.

"Three persons have so far been arrested for mob lynching. Police have also launched a manhunt to nab two other suspects involved in the case. The case is being investigated from all angles," the SP said. One of the arrested persons is a 'sarpanch', a member of the local panchayat. The police started an investigation into the incident after registering an FIR based on the statement of the nephew of Naseem.

OYO FOUNDER'S FATHER DIES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gurugram, March 10: Ramesh Agarwal, father of OYO Founder Ritesh Agarwal, died on Friday after he fell from a high-rise building, according to police.

"With a heavy heart, my family and I would like to share that our guiding light and strength, my father, Ramesh Agarwal passed away on 10 March. He lived a full life and inspired me and so many of us, every single day.

"His death is a tremendous loss for our family. My father's compassion and warmth saw us through our toughest times and carried us forward. His words will resonate deep in our hearts. We request



everyone to respect our privacy in this time of grief," Ritesh Agarwal said in a statement.

Gurugram's DCP (East) Virender Vij said that at around 1 pm, information was received that a person fell from the 20th floor of an apartment in the DLF The Crest Society at Sector 54, Gurugram. Vij said the police recorded the statement of a family member and an inquest was carried out under Section 174 of the CrPC. The body was handed over to the family after the postmortem.

Section 174 of the Criminal Procedure Code relates to cases of unnatural death. Earlier this week, 29-year-old Agarwal tied the knot with Geetansha Sood, the director of Farmation Ventures Private Limited, and hosted a grand reception in the national capital.

WB accounts for 38% of adenovirus cases in country: Survey

Four days ago, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said that 19 deaths had been reported, out of which six are confirmed adenovirus cases, while the remaining 12 were cases of co-morbidity

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

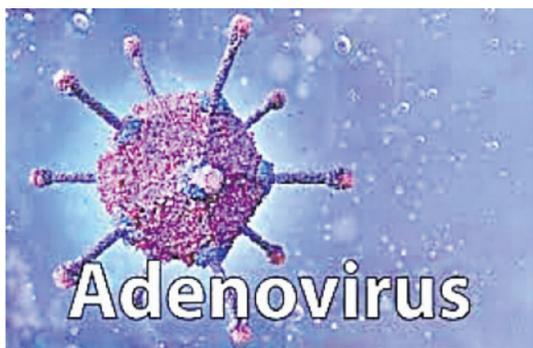
Kolkata, March 10: West Bengal accounts for 38 per cent of the swab samples that have been tested adenovirus-positive throughout the country, according to a recent survey conducted by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)-National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases (NICED).

NICED sources said that in the survey which was conducted on the 1,708 samples in the different viral research diagnostic laboratories

throughout the country from January 1 to March 9, 650 samples were tested adenovirus-positive.

As per the finding, West Bengal accounts for 38 per cent of the 650 samples that have been tested positive, the highest among all Indian states. Tamil Nadu comes in the distant second position with 19 per cent, Kerala at 13 per cent, Delhi at 11 per cent and Maharashtra at five per cent are in the third, fourth and fifth positions respectively.

Four days ago, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said that 19



deaths had been reported, out of which six are confirmed adenovirus cases, while the remaining 12 were cases of co-morbidity.

Contrary to her statement, sources from hospitals said that the death figure was much higher. As per unofficial estimates, the

child deaths resulting out of the related symptoms during the last 12 days has touched 48 including three fresh fatal cases during the last 24 hours.

The chief minister also claimed that some people had been deliberately creating a panic over the virus. "The people panicked and this panic opened the avenues for some private hospitals to flourish their businesses," the chief minister said.

The common symptoms of adenovirus are flu-like, cold, fever, breathing problems, sore throat, pneumonia and acute bronchitis. The children of two-years of age and below are most vulnerable to being affected by the virus.

The virus can spread through skin contacts, by air through cough-

ing and sneezing and through an infected person's stool. So far, there have not been any approved medicines or any specific treatment-line to treat the virus.

State health department has already issued an advisory for doctors, especially paediatricians, to take special care of children being admitted with flu-like symptoms, especially those aged two years or below since they are most vulnerable to being affected by adenovirus. In wake of the alarming situation, the Health Department has cancelled all the leaves of staff for an indefinite period.

Special outdoor units have been opened at state-run hospitals with special paediatric units, so that such cases do not have to wait at the general outdoor units.



AAP, BJP war of words over Sisodia's arrest



A BJP worker impersonates former Delhi deputy CM Manish Sisodia during a protest against the Delhi Government, near AAP headquarters in New Delhi

AGENCIES

New Delhi, March 10: The ruling AAP and the opposition BJP in Delhi upped the ante in their war of words Friday, drawing inspiration from Bollywood and Indian epics to settle political scores on social media.

The heated yet amusing slugfest between them raged through the day over AAP leaders Manish Sisodia and Satyendar Jain, both currently in Tihar jail in alleged corruption and money laundering cases, respectively.

On Friday morning, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said some people are considering themselves to be God and have put behind bars those who are serving the country and children. He said the demon king Hiranyakashyap too had wrongly believed himself to be the God and tried to stop Prahlad from worshipping Him.

"But they could not stop Prahlad then and they won't be able to stop him now," Kejriwal said in a tweet in Hindi, apparently referring to Sisodia as Prahlad. Later in the day, the Delhi BJP retweeted a poster of Jain and Sisodia mimicking Govinda and Sanjay Dutt from the 2001 film Jodi No. 1. The poster, first shared by BJP leader Parvesh Verma, read, "Produced by Arvind Kejriwal, in Tihar theatres now".

Along with the poster, Verma tweeted in Hindi that it's just the beginning, the "real mastermind" Kejriwal is still to go to jail. Separately, at a press confer-

Former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia was arrested by the CBI February 26 in connection with alleged corruption in the formulation and implementation of the now-scrapped Delhi liquor or excise policy for 2021-22

ence, AAP leader Sanjay Singh alleged that if a leader joins the BJP, that person becomes "Raja Harishchandra", who is synonymous with absolute adherence to the truth, and actions are taken against all others. "The bigger the corrupt, the bigger the officer they become. This is the new slogan of the BJP. If you are a BJP leader, you are King Harishchandra," he alleged.

Singh also referred to the CBI visit to Sisodia's house before his arrest February 26. "Nothing was found in Manish Sisodia's house, village, or bank. CBI accepted defeat. When the date of CBI's bail came, ED woke up, to arrest him," he said.

Sisodia was arrested in connection with the alleged corruption in the formulation and implementation of the now-scrapped Delhi liquor or excise policy for 2021-22.

Arvind Kejriwal is next: Sukesh

New Delhi: Following the arrest of Sisodia, jailed conman Sukesh Chandrashekar said Friday that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will be arrested next. Chandrashekar's comment came after he was produced before the Patiala House Court Friday where his judicial custody was extended till March 18 in a money laundering case. "I have given it in writing how close I have been to them and I am going to expose each one of them. Arvind Kejriwal is the kingpin. He is the 'Wazir' and he will be taken to task very soon," Chandrashekar said. In a recent letter to Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, VK Saxena, Chandrashekar had made levelled allegations against Kejriwal, Sisodia and jailed AAP leader Satyendar Jain.

Need to sensitise SDMs: Delhi HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 10: The Delhi High Court has said there is an emergent need for sensitisation of sub-divisional magistrates (SDM) to implement court orders and asked the city government to inform the SDMs about the manner in which eviction from property and recovery orders have to be executed.

The high court said it has repeatedly noticed that various orders for enforcement of possession and recovery, which are to be given effect to by the SDMs, are not dealt with expeditiously. "In respect of



the SDMs' power under the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 and other statutes, there is an emergent need for sensitisation of the SDMs in order to give effect to orders passed by various courts," Justice Prathiba Singh said.

The high court said the Delhi government ought to issue standard operating procedures (SOP)

Mathematicians to teach philosophy, botanists will tackle economics

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, March 10: A bizarre order issued by the authorities at the government degree college for women in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district has baffled people here.

An internal arrangement office order issued by the principal of the college has discovered a novel method to address teaching staff shortage at the institution.

The order issued by the college principal assigns the duties



People are ridiculing the order with most arguing that this is a reflection of the seriousness with which an administrative issue of staff shortage is being addressed in a government run degree college

of teaching economics to teachers of the college's botany department.

Similarly, public administration will be taught by chemistry teachers, political science by education and sports teachers and social work by zoology teachers.

People are ridiculing the order with most arguing that this is a reflection of the seriousness with which an administrative issue of staff shortage is being addressed in a government run degree college.

Tibetans protest, several detained

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 10: Members of the Tibetan Youth Congress protested near the Chinese embassy here on the 64th Tibetan National Uprising Day Friday, police said.

Raising slogans against the Chinese government's "hardline policies" and "illegal occupation of Tibet", several of them were detained and taken to Mandir Marg police station as they tried to march towards the embassy.

The Delhi Police had put up barricades around 2 km from the embassy and imposed Section 144 of the CrPC, which prohibits the assembly of four or more people, in the area as a preventive measure. More than 60 members of the Tibetan Youth Congress staged a



The Delhi Police had put up barricades around 2 km from the embassy and imposed Section 144 of the CrPC, which prohibits the assembly of four or more people, in the area as a preventive measure

More than 60 members of the Tibetan Youth Congress staged a brief protest near the barricades placed a couple of km away from the embassy

brief protest near the barricades placed a couple of km away from the embassy, a senior official said.

"As they tried to jump over the barricades to reach the embassy, we detained them. Once the situation is under control, they will be released," said the officer present at the protest site. In a statement, the Tibetan Youth Congress paid rev-

erenced a grim insecurity threat to the 14th Dalai Lama, the entire Tibetan situation was accelerated to a critical stage on the 10th March 1959."

"As a result, Tibetans from all the three traditional regions of Tibet stood united, took full responsibility, and resisted the Chinese military retaliation and their subjugated allegation over Tibet," it said. "Since Tibet was gobbled up by the Chinese Communist Regime and under its oppressive political systems, Tibet has been experiencing tremendous challenges: expropriation of Tibetan religious centres, detention of Tibetan intellectuals, the massacring of prominent Tibetan scholar; and exploitation of the Tibetan environmental ecosystems," it added.

Delhi police issued 8,550 challans during Shab-e-Barat, Holi: Data



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 10: The Delhi traffic police issued more than 8,550 challans for violation of traffic rules during Shab-e-Barat and Holi this year, according to the official data.

Many of those challaned included people who rode motorcycles without helmets and some were also fined for drunk driving. Ahead of the festivals, the Delhi Police had asked its officials to put a tight leash on stunt bikers during Shab-e-Barat and Holika Dahan. It had cited past events when young men visited India Gate, Connaught Place and other areas in New Delhi district and performed dangerous stunts on two-wheelers and even on three- and four-wheelers.

The traffic police claimed that presence of policemen at strategic locations and strict enforcement of laws resulted in reduced fatal accidents on Holi as only five such incidents were reported from the city this year, compared to nine in 2022.

The police said Thursday special teams consisting of 759 traffic police officials were stationed across the city to act against drunken driving, over speeding, reckless driving and stunt biking.

According to the official data, on Shab-e-Barat, the traffic police issued a total of 908 challans, which included 70 challans for drunken driving, 109 for triple riding on two-wheelers, 438 for riding without helmet, 22 for driving without seat belt, 42 for tinted glass and 227 challans for other traffic-related violations.



MAJOR BOOST: Ministry of Defence Friday signed an agreement to procure six Dornier-228 aircraft from HAL for the Indian Air Force

PTI PHOTO

FIRST FULLY FUNCTIONAL DRUG DE-ADDICTION CENTRE IN RAJOURI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, March 10: A 15-bed fully functional drug de-addiction centre was set up in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, an official said Friday.

The drug de-addiction centre, the first such facility in the border district, is supported by the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and is being run by National Educational Society And Social Welfare Organisation (NESSWO), an NGO, he said. The official said the out patient department (OPD) services at the



centre will start from Monday, providing an opportunity for individuals struggling with addiction to seek help and support.

"This centre will undoubtedly make a positive impact on the lives of those struggling with addiction and their families," Deputy Commissioner, Rajouri, Vikas Kundal said.

NDMC to distribute free sanitary napkins to sanitation workers

The NDMC chairperson has approved the proposal of the public health and welfare departments to distribute sanitary napkins to women sanitation workers every month

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 10: The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has taken an initiative to distribute sanitary napkins to women sanitation workers every month, officials said.

The NDMC chairperson has approved the proposal of the public health and welfare departments to distribute sanitary napkins to them.

These sanitary napkins will be distributed every month and the initiative will be continued

for a year initially. "As many as 640 women sanitation workers in the NDMC area will benefit from this initiative," it said.

"These sanitary napkins would be of good standards and made of biodegradable material to minimize the impact on the environment," the NDMC said.

The civic body has also provided sanitary napkins to the girl students of its middle and senior secondary schools to improve good habits of menstrual hygiene from the initial stage of life. It has provided special/smart public toilets in its area for women with sanitary napkin vending machines.

The working women hostels of NDMC also have such machines and incinerators for the disposal of used napkins. It has also installed such sanitary napkin vending machines and incinerators in different localities.



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

Women hunt for 'pink toilets' in 'smart' Srinagar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, March 10: The Srinagar Smart City aspires to use innovative and inclusive solutions to "enhance the quality of life for its citizens". However, the situation could not be more different when it comes to facilities for women, particularly 'pink toilets' for them.

Smart cities cannot be "smart" if there is a dearth of amenities for women, said Sabeen Gulrez, while Mehvish pointed out that the business centre of the city, Lal Chowk, "has just one or two washrooms".

According to a Swachh Bharat Mission advisory for public and community toilets issued by the Union housing and urban affairs ministry, there should be one "water closet" per 250 men and one per



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

100 women.

Srinagar Municipal Corporation Mayor Junaid Azim Mattu said the civic body is addressing the concern on priority. "We are building community toilets. We have drafted a plan to build 100 to 150 community toilets every year. Like in Chandigarh, there is a rule in the master plan to have a community

toilet every 500 feet," Mattu said. He said the civic body is facing difficulty in finding land to build community washrooms.

Gulrez feels talking about a smart city without facilities such as public convenience for women is just a rhetoric.

If women do not feel safe what is the point of the Smart City proj-

The 'pink toilet' concept aims to increase women's physical and economic mobility by creating safe and gender friendly public spaces, thus increasing their participation in public life

ect, how can a woman walk a kilometre to find a washroom in the market, she asked.

Bismah, another local, said Lal Chowk is the city centre but has just one public washroom for women. "In this city, there are no washrooms are visible anywhere... Where will we go?" she asked.

of the day quote

We have said that the state will cultivate it in agriculture farms. If we can grow poppy here, we will get them at ₹100 (per kg), instead of ₹1,000. At times, we have to take decisions unanimously. Not all poppies are drugs

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

The state government will hold comprehensive discussions with all stakeholders on the demand for reintroduction of the old pension scheme

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | MAHARASHTRA DEPUTY CM

Some have been preparing fake videos and spreading lies. The BJP functionaries in north India have done this with an agenda. You will understand the conspiracy behind doing so, if you notice that such lies were spread the very next day I highlighted the need for political organisations opposed to the BJP joining hands at the national level

M K STALIN | TN CM

SHORT TAKES

Tikait threatened

Muzaffarnagar: An unidentified person has threatened to blow up Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait and his family if he does not disassociate himself from farmer protests, police said Friday. They said Gaurav Tikait, son of Rakesh Tikait's brother and BKU president Naresh Tikait, has filed a complaint that he has received a phone call from an unidentified person who has threatened to target Rakesh Tikait and his family members with a bomb if he does not stay away from farmer agitations. Akshay Sharma, the SHO of Bhaura Kalan police station, said a case has been filed in this connection.

13 arrested

Shillong: At least 13 people were arrested in Meghalaya's East Jaintia Hills district for allegedly setting the house of a former village head on fire, police said Friday. The incident took place at around 10:45 pm on March 8 when the house of a former village chief of Rymbai lawpynsin village was allegedly set on fire by a group of people causing severe damage to property, the police said. One person was caught by the public red-handed while his associates ran away taking advantage of the darkness, district SP Jagpal Singh said.

Mondal's ED custody extended

New Delhi: A Delhi court Friday extended Trinamool Congress strongman Anubrata Mondal's Enforcement Directorate (ED) custody by 11 days in connection with the ongoing probe into the West Bengal's multi-crore cattle smuggling scam. Special Judge Rakesh Kumar of the Rouse Avenue Courts had, on Wednesday, remanded Mondal to the ED's custody till March 10. During the hearing on Friday, Special Judge Raghuraj Singh allowed ED plea for 11 days remand extension.

Ex-ITBP personnel commits suicide

New Delhi: Two months after his retirement, a 48-year-old former ITBP personnel shot himself dead with his licensed revolver at his house in Delhi's Palam area on Friday morning, an official said. The deceased is identified as Sudhir Kumar, a resident of Sadh Nagar in Palam area and a native of village Nanjala Badi in Baghpat, Uttar Pradesh. He had retired as head constable from ITBP two months ago.

Woman kills husband, tries to burn body at home



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jamshedpur, March 10: A woman killed her husband and tried to burn his body inside their house in Old Subhash Colony in Jharkhand's Jamshedpur. The accused locked herself inside and electrified the door to prevent the police from breaking in.

The incident took place on Thursday night. The deceased has been identified as Amarnath Singh, who was associated with the transport and real estate business. The couple has two children, who live in different cities for job and studies.

The accused, Meera Singh has been arrested. The police entered the house with great difficulty after cutting off the power supply to the area and seized the half-burnt body.

Neighbours alleged that Meera is mentally unsound and that the couple fought frequently.

The murder came to light when a foul smell began emanating from the house, following which the neighbours alerted the couple's son, who lives in Pune.

ED raids Lalu's kin, seizes cash, gold



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Patna, March 10: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Friday conducted searches in multiple cities of Bihar and other locations, including premises of former Chief Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav's family and RJD leaders, in connection with a money laundering investigation into the land for jobs 'scam' case.

During the raids, ₹53 lakh, USD 1,900, about 540 grams of gold and bullion and 1.5 kg of gold jewellery were seized, sources in agency said and added that one of the locations searched was a house in south Delhi where Lalu Prasad's son and Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav was present.

The house in Delhi's New Friends Colony area is the registered address of a "beneficiary company", A K Infosystems Pvt Ltd, involved in the case but, according to the ED, it was being used as a residential property by the Yadav family.

The searches also covered premises linked to Lalu Prasad's daughters Ragini Yadav, Chanda Yadav and Hema Yadav, former RJD MLA Syed Abu Dojana, Amit Katyal, Navdeep Sardana and Praveen Jain in places such as Patna, Phulwari

WOMEN'S RESERVATION BILL

Kavitha leads hunger strike

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 10: A day before her scheduled appearance before the Enforcement Directorate in the Delhi excise policy case, BRS leader K Kavitha led a hunger strike here Friday seeking the passage of the long-pending Women's Reservation Bill in this Budget session of Parliament.

Kavitha, the daughter of Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, appealed to all political parties to put pressure on the government on this issue in Parliament, and noted that the Modi government has full majority and can easily pass the bill before the end of its term if it wishes.

She also requested President Droupadi Murmu to take interest in the matter and stand with women. The bill seeks to reserve 33 per cent seats in Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies for women. The six-hour hunger strike programme at Jantar Mantar was inaugurated by CPI-M leader Sitaram Yechury.

Sanjay Singh (AAP), Naresh Gujral (Shiromani Akali Dal), Shamima Firdous (National



Conference), Subhasini Ali (CPI-M), Pooja Shukla (SP), Seema Malik (NCP), Anjum Javed Mirza (PDP), Narayana K (CPI) and Shyam Rajak (RJD) joined the event, while some other leaders extended support via on-line. Women ministers, MPs and MLAs of the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS), including Telangana Education Minister Sabitha Indra Reddy and Women and Child Welfare Minister Satyavathi

If India needs to develop at the speed the world is developing, women should play a key role in politics. Women should get more representation in politics for which it is important to bring this bill that has been pending for 27 years. K KAVITHA | BRS LEADER



Farmers harvest wheat in Nadia, West Bengal

PTI PHOTO

Japanese woman groped, harassed on Holi

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, March 10: A video has gone viral on social media showing a Japanese woman being groped and harassed by a group of youth, presumably in Delhi's Paharganj area, on Holi.

In the video, the youth could be seen grabbing the woman and smearing colours on her amid chants of 'Holi Hai'. A boy could also be seen smashing an egg on her head, even as the woman shouted 'bye bye' just to escape from the spot.

A senior police officer said that a tweet has come to their notice which contains a video of Holi wherein few people are seen applying colour on a foreign national.

"The woman seems to be un-



comfortable with the actions of the youth. The video attached with the said tweet has been posted on several digital platforms. We have taken cognisance of the

video. The video is being analysed to ascertain the requisite details," the officer said.

"Prima-facie, on the basis of the landmarks seen in the video,

World off-track to cut 30% sodium intake by 2025: WHO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 10: The world is off-track to achieve its global target of reducing sodium intake by 30 per cent by 2025, which is essential to save millions of lives globally, according to a first-of-its-kind report by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Sodium, an essential nutrient, increases the risk of heart disease, stroke and premature death when consumed in excess. The main source of sodium is table salt (sodium chloride), but it is also a part of other condiments such as sodium glutamate which is naturally found in some foods and is also used as a flavour enhancer.

The global average salt intake is estimated to be 10.8 grams per day, more than double the WHO rec-



ommendation of less than 5 grams of salt per day (one teaspoon).

The report shows that only 5 per cent of WHO member states are protected by mandatory and com-

prehensive sodium reduction policies and 73 per cent of members lack full range of implementation of such policies. India has mandatory declaration of sodium on pre-

The global average salt intake is estimated to be 10.8 grams per day, more than double the WHO recommendation of less than 5 grams of salt per day (one teaspoon)

Sodium, an essential nutrient, increases the risk of heart disease, stroke and premature death when consumed in excess

packaged food but no other mandatory measure, WHO said.

Implementing highly cost-effective sodium reduction policies could save an estimated seven million lives globally by 2030, the report said. It is an important component of action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) target of reducing deaths from noncommunicable diseases.

However, only nine countries - Brazil, Chile, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Spain and Uruguay - have a comprehensive package of recommended policies to reduce sodium intake, according to the report.

"Unhealthy diets are a leading cause of death and disease globally, and excessive sodium intake is one of the main culprits," said Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General. "This report shows that most countries are yet to adopt any mandatory sodium reduction policies, leaving their people at risk of heart attack, stroke, and other health problems," Ghebreyesus said in a statement.

WHO calls on all countries to implement the 'Best Buys' for sodium reduction, and on manufacturers to implement the WHO benchmarks

MHA announces 10% reservation for ex-Agniveers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 10: In a fillip to the ambitious Agnipath scheme, the Union home ministry has announced 10 per cent reservation for former Agniveers in vacancies in the Border Security Force (BSF) with relaxations in the upper age limit.

The announcement was made through a notification after amending the Border Security Force, General Duty Cadre (Non-Gazetted) Recruitment Rules, 2015, and it will come into effect from March 9. "Ten per cent of the vacancies shall be reserved for ex-Agniveers," the notification said.

The ministry said while the upper age limit would be relaxable to up to five years for candidates of the first batch of ex-Agniveers, the limit would be relaxable to up to three years for candidates of other batches. Former Agniveers will also be exempted from physical efficiency test, the notification said.

The Centre on June 14 last year had unveiled the Agnipath scheme for recruitment of youths aged between 17-and-a-half and 21 in the army, the navy and the air force, largely on a four-year short-term contractual basis.

Those recruited under the scheme will be known as 'Agniveers'. After the completion of the four-year tenure, 25 per cent of the recruits from each batch will be offered regular service.

At that time, the home ministry had announced that 10 per cent vacancies in central paramilitary forces and the Assam Rifles would be reserved for demobilised 75 per cent Agniveers.

It had also announced that the upper age limit was relaxed for the first batch of ex-Agniveers by up to five years and for the subsequent batches for three years. In addition, the ex-Agniveers would be exempted from the physical proficiency test, the ministry had said.

The specified age limit for recruitment to paramilitary forces is 18-23 years.

For those who join the armed forces even at the upper age limit of 21 years under the Agnipath scheme, they can be recruited with the BSF till the age of 30 after his four years of service in the army or the air force or the navy in case of the first batch and till 28 years for the subsequent batches.

A senior police officer said that a tweet has come to their notice which contains a video of Holi wherein few people are seen applying colour on a foreign national

it seems that it pertains to Paharganj. However, it is being verified whether any such incident took place in that area or the video is an old one," the officer added.

However, no complaint or call relating to any kind of misbehaviour with any foreigner has been received at the Paharganj police station, he said.

international

of the day quote

We recognize that the challenges Iraq is facing did not arise overnight

My message to Beijing is clear: use your influence in Moscow to press for the withdrawal of Russian troops, and do not supply weapons to the aggressor Russia

We are not going to allow any foreign governments to intervene in our territory, much less the armed forces of a foreign government

SHORT TAKES

Sunak, Macron meet in Paris

Paris: UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak met Friday in Paris with French President Emmanuel Macron in efforts to mend relations following post-Brexit tensions, as well as improving military and business ties and toughening efforts against Channel migrant crossings.

NBW against Imran suspended

Islamabad: A top court in Pakistan Friday suspended the non-bailable arrest warrant (NBW) issued against ousted prime minister Imran Khan in a case of hate speech against state institutions after his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party filed a petition against the move.

Kim Jong supervises frontline artillery drill

Seoul: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un supervised a frontline artillery drill simulating an attack on an unspecified South Korean airfield as he called for his troops to sharpen their combat readiness in the face of his rivals' "frantic war preparation moves," state media said Friday.

SC issues show cause notice to Prachanda

Kathmandu: The Supreme Court of Nepal on Friday issued a show cause notice to Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda on a writ petition seeking a criminal investigation against him for the killing of 5,000 people during the decade-long Maoist insurgency in the country.

Turkey to hold Prez polls May 14

Ankara, March 10: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan Friday formally set the country's parliamentary and presidential elections for May 14 — a month earlier than scheduled despite the devastating February 6 earthquake that killed some 50,000 people in Turkey and Syria.

IRAN, SAUDI TO RESTORE TIES

THE MAJOR DIPLOMATIC BREAKTHROUGH NEGOTIATED WITH CHINA LOWERS THE CHANCE OF ARMED CONFLICT BETWEEN THE NATIONS — BOTH DIRECTLY AND IN PROXY CONFLICTS AROUND THE REGION

Dubai, March 10: Iran and Saudi Arabia Friday agreed to reestablish diplomatic relations and reopen embassies after years of tensions between the two countries, including a devastating attack on the heart of the kingdom's oil production attributed to Tehran.

Topless swimming now permitted in Berlin pools

The new bathing rules allowing everyone to go swimming without covering their torsos followed a discrimination complaint by a woman who was not allowed to go topless in a swimming pool in the capital

Berlin, March 10: Women in Berlin will soon be allowed to go topless at the city's public swimming pools, like men, the Berlin state government said.



ment in the case, the Berliner Baederbetriebe, which runs the city's public pools, decided to change its clothing rules, the state-

establishes equal rights for all Berliners, whether male, female or non-binary, and because it also creates legal certainty for the staff at the Baederbetriebe," said Doris Liebscher, the head of the ombudsperson's office.

Xi Jinping gets 3rd term as China Prez



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, March 10: China's ceremonial Parliament Friday unanimously confirmed an unprecedented third five-year term for Xi Jinping as President and head of the military, paving the way for him to stay in power for life amid the slowdown of the economy and increasing tensions with the US and EU.



Iran has been blamed for a series of attacks in the time since, including one that targeted the heart of Saudi Arabia's oil industry in 2019, temporarily halving the kingdom's crude production

US weaponry and intelligence entered the war on the side of Yemen's exiled government in March 2015. Years of inconclusive fighting has created a humanitarian disaster and pushed the Arab world's poorest nation to the brink of famine.

Eight dead in Jehovah's Witnesses hall shooting

Hamburg (Germany), March 10: A former member of the Jehovah's Witnesses shot dead seven people, including an unborn child, at a hall belonging to the congregation in the German city of Hamburg before killing himself after police arrived, authorities said Friday.

Chancellor Olaf Scholz, a former Hamburg mayor, described it as "a brutal act of violence." Hamburg's top security official said officers who arrived just minutes after receiving the first emergency call at 9.04 pm.

There was no immediate indication of a possible motive for Thursday night's attack, which stunned Germany's second-biggest city



WHITE BLANKET: Hundreds of used cars covered in snow in Corby, Northamptonshire, England. The Met Office has issued warnings for northern England, the Midlands, North Wales and Northern Ireland, where "significant disruption" to transport and power supplies is expected

META EXPLORING PLANS FOR TWITTER RIVAL

Twitter has been struggling to hold on to its advertising base since Musk's takeover of the platform late last year

Meta Platforms Inc (META.O) is exploring plans to launch a new social media app in its bid to displace Twitter as the world's "digital town square".

Meta's app will be based on a similar framework that powers Mastodon, a Twitter-like service that was launched in 2016.

Its biggest platform, Facebook, is struggling to attract the attention of a younger audience, while its huge investments in the metaverse, a virtual world where users interact and work, show little signs of paying off, at least in the near term.

this is just a defensive move," said Thomas Hayes, chairman and managing member of New York-based Great Hill Capital.

of the day quote

This is partly because it is being talked about mainly by the regulators like Sebi. I think there is a good understanding of the environmental part. It's the S and the G that are less understood

MINI VANDEPOL | HEAD, BAKER MCKENZIE'S ASIA PACIFIC INVESTIGATIONS

The High Price Day Ahead Market is an innovative initiative by the Ministry of Power and Regulator (CERC) to bring additional power to the market by use of power generated from high cost fuels, in the high demand period

SN GOEL | CHAIRMAN AND MD, IEX

At Ashok Leyland, diversity and inclusion has always been a priority, and we have been providing equal opportunities irrespective of gender and ethnicity. Giving women these opportunities would enhance not only their lives, but also the lives of their families and community

SHENU AGARWAL | MD AND CEO, ASHOK LEYLAND

SHORT TAKES

Feb fuel demand hits 24 year high

New Delhi: India's fuel demand hit its highest level in at least 24 years in February, data showed Thursday, with industrial activity in Asia's third biggest economy boosted by cheap Russian oil. Consumption of fuel, a proxy for oil demand, rose by more than 5% to 4.82 million barrels per day (18.5 million tonnes) in February, its 15th year-on-year rise in a row. Demand was the highest recorded in data compiled by the Indian Oil Ministry's Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) going back to 1998.

Equity MFs inflows hit 9-month high

New Delhi: Equity mutual funds attracted ₹15,685 crore in February, making it the highest net infusion in nine months despite significant volatility in the stock markets. This is higher than ₹12,546 crore inflow seen in January and ₹7,303 crore reported in December. February also saw the 24th straight month of inflows into equity-oriented mutual fund schemes. Backed by healthy inflow into equity funds, the mutual fund industry saw an inflow of ₹9,575 crore in February. As per the data, the total net flows in equity schemes stood at ₹15,685 crore. This was the highest level since May 2022, when equity funds attracted ₹18,529 crore.

Tata Technologies files IPO papers

New Delhi: Tata Technologies Ltd, a subsidiary of Tata Motors Ltd, has filed preliminary papers with capital markets regulator Sebi to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO). Shares of the company are proposed to be listed on both NSE and BSE. The IPO is purely an offer for sale (OFS), where the company will sell up to 9.57 crore equity shares representing approximately 23.60 per cent of its paid-up share capital, according to the Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP).

Boeing's freighter conversion unit

New Delhi: Aircraft maker Boeing and GMR Aero Technic have entered into an agreement for setting up a new Boeing converted freighter line in Hyderabad. GMR Aero Technic is the first Boeing supplier in India that will have the capability to support future conversions of both domestic and foreign aircraft, a release said Friday.



I believe, this is India's century, and the country has a unique opportunity to lead the world in addressing some of the critical issues that we face

PUNIT RENJEN | GLOBAL CEO EMERITUS (RETIRED), DELOITTE

ROHIT JAWA NEW MD, CEO OF HUL

FMCG major HUL Friday announced the appointment of Rohit Jawa as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer to succeed Sanjiv Mehta who will retire from the company after leading it for a decade. Jawa, presently the Chief of Transformation for Unilever, would take over the leadership role for a term of five consecutive years with effect from June 27, 2023



FINANCIAL CRISIS

US banks' stocks bleed

THE GLOBAL ROUT IN BANK STOCKS WAS PROMPTED BY SILICON VALLEY BANK AS HIGH RATES REALITY HITS HOME AMID WORRIES ABOUT EVER HIGHER INTEREST RATES AND A FRAGILE US ECONOMY

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

New York, March 10: The four largest US banks saw their stock prices lose a cumulative \$52 billion Thursday, as the financial sector digested reported trouble at SVB Financial, a major Silicon Valley-focused lender.

Shares of SVB Financial plummeted 60 percent Thursday and continued to fall in after-hours trading, following an announcement the prior evening that it had lost \$1.8 billion in sales of securities to raise funds.

The crisis at SVB underscored the vulnerability of banks, many of which were propped up by trillions of dollars of taxpayers' cash following the global financial crisis more than a decade ago.

That massive drop rippled through the financial sector, with biggest US bank JPMorgan Chase ending the day down 5.4 percent. Bank of America and Wells Fargo both fell 6.2 percent, while Citigroup was down 4.1 percent.

Alexander Yokum, an analyst with CFRA Research, said SVB's problems can be attributed to its heavy involvement with venture capital and private equity.

As interest rates have climbed, "those industries have really struggled," Yokum said. Their increased withdrawals of funds have subsequently forced SVB to seek more liquidity. Wells Fargo's Mike Mayo echoed that view, saying that the core



US BANKS SAW THEIR STOCK PRICES LOSE \$52BN

JPMORGAN CHASE SHARES ENDED 5.4% LOWER

SHARES OF SVB FINANCIAL PLUMMETED 60%

BANK OF AMERICA, WELLS FARGO BOTH FELL 6.2%

CITIGROUP'S STOCK PRICES WERE DOWN 4.1%

Global borrowing costs have risen at the fastest pace in decades over the last year as the Federal Reserve lifted US rates 450 basis points from near zero, while the European Central Bank hiked the euro zone's by 300 bps

The episode could be the straw that breaks the camel's back for banks

NEIL WILSON | CHIEF MARKET ANALYST, MARKETS.COM

issue at SVB "is a lack of funding diversification," with most deposits coming from venture capital.

The situation at the Silicon Valley-based firm is not fully indicative of the banking industry, but the struggle "affects sentiment," he added.

S&P has downgraded the company's debt rating by one notch, saying SVB is likely to face even more withdrawals.

SVB's disclosure came on top of an announcement the same day

that crypto banking titan Silvergate plans to shut down in the face of cryptocurrency market turmoil.

Though the two events are unrelated, "all of a sudden everybody's wondering... how does every other bank look?" Yokum said. He noted that in a high interest rate environment, "a bond portfolio goes down."

The US Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) has also warned about high interest rates threatening banks' portfolios, saying in a recent report that "longer term maturity assets ac-

EUROPE'S BANKS SUCKED INTO ROUT

London: European bank shares tumbled Friday in the wake of a dramatic sell-off in US bank stocks amid spreading jitters about the sector's vulnerability to the rising cost of money. Europe's STOXX banking index fell more than 4% and was set for its biggest one-day slide since early June, with declines for most major lenders, including HSBC, down 4.5%, and Deutsche Bank, down 7.9%. Shares in Italy's UniCredit and Intesa Sanpaolo also fell sharply. Although many analysts did not see a systemic threat to the global banking system, the negative effects for lenders of higher central bank interest rates was now being felt.

quired by banks when interest rates were lower are now worth less than their face values."

At the end of 2022, the total amount of banks' unrealized losses on those securities totaled about \$320 billion, the FDIC said. Banks generally just wait for bonds to mature, not losing money in the process.

"But if there is a run on deposits," Yokum said, banks "would be forced to sell their securities and book massive losses." That's "probably not going to happen" at most banks, he added.

However some banks have "started to see deposit outflows," Yokum said, with "people moving their deposits into places that give a higher yield."

Investors' wealth plunges ₹1.36L-cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 10: Investors became poorer by ₹1.36 lakh crore Friday as the markets witnessed a sell-off amid weak global trends.

Benchmark stock indices Sensex tanked 671.15 points or 1.12 per cent to close at 59,135.13, as 21 of its stocks declined.

The sharp decline in equities eroded ₹1,36,037.96 crore from the market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms and that now stands at ₹2,62,94,723.65 crore.

On Thursday, the market valuation stood at ₹2,64,30,761.61 crore. Market breadth was negative as of the total 3,611 scrips traded, 2,099 stocks declined, 1,077 stock advanced while 105 closed unchanged.

The broader Nifty plunged 176.70 points or 1 per cent to close at 17,412.90, with 35 of its stocks ending in the red. The index moved in a range of 17,324.35 to 17,451.50 during the session.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital market on Friday as they sold shares worth ₹2,061.47 crore.

Domestic indices extended losses for the second consecutive day in



line with sell-off in global markets triggered by a 60 per cent fall in the US-based Silicon Valley Banks.

"All sectors ended in red with major selling seen in banking stocks. Fall in the select US banks added to the overall global uncertainty regarding the quantum of the next Fed rate hike," Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

In the broader market, the BSE Midcap declined by 171.10 points or 0.69 per cent to 24,617.91 while the Smallcap fell by 165.29 or 0.59 per cent to 27,952.11.

BSE Financial Services declined by 1.77 per cent, BSE Bankex by 1.85 per cent, Capital Goods by 1.08 per cent, Realty by 1.07 per cent, Industrials by 0.85 per cent and BSE IT by 0.63 per cent. On the other hand, BSE Telecom rose by 1.21 per cent and BSE power by 1.08 per cent.

RECORD SALES FOR FEB PV despatches in fast lane

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 10: Indian automakers despatched nearly 2.92 lakh passenger vehicles, the highest ever for February so far, driven by strong demand for cars and utility vehicles, industry body SIAM said Friday.

The total passenger vehicle (PV) despatches from companies to dealers last month increased 11 per cent to 2,91,928 units from 2,62,984 units in February 2022.

Passenger car sales rose to 1,42,201 units in February against 1,33,572 units in the year-ago period. Similarly, utility vehicle despatches, including sports utility vehicles, rose to 1,38,238 units compared to 1,20,122 units in February 2022.

Despatches of vans rose to 11,489 units last month from 9,290 units in February 2022.

Maruti Suzuki India despatched 1,02,565 units last month to dealers, an increase of 3 per cent from 99,398 units a year ago. Hyundai Motor India sold 24,493 units last month compared to 21,501 units in February 2022.

The total two-wheeler wholesale despatches rose 8 per cent to 11,29,661 units against 10,50,079



units in February last year.

Motorcycle despatches increased to 7,03,261 units last month from 6,58,009 units in February 2022. Similarly, scooter despatches rose to 3,91,054 units from 3,56,222 units in the year-ago period.

Three-wheeler sales surged 86 per cent to 50,382 units last month from 27,074 units in February 2022.

Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) Director General Rajesh Menon said it was the highest-ever sales of passenger vehicles in February.

"In the period April-February, two and three-wheelers are yet to reach the pre-Covid levels, though it is the highest-ever for the passenger vehicles," he noted.

SIAM President Vinod Aggarwal said the overall positive sentiment in the market continues, which is

IIP growth perks up to 5.2% in Jan

For the first 10 months of the current fiscal, the growth in IIP works out to be 5.4%, down from 13.7% in the year-ago period

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 10: India's industrial production growth perked up slightly to 5.2 per cent in January from 4.7 per cent in December 2022, mainly due to good performance of the power, mining and manufacturing sectors, according to official data released Friday.

There was an improvement on an annual as well as sequential basis. The factory output growth measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) stood at two per cent in January 2022.

As per the IIP data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), the manufacturing sector's output grew 3.7 per cent in January 2023 from 1.9 per cent a year ago.

Mining output rose 8.8 per cent during the month under review compared to 3 per cent in January 2022. Power generation also surged

12.7 per cent in January 2023 against 0.9 per cent in the year-ago month.

As per use-based classification, the capital goods segment recorded a growth of 11 per cent in January against a growth of 1.8 per cent in the corresponding month of the last fiscal.

Consumer durables output declined by 7.5 per cent compared to a contraction of 4.4 per cent a year ago. Consumer non-durable goods output expanded by 6.2 per cent against a growth of 3.1 per cent earlier.

Infrastructure/construction goods too posted a growth of 8.1 per cent compared to a 5.9 per cent expansion in the same month of 2022.

The data also showed that the output of primary goods logged 9.6 per cent growth in the month against 1.6 per cent in the year-ago period.

The intermediate goods output growth decelerated to 0.1 per cent from 2.5 per cent earlier.

For the first 10 months of the current fiscal (April-January), the growth in IIP works out to be 5.4 per cent, down from 13.7 per cent in the year-ago period.



Forex kitty increase, snapping four-week losing streak

REUTERS

New Delhi, March 10: India's foreign exchange reserves rose for the first time in five weeks and stood at \$562.40 billion as of the week ended March 3, the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) data showed Friday.

The reserves increased by \$1.46 billion at the end of last week after falling by a total of \$15.8 billion in the previous four weeks, the data showed. The reserves stood at \$560.94 billion in the week to February 24.

The central bank intervenes in the spot and forwards market to prevent runaway moves in the rupee's exchange rate against the dollar. The RBI has said in the past that changes in reserves also stem from valuation gains or losses.

Last week, the rupee gained 0.9% against the dollar, logging its biggest weekly rise in nearly two months, and strengthened beyond 82 for the first time in a month. It traded in a range of 81.92 to 82.95 that week.

For the current week, the rupee ended little changed at 82.04 Friday.



India, US sign MoU to boost cooperation in semiconductors

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 10: India and the US Friday signed an initial pact to strengthen cooperation in the semiconductor sector to facilitate commercial opportunities and development of innovation ecosystems in the segment as both sides concluded their commercial dialogue.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed for establishing semiconductor supply chain and innovation partnership under the framework of India-US Commercial Dialogue, which was re-launched after a gap of three years.

During the meeting here, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and US Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo discussed ways to promote trade and investment relationships.

The MoU seeks to establish a collaborative mechanism between the two governments on semiconductor supply chain resiliency and diversification in view of the US's CHIPS and Science Act, and India's Semiconductor Mission.

The CHIPS and Science Act was signed by President Joe Biden in 2022 to boost funding for the American semiconductor industry.

The MoU aims to leverage complementary strengths of both countries and facilitate commercial opportunities and development of semiconductor innovation ecosystems through discussions on various aspects of the semiconductor value chain.

In addition, the MoU envisages mutually beneficial R&D, talent and skill development.

Addressing a joint media briefing, Goyal said the MoU would



help in expanding mutual cooperation and enhancing resilient supply chains.

With the MoU, she said the US would like to see India achieve its aspirations to play a larger role in the electronic supply chain.

"We have already begun action as against that MoU (by) taking both Indian and the American semiconductor industries to prepare an assessment of... Gaps and lack of resiliency in the supply chain and that will guide our work," she said.

India's desire to expand its advance manufacturing is totally aligned with the US desire and goal to make their supply chain more resilient

GINA RAIMONDO | US SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

The move will further the cooperation on startups, SMEs, skill development and entrepreneurship, including in digital and emergent technologies

PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

She also said there are also opportunities in the entire electronic supply chain for cooperation between the two countries.

At the end of the commercial dialogue, both sides announced the launch of a new Working Group on Talent, Innovation and Inclusive Growth.

Further, Goyal said the Travel and Tourism working group has been re-launched to address the new challenges and opportunities to create a stronger travel and tourism sector.

Besides, both the countries launched standards and conformance cooperation programme (Phase III) to be carried out in partnership between ANSI (American National Standard Institute) from the US side and BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) from the Indian side in furtherance of standards cooperation.

Separately, the US side would send a senior government official-led clean energy and environmental technology business development mission to India in 2024.

AUSSIES IN CRUISE CONTROL

Khawaja's resilient knock, Green's maiden Test ton allow visitors to post massive 480 in the first essay before India reach 36 for no loss at stumps on the second day of the fourth and final Test



A KNOCK TO REMEMBER: Cameron Green was ecstatic after scoring his maiden Test ton against India, Friday

BRIEF SCORES

Australia 480
(Usman Khawaja 180, Cameron Green 114, Todd Murphy 41, Nathan Lyon 34; R Ashwin 6/91);
India 36 for no loss.
Match to continue.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, March 10: Usman Khawaja's resilience (180, 422b, 21x4) found its ally in Cameron Green's audacious flair (114, 170b, 18x4) as Australia tested India's bowling depth as well as patience to put up a commanding 480 on the second day of the fourth Test here Friday.

At stumps, Indian openers were also hardly troubled on a track that hasn't deteriorated one bit as Rohit Sharma (17 batting) and Shubman Gill (18 batting) added 36 runs in 10 overs. But to make a match out of it, onus will be on India to score quickly on day three Saturday.

The most awkward time to start an innings is during the last 10 overs of the day but Gill lofted Nathan Lyon for a six down the ground to signal his attacking intent in that short span of time.

Australia still hold a massive advantage as their three spinners are likely to get more purchase than their Indian counterparts going into the third day.

played in between a couple of streaky ones. When a bowling unit concedes a total of 11 boundaries off batter No.9 and 10, the going really gets tough.

No credit will be enough for Ashwin (6/91), who gave his all manfully and got his 32nd five-wicket haul in Test cricket and is now only 27 wickets short of becoming second Indian after Anil Kumble to complete a coveted 500 wickets.

By the time he reached the milestone, Australia had crossed the 475-run mark and are in a position to dictate the flow of this game. But the day certainly belonged to Green, who completed a well-deserved maiden hundred.

The giant 6-foot-8-inch all-rounder, who missed the first two Tests due to a finger surgery, let Khawaja play his own game during their double century stand. After back-to-back barren sessions, it was Ashwin, who got three quick wickets for India.

Having already qualified for the WTC finals, Australia looked like trying to play 'party-poopers' for India as they never forced the scor-

You feel more like a Test cricketer when you've got that monkey off your back, so it is nice to tick that off in a way. It's so special. It's my 20th Test so I've had a good chance to see the ups and downs of Test cricket, see it for what it is. It's an incredibly tough game, and when you get moments like that you really cherish them. So yeah I've seen how tough Test cricket is and I'm enjoying every second of it

CAMERON GREEN

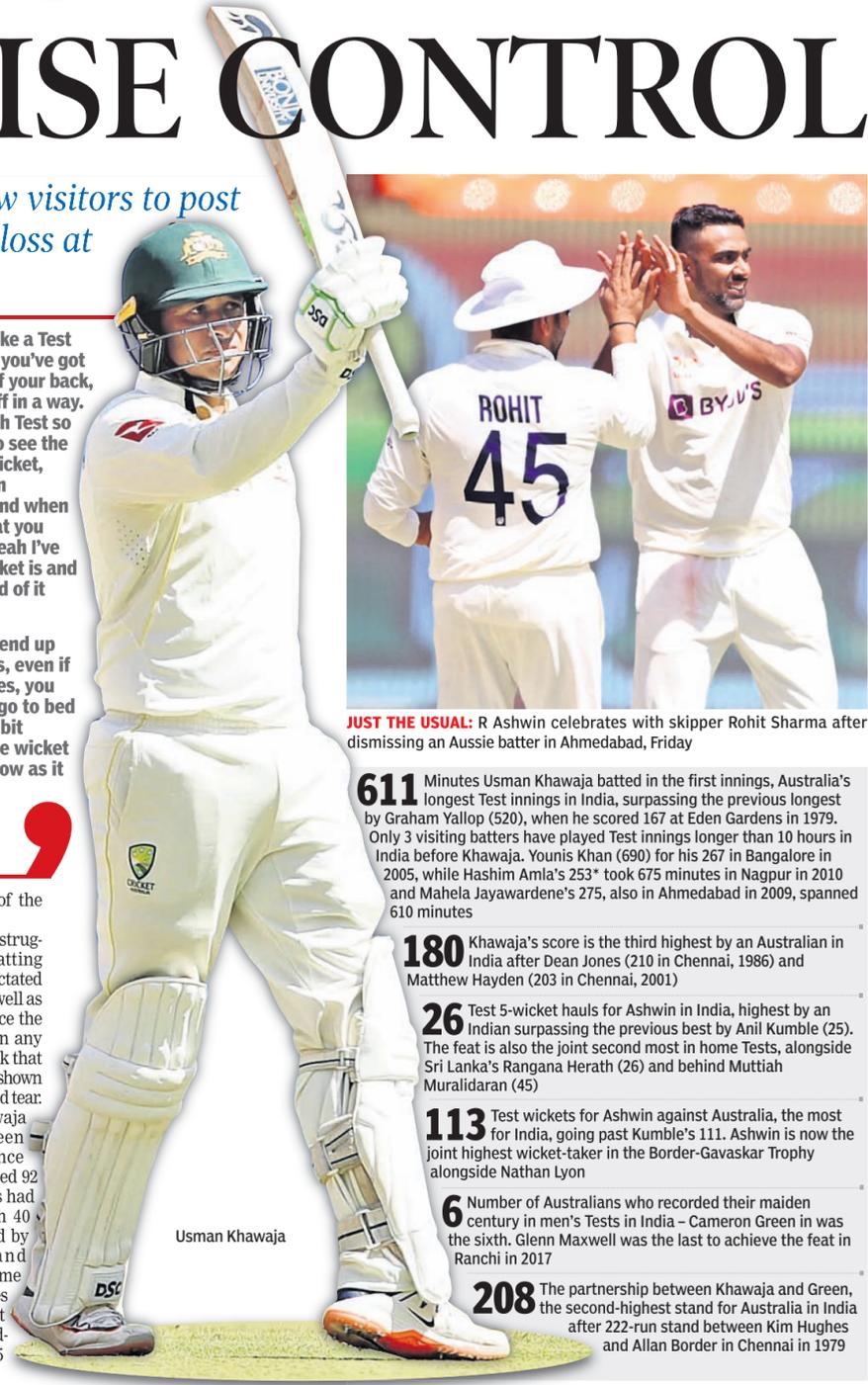
It does feel good as you end up with good bag of wickets, even if you don't bowl sometimes, you feel good about it. I will go to bed tonight a bit early and a bit happier. We expected the wicket to play well but not as slow as it did. So let's hope that it gets tougher to bat on as the game goes on

RAVICHANDRAN ASHWIN

ing rate during the course of the two days.

The Indian bowling unit struggled big time on a good batting track as the Australians dictated terms both on attacking as well as defensive fronts. Not for once the Australian batters looked in any kind of discomfort on a track that has remained firm and hasn't shown any distinct signs of wear and tear.

In the morning, as Khawaja continued his grind, Green blended attack with defence during a session that yielded 92 runs. In fact, India's pacers had a poor first innings with 40 boundaries being conceded by Umesh Yadav (19) and Mohammed Shami (21). Some were inside and outside edges but they never consistently hit right lengths while conceding more than 100 runs in 25 and 31 overs respectively.



JUST THE USUAL: R Ashwin celebrates with skipper Rohit Sharma after dismissing an Aussie batter in Ahmedabad, Friday

611 Minutes Usman Khawaja batted in the first innings, Australia's longest Test innings in India, surpassing the previous longest by Graham Yallop (520), when he scored 167 at Eden Gardens in 1979. Only 3 visiting batters have played Test innings longer than 10 hours in India before Khawaja. Younis Khan (690) for his 267 in Bangalore in 2005, while Hashim Amla's 253* took 675 minutes in Nagpur in 2010 and Mahela Jayawardene's 275, also in Ahmedabad in 2009, spanned 610 minutes

180 Khawaja's score is the third highest by an Australian in India after Dean Jones (210 in Chennai, 1986) and Matthew Hayden (203 in Chennai, 2001)

26 Test 5-wicket hauls for Ashwin in India, highest by an Indian surpassing the previous best by Anil Kumble (25). The feat is also the joint second most in home Tests, alongside Sri Lanka's Ranga Herath (26) and behind Muttiah Muralidaran (45)

113 Test wickets for Ashwin against Australia, the most for India, going past Kumble's 111. Ashwin is now the joint highest wicket-taker in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy alongside Nathan Lyon

6 Number of Australians who recorded their maiden century in men's Tests in India - Cameron Green in was the sixth. Glenn Maxwell was the last to achieve the feat in Ranchi in 2017

208 The partnership between Khawaja and Green, the second-highest stand for Australia in India after 222-run stand between Kim Hughes and Allan Border in Chennai in 1979

India stun World Champions Germany 3-2 Man United thrash Betis, Arsenal held

AGENCIES

Rourkela, March 10: India enthralled the evening audience at the Birsra Munda Hockey Stadium Friday as they stunned the reigning World Champions Germany 3-2 in their FIH Hockey Pro League 2022/23 match here.

Sukhjeet Singh (32nd and 43rd minutes) scored twice after skipper Harmanpreet Singh (30th) opened India's account for the night. Paul-Philipp Kaufmann (45th) and Michel Struthoff (58th) pulled two goals back for Germany.

It was a clinical performance by the hosts against the Germans even though it was the World Champions who got off to a strong start with back-to-back penalty corners (PC) being created in the first two quarters. However, India denied the Germans take the upper hand.

Striker Abhishek's efforts in the circle in the later part of the second quarter finally brought the momentum India was vying for. Abhishek's quick thinking in his tackle to surge ahead inside the striking circle forced a German infringement that earned the home team their first PC of the match.

Harmanpreet completed his job wonderfully, picking up a good in-



IMPRESSIVE SHOW: Sukhjeet Singh holds his hockey stick skyward in celebration after scoring against Germany at the Birsra Munda Hockey Stadium in Rourkela, Friday

fringement that earned the home team their first PC of the match. Harmanpreet completed his job wonderfully, picking up a good in-

jection by Hardik Singh to fiercely put it away into the right corner of the post giving India the much-needed lead. The narrow lead at half-

time came as a shot-in-the-arm for India's attack as they built on it in the third quarter. A brilliant pass by Jarmanpreet

Singh from the 25m mark, slicing into the circle to find a perfect deflection by Sukhjeet fetched India their second goal in quick succession.

About 11 minutes later, Sukhjeet struck again when Manpreet Singh powered a long pass from the midfield to the striking circle which was picked up well by talented youngster Karthi who then assisted Sukhjeet to score his second goal of the match and India's third against a formidable German defence.

The visitors, though, managed a goal in the 45th minute when Elian Mazkour set-up Kaufmann to score. India showcased some superb deep defence in the final moments of the match with Germany.

Always known to finish well, Germany tucked in a goal with just over two minutes left for the final hooter. It was Hannes Muller who set up the goal by Struthoff. India were awarded a penalty stroke in the dying seconds of the match but Harmanpreet couldn't convert the goal. India eventually held on to the 3-2 lead and earned the much-deserving three points.

Man United thrash Betis, Arsenal held



Manchester United players celebrate a goal against Real Betis, Thursday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manchester, March 10: Chants of "Bruno! Bruno!" reverberated around Old Trafford as the healing process began for Manchester United. The wounds from Sunday's humiliating 0-7 rout by Liverpool remain fresh. But a 4-1 win against Real Betis in the Europa League was an encouraging response from Erik ten Hag's players.

None more so than Bruno Fernandes, who scored one and had a role in two more in the round-of-16 first leg Thursday. Ten Hag had given his team the chance to begin making amends for Anfield by naming an unchanged lineup. It had the desired effect.

Marcus Rashford scored his 26th goal of the season. Antony swept a shot into the top corner from distance. And Wout Weghorst, who had faced a backlash on social media for touching the famous "This is Anfield" sign, let his emotion show when firing in United's fourth.

But perhaps no one needed redemption more than Fernandes, who received the brunt of the criticism after the collapse against Liverpool. On this occasion his efforts were greeted with approval by United fans as well as Ten Hag. The Portugal international raced toward the Stretford End after heading United into a 3-1 lead in the 58th minute and placed his hands over his ears as if to shut out the noise that has followed Sunday's loss.

The Old Trafford crowd sang his name loud as he walked out onto the field to confirm he still had their support. It was his cross that led to the opening goal after six minutes when Luiz Felipe diverted the ball

into Rashford's path. The England striker drove into the box and lashed a shot into the top corner.

The game was level at halftime after on-loan Leicester forward Ayoze Perez fired a low shot past David de Gea in the 32nd. Antony put United back in front seven minutes into the second half with a curling effort from outside of the box after being played in by Fernandes. United's No.8 went from provider to goal-scorer when he headed in Luke Shaw's corner to put his team in complete control.

But perhaps the biggest cheer of the night came when Weghorst lashed the ball home in the 82nd after missing a host of earlier chances. The raw emotion was evident as he celebrated only his second goal since joining on loan from Burnley in January and his first at Old Trafford.

ARSENAL HELD

Premier League leaders Arsenal were held 2-2 at Sporting Lisbon in their round-of-16 first-leg match. Hidemasa Morita's own goal in the 62nd minute salvaged the draw for Arsenal ahead of the return leg at Emirates Stadium next Thursday. Morita deflected Granit Xhaka's long-distance drive into his own net.

Arsenal went ahead through William Saliba. The defender headed in the opener for Arsenal from a corner from Fábio Vieira to capitalize on early pressure in the 22nd. Sporting equalised with almost an identical reply, as Arsenal's defense looked vulnerable. Gonçalo Inácio headed home off a Marcus Edwards corner past goalkeeper Matt Turner 12 minutes after Saliba's goal.

WANT TO BREAK JINX BY WINNING GOLD: LOVLINA



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 10: Olympic bronze medalist in women's boxing Lovlina Borgohain is confident that her move to a higher weight category will help her break the jinx of not winning a gold in major international tournaments when the IBA Women's World Championships begins later this month.

Lovlina will be competing in the 75kg category in the championships scheduled to commence here March 15, while earlier she won two world championships bronze and a third place at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics

in the 69kg category.

The focus in the prestigious tournament will be as much on India's ace boxer Nikhat Zareen retaining her gold, as it will on Lovlina breaking the jinx of not clinching the top podium place.

The 25-year-old pugilist from Assam secured third position in both the 2018 and 2019 Women's Worlds and ended up with another bronze at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, prompting people to say the talented athlete was not giving it her best shot. But Lovlina denied it, saying she always enters the ring with the single-minded commitment to give it her "100 percent".

"Yes, that (not winning gold) is at the back of my mind. But I am desperate to change the colour of the medal this time around. The effort is always to play for gold medal and this time too it is no different. The preparations are going well (in Patiala) and I hope I can break that jinx on home turf," said Lovlina, who has won all the three top bronze medals in the 69kg category, but will be competing in the upcoming championships in 75kg.

Healy, spinners lift Warriorz

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, March 10: Skipper Alyssa Healy led from the front with a scintillating 47-ball 96 not out (18x4, 1x6) as UP Warriorz hammered Royal Challengers Bangalore by 10 wickets in the Women's Premier League here Friday.

Healy led the UP franchise to their second win of the tournament, even as RCB suffered their fourth straight defeat to dent their prospects of advancing further.

Healy's knock is the highest individual score in the WPL thus far, bettering teammate Tahlia McGrath's 90 not out. UPW completed the task with as many as 42 balls remaining.

Chasing a modest target of 139, UP Warriorz were off to a brisk start with the opening duo of Healy and Devika Vaidya (36 n o) finding boundaries at will. This was after UP Warriorz spinners Sophie Ecclestone (4/13) and Deepti Sharma (3/26) gave away very little while striking at regular intervals to bowl out RCB, who opted to bat first, for 138 in 19.3 overs. Ellyse Perry top-scored for



SOPHIE ECCLESTONE



ALYSSA HEALY

RCB with a 39-ball 52 (6x4, 1x6).

Earlier, Sophie Devine (36, 24b, 5x4, 1x6) started the RCB innings by hitting Grace Harris for a four and a six off the match's second and third deliveries, collecting 13 runs in the opening over at the Brabourne Stadium.

With RCB going very well at 29 for no loss after three overs, Healy effected a bowling change and brought on Rajeshwari Gayakwad into the attack, and it paid dividends straightaway as the bowler sent back RCB captain Smriti Mandhana (4) with her first ball.

Given the situation, it was an

excellent first over from Rajeshwari as she conceded just one run while taking the big wicket of Mandhana. Ecclestone was rewarded for her fine bowling as she bowled Devine. Perry continued with her attacking ways before Deepti took her out, much to the UP team's relief. RCB lost the plot after that, as the duo of Deepti and Ecclestone kept taking wickets regularly.

Brief scores: RCB Women 138 (Ellyse Perry 52, Sophie Devine 36; Sophie Ecclestone 4/13, Deepti Sharma 3/26) lost to UPW Women 139/0 (Alyssa Healy 96 n o, Devika Vaidya 36 n o) by 10 wickets.