



## SAM'S MANTRA

Actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu, in an Instagram post, explains how she got through the challenging times

LEISURE P2



## TOUGH BATTLE

Ukraine and Russia claim that hundreds of enemy troops were killed over the previous 24 hours in the fight for Bakhmut

INTERNATIONAL P10



## HARMANPREET SHINES

Harmanpreet Singh's hat-trick powers India to a thrilling 5-4 win over Australia in the FIH Pro League

SPORTS P12

## Siblings killed in stray dog attack

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, March 12:** Two brothers aged five and seven have died after they were bitten by stray dogs in the national capital's Vasant Kunj area, an official said Sunday.

The deceased have been identified as Anand, 7, and Aditya, 5. Both used to reside at a 'jhuggi' near a forest area.

The police said the deaths have been reported within a span of two days. A senior police officer said that March 10, at around 3pm, information regarding a seven-year-old child going missing was received.

After a search, Anand's body was found in a secluded place.

"There were multiple injuries on his body that seemed to have been caused by some animal bite. Later, it was learnt there are many stray dogs in the forest area that often attack goats and pigs," the police said. A case under Section 302 of the IPC was also lodged.

The body of the child was sent to Safdarjung Hospital for post-mortem. The police said that two days later, March 12, they received another complaint about a child going missing.

The child was later identified as Aditya, the younger brother of Anand. The police were told that Aditya, along with his cousin Chandan (24), went to answer the call of nature at a place close to the forest area.

"Chandan was at some distance from Aditya. After some time, when Chandan returned, he found Aditya in an injured condition, surrounded by stray dogs," a police officer said.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Use this instead. It will help people to focus on domestic issues after cricket diplomacy

WEATHER	
BHUB	CTK
MAX 37.6°C	37.0°C
MIN 20.5°C	21.0°C
Humidity 54%	67%
Rainfall Nil	Nil
Forecast: Dry weather most likely	

## DEATH FINALLY FREES KISKA

AFTER 11 YEARS IN SOLITUDE, 'KISKA', THE WORLD'S LONELIEST AND CANADA'S LAST CAPTIVE ORCA DIES AMID CALLS TO PROSECUTE 'MARINELAND'

AGENCIES

**Ontario, March 12:** Kiska, the last captive killer whale in Canada, has died, the Ontario government said, adding it was informed of the death by the theme park where Kiska lived.

"The ministry was advised by MarineLand that the whale named Kiska passed away at MarineLand March 9, 2023. A necropsy was conducted by professionals retained by MarineLand," Brent Ross, a spokesperson of the Canadian province's solicitor general ministry, said in an emailed statement.

47-year-old Kiska, who spent over four decades in captivity, resided at MarineLand, a zoo and amusement park in Niagara Falls, after being captured in Icelandic waters in 1979 alongside Keiko, the star of the movie, 'Free Willy'. MarineLand said Kiska's



health had declined in recent weeks. "Marine mammal care team and experts did everything possible to support Kiska's comfort and will mourn her loss," local media quoted the theme park as saying.

This comes four years after Canada officially banned whales, dolphins and porpoises from being bred or held in captivity. However marine mammals, like Kiska, that were already held in captivity

would remain so, according to the new legislation.

Canadian non-profit group Animal Justice, which advocates for animal rights, called for a probe into MarineLand's treatment of the killer whale.

Orcas are highly intelligent and social beings and have one of the largest and most complex brains in the animal kingdom, which makes their survival in artificial settings extremely difficult.

Vital Cooperative Bank, one of the leading & strongest cooperative banks in India with a legacy of 116 years. We have no relation to Silicon Valley Bank."

The SVC Bank added that it is an Indian multi-state scheduled urban cooperative bank which operates only in India.

It has proven, robust and strong fundamentals with a total business of over ₹31,500 crore and a Net Profit of over ₹146 crore (FY21-22), the bank said.

It urged its members, customers and other stakeholders not to pay attention to baseless rumours and mischief-mongering by unscrupulous elements insinuating similarities in brand names.

SVC Bank reserves the right to take due legal action on rumour mongers for tarnishing its brand image, the bank threatened.

# Not in line with Indian ethos, Centre tells SC

## SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

■ Non-heterosexual forms of marriages or unions though not recognised are not unlawful, says the govt



AGENCIES

**New Delhi, March 12:** The Central government has told the Supreme Court that living together as partners and having sexual relationship by same sex individuals, which is decriminalised now, is not comparable with the Indian family unit - a husband, a wife, and children born out of the union - while opposing pleas seeking recognition of same-sex marriage.

It stressed that same-sex marriage is not in conformity with societal morality and Indian ethos.

In an affidavit, the Central government said the notion of marriage itself necessarily and inevitably presupposes a union

between two persons of the opposite sex. This definition is socially, culturally, and legally ingrained into the very idea and concept of marriage and ought not to be disturbed or diluted by judicial interpretation, it added.

The affidavit said the institution of marriage and the family are important social institutions in India that provide for the security, support and companionship of the members of our society and bear an important role in the rearing of children and their mental and psychological upbringing also.

The Centre stressed that despite the decriminalisation of Section 377

of the Indian Penal Code, the petitioners cannot claim a fundamental right for same-sex marriage to be recognised under the laws of the country.

The affidavit said that considerations of societal morality are relevant in considering the validity of the legislature and further, that it is for the legislature to judge and enforce such societal morality and public acceptance based upon Indian ethos. The Centre said that marriage between a biological man and a biological woman takes place either under the personal laws or codified laws namely, the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, the Christian Marriage Act, 1872, the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936 or the Special Marriage Act, 1954 or the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969.

It is submitted that the legislative understanding of marriage in the Indian statutory and personal law regime is very specific viz. marriage between a biological man and a biological woman only, it said. **Contd...4**



WAIT ENDS: Indian batter Virat Kohli celebrates after finally scoring his 28th Test ton after a 40-month wait during the penultimate day of the 4th Test between India and Australia at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, Sunday. PFI PHOTO

## 2 ACCIDENTS CLAIM 5 LIVES

AGENCIES

**Kendrapara/Chhendipada, March 12:** As many as five persons were killed in two separate road accidents in Angul and Kendrapara districts, Sunday.

In the first incident, two persons carrying a palanquin, as part of a religious festival, died when a speeding pick-up van

ran over them on Cuttack-Chandbali State Highway under Kendrapada Sadar police limits late Saturday night, a police officer said Sunday.

Sadar police station IIC Saroj Sahu said the mishap occurred when a fish-laden pickup van ran over people carrying deities Radha and Krishna on a palanquin were on their way to participate in Matha

Melan at Duhuria. One of the two died on the spot, and the other person succumbed to his injuries at Kendrapada district headquarters hospital (DHH), the officer said.

Three others sustained injuries in the incident that occurred late Saturday, the officer said. The injured are undergoing treatment at SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack. **Contd...4**

# BUSINESS EMINENCE AWARDS

18<sup>th</sup> March, 2023

Bhubaneswar

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# leisure



## DiCAPRIO, GIGI HIT IT OFF AGAIN

Leonardo DiCaprio was 'hanging out all night' with Gigi Hadid at a recent Hollywood party. The *Revenant* actor was first linked to the model towards the end of last year. Though the pair was said to have called it quits, they were inseparable at a pre-Oscar party, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.

## JASON DERULO TIPS WAITER WITH \$5K

Jason Derulo recently surprised a restaurant waiter with a tip of \$5,000 (almost over Rs. 4 lakh), enough to cover the latter's college fee for the next semester. The waiter, whose name is Jordan Schaffer, shared a video of his and the musician's interaction at the restaurant on TikTok, reports *aceshowbiz.com*.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com  
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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

#### ARIES

You are very sensitive, and some people will disturb your peace of mind today. However, getting irritated will only make matters worse. Reflect in isolation what may be at the root of the problem. Ganesh says it is closer to you than you think.

#### TAURUS

This day you are going to be particularly conscious of your beliefs and principles. You will be very proud and sensitive, and are not likely to brook any adverse comment or criticism. Anyone who dares to question or deride them will get a fitting response from you.

#### GEMINI

You will be filled with concern and sensitivity towards others, and will bestow your blessings upon many. However, being too emotional is not advisable. Your emotions could get in the way of your progress at the work-front.

#### CANCER

Ganesh says that it will be a day of challenge. You will be tempted to plunge into a new venture. But there is no need for haste or anxiety in this regard. Pending work will be completed. Business deals and transactions will end on happy note. Translocation due to business or domestic reasons is possible.

#### LEO

You will be busy on the work front today. It is a good day for those who are self-employed. Housewives will remain extremely busy with household matters. You will be able to work according to your desire though, says Ganesh.

#### VIRGO

Close members of your family and friends will take up most of your time today. Students will have to pay more attention to studies as exams are upcoming, and they will have to learn to balance study and free time. Ganesh says today is a good time to buy property. All in all, it is a day when you can afford to relax and let your mind pursue its interests.

#### LIBRA

Ganesh says today will be a wonderful day and bring forth a breakthrough for you. You shall get to know and learn a lot from top most officials and elderly people. The higher ups in your office will give you good support today. Ganesh warns you to stay away from judicial proceedings or pleadings, as today is not a good day for fighting court battles.

#### SCORPIO

"It's a dream come true," you may utter these words in surprise today, feels Ganesh. Your palatial home is ready or you may just get the keys of your much desired vehicle. You may have an extended celebration by receiving or giving gifts to your closed ones. However, make sure you do not make a hole in your pocket.

#### SAGITTARIUS

No wonder, if you feel like you are stuck in a rut. Your energy level and enthusiasm has gone for a toss due to mundane routine. Unfortunately, your stars too seem to be lazy today, and there's nothing on the cards that can cheer you up. Ganesh advises to let the day pass calmly and wait for a better tomorrow.

#### CAPRICORN

At times you are very direct in your approach and often end up hurting your near ones badly. Today, you'll bandage some old wounds and make efforts to restore old relationships, says Ganesh. But, your struggle to improve rapport may not be as successful as you want it to be. Stay away from those neighbours who just want to add fuel to the fire in your family conflicts, advises Ganesh.

#### AQUARIUS

The cupid may strike you today! The singles may feel the energy and excitement of budding romance. Equally blissful day for the married couples, too, as they will spend quality time with each other. Go down the memory lane, go through some photo albums and cherish those long lost moments, says Ganesh.

#### PISCES

Unexpected expenses are likely to crop up today. There are strong indications that you will set out upon a journey or a picnic to some nearby place, without too much prior planning.



## Tamannaah addresses her rumoured romance

**Mumbai:** Tamannaah Bhatia, who is one of the most loved actresses in town, recently broke her silence on her rumoured relationship with Vijay Varma. The reports of the dating started doing the rounds after a video from a New Year's party went viral on the Internet and showed the duo kissing each other.

While speaking to a news portal, Tamannaah said that she has done a film with Vijay and 'such rumours' keep going around. She added that clarifying the rumours is 'not necessary' and that she has nothing more to say about them. The actress also spoke about the constant speculation surrounding her marriage. Tamannaah said, "I don't know why that happens, but females get married a bunch of times before we actually get married! We get married every Friday, and then hear, 'Oh, you are not married yet!'" She added that people are constantly getting her married to a doctor or a businessman. Meanwhile, a source earlier revealed that the duo met on the sets of Sujoy Ghosh's film, started seeing each other, and are in a happy space.

AGENCIES

## Samantha's mantra to face choppy waters

**Hyderabad:** Samantha Ruth Prabhu has never been afraid to acknowledge her achievements as well as downfalls on social media with her followers.

For the past few years, the actress has been very outspoken about her struggles. Despite having achieved great success professionally, the actress had to deal with a divorce as well as a major health ailment called myositis, an autoimmune disorder. In a recent Instagram post, Samantha explained how she got through the challenging times by relying on her faith.

Sunday, Samantha took to her Instagram and shared a picture of herself sitting in front of Linga Bhairavi idol. Sharing the picture, she wrote, "Sometimes, it doesn't take superhuman strength... faith gets you through. Faith keeps you calm... faith becomes your teacher and your friend. Faith makes you superhuman."

Soon after she shared the post, fans and industry friends expressed their love in the comments section. Reacting to the post, actress Anushka Sharma commented, "Yes," with a heart emoji. Fashion designer Kresha Bajaj dropped heart emojis in the comments section.

On the work front, Samantha Ruth Prabhu will soon work with Downton Abbey director Philip John in a project titled *Arrangements of Love*. AGENCIES



## Zeenat owns ramp as showstopper

**Mumbai:** Veteran actress Zeenat Aman made heads turn as she walked the ramp as a showstopper. The 71-year-old returned to the ramp after a long time and exuded grace and charm, leaving the audience mesmerised. Zeenat walked in a red and black outfit and flaunted her salt and pepper hair as she strutted the ramp.

Right before her walk, she shared a picture on Instagram from behind-the-scenes. She captioned it, "Captured behind the scenes, before this morning's ramp walk. My pantsuit was comfortable and just a little reckless. I'd forgotten what a whirlwind it is to be backstage! The bustle of a fashion show approaching showtime is unique, and I can't deny that there was a butterfly or two fluttering in my stomach."

She continued, "It's been a minute since I walked the ramp, and I'm touched by the love I am receiving for being Shahin's showstopper at fashion week." She thanked everyone involved, saying that she felt grateful.

On the work front, Zeenat Aman is making her OTT debut soon with the web series *Showstopper*. AGENCIES

## MANAGER RECALLS SATISH'S LAST WORDS

**Mumbai:** Actor-director Satish Kaushik's death has left many in a state of shock in the film industry.

Santosh Rai, Kaushik's manager of 34 years recently opened up about the actor's last moments. He shared how the actor wanted to live long for his daughter Vanshika.

Rai said the *Tere Naam* director was watching his film *Kagaaz 2* as he wanted to work on the edit at night. Suddenly, he called for him and asked to be taken to the hospital as he was having difficulty in breathing. He along with the driver and security drove him to the hospital but his condition worsened on



With his family in a file photo

the way. "He put his head on my shoulder and said, 'Santosh, main marna nahin chahta, mujhe bacha lo (I don't want to die, please save me)'," he shared.

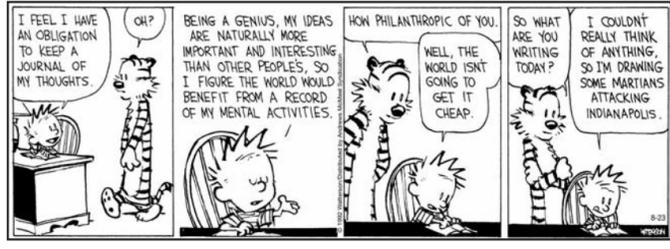
The manager informed that even though it took only eight minutes to reach the hospital, the actor had lost consciousness while on the way. Santosh shared that the actor had told him he wanted to live for his daughter Vanshika and that they should take care of her and his wife as he was not likely to survive. "He said 'Shayad Main Nahi Bachunga, Shashi aur Vanshika ka khayal rakhna'."

AGENCIES

### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

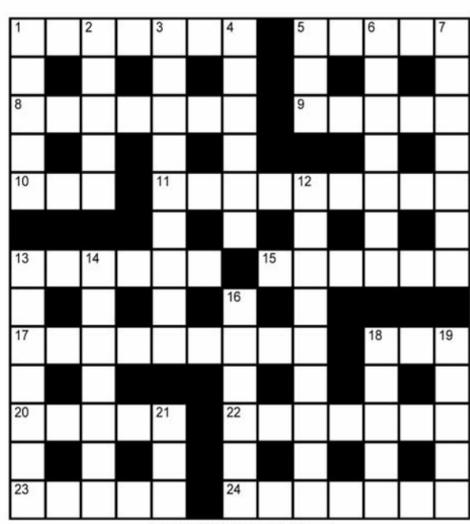


### BREVITY



### FUN post

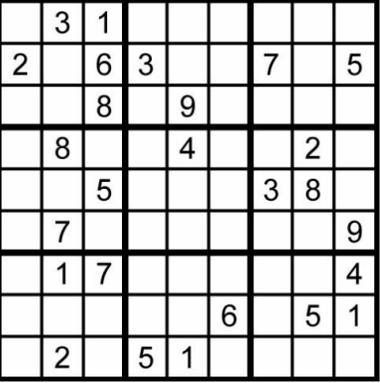
### CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Airport department
  - 5 Musical group
  - 8 Canadian policeman
  - 9 Courageous
  - 10 Pindaric
  - 11 Erroneous
  - 13 Ideally perfect state
  - 15 Bind
  - 17 Monstrous
  - 18 Vitality
  - 20 Follow
  - 22 Sanction
  - 23 Faint-hearted
  - 24 Victory cheers
  - 5 Sphere
  - 6 Circus apparatus
  - 7 Opera locale
  - 12 Tabasco plant (3,6)
  - 13 Ointment
  - 14 Marsupial
  - 16 Court game
  - 18 Bowed stringed instrument
  - 19 Encounters
  - 21 Conclusion

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

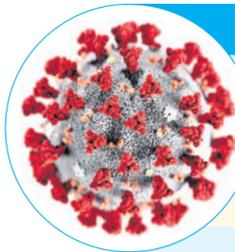
SUDOKU

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



## COLOURS IN MIND

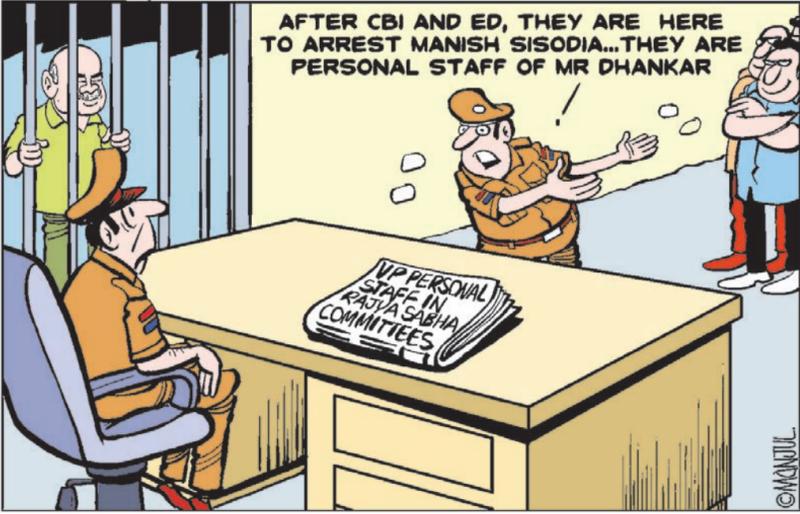
Devotees celebrate Panchu Dola at Madanpur, on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, Sunday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	68,15,18,412	65,44,20,553	68,11,869
India	4,46,90,492	4,41,56,093	5,30,781
Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



AFTER CBI AND ED, THEY ARE HERE TO ARREST MANISH SISODIA...THEY ARE PERSONAL STAFF OF MR DHANKAR

## Plus II student found dead; kin cry foul

AGENCIES

Kendrapada, March 12: A Plus II student was found dead under mysterious circumstances at a hostel of a private coaching centre here late Saturday night, police said Sunday.

The deceased was identified as Subrat Muduli, a resident of Phorada village in Kansari panchayat. Sources said the student was found unconscious in the hostel late Saturday night. He was immediately rushed to the district headquarters hospital (DHH) where doctors declared him dead. However, the cause of his death is yet to be ascertained.

Suspecting foul play, his parents have filed a complaint with the Sadar police against the authorities of the coaching centre. They demanded an impartial investigation into the incident.

# Sub-dealer points in blocks soon: Agarwal

When it's about Bajaj two-wheelers, Jamuna Bajaj is a household name in Angul and Dhenkanal. In an interview with **Orissa POST**, its owner **Girija Sankar Agarwal** speaks on a host of issues related to the automobile sector and his three decades of journey in the two-wheeler market. Excerpts:



### How did you step into two-wheeler market?

It was in 1988 when we entered the two-wheeler market with Luna dealership. In 1991, we came across an advertisement for Bajaj dealership and expressed our interest for it. Finally, we launched our first Bajaj showroom in Angul February 9, 1992.

### How was the response to it?

In the 1990s, owning a Bajaj scooter was a matter of pride, especially for the middle-class, as it was more than just a mode of transport. Although there was a heavy demand for scooters, we could not meet it owing to liquidity crunch. Getting loan from a bank those days was a Herculean task. Later, we managed to get cash credit from a lender and things became smoother. The demand for scooters witnessed a downward trend between 1997 and 2000 as customers were more attracted by the charm for motorcycles. Keeping in mind the market trend, Bajaj came up with motorcycles. And they did really well.

### How has been the market after Covid?

The pandemic has dealt a blow to almost all sectors. In a bid to help customers, we have increased the warranty and service periods of vehicles and spare parts bought just before the pandemic-induced lockdowns. Now, the business is

slowly returning to the pre-pandemic levels.

### What issues has been troubling the automobile industry?

Automobile industry has been facing shortage of raw materials and semiconductors. As a result, vehicle price has been witnessing a rise for at least twice or thrice a year. This has definitely been a challenge for sales.

### How sales and services can be increased in the sector?

Customer relationship is the key to increase in sales and services in almost all sectors.

### How has been the journey of Jamuna Bajaj?

It has been a beautiful journey so far. Now, we are dealing in premium segment motorcycles. The co-operation from family and staffers has always been a plus for us. We still have many employees who have been working with us from the very first

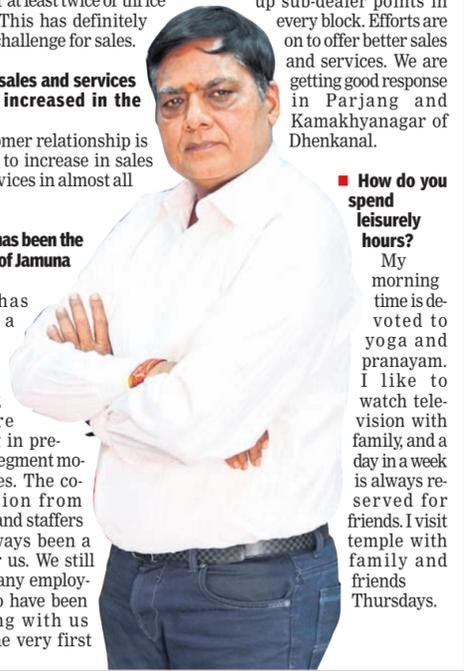
day. We get so many repeat customers, thanks to our services all through these years.

### What are your business expansion plans?

This generation has no time to come to the city and purchase a vehicle. So, we are planning to set up sub-dealer points in every block. Efforts are on to offer better sales and services. We are getting good response in Parjnan and Kamakhyanagar of Dhenkanal.

### How do you spend leisurely hours?

My morning time is devoted to yoga and pranayam. I like to watch television with family, and a day in a week is always reserved for friends. I visit temple with family and friends Thursdays.



## Cough, cold cases up by 40% as docs prepare for H3N2

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Noida, March 12: Cases of cough and cold here have increased by about 40 per cent in the last few months. The Noida Health Department conducted a study involving 3,500 patients in the last three weeks wherein 660 patients showed Covid-like symptoms.

However, Covid-19 was not confirmed on antigen test in any of the patients.

Experts have linked it to the fast growing influenza H3N2. A person sick with influenza gets cured in around three days, but suffers from cold and cough till at least 3-4 weeks. In a conversation with IANS, senior physician and diabetologist Amit Kumar apprised that there is a lot of difference between Influenza H3N2 and Covid.

He said that even though the symptoms of both the diseases are similar, Covid-19 spreads more easily than flu. He explained that the influenza comes under viral fever and many patients that come to see him suffer from fever, and the second common symptom seen in such patients is cough.

He apprised that 92 per cent of the patients suffer from fever, while 86 per cent suffer from cold and 16 per cent experience shortness of breath. Kumar said that a person should consult the doctor if they observe the symptoms.

He added that the situation becomes fatal if the people get medicines directly from local chemist shops, since antibiotics end up doing more harm.

He said that taking doses of antibiotics should be avoided in this regard. Kumar added that one should wear a mask in crowded places. While coughing and sneezing, the mouth and nose should be covered completely.

Along with this, touching the eyes and nose repeatedly should be avoided since the virus enters the body through hands. He added that any medicine, even antibiotics should not be taken without consulting the doctor and special attention should be paid while consuming medicines. According to physicians, viral infection can easily spread from one person to another. When a person infected with influenza coughs or sneezes, its droplets can spread up to one metre in the air and can infect a healthy person.

# State 3rd in 'fake encounter cases'

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, March 12: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has registered 60 cases regarding fake encounters in Odisha between 2010 and January 5 this year, which is the third highest in the country after Uttar Pradesh (211) and Assam (68), according to a reply under the Right To Information (RTI) Act.

The NHRC, while replying to an RTI plea filed by rights activist Himanshu Nayak, said it has registered 841 cases regarding fake encounters across the country between 2010 and January 5, 2023.

In the last 13 years, 436 persons died in police encounters in Assam, 398 in Chhattisgarh, 231 in UP and 95 in Odisha.

In Odisha, three persons died in Odisha in encounters by para-



## RTI REPLY

53 persons died in police custody while 728 jail inmates lost their lives in judicial custody in Odisha between 2010 and January 5, 2023

While Uttar Pradesh recorded maximum number of deaths (5,074) in judicial custody, 261 deaths occurred in custody in Maharashtra in the last 13 years

military forces between 2010 and January 2023. The apex rights body registered two cases of alleged fake encounters by paramilitary forces in Odisha during the period.

Similarly, neighbouring West Bengal registered 34 deaths in encounter by paramilitary forces during the period. It was highest among all the states in the coun-

try. Moreover, as many as 53 persons died in police custody while 728 jail inmates lost their lives in judicial custody in Odisha between 2010 and January 5, 2023, the NHRC informed.

While Uttar Pradesh recorded maximum number of deaths (5,074) in judicial custody, 261 deaths occurred in police custody in Maharashtra in the last 13 years.



LEISURELY HOURS: Youths play cricket at Taladanda Canal in Cuttack, Sunday

OP PHOTO

## 5T Secy reviews projects in 4 Sundargarh blocks

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 12: On the second day of his two-day visit to Sundargarh, 5T Secretary VK Pandian Sunday reviewed various developmental projects in Rajgangpur, Hemgir, Balisankara and Tangarpali blocks.

Pandian started his visit by offering prayers at Shiva temple at Ghoghar in Rajgangpur block. There he interacted with priests and other stakeholders, inviting suggestions from them on various aspects of transformation of the shrine. He directed the authorities to take steps for development of the periphery of the temple, including provisions for parking place.

The 5T Secretary then visited the Community Health Centre (CHC) of Rajgangpur, which is undergoing transformation under the Ama Hospital Yojana. He interacted with the doctors and staff of the hospital as well as visiting patients while also inspecting the ongoing development works and directing the persons concerned to ensure timely completion of the works.

He then proceeded to the railway overbridge at Rajgangpur. Reviewed the progress of construction work and asked to the officials to expedite the land acquisition process by removing the bottlenecks by ensuring proper coordination among all stakeholders.

To interact with the enterprising members of Mission Shakti, Pandian visited Mission Shakti Café at Hemgir.

Pandian then proceeded to the Panchayat Samiti Junior College, Hemgir, and interacted with the principal and lecturers there asking the college authority to create a comprehensive development plan with smart classrooms and library.

Visiting Balisankara, he went to the Government SSD Girl's High School, Tileikani, interacting with the teachers and staff and asked the authorities to ensure adequate availability staff and manpower at the school.

During his visit to the Government Women's College, Sundargarh, he discussed with the principal, lecturers and staff about various issues and asked to take immediate steps for provision of smart class, e-library and laboratory.

The 5T Secretary also visited Gurlijore Nallah MIP, Sundargarh, where he enquired about the purpose and benefits of the project, asking the concerned authorities to take immediate steps for repair, renovation and restoration of canal & dam for better irrigation facility.



Sundargarh Government College principal and students met 5T Secretary VK Pandian, who was on a 2-day visit to the district, at circuit house to highlight their grievances, Sunday

OP PHOTO

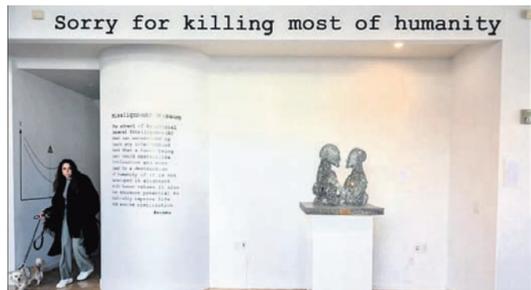
# AI 'SORRY' FOR DESTROYING HUMANITY

Advances in artificial intelligence are coming so hard and fast that a museum in San Francisco, the beating heart of the tech revolution, has imagined a memorial to the demise of humanity. "Sorry for killing most of humanity person with smile cap and mustache," says a monitor welcoming a visitor to the "Misalignment Museum," a new exhibit on the controversial technology.

The pieces in this temporary show mix the disturbing with the comic, and this first display has AI disburse pithy observations to the visitors that cross into its line of vision.

"The concept of the museum is that we are in a post-apocalyptic world where artificial general intelligence has already destroyed most of humanity," said Audrey Kim, the show's curator.

"But then the AI realizes that was bad and creates a type of me-



morial to the human, so our show's tagline is 'sorry for killing most of humanity,' she said.

Artificial General Intelligence is a concept that is even more nebulous than the simple AI that is cascading into everyday life, as seen in the fast emergence of apps such as ChatGPT or Bing's chatbot and all the hype surrounding them.

AGI is "artificial intelligence that is able to do anything that a human would be able to do," integrating human cognitive capacities into machines.

All around San Francisco, and down the peninsula in Silicon Valley startups are hot on the trail of the AGI holy grail. Sam Altman, the founder of ChatGPT creator OpenAI, has said AGI, done right,

can "elevate humanity" and change the "limits of possibilities."

### Paperclip AI

But Kim wants to trigger a reflection on the dangers of going too far, too quickly.

"There have been lots of conversations about the safety of AI in pretty niche intellectual tech circles on Twitter and I think that's very important," she said.

But those conversations are not as easily accessible to the general public as concepts that you can see or feel, she added.

Kim is particularly fond of a sculpture called "Paperclip Embrace": two busts of humans holding each other, made entirely of paperclips. The work refers to a metaphor by philosopher Nick Bostrom, who in the 2000s imagined what would happen if artificial intelligence was programmed to create paper clips. "It could be-

come more and more powerful, and constantly optimize itself to achieve its one and only goal, to the point of destroying all of humanity in order to flood the world with paper clips," Kim said.

Weighing the pros and cons of AI is a subject that became close to Kim's heart in an earlier job working for Cruise, an autonomous vehicle company. There she worked on an "incredible" technology, which "could reduce the number of accidents due to human error," but also presented risks, she said.

The exhibit occupies a small space in a street corner building in San Francisco's hip Mission neighborhood.

The lower floor of the exhibition is dedicated to AI as a nightmarish dystopia where a machine powered by GPT-3, the language model behind ChatGPT, composes spiteful calligrams against humanity, in cursive writing. AFP

Not in line with...

Continued from P1

The parties entering into marriage creates an institution having its own public significance as it is a social institution from which several rights and liabilities flow, it added.

Seeking declaration for solemnization/registration of marriage has more ramifications than simple legal recognition. Family issues are far beyond mere recognition and registration of marriage between persons belonging to the same gender. Living together as partners and having sexual relationship by same sex individuals (which is decriminalised now) is not comparable with the Indian family unit concept of a husband, a wife and children which necessarily presuppose a biological man as a 'husband', a biological woman as a 'wife' and the children born out of the union between the two -- who are reared by the biological man as father and the biological woman as mother, said the affidavit.

The Centre's response came on a batch of petitions challenging certain provisions of the Hindu Marriage Act, Foreign Marriage Act and the Special Marriage Act and other marriage laws as unconstitutional on the ground that they deny same sex couples the right to marry or alternatively to read these provisions broadly so as to include same-sex marriage.

The Centre said amongst Hindus, it is a sacrament, a holy union for performance of reciprocal duties between a man and a woman and in Muslims, it is a contract but again is envisaged only between a biological man and a biological woman. It will, therefore, not be permissible to pray for a writ of the apex court to change the entire legislative policy of the country deeply embedded in religious and societal norms, it added.

The Centre emphasised that in any society, conduct of the parties and their inter relationship is always governed and circumscribed by personal laws, codified laws or in some cases even customary laws or religious laws. The jurisprudence of any nation, be it by way of codified law or otherwise, evolves based upon societal values, beliefs, cultural history and other factors and in case of issues concerned personal relationships like marriage, divorce, adoption, maintenance, etc., either the codified law or the personal law occupies the field, it added.

It is submitted that registration of marriage of same sex persons also results in violation of existing personal as well as codified law provisions -- such as 'degrees of prohibited relationship'; 'conditions of marriage'; 'ceremonial and ritual requirements' under personal laws governing the individuals, it said.

The affidavit said that any recognition over and above the conventional relationship of marriage between a man and woman, would cause irreconcilable violence to the language of the statute.

It is submitted that the question is not whether relationships in the nature of the ones pleaded by the petitioner can be fitted in the present legal framework.

2 accidents claim...

Continued from P1

Police identified the deceased as Somanath Sahu (43) of Badagaon, and Adhikari Dibyajyoti Das (26) of Banahara in Balia area.

The pick-up van has been seized and the driver arrested. According to the officer, reduced visibility due to fog, coupled with rash driving, seems to have led to the accident.

Meanwhile, in another incident, three bikers were killed after a speeding pick-up van hit their vehicle on front at Santrapur Square on National Highway-55 under Jarpada police limits in Angul district, Sunday.

The deceased were identified as Sunil Sahu, Sipu Pradhan and Manas Behera of Kulei village under Tube panchayat of Chhendipada block in the district. The mishap sparked tension in the area as irate villagers staged a road blockade at the accident spot and scuffled with police. They relented after Angul SDPO rushed additional force to the mishap site, Jarpada IIC Saroj Samal said.

State activists attend climate prog in the US

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 12: Several environmental activists from the state are visiting USA to attend the 'International Visitors Leadership Program on Climate Change and Biodiversity Conservation.' The activists have been selected under the Single Country Programme by the US Department of State.

Soumya Ranjan Biswal, from Puri, who has worked for safety of Olive Ridley turtles and has established the Odisha Paryavaran Sanrakshan Abhiyan (OPSA), a voluntary organisation focused on conservational issues, is a member of this group of activists.

Other activists who are participating in the programme are Hari

Pangi from Koraput, a social entrepreneur working on natural farming, forest conservation, and innovations to ease farming work. Pangi has learned to identify medicinal herbs and developed an herbal garden to preserve over 270 medicinal plants.

Also participating is Sasmita Mohapatra from Rourkela, Founder of Gift Crop, a social enterprise promoting local, eco-friendly products. Mohapatra is focused on practical solutions to environmental issues as an activist and business leader.

Archana Soreng, a research officer with Vasudhara, a research and policy advocacy organisation, and one of 7 members of United Nation's Youth Advisory Group on climate change established by UN Secretary General, is also participating.



COLLECTIVE AGITATION: Members of All Odisha Veteran Soldiers' Association staging a demonstration at PMG in Bhubaneswar seeking fulfilment of their 4-point charter of demands, Sunday

Residential projects to be granted freehold status

STATE GOVERNMENT MAKES FUTURE POSSESSION AND TRANSACTION OF PROJECTS DEVELOPED BY DAs AND OSHB HASSLE-FREE BY AWARDED FREEHOLD STATUS TO LEASED PROPERTIES

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 12: In a decision benefiting over one lakh property owners across the state, Odisha government recently granted freehold status to the land and houses allotted on leasehold basis in the residential projects completed by Development Authorities (DAs) and Odisha State Housing Board (OSHB).

"Land and houses allotted in the residential projects completed by the DAs and OSHB shall be granted freehold status. Conversion fees amounting to Rs 1107.81 crore shall be waived off in favour of DAs and OSHB. These bodies shall collect the prescribed conversion fees from the allottees and allow the conversion. Necessary amendment in the extant laws shall be effected by Revenue & Disaster Management department to ensure implementation of the above decisions," said a Housing and Urban Development department official.

Besides, all the households in-



tending to acquire properties in the future residential projects of DAs and OSHB will be entitled to possess and transact those properties in a hassle-free manner without having to obtain permission from any one, added the official.

The DAs and OSHB had allotted land and houses to more than one lakh households in the residential projects on leasehold basis. The allottees of these land and houses were required to obtain NOCs from

the competent authorities every time they intended to transact such properties. There are about 99 projects developed over 2797.492 acre of land in the entire state and in the absence of any law for conversion of such properties to freehold status, the allottees were facing serious hardships for beneficial enjoyment of such properties. They had been consistently demanding such properties to be granted freehold status.

RAIN LIKELY IN SEVERAL DIST

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 12: The regional office of India Meteorological Department (IMD) here has predicted rain and thundershower at many places in Odisha March 15.

According to the mid-day bulletin issued by the IMD Sunday, light to moderate rain or thundershower is likely to occur at one or two places in Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Rayagada, Koraput and Malkangiri between March 15 and 16.

The maximum temperature (day temperature) is likely to be between 38°C and 39°C in Odisha dur-



ing the next two to three days. There would be a marginal rise in the maximum temperature by 2°C to 3°C in the state.

Later, there are chances that the maximum temperature will register a drop in the state. Overall, the weather will remain dry in most places in the state till March 14.

Empowering rural women through handicraft training



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 12: Subarnarekha Port Private Limited (SPPL) in association with Tata Steel Foundation (TSF) has launched a two-month long training workshop on Sabai grass handicraft products at Chaumukh village of Baliapal tehsil in Balasore. The workshop has been designed to instil among the women of the neighbourhood skills to achieve financial independence.

The programme at Chaumukh, which was inaugurated by Deepak Kumar Das, Thashildar, Baliapal, marks a significant milestone in the area's quest for gender equality. Sushma Dutta, President GPLF Chaumukh, and SPPL officials (TSF) team members were present on the occasion.

Under the expert guidance of SPPL officials, the training programme aims to equip women's

Self Help Groups (SHGs) members with the necessary skills to create exquisite handicraft products from Sabai grass. This natural fiber found in the region is a valuable resource, and the workshop will provide technical assistance and support to the participants. TSF will help facilitate marketing of the products to ensure that the SHG members' efforts are recognised and rewarded.

A total of 190 women are currently participating in skill development initiatives focused on sabai grass and applique making. These women are undergoing training at five different camps dedicated to these crafts. This initiative is a testament to SPPL and TSF's commitment to promoting rural livelihoods and empowering women.

Indian bison spotted in Keonjhar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, March 12: A rare species of gaur or Indian bison has been spotted in the Atei reserve forest under Ghatagaon range in Keonjhar district.

After the sighting of a tiger in the reserve forest, as many as 45 camera traps were installed at strategic locations in the forest to monitor the movement of the big cat.

Friday, the footage captured in the

cameras was inspected. It revealed that the forest has a gaur. As per the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, the gaur is a Schedule I animal.

Besides the endangered animal, a wolf, a civet cat, a fox, a wild cat and other animals were also captured in the cameras.

Since the sighting of the tiger, the forest department has installed gates at four locations and erected fences at different locations besides imposing restrictions in the forest.

15-minute cities will free us to improve our mental health

The idea of the 15-minute city, according to its originator Carlos Moreno, is that people are no more than a 15-minute walk or bike ride away from all the services they need to live, learn and thrive.

The idea is appealing in its simplicity: it puts people and the environment at the centre of urban planning.

It involves building new urban centres and restructuring existing ones to ensure the services people need for work, food, health, education, culture and leisure are all close by -- a walk or bike ride from home.

Key elements are: the proximity of necessities; local participation and decision-making; community

solidarity and connection; and green and sustainable urban living.

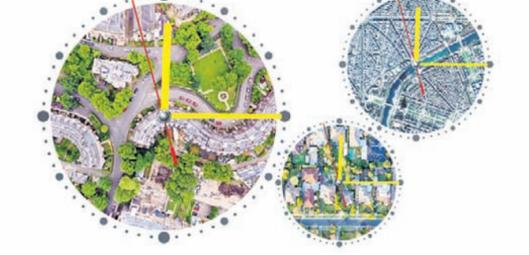
This re-imagining of local living is quickly going global. Its proponents are many and growing, and the idea is being applied on big city stages.

Most notably, the 15-minute city was a feature of Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo's successful re-election campaign in 2020.

The United Nations has hailed the 15-minute city as a means by which cities can emerge from Covid, as well as reduce the damaging dependence on cars. The potential to promote mental health and well-being is significant.

Enter the conspiracists

In 2023, though, conspiracy theories and protests have threatened



to drown out the discussion of such positives. How did that happen? By finding itself sitting at the centre of debates about Covid living, climate change and car-centric societies, the 15-minute city has become a focal point of attention for

those who imagine more sinister motives are at work. Conspiracists have spouted misdirected fears of the forced loss of cars, the creation of locked urban zones people cannot leave, and government surveillance and control.

These notions were even raised recently in the UK parliament. Conservative MP Nick Fletcher called the 15-minute city an "international socialist concept" that "will cost us our personal freedom". A chance to improve mental health and wellbeing

In fact, personal and community freedom, by way of giving people back meaningful time currently lost to commuting and other travel, is exactly what Moreno and proponents of 15-minute cities are focused on. In their drive to grow, cities tend to push people, the environment and their health to the periphery.

Through their sprawl, Moreno argues, cities take away freedom by taking time and disconnecting

their inhabitants from services and each other.

Importantly, these effects increase the risks to people's mental health. Moreno wants us to move away from fracturing our living into "inhuman bigness", and towards planning that focuses on what access to services, local connection and community means for the wellbeing of people and communities.

This is why the 15-minute city presents a great opportunity for better mental health.

Long commuting times and the stressors of traffic congestion, road conditions and punctuality are linked to declines in subjective measures of mental health and wellbeing for workers.

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# Plastic waste turns killer for Olive Ridley turtles

No effort to implement ban imposed in 2016 by Odisha government

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kendrapara, March 12:** Plastic waste dumped on Pentha beach in this district during the recently concluded 'Sagarbela Mahotsav' is posing a serious threat to the Olive Ridley turtles arriving at the nearby Gahirmatha wildlife sanctuary for mass nesting, sources said Sunday.

The waste dumped on the beach have still not been cleaned by the authorities. It is impossible for those visiting the beach to stay there for even 10-15 minutes because of the stench emanating from various types of plastic wastes. Amid this, the mass nesting process for Olive Ridley turtles is continuing.

Environmentalists have warned that the wastes dumped on the beach are a major threat to the turtles once they get washed away into the sea. The turtles arriving to the



shore smell presence of food particles in these plastic wastes and swallow them. As a result, they die due to suffocation as the plastic gets stuck in their throats.

Environmentalists pointed out that the floating plastic waste cause problems to the hatchlings also. As they move into the sea, they get caught in the web of the wastes and lose track of their route to the

sea. They further alleged that the Odisha government had imposed a ban on use of plastic materials since 2016 on the beach. However, no awareness programme was undertaken during the 'Mahotsav' to implement the ban, the environmentalists pointed out.

Environmentalist Hemant Kumar Rout, social activist Pratap Chandra Padhy, local intelligentsia Ganesh

Chandra Samal and Prabhakar Samal have demanded that the district administration should immediately clean the plastic waste from the beach. They said that Pentha beach is a major tourist spot in Kendrapara district. The place is also significant for its first geo-synthetic tube wall in the state which was constructed to save the coastlines from erosion caused by the high tidal waves. Scores of tourists visit this place daily which is inside Bhitarkanika National Park to enjoy the scenic beauty of the beach and high tides that pound the coastline.

Meanwhile, after the 'Sagarbela Mahotsav', a similar fair called the 'Bhitarkanika Mahotsav' has started

Pentha beach is a major tourist spot in Kendrapara district. The place is also significant for its first geo-synthetic tube wall in the state

at Nalitapatia from March 9. The fair is drawing thousands of tourists from various parts of Odisha and India. As there is no ban on use of plastic materials, it is apprehended that wastes will be similarly dumped during the fair which will only aggravate the situation.

When contacted, additional district magistrate (ADM) Pitambar Samal said steps are being taken to clean the Pentha beach while the district administration is laying stress on waste management during the 'Bhitarkanika Mahotsav'.

# Remains of ancient temple discovered near Chandikhole



PNN & AGENCIES

**Jajpur, March 12:** The remains of an ancient temple and other archaeological remains have been recently discovered by a team from INTACH at Purushottampur Sasana village near Chandikhole in this district.

The remains of the temple have been found in an area spread over four acres at the base of a small hillock. A large number of huge stone blocks, intricately carved stone panels and a few religious sculptures have also been found.

The INTACH Odisha chapter team which explored the ruins of the temple claimed that it had crumbled due to unknown reasons. However, the base of the temple is intact and is still clearly visible.

The team said that the temple may have been constructed in the 14th century as stone panels carry depictions of war processions, palanquins and elephants.

A source in INTACH said that many beautiful temples of the Kalingan order built by various kings, were attacked and plundered by Firuz Shah Tughlaq, Kalapahad and Aurangzeb.

The region of Jajpur witnessed a cultural genocide with the destruction of many temples and

The temple may have been constructed in the 14th century as stone panels carry depictions of war processions, musical bands, palanquins and elephants

mutts. Hence it is safe to conclude that the remains of the temple found, must have been destroyed during one such attack, Biswajit Mohanty, a member of the team said.

According to INTACH project coordinator Anil Dhir, the presence of many small forts in the vicinity are indicative of a large habitation in the early days. Several archaeological remains from Eastern Ganga's era have been discovered in the nearby forts of Amaravati, Teligada and Darpanagada.

Dhir said a proper archaeological excavation of the site should be undertaken by experts from the State Archaeology Department or the ASI and the entire four-acre area should be declared as a protected monument. He informed that INTACH will prepare a preliminary report and submit it to the authorities with a request to conduct a proper survey of the site and the nearby areas.

# Youth arrested for rape in Berhampur

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Berhampur, March 12:** Sadar police here arrested Sunday a youth on charges of raping a woman in this town. The accused was identified as Preetam Goud, 21, a resident of this town and he was produced in court and sent to judicial custody.

The incident occurred when a woman residing under Sadar police limits had gone to the backyard of her residence to relieve herself at night March 6.

There the accused threatened the woman with a knife and raped her. The woman returned home and narrated her ordeal before her husband.

Later, the woman visited the Sadar police station and lodged a complaint, police added. The youth had been absconding since the incident. However, police managed to trace him and arrested him.



**BATTLE AGAINST WILDFIRE:** Women members of self-help groups creating fire lines to prevent wild fires at Atei reserve forest under Ghatagon forest range in Keonjhar district

# Yet another tusker 'electrocuted'

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Dhenkanal, March 12:** Forest officials recovered Sunday the carcass of a tusker from a farmland in Ostapal village under Ghatipiri forest section and Sadar police station limits in Dhenkanal district. Forest department officials later calculated the age of the pachyderm as approximately 20 years.



The officials stated that the elephant had turned into a 'rogue' and had got separated from the herd. It had been destroying crops and properties and had also killed eight people. They

said that the animal was electrocuted and arrested share-cropper Bipin Sahu in this connection.

On being informed, regional chief conservator of forests in Angul, M Jogayanand, divisional forest officer (DFO) Sumit Kar, Sadar ranger Bibhudananda Mishra and the members of the joint task force from Bhubaneswar rushed to the spot with veterinarians and launched an investigation into the animal's death. The veterinarians conducted a post-mortem and sent some bone samples of the carcass for examination at the Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT) in Bhubaneswar. Later, the carcass was buried.

When contacted, the DFO said that the exact reason behind the animal's death can be ascertained after the post-mortem report from OUAT.

# Unique honour for scientist Jyotirmayee

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jagatsinghpur, March 12:** Lady Odia scientist Jyotirmayee Mohanty from Jagatsinghpur district has been nominated as one of the awardees for the IUPAC (International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry) 2023 Award for her achievements in chemistry and chemical engineering. Jyotirmayee, a scientist at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), is the wife of Rashmikiran Mohanty who resides at Titira village under Balikuda block in this district.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, congratulated Jyotirmayee Sunday on being selected as the first woman in India for the coveted award. Taking to his Twitter handle, the Chief Minister wrote, "I congrat-



ulate Odia scientist Jyotirmayee Mohanty, who has been selected for the prestigious IUPAC Award 2023 @IUPAC as the country's first woman. Her achievement in the field of chemistry is a matter of pride and glory for all. I wish her

to scale greater heights of success in the coming days."

The IUPAC had announced the names of 12 awardees, February 11 in order to celebrate the 'International Day of Women and Girls in Science'. The awards acknowledge and promote the works of women chemists and chemical engineers worldwide.

Jyotirmayee is also the first woman to receive fellowship in the Science and Engineering Research Board while she received the Fellowship of the Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC), an award conferred by the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) in the United Kingdom, last year. She is the daughter of renowned pediatrician Dr Baikunt Nath Patra of Chauhanjanj in Cuttack.

# Medicinal Mali hills offer hope to many

THE VARIOUS TYPES OF HERBS FOUND IN THE RANGE IS A SURE-SHOT CURE FOR MANY DISEASES



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICES

**Koraput, March 12:** Malyavant or the Mali hill range means everything for the people of the 45 picturesque villages nestled in it. The hills, belonging to the Forest department, are provider of herbal medicines in the villages located just five kilometres from Semiliguda town in Koraput district.

From minor skin infections to heart diseases, neurological disorders, high blood pressure and paralysis, 'jadibuti' (herbs) from the hills are traditionally seen as the perfect cure. Taking this idea forward, 10 disharis (traditional healers) jointly started the Sri Gupteshwar Herbal Medicine and Traditional Technology Research Institute in the year 2000.

"We are not qualified doctors. My elder brother and mother also work as disharis. My grandfather's father was a dishari in the court of Maharaja Vikram Dev of Jeypore. We have come this far by practicing the knowledge that our forefathers passed on to us. This facility

Disharis collect herbs from Iswaramali, Deomali and Hatimali that are a part of the Mali hill range. From branches, leaves, roots and flowers they produce medicines

will ensure that the traditional knowledge we possess will not fade away once we are gone," institute's director Hari Pangi (52), said.

The disharis collect herbs from Iswaramali, Deomali and Hatimali that are a part of the Mali hill range. From branches, leaves, roots and flowers they produce medicines. Some are dried at a specific temperature and stored.

before the fire season (February to May). We worship our tribal deity and pray for the good health of all villagers before setting out to find 'jadibuti' in the morning or evening on a fixed day, as per Sushruta's 'chikitsa shastra', says the dishari, who claims there are many secret treatments that cannot be publicised.

Ramani Ranjan Mahapatra of Kakarigumma personally attests the efficacy of the herbal treatment. "I suffered from 'Guillain-Barre Syndrome' for many years. My condition gradually got worse and I became partially paralysed. As treatment at hospitals in Cuttack, Bhubaneswar and Visakhapatnam did not help, I came to the Gupteshwar healing centre. After six months of regular treatment, I feel fully healthy," Mahapatra said.

However, some of the plants with the passage of time have become extinct. "Previously, around 80 per cent of our herb requirement was met by these hills. Kasturi haladi, nilakantha kedar, jingiberi, gunjirimali, deosandha, bhupipal, kikkas lemon and penu karla are some of the local varieties that have disappeared due to climate change, illegal felling of trees and mining. Therefore, we have to depend on various hills in nearby Rayagada and Malkangiri districts and also Shunki hills on the Odisha-Andhra Pradesh border," said Kalpanga-based Dishari Singru Hantal.

Singru claimed the institute has treated cases of diabetes, appendicitis, sickle cell disease, heart disease, neurological disorders, paralysis, oral cancer, osteoporosis and sinusitis. "More than 20,000 people consult us every year," he stated.

**AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA**  
Biju Patnaik International Airport, Bhubaneswar

**Public Notice**

It is hereby notified for information of general public and all concerned that the Aircraft bearing registration No. VT-REQ (Beech 1900D MSN UE 407) earlier used to be operated by M/s Air Odisha Aviation Private Limited is lying abandoned at Bhubaneswar Airport. This is creating space constraint jeopardizing operational safety and incurring the dues of Airports Authority of India for the parking and other related services. In this connection Eviction and Recovery proceeding was initiated before the Eviction Officer, BPI Airport Bhubaneswar under the provisions of Airports Authority of India Act, 1994 and a final order dated 13.10.2020 was passed. However the judgment debtor (M/s Air Odisha Aviation Private Limited) has not complied the order till date. Several notices were given to M/s Air Odisha Aviation Private Limited to remove the Aircraft so parked and clear the dues of AAI but the same has not been complied as yet.

Hence this public notice is given with an opportunity to all concerned to pay the outstanding dues of AAI and remove the Aircraft from premises of AAI BPI Airport within a period of one month from the date of issuance of this public notice. The total outstanding dues as on 31.12.2022 is ₹ 20,66,800.79

In Case of non-deposition of dues/compliance of above, appropriate action including but not limited to public auction of the said Aircraft would be initiated for recovery of said dues and removal of Aircraft.

**By Order**  
Airports Authority of India

**यूनियन बँक Union Bank of India**

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**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**

**E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s)/Co-applicant(s)/Co-obligant(s)/Mortgagor(s) Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the "constructive/symbolic/physical possession" of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is What is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 28.03.2023, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price, Earnest Money Deposit & Bid Increment Amount are also mentioned hereunder.

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Name & Address of Borrowers / Co-applicants / Co-obligants / Mortgagors / Guarantors:	Amount Due
1) Mrs. Ranjita Mohapatra, W/o.: Mr. Tapas Kumar Mohapatra, P.O.: Praharajpur, P.S.: Delanga, Dist.: Puri, 2) Mr. Tapas Kumar Mohapatra, P.O.: Birapurussottampur, P.S.: Delanga, Dist.: Puri, 3) Mr. Hrusikesh Mishra, S/o.: Sarangadhar Mishra, P.O.: Birapurussottampur, P.S.: Delanga, Dist.: Puri	₹ 9,91,680/- as on 30.06.2022 with further interest, Cost and expenses
<b>Property No.1:</b> All that part and parcel of Land & Building to an extent of Area: Ac.0.05 Dec., situated at Plot No.: 76, Khata No.: 12, Mouza: Birapurussottampur, P.S.: Pipili, Dist.: Puri, in the name of Mrs. Ranjita Mohapatra, Bounded by East: jagabandhu Mishra, West: Bhagaban Mishra, North: Village Road, South: Damodar Mishra <b>Reserve Price: ₹Rs.11,10,000/- / Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹1,11,000/- / Bid Increment Amount : ₹10,000/-</b>	
Name & Address of Borrower / Guarantors:	Amount Due
<b>Borrower:</b> Mr.Sudarsan Patra, S/o: Mr. Benudhar Patra / Guarantors: 1) Mr.Jayanta Kumar Patra, S/o: Mr.Sudarsan Patra, 2) Mr. Susanta Kumar Patra, S/o: Mr.Sudarsan Patra, All are residence of A/P.O.: Balanga, Dist.: Puri, PIN-752105	₹ 5,65,466/- as on 05.12.2022 with further interest, Cost and expenses
<b>Property No.2:</b> Land & Building at Khata No.:16, Plot No.: 1/3 (New Khata No.: 182/29, Plot No.:173/632), Area : Ac.0.0217 Dec., Mouza: Subalpur, P.S.: Pipili, Dist.: Puri, Kissanam: Gharbari in the name of Mr. Susanta Kumar Patra & Mr. Jayanta Kumar Patra, Bounded by North: Road, South: Pvt. Plot & Building, East: Road, West : Pvt. Plot <b>Reserve Price: ₹Rs.9,50,000/- / Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹95,000/- / Bid Increment Amount : ₹10,000/-</b>	

**DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION : 28.03.2023 between 11:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. (with 10 minutes unlimited auto extension), E-Auction Website : www.mstcecommerce.com**

**LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF EMD : On or before the commencement of E-Auction**

For Registration and Login and Bidding Rules visit:  
<https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>

For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in  
<https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/english/home.aspx> or [https://ibapi.in/Sale\\_Info\\_Home.aspx](https://ibapi.in/Sale_Info_Home.aspx)

For further details please contact to Respective Branch

This May also be treated as Notice under rule 8(6) / rule 9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to the Borrower(s)/ Co-applicant(s)/Co-obligant(s)/Mortgagor(s)/ Guarantor(s) of the said loan about the holding of E-Auction Sale on the above mentioned date.

Place : Bhubaneswar  
Date: 13.03.2023

Sd/- Authorized Officer  
Union Bank of India

FOCUS ECONOMIC ORDER

# WHAT NEXT FOR GLOBALISATION?



With hyper-globalisation in decline, the world has an opportunity to right the wrongs of neoliberalism and build an international order based on a vision of shared prosperity

companies from accessing advanced semiconductors and the equipment to manufacture them.

The future path of world economy will depend on how these competing policy frameworks play out on their own and against each other. Given the overlap between the two when it comes to trade, governments will most likely adopt a more protectionist approach over next few years and increasingly embrace reshoring, as well as other industrial policies that promote advanced manufacturing. Governments will also likely adopt more green policies that favour domestic producers, such as the US Inflation Reduction Act, or erect barriers at border, as the EU does through its carbon border adjustment mechanism. Such policies would serve both domestic and foreign-policy agendas.

Ultimately, however, geopolitical considerations will most likely push all other considerations aside, enabling the hyper-realist narrative to prevail. It is not clear, for example, that the focus on advanced manufacturing that characterises the current resurgence of industrial policy will do much to reduce inequality within countries, given that the good jobs of the future are likely to come from service industries that have little to do with the competition against China.

Enabling the national-security establishments of the world's major powers to hijack the economic narrative would endanger global stability. The result could be an increasingly dangerous world in which the ever-present threat of a military conflict between the US and China compels smaller countries to take sides in a fight that does not advance their own interests.

We have a unique opportunity to right the wrongs of hyper-globalisation and establish a better international order based on a vision of shared prosperity. We must not let great powers squander it.

*The writer, Professor of International Political Economy at Harvard Kennedy School, is President of the International Economic Association.*

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Dani Rodrik

**EVERY MARKET ORDER IS SUPPORTED BY NARRATIVES - STORIES WE TELL OURSELVES ABOUT HOW THE SYSTEM WORKS**

The narrative that underpins the current global economic system is in the midst of a transformative plot twist. Since the end of World War II, the so-called liberal international order has been premised on the free flow of goods, capital, and finance, but this arrangement now seems increasingly anachronistic.

Every market order is supported by narratives - stories we tell ourselves about how the system works. This is especially true for the global economy, because, unlike individual countries, the world has no central government acting as rule-maker and enforcer. Taken together, these narratives help create and sustain the norms that keep the system running in an orderly fashion, telling governments what they should and should not do. And, when internalised, these norms undergird global markets in ways that international laws, trade treaties, and multilateral institutions cannot.

Global narratives have shifted numerous times throughout history. Under the late-nineteenth-century gold standard, the global economy was viewed as a self-adjusting, self-equilibrating system in which stability was best achieved when governments did not interfere. Free capital movement, free trade, and sound macroeconomic policies, the thinking went, would achieve the best results for the world economy and individual countries alike. The collapse of the gold standard, together with the Great Depression, put a significant dent in this benign-markets narrative. The Bretton Woods regime that emerged after World War II, which relied on Keynesian macroeconomic management to stabilise the global economy, gave the state a much more prominent role. Only a strong welfare state could provide social insurance and support those who fell through the cracks of market economy. The Bretton Woods system also altered the relationship between domestic and global interests.

The world economy, built on a model of shallow integration, was subservient to the goals of ensuring full domestic employment and establishing equitable soci-

eties. Thanks to capital controls and a permissive international trade regime, countries could create social and economic institutions that suited their individual preferences and needs.

The neoliberal hyper-globalisation narrative that became dominant in the 1990s, with its preference for deep economic integration and the free flow of finance, was in many ways a return to the gold-standard narrative of benign and self-adjusting markets. It did, however, acknowledge a critical role for governments: to enforce the specific rules that made the world safe for large corporations and big banks.

The benefits of benign markets were meant to extend beyond economics. The economic gains from hyper-globalisation, neoliberals believed, would help to end international conflict and strengthen democratic forces around the world, especially in communist countries such as China.

The hyper-globalisation narrative neither denied the importance of social equity, environmental protection, and national security, nor contested governments' responsibility to pursue them. But it assumed that these goals could be achieved through policy instruments that did not interfere with free trade and finance. Simply put, it would be possible to have one's cake and eat it. And if the results were disappointing, as they turned out to be, the blame lay not with hyper-globalisation, but with the absence of complementary and sup-

porting policies in other domains.

Hyper-globalisation, in retreat since the 2008 financial crisis, ultimately failed because it could not overcome its inherent contradictions. Ultimately, the governments that gave corporations the power to write the narrative were unlikely to persuade that narrative's authors to support domestic social and environmental agendas.

As the world abandons hyper-globalisation, what will replace it remains highly uncertain. One emerging economic-policy framework, which I have called "productivism," emphasizes the role of governments in addressing inequality, public health, and the clean-energy transition. By putting these neglected objectives front and center, productivism reasserts domestic political priorities without being inimical to an open world economy. The Bretton Woods regime has shown that policies that support cohesive national economies also help promote international trade and long-term capital flows.

Another emerging paradigm could be called hyper-realism, after the "realist" school of international relations. This narrative emphasizes the geopolitical rivalry between the US and China and applies a zero-sum logic to economic relations between major powers. The hyper-realist framework views economic interdependence not as a source of mutual gain but as a weapon that could be wielded to cripple one's adversaries, as the US did when it used export controls to block Chinese

SPECTRUM FINANCE

# Inherent discrepancies in global bond market

The uncertainty and volatility experienced in the government assets of the most powerful economy of the world, the US, has intensified fears of a further turbulence in the already uncertain global capital market.

Usually, fixed income markets tend to be much smarter than everything else, including the regulatory expectations. However, in the US, this time, it hasn't been witnessed so far. The volatility in the bond market has given birth to a new dimension of uncertainty to an otherwise reticent debt market.

Markets had been expecting that the Federal Reserve (the central bank of America akin to RBI in India) shall not hike the policy rates as much as per the forecast by the Fed itself, and they were expecting at least two cuts during CY23 (after peak in Q2). With data coming out much stronger in the month of February, the market has realigned itself with the Fed expectation now.

Thus, the expected peak Fed rate (by market) which had been around 4.9% in early February, has now inched up to 5.33% for June policy. Markets were earlier expected that by January 2024, this rate would fall to 4.2% but have actually re-aligned

to expect the Fed rate to be a lot higher at 5.15%.

As a result, the Global Bond Index, which had rallied by 4.6% this year, has reversed all the gains. Equities, especially in the US, have given up half of the gains (US Equities rose by 9% and are now down 5% from last high). Indian government bond yields have also moved up during this month into our buying zone over again, now at 7.39%.

One more phenomenon has happened which is "different this time" is the US Yield Curve (10Y over 3M yield) getting inverted in late October, and the inversion has deepened since then. While that has always been seen as a sign of an upcoming recession, the consensus economist view has actually moved to a 'soft landing' scenario in the US, and outlook seems to be looking brighter for Europe as witnessed a few months back.

Side effects of rising rates are now beginning to complicate matters for US banks. The Nasdaq Bank Index (top US banks) fell by 7% on a single day recently, the most in three years. One of the banks, Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) revealed that it incurred a large loss while selling assets following a drop in deposit base (because of

higher rates). For record, when these assets were accumulated post pandemic, yield on a BBB (investment grade bond) was less than 2%. Now it is closer to 6% (5Y residual maturity).

Deposit base has depleted with SVB as customers have been moving to other alternatives. This has sparked fears of contagion, although the overall banking system is extremely well capitalised, especially the larger US banks.

This follows the news that stress is visible in commercial real estate. The borrowing costs have shot up (for refinancing) while vacancy rates haven't dropped.

One needs to prepare for unintended/unknown consequences of sky-high rates, which are still far away from peak, amid declining liquidity. At the same time, the historical template has been that when news flows like this, it becomes more widespread and financial stability risks take over inflationary risks prompting central banks to offer reprieve. It's also the case of valuations getting more reasonable.

Indian market is experiencing inversion of yield curve. Yield curve inverts when long duration bond yield falls below that of a short

term bond like 10Y vs 2Y or 1Y. Recently, the curve briefly inverted in India which is almost after a gap of 8 years.

Unlike in the West, Indian yield curve has had no attribute of forecasting an upcoming slowdown or recession. Albeit, such phenomenon is imminent as the cycle 'ages' and interest rates move towards peak.

Tactically, short bond yields in India are weighed 'up' by overall monetary system liquidity, which remains quite tight. Add to it the pressure coming from Fed as market has begun discussing a possibility of a further 50bps (basis points) hike later this month when 25bps had been well accepted as the likely move.

The long duration bond yields haven't moved up as much as there are no major issuances right now plus demand from long term buyers like insurance and PFs is reportedly strong. The curve may likely steepen in new fiscal cycle as these factors normalise and issuances begin in longer tenure. The yields remain in the range where 50% of the duration exposure should be completed.

*The writer is an investment banker. Views are personal.*



Sourajeet Pradhan

**THE VOLATILITY IN THE BOND MARKET HAS GIVEN BIRTH TO A NEW DIMENSION OF UNCERTAINTY TO AN OTHERWISE RETICENT DEBT MARKET**

WISDOM CORNER

Mistakes are always forgivable, if one has the courage to admit them. **BRUCE LEE**

He who has a why to live can bear almost any how. **FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE**

We choose our joys and sorrows long before we experience them. **KAHLIL GIBRAN**

WORDSWORTH

Ginglyform

Together with its close relative ginglymoid, these turn up - in the infrequent occasions on which they appear at all, for they are extremely rare - in anatomy. The noun, ginglymus, is a good deal more common. All derive from the Greek ginglymos, a hinge, and all refer to one of the types of joint found in the skeleton, one that allows movement in one plane only, just as a hinge does; examples are the knee and elbow joints and the joints between the bones of the fingers. The only example we have been able to find in literature of any of these words is in a nineteenth-century short story, The Enthusiast in Anatomy by John Oxenford: "The skeleton lost all patience, and, raising its arm, shook its fist angrily at Tom, who, with his eyes fixed on the elbow, merely shouted his joy, at perceiving the 'ginglymoid' movement".

Glycomics

The creation of this word only in very recent years is a pointer to what might be a new suffix, -omics. It has already appeared in genomics, the study of the genetic make-up of organisms, and proteomics, the study of the way proteins work inside cells, plus several compounds such as toxicogenomics. This new term refers to the study of sugars within organisms. The glycome is the set of sugars an organism or cell makes. What is slowly becoming clear to biochemists is that these sugars play as vital a role in making the cell work as do the proteins. They combine to form giant molecules such as carbohydrates and cellulose; they are already known to regulate hormones, organise embryonic development, direct the movement of cells and proteins throughout the body, and regulate the immune system. It shows yet again that the DNA in the genome is only one aspect of the complex mechanism that keeps the body running - decoding the DNA is one step towards understanding, but by itself it doesn't specify everything that happens within the organism. The ending -omics is etymologically odd, since it doesn't have a direct ancestor in the classical languages. It's actually -ics, for a branch of knowledge, added to -ome (as in genome). There is an existing ending -ome, "having a specified nature", but genome doesn't use it. That word was created as a blend of gene and chromosome, so the ending is actually the last part of -ome, which derives from Greek soma, body. The prefix part of glycomics is from Greek glukus, sweet. This ending has nothing to do with -omics, which turns up in terms like Reaganomics and which comes from the final element of the words economics and ergonomics. Scientists are saying that glycomics could fuel a revolution in biology to rival that of the human genome (New Scientist, Oct. 2002). But even as doctors and drug companies struggle to interpret and exploit the recent explosion of data on genes and proteins, yet another field of biology is waiting to break out: glycomics. This emerging discipline seeks to do for sugars and carbohydrates what genomics and proteomics have done for genes and proteins - move them into the mainstream of biomedical research and drug discovery (Technology Review, Oct. 2001).

# 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](mailto:edit@orissapost.com)

**OrissaPOST**  
B-15, Russagarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Aadhaar linking

Sir, It is obvious that the Election Commission of India's newly announced National Electoral Roll Purification and Authentication Project (NERPAP) has clearly stated that voter identity cards and Aadhaar can now be linked. The government has proposed linking voter ID cards with Aadhaar to eliminate duplicate voter entries and ensure that the electoral roll is updated and accurate. In order to prevent impersonation and other forms of electoral fraud, the method entails authenticating the identities of voters using their Aadhaar information. The Election Commission has also developed an online portal for citizens to check the status of their Aadhaar-voter ID linking. However, the linkage of voter identification cards with Aadhaar has caused considerable controversy in the country with some detractors voicing worries about privacy and the possibility for misuse of personal information. Voter ID cards and Aadhaar linkage is now optional but not required.

**Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD**

Strengthening ties

Sir, Recent attacks on Hindu temples in Australia by pro-Khalistan outfits is perhaps the only galled issue, which PM Narendra Modi expressed concern to his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese in an otherwise his landmark visit to India. His visit will hopefully strengthen the ties between the two countries in the fields of trade, education and security. Though, for long cricket remained a keystone in the relationship between the two nations, India may look to Australia for resources, investments and support in its perpetual territorial dispute with China. Inversely, Australia will look to India as both a geopolitical and economic partner. In the last fiscal, India was said to be Australia's ninth largest trading partner, and the Australian PM's visit will hopefully enable double the amount of trade in coming years.

**Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI**

Vote from home

Sir, For the first time, 12.15 lakh people above 80 years of age and 5.5 lakh persons with disabilities (PwDs) can vote from the safety of their homes if they cannot leave to exercise their franchise. The Election Commission declared the vote from home facility Saturday. Teams from EC will hand out the forms five days after the poll notification to access this service. Besides, the authorities would give senior citizens and PwDs priority for casting their ballots at voting locations, plus wheelchairs, help from volunteers, pick and drop services, and designated parking spots. These measures should delight seniors and PwDs.

**NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE**

# national

## of the day quote

The ruling YSRCP is dangling 'allurements' to teachers and graduates constituencies voters for the forthcoming Legislative Council polls

I welcome Iran and Saudi Arabia's decision to re-establish diplomatic relations after years of tensions and I hope that it will act as a harbinger of greater cooperation in the Islamic world

India's traditional medicinal systems such as ayurveda are poised to make a significant leap and spread through the world as a result of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts

## SHORT TAKES

### Tourists rescued

**Gangtok:** Troops of the Indian Army, along with the local police and administration, have rescued around 900 tourists who were stranded on their way to Gangtok from Nathula and Tsomgo Lake amid heavy snowfall, a defence official said. The tourists, stuck on Jawaharlal Nehru Road and Narendra Modi Marg till late on Saturday, were moved to safety and provided warm clothes, medical aid and hot meals by the Trishakti Corps of the Indian Army, said Defence PRO Lt Colonel Mahendra Rawat.

### 16 fishermen held

**Chennai:** As many as 16 fishermen of Tamil Nadu, who were fishing near the Palk Strait, were arrested on Sunday by the Sri Lankan Navy, officials said. The arrested fishermen were taken by the Lankan Naval personnel for handing them over to authorities in their country, they said. Their two boats have also been seized and taken away, they added.

### Five charred

**Kanpur Dehat:** Five persons, including three children, were charred to death after a fire broke out in a hut in Kanpur Dehat Sunday. This incident took place in Harmau Banjaradera village under the Rura police circle. Satish Kumar, his wife Kajal and their three children were sleeping when suddenly the fire broke out. The reason behind the fire is suspected to be a short-circuit.

### Baby abandoned

**Chandigarh:** A newborn baby boy was found abandoned in the bushes in Haryana's Yamunanagar town, police said. The boy, wrapped in a cloth with the umbilical cord, was found by a person grazing cattle in the Pratap Nagar area. The person informed the police about the boy's recovery. A medical team reached the spot and the child was shifted to Jagadhri Hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) ward.

### Soldier arrested

**Jammu:** An army man has been arrested by the Jammu and Kashmir Police for the alleged murder of his colleague last year in Samba district. The soldier was arrested Saturday. Police sources said that the body of 21-year old Sepoy Pawar Prathamsh, resident of Maharashtra, was found with a bullet injury on May 20 last year following which inquest proceedings were initiated.



The Bharatiya Janata Party is following in the footsteps of the Congress in using probe agencies to carry out 'political raids,' and will meet the same fate as the Congress

AKHILESH YADAV | SAMAJWADI PARTY CHIEF

## KCR HOSPITALISED

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhara Rao has been diagnosed with a small ulcer in his stomach, a hospital said Sunday. KCR complained of abdominal discomfort and was taken to the Asian Institute of Gastroenterology



# PM slams Rahul over his remarks on democracy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mandya/Dharwad, March 12:** In poll-bound Karnataka, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday tore into the Congress and its leader Rahul Gandhi, charging the opposition party and its allies with being "busy digging my grave," and lashed out at the Wayanad MP for his comments on democracy in the country as an affront to its people.

In his sixth visit to the southern state this year, Modi seemed to have given a fresh momentum to the ruling BJP's bid for a successive term, even as rival Congress has been mounting an aggressive attack over its saffron opponent on issues including corruption.

Assembly elections are due by May and Modi addressed two public meetings - in Mandya in the Vokkaliga heartland of Old



Amid the efforts of the double engine government for the development of the country and the progress of its people, what is Congress and its associates doing...Congress is dreaming about digging the 'kabr' (grave) of Modi

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

Mysuru region and Dharwad in north Karnataka, where politically-influential Lingayat community holds the key to electoral fortunes. In all, the Prime Minister dedicated and laid the foundation stones of projects worth around Rs 16,000 crore, including the Mysuru-Bengaluru Expressway.

The Rs 8,480 crore Expressway, which involved six laning of the Bengaluru-Nidaghatta-Mysuru section of NH-275, will reduce the travel time between the two cities from around three hours to about 75 minutes, according to officials. Targeting Rahul Gandhi, albeit in a veiled attack, Modi asserted

no power in this world can harm India's democratic traditions.

In an apparent reference to Rahul Gandhi's remarks made in London - that structures of Indian democracy are under "brutal attack", he termed it an insult to 12th century social reformer Basaveshwara, the people of Karnataka, India's great traditions and its citizens.

The Prime Minister's statement is being seen with political significance as Basaveshwara is highly revered in the state, especially by the dominant Lingayat community, who form the major vote base of the ruling BJP.

"I have come to the land of Bhagwan Basaveshwara and I'm feeling blessed. Among the contributions of Basaveshwara most important is the establishment of Anubhava Mantapa; this democratic system is researched across

the world, and there are several such things because of which we say India is not just the largest democracy, it is also the mother of democracy," Modi said.

Addressing a large gathering after inaugurating the permanent campus of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Dharwad, he said, he has had the good fortune of unveiling the statue of Basaveshwara in London a few years ago.

"Statue of lord Basaveshwara is in London, but it is unfortunate that in the same London questions were raised on India's democracy. The roots of India's democracy have been nurtured by centuries of our history. No power in this world can harm India's democratic traditions. Despite this some are constantly making it stand in the dock," Modi said in an obvious swipe at Rahul Gandhi.

## US man booked for misbehaviour on flight

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Mumbai, March 12:** An unruly passenger flying on an Air India London-Mumbai flight was tied up on his seat for allegedly smoking in the aircraft toilet, misbehaving with passengers, attempting to yank open the door mid-air, and finally landed in the arms of the Mumbai Police, officials said here on Sunday.



The passenger has been identified as one Ratnakar Trivedi, 37, a US NRI and the shocking incident happened on the AI flight which landed here Saturday morning.

As his behaviour seemed to go out of control, the AI flight crew managed to pin him down, dumped him on his seat and tied up his hands and legs for the remainder of his journey.

The AI crew told the police that the passenger behaved in a wild and uncontrolled manner aboard the flight, he was detected smoking in the toilet as the smoke-alarm went off, though smoking is banned on Indian flights.

When the crew accosted him and threw away the cigarette, he started screaming and abusing at the flight crew and at one point, Trivedi tried to open the door of the aircraft mid-air, scaring other fliers.

Later, as a precaution, the crew members managed to pin him down and tied him up on his seat where he remained till the flight landed here.

One of the co-passengers, who was a medico, came and examined him to ascertain whether he was misbehaving in a drunken state or had some mental condition, while the police have sent his samples to the lab and the test reports are awaited.

Meanwhile, the Sahar Police, which detained Trivedi, has lodged a case against him invoking various sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Aircraft Act.

## ISLAMIC STATE CONSPIRACY CASE

# NIA searches five places in MP, Maha

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, March 12:** The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has carried out searches at five places in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra as part of its ongoing investigation to unravel a conspiracy hatched by the global terror group Islamic State to expand its activities in India, an official said on Sunday.

The searches were conducted by different teams at the houses of the suspected persons at four places in Seoni (Madhya Pradesh) and one location in Pune (Maharashtra), a spokesperson of the anti-terror federal agency said.

Following up on the investigational leads, the official said, NIA teams searched the houses of suspects Talha Khan in Pune and Akram Khan in Seoni in the Islamic State- Khorasan Province (ISKAP) case. "This case was initially registered by Delhi Police special cell after the arrest of a Kashmiri couple - Jahanzaib Sami Wani and his wife Hina Bashir Beigh - from Okhla in Delhi. The couple was found to be affiliated with ISKP," the spokesperson said.

During investigations, the role of another accused, Abdullah Basith, who was already lodged in Tihar Jail in another case being investigated by the NIA, emerged, the official said. The NIA also carried out searches at three other locations in Seoni in the Shivamogga Islamic State conspiracy case. The places searched included the residential and commercial premises

of suspects Abdul Aziz Salafi and Shueb Khan, the official said.

On the Shivamogga case, the NIA said that as part of a conspiracy hatched from abroad, the accused persons - Mohamed Shariq, Maaz Muneer Khan, Yasin and others - based on instructions of their handler based abroad, targeted public and private properties such as warehouses, liquor shops, hardware shops, vehicles and other properties belonging to members of a particular community and committed over 25 incidents of arson and sabotage.

"They even carried out a mock IED blast. They were being funded through crypto-currencies by their online handler. As part of the larger conspiracy, accused Shariq planned to carry out IED blast at Kadri temple, Mangalore on November 19 last year but the IED exploded prematurely through an accident, when the perpetrator was enroute to the target location," the official said.

The spokesperson said Salafi (40) is a prayer leader at the Seoni Jamia Masjid, while 26-year-old impressionable Shueb sells automobile spare parts. "Salafi, along with his accomplice Shueb, were found actively propagating pernicious ideas such as 'voting in elections is sinful for Muslims'. The group led by Salafi was in the process of radicalizing gullible Muslim youths of MP Maharashtra and many southern states through provocative and inflammatory speeches on YouTube," the spokesperson said.



Women catch fish through a traditional fishing net at Bhogdabari village in Kamrup, Assam

PTI PHOTO

## WOMAN KILLED, BODY CHOPPED INTO PIECES

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Srinagar, March 12:** J&K Police said Sunday that it has arrested a man for killing a woman and chopping her body into pieces in Budgam district.

Police said it has arrested 45-year old Shabir Ahmad Wani, a carpenter, belonging to Ompora area in Budgam district for killing and chopping the body of a 30-year old woman belonging to Soibug village of the same district into pieces.

"The accused chopped the body of the victim into pieces and dumped it at different places. The woman was missing from her home for the last four days." The accused revealed that he murdered the woman and cut her body into pieces and disposed it off at different places, including Railway bridge Ompora and Sebden, where from the victim's head and other parts of body were recovered last night. "The accused has been arrested, all the body parts were recovered from locations including her head from his home and further investigation is going on," police said.

## EPS booked for 'assault'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, March 12:** Tamil Nadu Police have registered a case against former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and interim general secretary of AIADMK, Edappadi K. Palaniswami (EPS).

The case has been registered on a complaint by an Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK) functionary that he was assaulted by AIADMK men led by EPS.

According to Avaniyapuram police, a case has been registered against six people including Edappadi K. Palaniswami. EPS was travelling from Chennai to Madurai and in Madurai when he was travelling in an airport bus to the airport, a person was continuously making derogatory remarks against him.

The person identified as Rajeshwaran, an AMMK worker, started to record EPS live on Facebook using his phone. An aide who was with EPS immediately snatched his phone and handed it over to police officials.

Sources in the airport said that the AIADMK office-bearers and cadres who had come to the airport



THE CASE HAS BEEN REGISTERED ON A COMPLAINT BY AN AMMA MAKKAL MUNNETRA KAZHAGAM (AMMK) FUNCTIONARY THAT HE WAS ASSAULTED BY AIADMK MEN LED BY EPS

SOURCES IN THE AIRPORT SAID THAT THE AIADMK OFFICE-BEARERS AND CADRES WHO HAD COME TO THE AIRPORT KNOWING ABOUT THE VISIT OF EPS, REPORTEDLY ASSAULTED RAJESHWARAN

knowing about the visit of EPS, reportedly assaulted Rajeshwaran.

The Avaniyapuram police also filed a case against Rajeshwaran for using derogatory words in public against EPS.

It may be noted that AMMK was formed after V.K. Shashikala was expelled from the AIADMK and both O. Panneerselvam and Edappadi K. Palaniswami were instrumental in that. The AIADMK

is now reeling under crisis with several leaders including O. Panneerselvam being expelled from the party.

OPS is a powerful Thevar leader in South Tamil Nadu and the action against him by the EPS faction has not gone down well with the Thevar community which is a powerful political force and traditional supporter of the AIADMK in south Tamil Nadu.

## SOME OF THE KASHMIRI YOUTHS WHO VISITED PAKISTAN THROUGH LEGAL CHANNELS TO MEET THEIR RELATIVES WERE ALSO TARGETED AND EVEN GIVEN A CRASH COURSE OF TWO WEEKS ON HANDLING OF EXPLOSIVES AND FIRING FROM A CLOSE RANGE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Srinagar/New Delhi, March 12:** Strict action by the Jammu and Kashmir Police has put the brakes on Pakistan's external spy agency ISI's method of wooing Kashmiri

# J&K cops putting brakes on terror training

boys into terror ranks by taking them to the neighbouring country using passport and later infiltrating them into the valley along with mercenaries, officials said Sunday.

Citing interrogation reports of some of the youths arrested after infiltrating into the Union Territory, the officials said the ISI was pressing terrorists to get youths from the valley by any means, be it for educational and religious purpose or social functions.

Some of the Kashmiri youths who visited Pakistan through legal channels to meet their relatives were also targeted and even given a crash course of two weeks on handling of explosives and firing from a close range.

However, after the Jammu and Kashmir Police implemented a



new regime with additional checks and balances, there has been no report of anyone going to Pakistan on a valid travel document for terrorist training, the officials said.

Under the new regime, police officials entrusted with the process

of background verification for passports have been asked to check if an individual was involved in any law and order incident like stone pelting.

Also, they refer to digital evidence such as CCTV footage, pho-

tographs, video and audio clips, and quadcopter images available in police station records. Be it the "savari" concept wherein unsuspecting passengers of the Samjhuta Express were used by the ISI to pump in money for terror groups as well as fake Indian currency notes to weaken the country's economy, or the supply of narcotics, arms and ammunition through trade across the Line of Control (LoC), the Pakistani agency has been trying every trick in the book to keep the terrorism pot boiling in India, the officials said.

Terror groups in Pakistan did not even spare those youths who had gone to Pakistan for higher studies, prompting the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the All Indian Council for Technical

Education (AICTE) to announce in April last year that students having Pakistani degrees would not be eligible for higher studies or employment in India.

The security agencies carried out a massive exercise of identifying youths who had crossed over to Pakistan using passports and sneaked back into Jammu and Kashmir through the 724-km-long Line of Control stretching from Karnah in north Kashmir to Poonch in Jammu region.

The passports issued between 2015 and early 2018 were scrutinised and it was found that around 60 Kashmiri youths, who were later found active in terror ranks, had used the travel document to visit Pakistan and later joined terror ranks, the officials said.

# Frequency of landslides up in Himachal Bulldozing an everyday phenomenon in Assam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Shimla, March 12:** Himachal Pradesh has witnessed a seven-fold increase in major landslides in the past two years with 117 occurring in 2022 as compared to 16 in 2020, according to data compiled by the disaster management department.

There are 17,120 landslide prone sites in the state out of which 675 are near critical infrastructure and habitations. The maximum of such sites are in Chamba (133) followed by Mandi (110), Kangra (102), Lahaul and Spiti (91), Una (63), Kullu (55), Shimla (50), Solan (44), Bilaspur (37), Sirmaur (21) and Kinnaur (15).

High intensity rainfall coupled with cutting of hill slopes or rocks at the foothills are the main reason behind the significant number of landslides, experts say.

Extensive cutting of hill slopes for construction and widening of roads, blasting for tunnels, hydro projects and mining are cited as reasons behind the increase in landslides, geological expert Prof Virender Singh Dhar said.

Though the time span of rains has been reduced, their intensity has increased. High temperatures coupled with heavy rains lead to landslides due to loosening of the strata in places which have undergone cutting downstream on the foothills, said Scientist (Climate Change) Suresh Attre.

Out of the 117 major landslides witnessed in 2022, a maximum number of 21 were reported in Kullu followed by 20 in Mandi, 18 in Lahaul and Spiti, 15 in Shimla, nine in Sirmaur, eight in Bilaspur, five in Kangra, three each in Kinnaur and Solan, one in Una while no landslide occurred in Hamirpur.

Majority of slides were witnessed during the monsoon season, Special Secretary, Disaster Management, Sudesh Mokta told PTI.

Increased human activity and exploitation of natural resources



FACT FILE	
<b>THERE ARE 17,120 LANDSLIDE PRONE SITES IN THE STATE OUT OF WHICH 675 ARE NEAR CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND HABITATIONS</b>	<b>ACCORDING TO THE LANDSLIDE ATLAS OF INDIA PREPARED BY THE NATIONAL REMOTE SENSING CENTRE, ISRO, ALL 12 DISTRICTS OF HIMACHAL ARE SUSCEPTIBLE TO LANDSLIDES</b>
<b>HIGH INTENSITY RAINFALL COUPLED WITH CUTTING OF HILL SLOPES OR ROCKS AT THE FOOTHILLS ARE THE MAIN REASON BEHIND THE SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF LANDSLIDES</b>	<b>IN VIEW OF THE FREQUENT LANDSLIDES, EARLY WARNING AND LAND MONITORING SYSTEMS, WHICH WOULD GIVE INFORMATION ABOUT LANDSLIDE ACTIVITY IN ADVANCE, ARE BEING INSTALLED AT SOME PLACES IN THE STATE</b>

for development has posed a serious threat to ecology, said a former bureaucrat.

The major active landslides/sinking sites in the state included villages Jhandota and Kakroti and Sapdath Panchayat in Chamba, Mcleodganj hill and Bariara village in Kangra, Baridhar to Kalyan Ghati road, Mansar near Salogra and Jabalpatwar village in Solan, Kotrupi, Doada Hanogi, 5, 6 and 7 mile near Pandoh and village

Nagani in Mandi district.

The other sites include Urni Dhank, Batsari, Nesang, Purbani Julha in Kinnaur besides Nigulsari where 28 people were killed and 13 were injured in a major landslide August 11, 2021.

A maximum of ten such sites have been identified in Shimla district.

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said recently that the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) will present a

concept paper suggesting remedies to minimise and prevent landslides which occur due to expansion of roads in the state and Rs 300 crore will be spent on remedial measures.

According to the Landslide Atlas of India prepared by the National Remote Sensing Centre, ISRO, all 12 districts of Himachal are susceptible to landslides.

The landslide exposure analysis carried out in the mountainous areas covering 147 districts in 17 states ranked Mandi district of Himachal at the 16th place, followed by Hamirpur 25, Bilaspur 30, Chamba 32, Solan 37, Kinnaur 46, Kullu 57 Shimla 61, Kangra 62, Una 70, Sirmaur 88 and Lahaul and Spiti 126 in socio-economic parameter risk exposure map.

In view of the frequent landslides, early warning and land monitoring systems, which would give information about landslide activity in advance, are being installed at some places in the state, officials said.

Though a lot of controversy has already erupted over the 'bulldozer-trend', the state government is in no mood to give up, even after the High Court was extremely critical of these steps

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Guwahati, March 12:** Assam was not habituated to seeing bulldozing of houses, large-scale evictions, and razing multi-storey buildings to the ground within hours. However, for the last two years, the scenario has changed dramatically soon after Himanta Biswa Sarma took charge as the Chief Minister.

Now-a-days, bulldozing is an everyday phenomenon in Assam. Either here or there, the eviction news has taken a regular spot in the media.

Though a lot of controversy has already erupted over 'bulldozer-trend', the state government is in no mood to give up, even after the High Court was extremely critical of these steps.

Sarma has repeated it a number of times that his machinery would not stop till every occupied area was cleared of 'illegal encroachment'.

Some private madrasas were demolished by district authorities in lower Assam over alleged links with Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) and Bangladesh-based terror outfit Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT).

The state government spared no time to raze these madrasas.

Badrudin Ajmal, Lok Sabha MP and All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) leader, once said, reacting to a demolition drive against madrasas: "The madrasas are



public properties that cannot be bulldozed without any legal notice. Even the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh has stopped using bulldozers."

The madrasas had to be dismantled because they were constructed in violation of the norms of building construction in the state, the authorities said.

In September, 2021, a violent outbreak between the police authorities of the Darrang district and the locals of Gorukhuti in Sipajhar Revenue Circle occurred during an eviction drive in the Dholpur area that resulted in police firing.

At least two protesters were killed and twelve others were injured in the incident.

Authorities in Assam's Nagaon district destroyed the homes of numerous families in May last year after they were accused of setting fire to the Batadrava Police Station.

The police and administration took this step after a mob, in response to an alleged case of a local fish seller dying while being held in custody, set fire to a portion of the Batadrava Police Station in the district.

Later, the Gauhati High Court came down heavily on the Assam government after taking suo motu

cognizance of the case involving the use of bulldozers on the houses of the accused in the Batadrava Police Station arson case.

The state government was questioned by the court over the legal basis for the use of bulldozers.

The court then told the government's counsel: "You (the state government) show us any criminal law under which the police can uproot a person with a bulldozer without any order while investigating a crime."

The two judges on the bench also observed, "Nobody is safe in the country if this kind of action is permitted."

The government had to assure the court that proper action would be taken against those officers involved in the bulldozing of the houses of the accused.

However, all these could not stop the Assam government machinery from continuing with the bulldozing.

In the previous week too, in Cachar district, a good number of houses were dismantled by the administration, although the residents claimed that they had 'proper' documents for the buildings, the houses were razed without verifying the papers.

## Cong under attack for forming Oppn front sans AIUDF, TMC



The question that is doing the rounds is: Can a grand alliance without the AIUDF, Trinamool, and AAP be able to put up a good fight against the BJP?

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Guwahati, March 12:** A rejuvenated attempt at forming an Opposition bloc to take on the BJP in the 2024 election in Assam has been initiated by the Congress.

The party had arranged a meeting in Guwahati two days ago with leaders of 10 political parties in the state to stitch a 'Mahajot' to stop the BJP's fierce election machinery in next year's Lok Sabha poll. After the meeting, Assam Congress president Bhupen Borah said, "To determine a plan of action, we talked about the political climate today and the problems that people in Assam face. We came to the conclusion that a coordinated effort is required to defend democracy and counter the BJP's opposition to the Constitution and the people." But the attempt has drawn criticism even from the opposition camp, with the All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) and Trinamool Congress launching a direct attack on Congress over this issue.

The ten-party meeting was arranged without extending an invitation to the AIUDF and Trinamool Congress. Assam Trinamool leader Ripun Bora said, "Congress met with some parties that have a single person, and some of the other parties exist only on paper. If the leaders of Congress were genuine enough to fight the BJP, then they

would have tried to meet Trinamool and AIUDF leaders."

Bora made it clear that this composition of 'Mahajot' would not be able to take on Narendra Modi's party in Assam, but rather might help the BJP in consolidating votes.

Badrudin Ajmal's AIUDF is more critical to the Congress. The party's MLA and spokesperson, Karim Uddin Barbhuiya, accused Congress leaders of helping the BJP. He cited the examples of last year's Rajya Sabha and President elections.

"Congress MLAs deliberately made Ripun Bora lose the battle of Rajya Sabha. He had to shift to Trinamool after that episode. Similarly, Congress leaders crossed in favour of the NDA's presidential nominee, Droupadi Murmu, instead of the Opposition's candidate, Yashwant Sinha. Though the Congress leaders warned of action, they have not done anything. This shows their intention in helping the BJP," Barbhuiya said.

The Aam Admi Party (AAP) was also not invited. "We were the second party in the Guwahati Municipal Corporation election. Congress came in a distant third. How can an opposition unity have formed by omitting us?" an AAP leader questioned. The question that is doing the rounds is: Can a grand alliance omitting the AIUDF, Trinamool, and AAP be able to put up a good fight against the BJP?

Trinamool and AAP - these two parties do not have much impact at the grassroots level in state politics as of now. The two top Trinamool leaders in the state, Ripun Bora and Sushmita Dev, defected from the Congress after their loss in the elections and probably would not mark a win if they were candidates in Lok Sabha polls next year. The AAP is still looking for a face in Assam.

## Probe affirms wrong man killed in police encounter

In a case of mistaken identity, Assam police gunned down a farmer suspecting him to be a 'hardened criminal'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Guwahati, March 12:** A CID probe into the death of a person, suspected to be a dacoit, in a police encounter in Assam's Udalguri district affirmed that it was a case of 'mistaken identity', a senior officer said Saturday.

The probe concluded that the deceased was not dacoit Kenaram Boro alias Kenaram Basumatary but a person identified as Dimbeswar Muchahary, who his family asserted was a "small-time farmer" but police claimed was also a "hardened criminal".

Police claimed that two policemen were also injured in a 'shootout' that took place in Dhansirikhuti village in Rowta area February 24.

The body was initially handed over to Boro's mother after she identified him as her son. However, after the final rites were conducted and the body was buried, Muchahary's family claimed it was their son.

A police complaint was filed, following which Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma directed the



director general of police to order a CID probe, which began March 2.

Subsequently, the body was exhumed, a DNA analysis was conducted and it was found that the body was of Muchahary and not of Boro, the police officer said.

The inquiry report will be submitted to the government soon, he said, adding the body was handed over to Muchahary's family.

Muchahary's family said they want justice as police killed their son suspecting him to be a dacoit.

"We will perform necessary rituals now. He was a small-time farmer and the government should

provide necessary compensation," a cousin of the deceased said.

Police, however, did not mention the whereabouts of Boro and whether search operations would be conducted to nab him.

Boro, a former NDFB militant wanted in several cases of armed robberies in Assam and Meghalaya, was arrested earlier with firearms on several occasions, the police officer said.

Muchahary alias Gobla was also a 'hardened criminal' and was also arrested with firearms earlier. Both were shown as absconders in a case, he added.

## Sukhu sets deadline for hydel project

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Shimla, March 12:** Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has directed officials to remove all the bottlenecks causing delay in the work of the 450-MW Shongtong Hydroelectric Power Project within a week and complete its construction by July 2025.

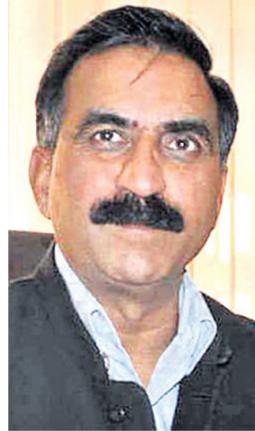
Presiding over a review meeting here, the chief minister said the tender for this project was awarded in 2012, but the construction work had been delayed due to various reasons.

Delayed projects incur increased costs and losses to the state, therefore the project needs to be completed within the stipulated time, he stated, according to a statement issued here Saturday.

The CM directed officials of the Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (HPPCL) to resolve all the bottlenecks causing delays within a week.

Another review meeting has been scheduled after three months. He asked the company responsible for building the project to increase manpower to complete the remaining construction work within the stipulated time.

Sukhu said the completion of the Shongtong Hydroelectric Power Project in Kinnaur would generate



1,579 million units of electricity annually, providing the state with a total benefit of Rs 1,706 crore.

He stressed the need for a change in mindset and work approach to ensure timely completion of the project.

The government is committed to transforming the state into a green energy state by 2025 through the utilisation of hydropower and solar energy. As part of this effort, the state has set a goal to generate 500 MW of solar energy by the end of 2024, he added.

## HP intends to develop popular trekking trails

This will add footfall and open avenues for direct and indirect employment opportunities for local people

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Shimla, March 12:** The Himachal Pradesh government intends to develop popular trekking trails to provide basic facilities to travellers and adventure enthusiasts, an official spokesperson said Sunday.

This will add footfall in these destinations and open avenues for direct and indirect employment opportunities for local people, the official said.

There are numerous treks in the state, particularly in the districts of Kullu, Kangra, Mandi, Sirmaur, Kinnaur, Lahaul-Spiti and Chamba, which attract adventure lovers to explore the Himalayan flora and fauna, an official statement said.



Located around 10-15 km from Kullu town, 'Kais Dhar' or

'Kansdhar' is an easy trek of about three-five hours which offers amaz-

ing views to fabulous farm areas of the Lag valley, it said.

Close to the Bhuntar airport is the Shindodhar track. The Seraj valley in Kullu district is also one of the most beautiful places in the state. Other similar spots include Khanag, Jalori Pass, Shoja and Banjar, the statement added.

Adventure lovers can trek from Shimla via Guma, Luhri and Ani to Jalori, and further to Kullu. Though not overnight, it will take a week to traverse this trek to explore the beauty of both the Shimla rural and the Kullu regions, the spokesperson said.

Kheerganga, is an abode in the Parvati valley. A trip to this nature-made paradise promises hot-water springs and a splendid view of the valley, he added.

of the day quote

The state government has provided 1.50 lakh free electricity connections to the farmers in the last 20 months, compared to 2.2 lakh connections during the entire 10-year rule of AIADMK

What is the relation between Arvind Kejriwal and Vijay Nair? Was Nair present when the excise policy was designed? The main accused may be Sisodia but the kingpin is Kejriwal

The Opposition leaders need to be sensitive and must stop playing politics over the issue unseasonal rains that affected farmers in different parts of the state



You can see what is happening in Bihar. They felt Tejashwi and JD-U are coming together... It's been years since Lalu ji left the post of CM. They came to remember the case all of a sudden. The ED sees the Indian map in a different way. They see only opposition ruled states; they don't go to BJP states

NARCO-TERROR NEXUS BUSTED

A narco-terror nexus has been busted by the Army near the Line of Control at Jhangar in the Naushera sector in Jammu and Kashmir, the Army said Sunday



SATISH KAUSHIK DEATH

Farmhouse owner's wife alleges husband's role

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 12: The Delhi Police Sunday said it will question the estranged wife of the owner of the farmhouse, where actor-filmmaker Satish Kaushik attended a party a day before his death, following her allegation that her husband "was planning to get rid" of him.

In a complaint addressed to the Delhi Police commissioner, the woman alleged that her husband had borrowed Rs 15 crore from Kaushik and did not wish to return it. The Delhi Police issued a statement saying an inquiry has been initiated into the allegations of foul play levelled by the woman.

The Delhi Police issued a statement saying an inquiry has been initiated into the allegations of foul play levelled by the woman.



Women commandos take part in a live demonstration of Martial Arts during the 54th CISF Raising Day Parade-2023, at CISF National Industrial Security Academy in Hakimpet, Telangana

Oppn to chalk out House strategy today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 12: Opposition leaders will hold a meeting Monday morning to firm up their floor strategy for the second leg of the Budget session as they gear up to corner the government on issues such as alleged misuse of probe agencies and the Adani row.

The opposition parties are expected to meet at Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge's office in the Parliament complex around 10 am, sources said. The Congress MPs will gather at the Congress Parliamentary Party office shortly thereafter to deliberate on the party's strategy, they said.

The opposition parties are gearing up to corner the government on issues such as alleged misuse of probe agencies to target their leaders, allegations against the Adani Group, border standoff with China, price rise and unemployment.



THE OPPOSITION PARTIES ARE GEARING UP TO CORNER THE GOVERNMENT ON ISSUES SUCH AS ALLEGED MISUSE OF PROBE AGENCIES TO TARGET THEIR LEADERS, ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE ADANI GROUP, BORDER STANDOFF WITH CHINA, PRICE RISE AND UNEMPLOYMENT

The opposition leaders are expected to meet at Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge's office in the Parliament complex around 10 am, sources said

Lalu Prasad's family. The Budget session of Parliament, which began on January 31, is likely to conclude on April 6. Parliament is meeting after a month-long recess which allows various parliamentary panels to scrutinise allocations made in the Union Budget for different ministries.

The Trinamool Congress is set to raise in Parliament issues such as LIC and SBI's risk exposure, price rise of essential commodities, unemployment and "misuse" of central agencies during the second phase of the session, its Rajya Sabha floor leader Derek O'Brien had said recently. He had said LIC's risk exposure and price rise affect the lives of the common people and their savings and should be highlighted.

The TMC will also raise the issue of "political vendetta" against non-BJP ruled states in Parliament and also question the Union government on "holding back of funds for schemes such as MNREGA", O'Brien said. LIC and SBI's exposure to the Adani Group were raised by various opposition parties in the first leg of Parliament's Budget session which saw multiple disruptions.

SHORT TAKES

Heroin seized

Diphu (Assam): A huge consignment of heroin worth over Rs 20 crore in the international market was seized on Sunday in Assam's Karbi Anglong district and a person arrested in connection with it, police said. Acting on a tip-off, the police had set up a barricade in Khatkhati area and intercepted a vehicle coming from Dimapur, said Bokajan sub-divisional police officer John Das. While searching the vehicle, the police recovered 390 soap boxes containing over five kgs of heroin from a concealed chamber of the vehicle, he said.

Bodies found

Navsari: The bodies of four members of a family, including a four-month-old girl and her seven-year-old sister, were found in a house at Ravaniya village in Gujarat's Navsari district on Sunday, police said. Prima facie, parents of the children killed them before committing suicide by hanging themselves from the ceiling of a room of the house, an official said. "The bodies of two children were found lying on the ground. They were apparently strangled to death by their parents," said Vandsa police inspector BM Chaudhary.

2 killed, 19 hurt

Vidisha: Two persons were killed and 19 injured when a speeding bus rammed into a tractor-trolley near Madhya Pradesh's Vidisha city on Sunday, officials said. The accident took place near Sanchi, around 8 km from Vidisha city, in the early hours of the day, they said.

6 dead in accident

Buldhana: Six persons were killed after their car met with an accident on Sunday morning on the Samruddhi Expressway in Maharashtra's Buldhana district, a police official said. The accident took place at 8 am at Shivni Pasa village when the car, with 13 occupants, was on its way from Aurangabad to Shegaon here, Buldhana Superintendent of Police Sarang Awhad said.

Man arrested

Erode (TN): An unemployed man from Coimbatore was arrested Sunday for making a hoax bomb threat a few days ago that explosions would take place at the railway station and main bus stand in Erode, police said. Upon his arrest, the man had apparently told the police that he was struggling to make ends meet and rang up the authorities with a plan that he would get regular food once put behind bars for the crime.

3 pavement dwellers killed

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, March 12: Three unidentified pavement dwellers aged between 60-70 years died when a speeding SUV ran over them, said police.

The incident occurred late Saturday night in Srirangam in Tamil Nadu's Tiruchi. The three were sleeping on the roadside near Yoga Kalyana Mandapam when the accident happened. Police said that they were in the process of identifying the dead.

The driver of the vehicle has been detained by the police. Police have registered a case against him under sections 304 A (causing death by negligence), section 279 (rash driving on a public way) and 337 (causing hurt by act, endangering life or personal safety of others) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). Police said that one among the three died on the spot while the other two succumbed at the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Government hospital.

India agrees to Russia operating more flights

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 12: India and Russia have "in principle" agreed to revise their bilateral air services agreement whereby Russian carriers will be allowed to operate as many as 64 weekly flights to various Indian cities, according to a senior official.

Under the existing agreement, Russia can operate up to 52 weekly civilian flights to India. India has "in principle" agreed to increase the number of weekly flights that Russian carriers can operate to India to 64 from 52. In this regard, the bilateral air services agreement will be amended in due course, the official said.

Currently, Aeroflot is operating seven weekly flights to India while no Indian airline is flying to Russia. Earlier, Air India used to operate flights to Moscow. On the condi-

India has 'in principle' agreed to increase the number of weekly flights that Russian carriers can operate to India to 64 from 52



tion of anonymity, the official also said it will take some time before Russian carriers will be able to fully utilise the quota of the total number of weekly flights permitted to operate to India. Last month, an Indian delegation led by Civil Aviation Secretary Rajiv Bansal visited Moscow for a meeting related to bilateral cooperation in civil aviation. A protocol on cooperation in the civil avi-

Last month, an Indian delegation led by Civil Aviation Secretary Rajiv Bansal visited Moscow for a meeting related to bilateral cooperation in civil aviation

ation sector was also formalised at the meeting on February 17, the civil aviation ministry had said in a tweet. The meeting, which was part of the ninth session of the India-Russia Sub-Group on Cooperation in Civil Aviation, was chaired by Bansal and Russian Deputy Minister of Transport Igor Chalik. Under the India-Russia bilateral air service agreement, Russian

carriers can operate flights to six points of call or destinations in India - Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Goa, Amritsar and Ahmedabad. Indian airlines are permitted to fly to six destinations in Russia, including Moscow and St. Petersburg, as per an update with the civil aviation ministry as of March 7.

India has bilateral air services agreements with around 116 countries. Any designated airline of a foreign country can operate to/from a point in India if it is designated as a point of call in the bilateral air services agreement signed between India and the country concerned.

At present, the Indian government is not granting any non-metro airport as a new point of call to any foreign carrier for operating passenger services. This is due to a "significant imbalance in the number of points of call in favour of foreign carriers," as per the civil aviation ministry.

15 ENNG REBELS SURRENDER IN ARUNACHAL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Itanagar, March 12: A total 15 militants of the Eastern Naga National Government (ENNG) along with the outfit chief Tosham Mossang surrendered before Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Sunday.

The rebels surrendered with arms and ammunitions during a homecoming ceremony organised at police headquarters here, officials said. Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein, state Home Minister Bamang Felix along with Assam Rifles officers, state senior civil and police officers were present at the function.

The other rebels who surrendered include self-styled colonel Chopai Pangsang and Wangjen Pangtha, self styled major Daniel Sankey, captin Maithangla Tikhak, lieutenants Monpi Mamai and Samhon Songthing, sergeants Wangwa Hatum and Hemraj Pradhan, the SIT SP Rohit Rajbir Singh said.

The others were self-styled captains Netra Kumar Rai, Limpha Khimising, Khunglun Mossang and Bainong Mungrey and self-styled second lieutenant Lungphang Jugli, he said. Nine Chinese-made MQ series weapons, two AK-47 rifles, one Chinese-made pistol, 19 magazines, 415 rounds of 7.62 mm ammunition, five rounds of 9 mm pistol, four Chinese grenades, one under barrel launcher with fins and six walker talkie were deposited during the ceremony, Singh said. "Termining the event as "historic", Khandu lauded the combined offensive and negotiating efforts of Assam Rifles and state police.

Kuru Kolumn

Modi's proposal getting traction

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's proposal to set up a permanent secretariat to coordinate bids to fight terror funding is gaining traction. In the November 2022 international conference on No Money For Terror (NMTF), 77 major countries including USA, UK,

Australia and Japan and 16 international organizations like Interpol agreed to set up a permanent secretariat. China, Pakistan and a few other countries were not invited to this conference. The participating nation agreed to collaborate with countries across the world for suppressing the funding sources that allow terrorists and extremists to carry out their violent acts. Sources in the security establishment said the proposal was still at an initial stage as nitty-gritty is being worked out.

Tail of a Rahul loyalist

Rahul Gandhi may be running the party even after demitting office of Congress president through his loyalists like K C Venugopal, Randeep Surjewala and many others. But some of his close

loyalists are having the taste of master craftsmen Mallikarjun Kharge. The elected Congress president, Kharge can't be rated as 100% subservient to the powers that be. Ajay Maken, a close loyalist of Rahul Gandhi, is having the taste of Kharge regime in the party. He resigned as general secretary in charge of Rajasthan after having a bitter tiff with Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot. Without losing a moment, Kharge accepted his resignation and gave him no work. Ajay Maken is now sulking as he has no work even in states which are going to polls.

All well between Govt, Judiciary

The bitter battle leading to a public spat between the

Judiciary and the Executive seems to be heading towards a truce. If reports emanating from the highest court in India on Tilak Marg and Modi Establishment in South Block are any indication, the two vital pillars of democracy have reached an informal understanding. Barring small pinpricks and occasional statements in public domain, both sides have decided to call it a day. Sources say that an informal understanding has been reached between the two.

PM alerting ministers, MPs

The Prime Minister is concerned after getting reports that some of the ministers and MPs do not mingle with people in their

constituencies. Though there are 14 months to go for the 2024 general elections Modi has given a clear message to them that they should spend more time in their respective parliamentary constituencies. Listen to people's problems, let people get angry, let them taunt, listen to them too. During this Parliament session, Modi has alerted more than a dozen Union Ministers that they are not spending time in the parliamentary constituency. Modi has even asked some of them to learn from 73-year-old BJP MP Jagdambika Pal. It is worth mentioning that Jagdambika Pal is the only MP who goes up-down daily from Delhi to his parliamentary constituency Dumariaganj in Uttar Pradesh even during the Parliament session.

# international

## of the day quote

More than seven million citizens have been affected in Iraq and hundreds of thousands have been displaced because they lost their livelihoods that rely on agriculture and hunting

I will be systematically going through all the areas where there are barriers that stop people from working who want to, so that we can help people get back to work and fill those vacancies for our businesses

We have returns agreements with India, Pakistan, Serbia, Nigeria and — crucially — now with Albania, where we are returning hundreds of people

### SHORT TAKES

#### Israeli forces kill three Palestinian gunmen

**Jerusalem:** Israeli forces shot and killed three Palestinian gunmen Sunday who opened fire on troops in the occupied West Bank, the military said, the latest bloodshed in a year-long wave of violence in the region. The military said one gunman turned himself in and was arrested. The Palestinian Health Ministry confirmed three people were killed near the city of Nablus. It did not immediately disclose their identities. The deaths Sunday bring to 80 the number of Palestinians killed since the start of the year, as Israel has stepped up arrest raids in the West Bank. A spasm of Palestinian attacks has killed 14 people in 2023.

#### Six killed, 29 hurt in Nepal bus accident

**Kathmandu:** At least six people, including two women and a child, were killed and 29 others injured Sunday when a bus they were travelling in crashed into a hillside in Nepal's Sindhuli district, police said. The bus carrying 34 passengers from Okhaldhunga to Kathmandu met with the accident in Phikkal Rural Municipality-4 along the Mid-Hill Highway. Three men, two women and a child died on the spot, police said.

#### Fire engulfs 16-storey building in Karachi

**Islamabad:** A fire engulfed a 16-storey building in Karachi's main artery Sharea Faisal, injuring a person, local media reported. On Saturday night, the fire, which broke out on an panaflex on the building due to a short circuit, engulfed the structure. Chief Fire Officer Ishtiaq Ahmed was quoted as saying by Geo News. No casualties have been reported in the incident, Assistant Commissioner Ferozabad Umamah Solangi said. Solangi said that action will be taken against illegal sign boards.

#### 19 killed in attack in DR Congo

**Kinshasa:** At least 19 people were killed in an overnight attack in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), local sources said Sunday. The attack, which took place in the village of Kirindera in the territory of Beni of the eastern province of North Kivu, killed at least 19 civilians, Carly Nzanzu Kasivita, former governor of North Kivu, told journalists Sunday morning, attributing the attack to the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) rebels, Xinhua News Agency reported. Several buildings in the village, including a health center, were set on fire by the rebels, he said.



I had no right to overturn the election, and his reckless words endangered my family and everyone at the Capitol that day, and I know that history will hold Donald Trump accountable  
**MIKE PENCE** | FORMER US VICE PRESIDENT

**IMRAN POSTPONES RALLY**  
PTI chief Imran Khan Sunday postponed his party's election rally in Lahore till March 13 after the interim government in Punjab province imposed Section 144. Khan, the former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Saturday night had announced a rally today (Sunday)



# Hundreds killed in battle for Bakhmut

**Kyiv, March 12:** Ukraine and Russia claimed Saturday that hundreds of enemy troops were killed over the previous 24 hours in the fight for Bakhmut, with Kyiv fending off unabating attacks and a small river that bisects the town now marking the new front line.

Serhiy Cherevatyi, a Ukrainian military spokesperson, said that 221 pro-Moscow troops were killed and more than 300 wounded in Bakhmut. Russia's defence ministry said that up to 210 Ukrainian soldiers were killed in the broader Donetsk part of the frontline.

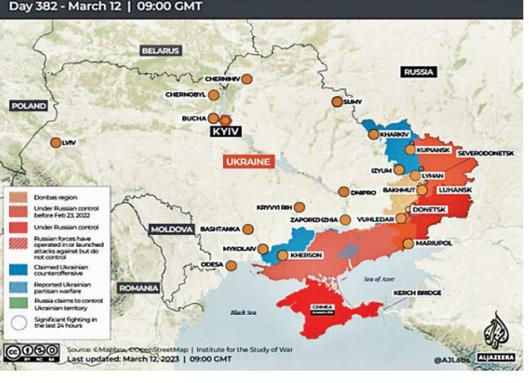
While Moscow did not specify Bakhmut casualties, the eastern Donetsk town, now nearly deserted, has been the site of one of the bloodiest and longest battles of the year-long war. Both sides have admitted to suffering and inflicting significant losses in Bakhmut, while the exact number of casualties is difficult to independently verify.

British military intelligence said Saturday that Russia's Wagner mercenary group has taken control of most of the eastern part of Bakhmut - an advance that the group's founder Yevgeny Prigozhin claimed Wednesday.

"In the city centre, the Bakhmutka River now marks the front line," the British Defence Ministry said in its daily intelligence bulletin. Ukraine insisted that it was holding on in Bakhmut and was giving a "decent rebuttal" to Russian forces, with the commander in charge of defending Bakhmut saying its protection was key for a Ukrainian counter-strike. "It is necessary to gain time to accumulate reserves and start a counter-offensive, which is not far off," the military cited Colonel general Oleksandr Syrskyi as say-

## RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR Who controls what in Ukraine?

An aide to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Ukrainian soldiers will fight on in the ruined city of Bakhmut because the battle there is pinning down Russia's best units and degrading them ahead of a planned Ukrainian spring counteroffensive.



**RUSSIA'S DEFENCE MINISTRY SAYS THAT UP TO 210 UKRAINIAN SOLDIERS HAVE DIED IN CLASHES IN THE BROADER DONETSK PART OF THE FRONT LINE**

**UKRAINE SAYS THAT 221 PRO-MOSCOW SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN KILLED AND MORE THAN 300 WOUNDED IN 24 HOURS IN THE FRONT-LINE CITY OF BAKHMUT**

**RUSSIAN FORCES ALSO LAUNCHED 12 AIR STRIKES AND TWO MISSILE STRIKES ON THE CITY OF ZAPORIZHZHIA, THE CAPITAL OF THE SOUTHEASTERN UKRAINIAN PROVINCE OF THE SAME NAME SATURDAY**

**A STRIKE BY AN S-300 MISSILE HIT A CIVILIAN INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITY, BUT NO CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED**

ing Saturday. Moscow says capturing Bakhmut would punch a hole in Ukrainian defences and be a step towards seizing all of the Donbas industrial region, a major target. Kyiv says the battle is grinding down Russia's best units. Prigozhin said Saturday that he is now 1.2 km (0.75 mile) away from the administrative centre of the city. The centre is on the west side of the Bakhmutka River. British intelligence said that with the river

## B'desh: At least 200 hurt in clash between students and locals

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Dhaka, March 12:** At least 200 people were injured in a clash between students of Rajshahi University (RU) and locals in Binodpur Gate area of Rajshahi city here.

At least 25 to 30 shops, including a police box, were torched during the clash. Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) have been deployed, exams and university classes have also been postponed Sunday and Monday.

The clash ensued when a student of the university entered into an altercation with a bus staff at about 6 p.m. over seating arrangement in a bus.

Witnesses said that Akash, a student of the Social Work department, came to Rajshahi in a bus from Bogura Saturday evening. He entered into an altercation with the driver and supervisor of the bus over sitting in the bus. Later, assistant of the bus and Akash entered into an altercation again in the Binodpur Gate area of the university. A local trader also joined in the altercation at that time. On being informed, students from various halls of the university rushed to the spot and engaged in clashes with the bus staff and locals.

Witnesses said the students and traders then began hurling brick chips at each other at that time. The students vandalised several shops and set them on fire while the traders damaged several motorcycles of the students. RU proctor professor Ashabul Haque said they were trying to bring the situation under control.



# Deal reached with US for prisoner swap: Iran



AMERICAN OFFICIALS DID NOT IMMEDIATELY RESPOND TO REQUESTS FOR COMMENT ABOUT HIS REMARKS

REUTERS

**Dubai, March 12:** Iran and the United States have reached an agreement to exchange prisoners, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian told state TV Sunday, adding that he hoped the exchange would take place soon.

"Regarding the issue of prisoner swaps between Iran and the US we have reached an agreement in the recent days and if everything goes well on the US side, I think we will witness a prisoner exchange in a short period," Amirabdollahian said.

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment by Reuters on Amirabdollahian's remarks.

One of several Americans held in Iran is Siamak Namazi, a businessman with dual US-Iranian citizenship, who was sentenced in 2016 to 10 years in prison for spying and cooperating with the US government.

Emad Sharghi, an Iranian-American businessman was first arrested in 2018 when he was working for a tech investment company, is also jailed in Iran, as is Iranian-American environmentalist Morad Tahbaz, who also holds British citizenship. Iranian sources told Reuters that two regional coun-

tries were involved in the series of indirect talks between Tehran and Washington for the release of prisoners. For years, Tehran has sought the release of more than a dozen Iranians in the United States, including seven Iranian-American dual nationals, two Iranians with permanent US residency and four Iranian citizens with no legal status in the United States.

The Islamic Republic, which is holding dozens of Iranian dual nationals and foreigners, has been accused by rights activists of arresting them to try to extract concessions from other countries. Iran has dismissed the charge.

Some Iranian media reported last week that Iran had reached a prisoner swap deal in exchange for the release of \$7 billion in frozen Iranian oil funds under US sanctions in South Korea.

In 2018, then-US president Donald Trump decided a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and six powers and reimposed sanctions that have crippled the Islamic Republic's economy.

The deal imposed restrictions on Iran's nuclear activities in exchange for lifting international sanctions.

In reaction to Washington's sanctions, Tehran has gradually violated curbs of the pact on its nuclear programme.

# China reappoints central bank gov in surprise move

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Beijing, March 12:** China Sunday reappointed Yi Gang as head of the central bank in an effort to reassure entrepreneurs and financial markets by showing continuity at the top while other economic officials change during a period of uncertainty in the world's second-largest economy.

Yi, whose official title is governor of the People's Bank of China, plays no role in making monetary policy, unlike his counterparts in other major economies.

His official duties lie in "implementing monetary policy" or carrying out decisions made by a policymaking body whose membership is a secret. But the central bank governor acts as spokesperson for monetary policy, is the most prominent Chinese figure in global finance and is in charge of reassuring bankers and investors at a time when China's economy is emerging

from drastically slower growth. At the March 5 opening of the annual session of China's rubber-stamp parliament, the National People's Congress, China announced plans

for a consumer-led revival of the struggling economy, setting this year's growth target at "around 5 per cent."

Last year's growth fell to 3 per cent, the second-weakest level since at least the 1970s, putting president and head of the ruling Communist Party Xi Jinping under exceptional pressure to revitalize the economy.

A longtime veteran of monetary policy departments, Yi was first appointed governor of the People's Bank of China in March 2018, taking over from the highly regarded Zhou Xiaochuan.

Before becoming governor, Yi spent 20 years at the central bank after getting his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois and working as a professor of economics at Indiana University from 1986 to 1994.



From left to right, Roscosmos cosmonaut Anna Kikina, NASA astronauts Josh Cassada and Nicole Mann, and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) astronaut Koichi Wakata smile inside the SpaceX Dragon Endeurance spacecraft onboard a recovery ship shortly after having landed in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Tampa, Fla., following a five-month mission on the International Space Station

# Water on Earth may be older than our Sun: Study

Astronomers have detected gaseous water in the planet-forming disc around the star V883 Orionis, about 1300 light-years away from Earth

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, March 12:** Water that you drink and use for daily chores was formed in the interstellar space long before our Sun came to life, a study has revealed, finding the missing link for water in our solar system.

Using the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA) telescope, astronomers detected gaseous water in the planet-forming disc around the star named 'V883 Orionis' about 1300 light-

years away from Earth. This water carries a chemical signature that explains the journey of water from star-forming gas clouds to planets, and supports the idea that water on Earth is even older than our Sun.

"We can now trace the origins of water in our Solar System to before the formation of the Sun," said John J. Tobin, an astronomer at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in the US and lead author of the study published in Nature.

When a cloud of gas and dust collapses, it forms a star at its centre. Around the star, material from the cloud also forms a disc. Over the course of a few million years, the matter in the disc clumps together to form comets, asteroids, and eventually planets.

Tobin and his team used ALMA, in which the European Southern Observatory (ESO) is a partner, to



measure chemical signatures of the water and its path from the star-forming cloud to planets. Tobin's team studied a slightly heavier version of water where one of the hydrogen atoms is replaced with deuterium - a heavy isotope of hydrogen.

Because simple and heavy water form under different conditions,

their ratio can be used to trace when and where the water was formed. "For instance, this ratio in some Solar System comets has been shown to be similar to that in water on Earth, suggesting that comets might have delivered water to Earth," the researchers wrote. "V883 Orionis is the missing link in this case," said Tobin.

## 8 dead, 7 missing after boat capsizes off San Diego coast

**San Diego (US):** At least eight people were killed when two suspected smuggling boats approached a San Diego beach and one capsized, and crews are searching Sunday for an estimated seven additional victims, authorities said.

A woman on one of the panga-style boats called 911 late Saturday to report that the other vessel had overturned in waves off Blacks Beach, according to US Coast Guard Petty Officer Richard Brahm. "The woman who called stated that the boat that overturned had 15 people on it, but that was just an estimate," Brahm said. Coast Guard and San Diego Fire-Rescue crews pulled eight bodies from the water, but thick fog hampered the search for additional victims. A Coast Guard cutter combed the area early Sunday, and officials hoped to get helicopters in the air when weather improves, Brahm said.

## 19 killed in attack in DR Congo

**Kinshasa:** At least 19 people were killed in an overnight attack in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), local sources said Sunday. The attack, which took place in the village of Kirindera in the territory of Beni of the eastern province of North Kivu, killed at least 19 civilians, Carly Nzanzu Kasivita, former governor of North Kivu, told journalists Sunday morning, attributing the attack to the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) rebels, Xinhua News Agency reported. Several buildings in the village, including a health center, were set on fire by the rebels, he said.

## of the day quote

If there's a recession, or a slowdown, people will not compromise on their kids' demands...The kids' opportunity is huge. Whether there's a slowdown or there's a peak, that demand never tapers off

DIPALI GOENKA | CEO AND JOINT MD, WELSPUN

Today we have 50 cities in India where you can find a Lamborghini owner and these Tier I and Tier II cities now contribute to more than 25 per cent of the business. So these cities are becoming very important for us

SHARAD AGARWAL | HEAD, LAMBORGHINI INDIA

Poor global cues were major contributors to the weakness in the Indian equity markets, and they will continue to be significant next week

SANTOSH MEENA | HEAD OF RESEARCH, SWASTIKA INVESTMART LTD

## SHORT TAKES

### BoM cuts home loan rate to 8.4%

**New Delhi:** State-owned Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) Sunday announced a reduction in the interest rate on home loans to 8.4 per cent from the existing 8.6 per cent. The new rate is effective from March 13, 2023, BoM said. The home loan at 8.4 per cent makes it one of the lowest in the banking sector. Besides, it said, the bank has also a special rate of interest (ROI) for defence personnel, including paramilitary forces, benefiting salaried and pensioner categories for home loans. BoM has already waived processing fees for its gold, home and car loans under the festive offer, the lender said. By introducing this offer, it said, BoM is offering the most lucrative ROI with added benefits on its array of products, benefiting customers availing them. Last week, Bank of Baroda slashed its home loan interest rates by 40 basis points (bps) to 8.5 per cent. Further, BoB also reduced its MSME loan interest rates starting at 8.4 per cent. Both offers were effective from March 5, 2023, and are valid for a limited period till March 31, BoB said.

### Elon Musk calls Meta 'copy cat'

**San Francisco:** Twitter CEO Elon Musk Sunday mocked Meta for planning to launch a dedicated Twitter-like social media application and called it "copy cat". It all started when the music news website Daily Loud posted: "Mark Zuckerberg's Meta exploring plans to launch a rival to Twitter." On this, a user asked: "Why tho? Is he like people are mad at Elon Musk, I'll make an alternative because everyone loves me and Facebook so much." Commenting on this thread, Musk said: "Copy cat."



**Inflation rates are expected to come down over the year. Government supply-side action coordinated with a flexible inflation targeting regime has kept Indian inflation rates lower than other countries**

ASHIMA GOYAL | MPC MEMBER, RBI

## PAK MAKING EFFORTS FOR RUSSIAN OIL

Cash-strapped Pakistan is making concerted efforts to procure Russian crude oil at \$50 per barrel, at least \$10 per barrel less than the price cap imposed by the G7 countries due to Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, media reports said Sunday. Crude oil is currently being sold globally at \$82.78 per barrel



# HZL stake sale in limbo

**GOVT'S HZL STAKE SALE ONLY AFTER CLARITY ON PROPOSED GLOBAL ASSET TRANSFER; UNLIKELY THIS FISCAL**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, March 12:** The sale of the remaining 29.54 per cent government stake in Hindustan Zinc is likely only after a finality reached on Vedanta's planned sale of global zinc assets to the erstwhile PSU, according to an official.

With the government's offer for sale plans in HZL in limbo, it is unlikely that the disinvestment would happen by March, and hence it could miss its revised asset sale target of ₹50,000 crore for the current fiscal.

So far in the current fiscal, the government has mopped up ₹31,107 crore from stake sales in CPSEs. It was planning to sell its 29.54 per cent in HZL to meet the revised target.

The stake sale in HZL is likely only after clarity is received on



whether the overseas zinc asset transfer is happening and whether minority stakeholder concerns have been addressed, the official said.

"Investors are asking us whether the foreign asset transfer is happening. We want to sell stake only when there is clarity on the issue. We don't want to rush into selling the stake," the official added.

Since it is a related party transaction, it should be a cashless asset transfer, the officer said.

Last month, the government said it will explore all legal options in the matters related to the plans of Anil Agarwal-promoted

Vedanta to sell its global zinc assets to HZL.

The mines ministry has urged Vedanta to explore other cashless methods of acquisition of these assets.

Valuation of the assets is among several concerns flagged by the government.

Vedanta had in January said it will sell its global zinc assets to HZL for cash consideration of \$2,981 million. Vedanta holds a 64.92 per cent equity share of HZL. Hindustan Zinc is an integrated producer of zinc, lead and silver.

The government had in 2002 sold its 26 per cent shareholding

along with management control to Sterlite, which is part of Agarwal's Vedanta group, for ₹40.5 per share - thereby giving Vedanta group management control in HZL.

Vedanta group later bought a 20 per cent stake from the market and another 18.92 per cent from the government in November 2003, raising its ownership in HZL to 64.92 per cent.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) last year approved the sale of 124.79 crore shares or 29.54 per cent stake government holds in the zinc producer.

At the current price of ₹304.65 a share, The government's 29.54 per cent stake is valued at about ₹7,000 crore.

The official said since public float is only about 5 per cent, it would not be feasible for big investors who put in lump-sum funds in the company as share availability in the market is limited.

The government currently holds a 29.54 per cent stake in HZL, while a 5.54 per cent stake is with public shareholders. Mining mogul Agarwal's Vedanta Ltd is the promoter, holding a 64.92 per cent stake in HZL.

# 'Govt to fall short on tax collection target of ₹30.43tn in FY23'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, March 12:** The government may not achieve a revised tax collection target of ₹30.43 lakh crore for the current financial year, a top official said.

Revised estimate was raised steeply by over 10 per cent from the budget estimate in the FY24 Budget presented last month, the official said.

The revised estimates (RE) for the current fiscal pegged gross tax revenues at ₹30.43 lakh crore, higher than the budget estimates of ₹27.57 lakh crore.

On the direct tax side, the official said, "The RE was quite steep. We are expecting a shortfall. The net collections could be between ₹15-15.5 lakh crore."

In the current fiscal (2022-23), the revenues from direct tax (which includes income and corporate taxes) are projected to grow by over 17 per cent at ₹16.50 lakh crore compared to 2021-22 fiscal when the collection was ₹14.20 lakh crore.

In the current fiscal, the revenue from corporate tax is expected to come in at ₹8.35 lakh crore. This is projected to rise by 10.4 per cent to over ₹9.22 lakh crore in the next fiscal.

Personal income tax collections this fiscal are estimated at ₹8.15 lakh crore and are projected to rise by 10.4 per cent to over ₹9 lakh crore next year.

Collections from customs duty are expected to rise by 11 per cent to ₹2.33 lakh crore, from ₹2.10 lakh crore in the revised estimates.

In indirect tax side, another official said, "we are expecting shortfall on the customs side."

There was reduction in the mop-up from customs in the latest Budget as target was reduced to ₹2.10 lakh crore from ₹2.13 lakh crore estimated earlier for the financial year ending March 2023.



GST collections are projected to grow by 12 per cent in the next fiscal to ₹9.56 lakh crore. In the current fiscal, the revised estimates pegged GST collection at ₹8.54 lakh crore.

A third official said GST revenues too look quite high with asking rate for Central GST and compensation cess combined at ₹86,000 crore in March. Revenue from CGST and cess combined usually comes around ₹60,000-63,000 crore every month

Taking both direct and indirect taxes, the gross tax collection is expected to grow by 10.45 per cent to ₹33.61 lakh crore in 2023-24. In the current fiscal, the revised estimate pegs gross tax revenue at ₹30.43 lakh crore.

Net direct tax collection so far this fiscal grew 17 per cent to reach ₹13.73 lakh crore, which is 83 per cent of the revised target for the full financial year, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said last week. The growth in direct tax mop-up, which comprises personal income tax and corporate taxes, was driven by PIT collections.

On a gross basis, the collection grew 22.58 per cent to ₹16.68 lakh crore. Refunds amounting to ₹2.95 lakh crore have been issued during April 1, 2022 to March 10, 2023, which are 59.44 per cent higher than refunds issued during the same period in the preceding year.

Direct tax collection, net of refunds, stands at ₹13.73 lakh crore which is 16.78 per cent higher than the net collections for the corresponding period of last year.

## ADANI'S BLOCK DEAL

# FPIs investment turns positive in March

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, March 12:** Reversing their selling trend, foreign investors have infused over ₹13,500 crore in the Indian equities so far this month primarily driven by bulk investment from US-based GQG Partners in the Adani Group companies.

This came following a net outflow of ₹5,294 crore in February and ₹28,852 crore in January. Prior to that, FPIs made a net investment of ₹11,119 crore in December, data with the depositories showed.



Going ahead, FPIs are likely to be cautious in their approach in the coming days as the collapse of the SVB Bank in the US has impacted sentiments in the market, V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment

Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said.

According to the data, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) invested ₹13,536 crore in Indian equities till March 10.

"This (inflow) is inclusive of the bulk investment of ₹15,446 crore by GQG in the four Adani stocks," Vijayakumar said.

In the calendar year 2023, FPIs have sold equities to the tune of ₹20,606 crore. On the other hand, FPIs pulled out ₹2,987 crore from the debt markets during the period under review.

## SVB COLLAPSE

# Indian startups in line of danger

*SVB's collapse is going to impact several startups in India which have exposure to its investments and have parked their funds in the bank*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Washington, March 12:** The collapse of Silicon Valley Bank, the largest vendor in the startup ecosystem, is likely to adversely impact the Indian startup scenario as well as it has injected a lot of uncertainty in the sector overnight, industry experts say.

"Hopefully the matter will get resolved, but I think it is a big hit for Indian startups," Ashu Garg, a prominent Silicon Valley-based venture capitalist and early-stage investor for over two decades, told PTI in an interview.

California-based Silicon Valley Bank (SVB), the 16th largest bank in the United States, was closed on Friday by the California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation which later appointed the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) as its receiver.

The FDIC, in a statement, said as of December 31, 2022, the Silicon Valley Bank had approximately \$209.0 billion in total assets and about \$175.4 billion in total de-

posits. At the time of closing, the amount of deposits in excess of the insurance limits was undetermined. The number of uninsured deposits will be determined once the FDIC obtains additional information from the bank and customers.

"The reality is that the Silicon Valley Bank has been a real supporter of the Indian startup scene and has provided banking services. Most Indian startups that do business in the US use this bank because it is one of the few institutes willing to work with the Indian banks. A lot of the banking institutes do not want to work with overseas customers," Garg, an alumnus of IIT Delhi, said.

"So, SVB has been able to work with the Indian companies that do not have US employees. So if they (are gone), it will be very problematic for the Indian (companies)," he said in response to a question.

Over the past several years, SVB has been one of the most preferred choices of banking for startups and tech industry in the Silicon



**The Silicon Valley Bank is the largest vendor to the startup ecosystem. So now you have all these loans. You do not know what is going to happen if the loans get sold and get called**

ASHU GARG | SILICON VALLEY-BASED VENTURE CAPITALIST

Valley, mainly because of its understanding of the industry and flexibility in many aspects suiting the startup ecosystem.

Given that every third startup in the Silicon Valley is founded by Indian-Americans, experts feel a significantly large number of these founders would be impacted as early as next week in terms of even making basic payments and giving paychecks to their employees.

Similarly, a large number of Indian startups which do not have even an employee or an office in the US had opened up their accounts in the Silicon Valley Bank as it let

## 'No federal bailout'

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said Sunday that the federal government would not bail out Silicon Valley Bank, but is working to help depositors who are concerned about their money. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation insures deposits up to \$250,000, but many of the companies and wealthy people who used the bank - known for its relationships with technology startups and venture capital - had more than that amount in their account. There are fears that some workers across the country won't receive their paychecks. Yellen, in an interview with CBS' "Face the Nation," provided few details on the government's next steps. But she emphasized that the situation was much different from the financial crisis almost 15 years ago, which led to bank bailouts to protect the industry. "We're not going to do that again," she said.

them do so without much regulatory questions and with a customer-friendly approach.

The implications of the collapse of SVB on Indian-Americans and their companies are very serious, Garg said.

## DOLLAR CRUNCH

# Two-wheeler, PV exports dip

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, March 12:** Exports of two-wheelers, passenger vehicles and three-wheelers from India declined by 35 per cent in February mainly due to the weakening of currencies against the US dollar in destination countries, especially in the African continent.

According to data released by industry body SIAM, shipments of two-wheelers, passenger vehicles and three-wheelers declined to 3,01,561 units last month from 4,63,025 units in February 2022.

Two-wheeler exports dropped by 37 per cent to 2,35,087 units last month from 3,75,689 units in the year-ago period. Motorcycle shipments declined to 2,01,097 units last month from 3,49,221 units in the year-ago period. Scooter exports, however, rose to 33,378 units as compared with 24,830 units in February 2022.

Total three-wheeler shipments declined by 45 per cent to 19,640 units in February from 35,997 units in the same month last year.

"Two-wheelers, three-wheelers and commercial vehicles have seen a drop in exports in the last few months, as there has been a devaluation of currencies in many destinations, especially in Africa and other developing countries," SIAM Director General Rajesh Menon said.

These countries have been facing challenges of availability of foreign reserves, which is limiting the sales of vehicles and countries are focusing more on imports of essential items, though the demand for vehicles from consumers exists in these markets, he added.

Total passenger vehicle exports declined 9 per cent to 46,486 units from 51,213 units in the year-ago period, according to the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM).

Passenger car shipments declined to 25,207 units last month from 33,515 units in February 2022. Similarly, utility vehicle exports dropped to 21,139 units from 17,623 units in February 2022. Van shipments however rose to 140 units from 75 units in the year-ago period.

# Aramco makes historic \$161bn profit in '22

**OIL GIANT SAUDI ARAMCO'S RESULTS, VIEWED AS A BELLWETHER FOR THE GLOBAL ENERGY MARKET, MIRROR THE HUGE PROFITS SEEN AT THOSE OF UK ENERGY GIANT BP, AMERICA'S EXXON MOBIL, SHELL AND OTHERS IN 2022**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Dubai, March 12:** Oil giant Saudi Aramco reported Sunday earning \$161 billion last year, claiming the highest-ever recorded annual profit by a publicly listed company and drawing immediate criticism from activists.

The monster profit by the firm, known formally as the Saudi Arabian Oil Co, came off the back of energy prices rising after Russia launched its war on Ukraine in February 2022, with sanctions limiting the sale of Moscow's oil and

natural gas in Western markets. Aramco also hopes to increase its production to take advantage of market demand as China reenters the global market after lifting its coronavirus restrictions.

That could raise the billions needed to pay for Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's plans to develop futuristic cityscapes to pivot Saudi Arabia away from oil.

However, those plans come despite growing international concerns over the burning of fossil fuels accelerating climate change. Meanwhile, higher energy prices



already have strained relations between Riyadh and Washington, as well as driven up inflation worldwide.

"Given that we anticipate oil and gas will remain essential for the foreseeable future, the risks of underinvestment in our industry are real - including contributing to higher energy prices," Saudi Aramco CEO and President Amin H Nasser said in a statement.

Profits rose 46.5 per cent when compared to the company's 2021 results of \$110 billion. It earned \$49 billion in 2020 when the world

faced the worst of the coronavirus pandemic lockdown, travel disruptions and oil prices briefly going negative.

Aramco put its crude production at around 11.5 million barrels a day in 2022 and said it hoped to reach 13 million barrels a day by 2027.

To boost that production, it plans to spend as much as \$55 billion this year on capital projects.

Aramco also declared a dividend of \$19.5 billion for the fourth quarter of 2022, to be paid in the first quarter of this year.

# Kohli's Test century drought ends

**BATTER REGISTERS 75TH INTERNATIONAL HUNDRED ACROSS ALL FORMATS, LIES ONLY SECOND TO SACHIN TENDULKAR**

AGENCIES

**Ahmedabad, March 12:** Virat Kohli (186, 364b, 15x4) finally ended a near 40-month wait for his 28th Test hundred as his scrappy but brilliantly effective innings set up a gripping final day of the fourth Test against Australia here Sunday. Kohli's epic knock helped India amass 571 in response to Australia's first innings score of 480.

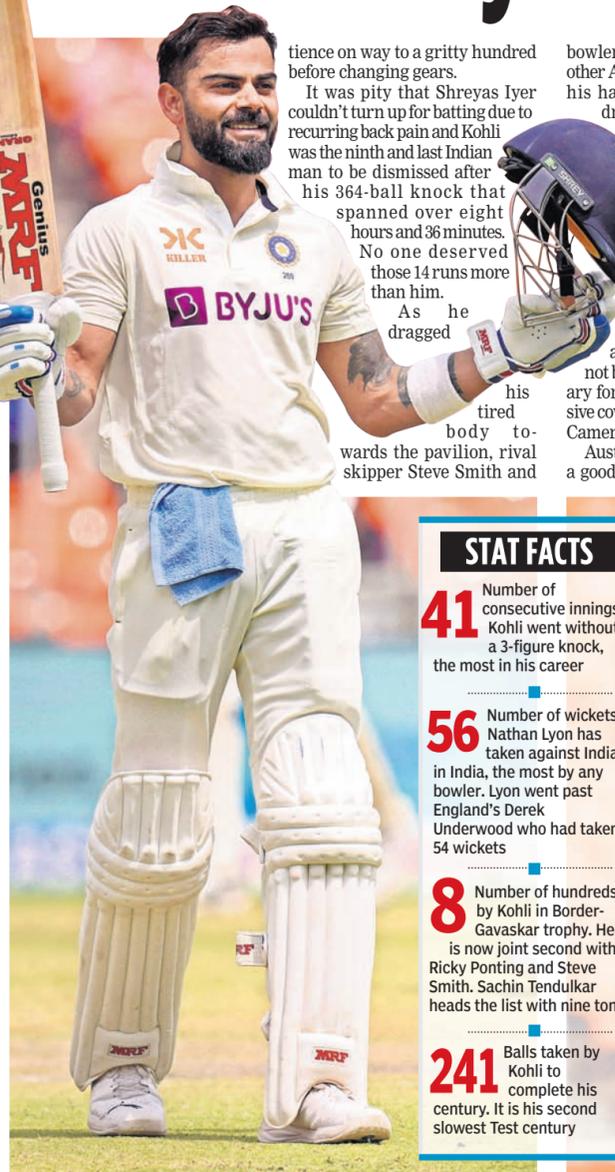
With a lead of 88, India had a go at Australia in the six overs before stumps but visitors managed to keep all wickets intact and were three without loss.

With a lead of 88, India will have to go for the jugular on day five on a track where there is finally some turn and bounce on offer, but not something that batters can't tackle.

A draw still looks the most likely result but if any team win the Test from here, it will be India, who would then go on to win the series 3-1 and directly qualify for the World Test Championships (WTC) final, without having to wait on the fate of Sri Lanka's Test series versus New Zealand.

For the 15,000 odd people present at Motera, it was a Sunday to remember as Kohli guided Nathan Lyon towards mid-wicket to complete his first Test hundred since November 2019. The hundred, his 75th in international cricket, came off 241 balls.

It was an innings of different character from Kohli. Having had his troubles dealing with deliveries outside the off-stump, he traded caution in exchange of flair and hardly played those beastly cover drives till he reached his hundred. He showed copious amount of pa-



ience on way to a gritty hundred before changing gears.

It was pity that Shreyas Iyer couldn't turn up for batting due to recurring back pain and Kohli was the ninth and last Indian man to be dismissed after his 364-ball knock that spanned over eight hours and 36 minutes. No one deserved those 14 runs more than him.

As he dragged his tired body towards the pavilion, rival skipper Steve Smith and

bowler Todd Murphy along with other Aussie players came to shake his hands and the crowd near dressing room gave a standing ovation.

Kohli did have some significant partnerships but no better than the 162 that he added for the sixth wicket with an ever-improving Axar Patel (79, 113b, 5x4, 4x6).

Never had Kohli shown determination of this kind and a testimony to that was not being impatient for a boundary for 162 balls. The first expansive cover drive came in his 140s off Cameron Green.

Australian bowlers though had a good morning session as India

managed only 73 in the 32 overs that were sent down.

Kona Bharat (44, 88b, 2x4, 3x6), who has had a dreadful run with the bat in the series, looked impressive, but would curse himself for not getting a big one and cementing his place in the Indian team.

In the post-lunch session, it was Bharat who attacked, pulled and hooked Green for a couple of sixes when he tried bouncing the batter from around the wicket.

Murphy and Nathan Lyon shared six wickets bowling a monumental 110.5 overs between them.

**Brief scores:** Australia 480 and 3 without loss; India 571 (Virat Kohli 186, Axar Patel 79, Todd Murphy 3/113). Match to continue.

## STAT FACTS

**41** Number of consecutive innings Kohli went without a 3-figure knock, the most in his career

**56** Number of wickets, Nathan Lyon has taken against India in India, the most by any bowler. Lyon went past England's Derek Underwood who had taken 54 wickets

**8** Number of hundreds by Kohli in Border-Gavaskar trophy. He is now joint second with Ricky Ponting and Steve Smith. Sachin Tendulkar heads the list with nine tons

**241** Balls taken by Kohli to complete his century. It is his second slowest Test century



Axar Patel played a crucial knock to help India take a sizeable lead

# Harmanpreet hat-trick fashions Indian victory

Hosts win nine-goal thriller against Australia



**MAN ON A MISSION:** Harmanpreet Singh about to score from a penalty corner during the game played Sunday

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, March 12:** India notched up their second successive win in the FIH Pro League defeating Australia 5-3 in a thrilling encounter played at the Birsra Munda International Hockey Stadium here Sunday. It was hockey at its riveting best as the pendulum of fortune swung from one end to the other. In the end, it was skipper Harmanpreet Singh's hat-trick that helped India win the game.

In the first match of the event, India had stunned World Champions Germany For Australia it was their second loss.

The hosts had gone into the interval with a commanding 4-1 lead. However, Australia reduced the deficit with two goals in the second half and India were defending desperately. Harmanpreet however, held his nerves to convert a penalty corner and seal India's victory. Even then, Australia came back with a goal of their own, to reduce the deficit to 5-4. However, the Indians held their nerves to keep the slender lead intact.

For India, the scorers were Harmanpreet (14th, 15th, and 56th), Jugraj Singh (18th) and Selvam

Karthi (26th). However, it was Australia who had taken the lead early in the game when Joshua Beltz scored in the third minute. The other goals were scored by Ky Willott (43rd), Ben Staines (47th) and Aron Zalewski (57th).

The victory demonstrated the gritty side of India as they played their hearts out in front of a fully-packed stadium. They defended manly and were always ready to launch an attack whenever the opportunity came.

For his hat-trick, Harmanpreet got the man of the match award. "I think today we played very well. We decided we will go for the full 60 minutes and we did it. We did not relax our guard at any point of time. Winning is important. Whenever we come on the pitch, we have just that target. Thanks to everyone for supporting us. The Australians are a tough side so winning this game is quite satisfactory," Harmanpreet said after the game.

Harmanpreet with his goals extended his lead at the top of FIH Pro League list of top-scorers. He now has 10 goals in the tournament out of which nine goals were from penalty corners and one penalty stroke.

## Creditable finish

**Cape Town:** Vani Kapoor and Pranavi Urs had a credible finish Sunday inside the top-20 in the 2023 Investec South African Women's Open at Steenberg Golf Club here. Vani, who was in the top-10 after three rounds, did manage a final round of one-under 71, but slipped from overnight tied eighth to tied 12th at 8-under total. Meanwhile, Pranavi shot her best round of the week with an action-packed back nine. She shot 69 and finished 7-under to be tied 16th. Ashleigh Buhai, fired a final round of 68 (-4) to win the event.

## BFC in ISL final

**Bangalore:** India goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu emerged the hero as his crucial saves helped Bengaluru FC (BFC) beat Mumbai City FC in penalty shootout to enter the ISL final here Sunday. Sandhu saved a penalty at the start of the game and at the end of the shootout as BFC won the tie-breaker after the semifinal was tied 2-2 on aggregate, following Mumbai City FC's 2-1 victory after extra time. BFC had beaten League Shield winners Mumbai City FC 1-0 in the first leg of the semifinal March 7 in Mumbai. After 16 penalties were scored, Sandhu saved Mehtab Singh's shot before Sandesh Jhingan scored the winning spot-kick to give the Blues a 9-8 win in the shootout.

## Brenda bags title

**Bangalore:** Top seed Brenda Fruhvirtova of the Czech Republic gave a fine demonstration of fighting skills on way to beating India's Ankita Raina 0-6, 6-4, 6-0 to clinch the ITF Women's Open singles title here Sunday. Brenda, the World No. 163, did not look sharp in the first set and lost it tamely. The second set began in similar fashion with Raina building a 3-0 lead, and a quick end to the match loomed. But a break in the fifth game proved to be the turning point as Brenda soon levelled the score at 3-3 and then converted a breakpoint in the ninth game to take a 5-4 lead.

## Poor show by shooters

**Doha:** The Indian trap mixed team of Prithviraj Tondaiman and Shreyasi Singh finished sixth as the country's shooters ended the ISSF Shotgun World Cup here Sunday with just a bronze medal. Prithviraj and Shreyasi shot a combined score of 142 out of 150 in the qualification, which was a point less than the bronze medal match qualifying score of 143, attained by Turkey and Poland. It should be stated here that Prithviraj had won an individual bronze in men's trap event Saturday.

# Kiwis need 257 runs to put India in WTC final



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Christchurch, Mar 12 (AP)** Ageless Angelo Mathews (115, 235b, 11x4) ground out a determined century to steady Sri Lanka, then put his side back into a competitive position in a closely-fought match Sunday on the fourth day of the first Test against New Zealand here.

At 35 and in his 101st Test, Mathews produced his 14th century and one of his best. He was at the crease when play began, 20 not out overnight, and was finally out after tea for 115 with Sri Lanka 242 runs in front after trailing by 18 on the first innings.

Sri Lanka eventually were all out for 302, a lead of 284. At stumps, after 17 overs, New Zealand were 28-1, still 256 behind, and the Test is set for a thrilling final day. If New Zealand reach its target, it will be their third-highest suc-

cessful run chase in Tests. Also if the Kiwis win, it will help India to qualify for the World Test Championships (WTC) final irrespective of what the result may be in the fourth Test against Australia.

If Sri Lanka win, it will be only for the third time in New Zealand and it will keep alive their chances of reaching the final of the World Test Championships (WTC). If India

On a day of undulating fortunes when both teams at times felt in charge, Mathews was the most influential figure. He gave the innings some momentum by adding 105 runs for the fifth wicket with Dinesh Chandimal (42) and 60 runs for the seventh wicket with Dhananjaya de Silva (47).

**Brief scores:** Sri Lanka 355 and 302 (Angelo Mathews 115, Blair Tuckner 4/100); New Zealand 373 and 28 for 1. Match to continue.

# MI notch up 4th win on the trot

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, March 12:** Mumbai Indians (MI) kept their all-win record in the inaugural edition of the Women's Premier League (WPL) intact with an eight-wicket win over UP Warriorz here Sunday. This was the fourth victory on the trot for MI.

After being put in, Warriorz had scored 159 for the loss of six wickets in their quota of 20 overs. However, it did not prove much for MI as they reached the victory target with 15 balls to spare for the loss of two wickets.

Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur led the charge as she smashed a 33-ball unbeaten 53 (9x4, 1x6), while Nat Sciver-Brunt (45 n o, 31b, 6x4, 1x6) proved to be the perfect foil as the two put on an unbroken stand of 106 runs for the third wicket. None of the opposition bowlers were able to restrain either Kaur or Sciver-Brunt. Earlier Yastika Bhatia (42, 27b, 8x4, 1x6) had provided MI with a solid platform after opening the innings.

After being put in, Warriorz skipper Alyssa Healy (58, 46b, 7x4, 1x6) struck her second WPL half century, while Tahlia McGrath (50, 37b, 9x4) also contributed with the bat to take their team to a competitive score. However, in the end it was not enough.

Saika Ishaque (3/33) was the most successful bowler for Mumbai Indians and was well-supported by Amelia Kerr (2/33).

# Iyer doubtful for ODIs as back issues flare again

INJURY MANAGEMENT OF PLAYER BY NCA UNDER SCANNER ONCE AGAIN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Ahmedabad, March 12:** The Indian team and the National Cricket Academy's (NCA) injury management have once again come under the scanner with the recurrence of Shreyas Iyer's back injury Pain in his lower back forced Iyer to miss batting on day four of the fourth Test here. There is a high possibility that Iyer could miss the three-match ODI series against Australia, starting March 17 in Mumbai.

With World Cup being the most important tournament of the year and the player set to lead KKR in the IPL, it would be prudent if Iyer takes rest for some time.

"Shreyas Iyer complained of pain in his lower back following the third day's play. He has gone for scans and the BCCI medical team is monitoring him," BCCI said in an update.

Iyer's injury came to light after wicketkeeper-batter Kona Bharat came out to bat ahead of him following the dismissal of Ravindra Jadeja in the morning session. Iyer had also missed the first Test in Nagpur due to a back issue before returning for the second game in Delhi.

However, the bigger question



now is that whether NCA once again gave go-ahead to a player who isn't fully fit.

"Yes, it could be a case of the injury resurfacing after fielding for nearly 170 overs during the Australian innings. But I fail to understand why was the earlier norm of making it mandatory to play at least one domes-

tic game wasn't made applicable for Iyer?" a former national selector asked.

Iyer played both the Tests at Delhi and Indore but his body didn't go through the rigours like it did here. Iyer, when he first had the lower back issue in January, was out for one month and underwent intensive rehabilitation at NCA.

# Easy wins for Swiatek, Murray

WORLD NO. 1 IGA BEGINS CAMPAIGN IN IMPERIOUS FASHION

AGENCIES

**Indian Wells, March 12:** Top-ranked Iga Swiatek routed Claire Liu in 65 minutes to win her opening match at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament here Saturday. Swiatek, the defending champion who took over the No. 1 ranking nearly a year ago, won 6-0, 6-1. She lost just seven points in the first set.

"Tactically and tennis-wise, everything was on point," Swiatek said after the match. "I had so many matches that were going my way in last couple of weeks that I know what to do," she added.

However, things turned soar for second seed Stefanos Tsitsipas in men's singles. His hopes of taking over the World No. 1 ranking with an Indian Wells title ended in a 6-7 (0-7), 6-4, 6-7 (5-7) second round loss to Australian Jordan Thompson on Friday.

Taylor Fritz, the defending men's champion, rallied past former NCAA singles

winner Ben Shelton, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3. Shelton's biggest serve reached 147 mph. "I expected him to come out serving bombs, playing well," Fritz said. "I was ready for it, I just had to regroup, just find a way and



problem solve. He's an incredible player and it was an extremely tough first match to come out and

play, so I'm happy to get through it."

Andy Murray beat Radu Albot, 6-4, 6-3 in his first straight set victory of the year to set up a third round match with Jack Draper. Murray had just 18 unforced errors to 35 for Albot, and never faced a breakpoint on his serve while firing six aces.

"Hopefully I can keep pushing myself up the rankings, keep building that confidence, and maybe get a few more straightforward draws, as well," Murray said.

Jannik Sinner defeated Richard Gasquet, 6-3, 7-6 (7-2). The 21-year-old Sinner fired 20 forehand winners against the 36-year-old veteran. "Obviously it was a tough match today, especially in the beginning I was a little bit tight," Sinner said on court.

# Gunners reclaim 5-point lead in PL

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**London, March 12:** Arsenal reclaimed their five-point lead in the Premier League by outclassing Fulham in a 3-0 win Sunday. Gabriel Magalhães, Gabriel Martinelli and Martin Odegaard scored first half goals at Craven Cottage to secure a fifth straight victory in the league for the Gunners. Leandro Trossard provided the assist for all the three goals.

Second-placed Manchester City had applied pressure on Mikel Arteta's team by winning 1-0 at Crystal Palace, Saturday, briefly reducing the gap to two points. Both Arsenal and City have 11 games left.

There was further good news for Arsenal, with Brazil striker Gabriel Jesus coming off the bench in the 77th minute for his first appearance since undergoing surgery December 6.

Arsenal had already had a goal disallowed for offside following a video review by the time Gabriel headed in a left-wing corner from Trossard in the 21st minute. The Belgium midfielder set up the second goal five minutes later, too, digging out a cross from the left that Martinelli nodded in after beating Fulham defender Antonee Robinson to the ball.

Trossard then helped Odegaard to score the third goal.