

#model\_state\_rajasthan



## Now Right to Health in Rajasthan

Rajasthan has emerged as a Model State in the field of health by strengthening medical facilities up to villages and hamlets along with providing free treatment up to Rs 25 lakh in the Chiranjeevi Swasthya Bima Yojana, Free Medicine and Tests Scheme, Nirogi Rajasthan Abhiyan and with the excellent management of Covid. Now we have given the benefits of these schemes to the people of the State in the form of the Right to Health by providing legal guarantee. It is a progressive law that guarantees the Right to Health according to Article 47 and Article 21 of the Constitution. On World Health Day (April 7), I expect that every citizen of the country gets the Right to Health.

**Ashok Gehlot**, Chief Minister, Rajasthan

### Schemes that are currently operated for the better health

**Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Swasthya Bima Yojana**

Free Health Insurance for  
**Rs 25 lakh**  
along with Accident Insurance  
for Rs 10 lakh

**Mukhyamantri Nishulk Nirogi Rajasthan Yojana**

**All treatments free**  
including indoor, outdoor, all types of tests  
and medicines in all government medical institutions.

Cashless Medical Facility to personnel and pensioners of the state under Rajasthan Government Health Scheme (RGHS)

Now the people of the State got the legal guarantee of free health schemes  
**Right to Health (RTH)**

### Important Provisions of the Right to Health Bill

- OPD, IPD, Consultations, Medicines, Tests, Transport, Procedures, and Emergency Care are free in Government and Designated Private Medical Institutions.
- If the patient does not pay the hospital after emergency treatment, the government will reimburse it.
- Treatment will be given even if the police report is not received.
- Right to get complete information about treatment.
- Right to choose the place to get medicine or get tested.
- Right to seek opinion about the treatment from some other doctor or hospital.
- There is also a provision for grievance redressal mechanism in the Act.
- Provision of auto-approval for timely payment to private medical institutions.
- Right to go to civil court against the decision of the authority.

All government medical institutions along with designated private medical institutions are included in **RTH**.  
The reach of the designated hospitals will be increased in a phased manner.  
It is proposed to provide additional facilities to the designated private hospitals included in **RTH**.

Medical personnel and doctors have an important role in the effective implementation of the Right to Health. Therefore provisions related to their dignity have been kept in RTH, along with have also mentioned the rights, duties and responsibilities of hospitals, medical personnel and citizens. It is the responsibility of all of us to respect the medical personnel.

Protection to Doctors through the Rajasthan Medicare Service Persons and Medicare Service Institutions (Prevention of Violence and Damage to Property) Act, 2008 and SOPs issued on 29 May, 2022.

Department of Information and Public Relations



Rajasthan Samwad



**OLIVIA WANTS EX JASON TO PAY CHILDCARE COSTS**

Actress filed court papers against her ex Jason Sudeikis, which a source close to Jason claims are 'unfair and unfounded' accusations. The actress said that the later behaved with aggressive conduct and paid no child support, reports *Mirror.co.uk*.

**DEPP RETURNS TO THE SCREEN AFTER 3 YEARS**

Johnny Depp has returned to the silver screen with historical drama *Jeanne du Barry*, as the French king Louis XV. The movie is set for a world premiere on the opening night of the Cannes Film Festival's 76th edition.



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**ARIES**  
Just grab any chance you get to demonstrate your expressive abilities, as it will fetch widespread appreciation. Something about your children may make you proud. However, Ganesh says, don't neglect the aged members of your family.

**TAURUS**  
This opt a good day for being too firm or demanding. Ganesh advises you to steer clear of conflicts, arguments disputes. If you cannot avoid confrontation be sure you are the one who will have to step back. Loss of face and self esteem may be unavoidable.

**GEMINI**  
You will be able to express your thoughts and opinions to the people you come in contact with today. They will also reciprocate and echo your feelings and emotions. This will give you validation and satisfaction. The day should be filled with fun and entertainment overall, says Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
You may face unwanted events and circumstances. As a result you will feel sad, yet you will wriggle out of it with your efficiency. Put in efforts in studies, says Ganesh.

**LEO**  
Your expenses may shoot through the roof if you do not pay careful attention to your finances. You will want to splurge on expensive perfumes and clothing. You will be able to attract those of the opposite sex.

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

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

**SCORPIO**  
Relationships are the crux of life. It's very important how you make your near and dear ones feel when you are around. Make someone feel special today. Try to sort out misunderstandings if any. Don't dominate your friends or family members, says Ganesh.

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

**CAPRICORN**  
Pain and fun, both are the two sides of a coin and today, you will experience both of them in equal amount. You may have to slog yourself to earn money, but be careful and don't drain yourself out, advises Ganesh.

**AQUARIUS**  
Today will not be your day. You will find it difficult to create a peaceful environment in your home and adding to the woes will your children who will be making things even more difficult for you to handle. There may be some family disputes also, and green-eyed neighbours will try to add fuel to the fire.

**PISCES**  
Your day today will be like a tug-of-war competition. Try to come out on top in this competition. Ganesh advises you not to underestimate your enemies. It is advisable to find a solution or avoid conflict so that you don't need to waste your energy in this.

**Malaika looks back on being known only for 'great body'**



**Mumbai:** Dancer and fitness enthusiast Malaika Arora has recalled that for the longest time in her career, she was thought of 'as a sexy bombshell'. In a recent interview, the actress opened up about how no one took her seriously during her early struggles in her career.

While speaking to a news portal, Malaika said, "When you are perceived as a sexy bombshell, no one takes you seriously. And this is what people thought about me for the longest time. It bothered me how people thought of me as just a 'great body' and a 'good face. I wanted to break away from this image, and I worked on myself to do so."

She also added, "Confidence was never an issue. If there is one thing that I have in abundance, it's confidence. Today, I feel I am calmer and wiser, something I certainly wasn't when I was growing up. I remember I was constantly dealing with internal strife. Having said that, I am a born hustler and I will die a hustler."

Recently, Malaika made her digital debut with Disney+ Hotstar as she gave fans access to her life through unfiltered conversations in the show *Moving In With Malaika*.

**Vidya recalls being labelled as 'jinx'**

**Mumbai:** Vidya Balan has had an incredible journey in the world of entertainment. With her recent roles in *Sheri* and *Jalsa*, Balan has established herself as one of the most versatile and talented actors in the industry. However, once upon a time, she was labelled as a 'jinx' and the actress herself has shared this recently.

Shedding more details, she said that she had been offered a role in a Malayalam movie alongside Mohanlal, but unfortunately, the project was cancelled before it could materialise. She had been informally approached for several other projects, but once rumours began to spread about the cancelled movie, she was labelled as 'jinxed' and missed out on other work opportunities.

The actress said, "They did not realise that the industry was going through a tough time. I was called jinxed, and because of that, I lost faith in myself. It was a tough time and I faced a lot of rejections. However, since I was still doing ads then, I met the late Pradeep Sarkar, and the first day he told me, I will make a film with you. So there was no question of choosing *Parineeta*; the film chose me."

**Audience loves female oriented films: Radhika**

**Mumbai:** *Sacred Games* actress Radhika Apte will be seen playing Durga, a housewife and an undercover agent, in the upcoming spy comedy *Mrs Undercover*. She said she fell in love with her character the minute she heard the script. The actress added that, now, women-led films are getting more attention from viewers.

think the premise of the film was really exciting for me. We live in a country where there is a lot of patriarchy and so many women slog days and nights to keep their families happy, and yet go unnoticed. So, I think it did resonate with me. What I like about Durga is her innocence, her naivety, her clumsiness and even her journey of discovering herself. I think that was really good."

She further added, "I mean, it's high time that we have equality; the world is changing and now everyone is fighting for equal rights, equal pay, equal job opportunities and equal recognition. The film industry is just a reflection of what is going on in society and the world is changing very slowly."

*Mrs Undercover* will premiere April 14 on ZEE5.

IANS

**'Clean content' always works better: Salman**

**Mumbai:** Salman Khan is known for his blunt responses when it comes to paparazzi or the media. Recently, in a press conference, he opened up on the increasing popularity of OTT and censorship on the platforms for displaying vulgarity, nudity and swearing. He stated that 'clean content' is always more effective.

The actor asserted, "I really think there should be censorship on the medium. All this vulgarity, nudity and swearing should stop. 15- and 16-year-olds can now watch this content on their phones. I just think the content should be checked for OTT. The cleaner the content, the better and it will also have a larger viewership."

He continued, "You have done it all—lovmaking and kissing in scenes. And when you enter your building, your watchman is watching the same. So, I just don't think that's right for security reasons. We live in India. It was way too much before, but finally, it was curbed. Now, people have started working on a lot of good and decent content."

On the professional front, the 57-year-old actor is currently busy with his Eid release, *Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan*. The film is slated to release April 21.

AGENCIES

**PEANUTS**



**CALVIN AND HOBBS**

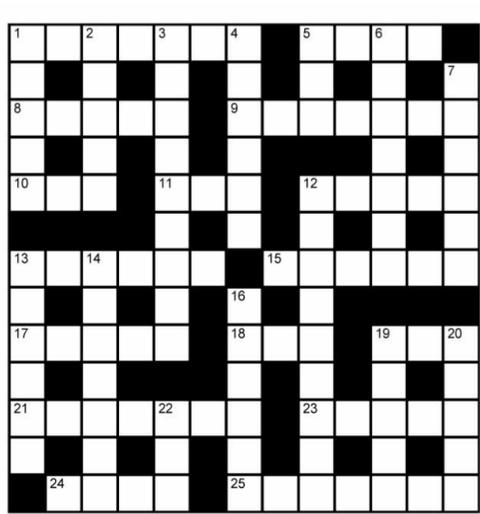


**BREVITY**



**FUN post**

**CROSSWORD**



- Across**
- 1 Policeman
  - 5 It can be found in the road
  - 8 Continental cash
  - 9 Time of origin, as wine
  - 10 Aggregate
  - 11 Dingy mover
  - 12 Sticky
  - 13 Gloomy
  - 15 Rope down a cliff
  - 17 Malicious
  - 18 Uncle, in Pamplona
  - 19 Whelp
  - 21 Manoeuvred
  - 23 Camera output
  - 24 Single-dish meal
  - 25 SA wildcats
  - 5 Marshland
  - 6 Driver's aid (4,3)
  - 7 \_\_\_ and Hyde
  - 12 Make more interesting
  - 13 Sweet roll
  - 14 Detective's target
  - 16 Artist's locale, at times
  - 19 It has a keyboard
  - 20 Media
  - 22 Uncooked
- Down**
- 1 Kilns
  - 2 Assembly
  - 3 Usual
  - 4 Idolise

**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.

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

**SOLUTIONS**

**CROSSWORD**

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

**SUDOKU**

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

SALUTING THE SPIRIT  
THAT ALWAYS SHINES  
IN THE SEARCH OF TRUTH!

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# national



Gandhi family has been agitating over people's issues for the past many years while others are enjoying themselves  
MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | CONGRESS LEADER

## PRESIDENT ARRIVES IN ASSAM ON 3-DAY VISIT

President Droupadi Murmu Thursday arrived in Assam on a three-day visit during which she will take part in several programmes including attending the Platinum Jubilee celebration of the Gauhati High Court



### of the day quote

India shares Japan's vision for a free, open and rules-based Indo-Pacific. Both countries must continue to expand the scope of their bilateral cooperation  
RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

The 5th UN Intergovernmental Conference on the international legally binding instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity under the UN Convention on Law of the Sea has concluded the negotiations March 4  
S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

Any decision by the central government in this regard will be totally unacceptable because the import of these products will directly affect the income of the domestic milk producers  
SHARAD PAWAR | NCP CHIEF

### SHORT TAKES

#### J'hkhand education minister dies

Ranchi: Jharkhand minister Jagarnath Mahto died Thursday at a hospital in Chennai where he was undergoing treatment, a senior doctor of the health facility said. He was 56. Mahto, the minister for school education and literacy, was airlifted to Chennai last month due to health complications. He had undergone a lung transplant in November 2020 after suffering from COVID-19. "Mahto breathed his last today," Dr Apar Jindal of MGM Healthcare told PTI.

#### Mehbooba daughter gets passport

Srinagar: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti's daughter Iltija has been issued a passport for a limited period of two years to allow her to study abroad despite an adverse report by the CID, officials said Thursday. Iltija, 35, had moved the Jammu and Kashmir High Court in February for issuance of the passport for her studies after her application for the travel document was not cleared. Her passport had expired January 2 and she had applied for a fresh one in advance June 8 last year.

#### LeT terrorist associate held

Srinagar: Security forces have arrested a terrorist associate of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) in Bandipora district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said Thursday. On specific information regarding the movement of terrorists in Alooosa area of Bandipora, in north Kashmir, a special checkpoint was established near Canal Road Alooosa, by security forces, a police spokesperson said. During checking, one terrorist associate linked with proscribed terror outfit LeT was apprehended, he said.

#### 55 fall sick after eating ice cream

Khargone: Fifty five people fell sick, two of them critically, due to food poisoning after eating ice cream at a religious function in Madhya Pradesh's Khargone district, officials said. Those who took ill included 25 children, they said, adding the ice cream samples have been sent for testing. These people ate the ice cream prepared and sold by one Dinesh Kushwaha Wednesday night during a religious function at a temple in Chhatal village, 14 km from the district headquarters, Khargone's Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr Daulat Singh Chauhan told PTI.

## Centre recommends CBI probe against Oxfam India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 6: The Union Home Ministry Thursday recommended a CBI probe into the affairs of the Indian arm of the global NGO Oxfam for alleged violation of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, sources said.

The home ministry found that Oxfam India continued to transfer foreign contributions to various entities, including other NGOs, even after registering under the FCRA, which prohibits such transfers after an amendment that came into force September 29, 2020, sources said.

On March 20, the home ministry recommended a CBI inquiry against Aman Biradari, an NGO established by activist Harsh Mander. Aman Biradari was one of the NGOs to which Oxfam India transferred foreign contributions, violating the law, sources said.

There was no immediate reaction from Oxfam India. During a survey by the Income-Tax department, multiple emails were found which revealed that Oxfam India was allegedly planning to circumvent provisions of the FCRA by routing funds to other FCRA-registered associations or through the for-profit consultancy route, sources said.

The survey also "exposed" Oxfam India as a probable instrument of the foreign policy of foreign organisations or entities, which have funded the NGO liberally over the years, they said.

Oxfam India, which is registered to carry out social activities, allegedly routed funds to the Delhi-based think tank Centre for Policy Research (CPR) through its associates and employees in the form of a commission, sources said.

The same is also reflected in the TDS data of Oxfam India, which



Oxfam India is the second NGO against whom the home ministry has recommended a CBI probe within a month for alleged violation of the FCRA (Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act)

shows a payment of ₹12,71,188 to the CPR in 2019-20. Oxfam India received foreign contributions amounting to about ₹1.50 crore directly into its foreign contribution utilisation account instead of receiving them in the designated FCRA account, they said.

Following these findings, the home ministry recommended a CBI probe against Oxfam India, they added. The Income-Tax department conducted surveys against CPR and Oxfam India, besides a media foundation, in September as part of a probe related to alleged FCRA contravention in funds received by them.

Oxfam India's FCRA licence was suspended in January 2022, after which the NGO filed a revision petition with the home ministry. The FCRA licence of CPR was suspended for six months on March 1 for alleged violation of laws.

All NGOs receiving foreign contributions have to mandatorily register with the home ministry under the FCRA. According to the Oxfam

India website, the NGO has been in India since 1951 and it is a "movement of people working to end discrimination and create a free and just society". "We work to ensure that Adivasis, Dalits, Muslims, and Informal Sector Workers, especially women and girls have safe, violence-free lives with freedom to speak their mind, equal opportunities to realise their rights, and a discrimination-free future," the website says.

Officials said between 2018 and 2022, the FCRA registration of 1,827 NGOs was cancelled due to violation of its provisions and rules. As March 10, 2023, there were 16,383 FCRA-registered organisations.

A total amount of ₹55,449 crore in foreign funding has been received by Indian NGOs in the last three years. An amount of ₹16,306.04 crore was received by NGOs across the country in 2019-20, ₹17,058.64 crore in 2020-21, and ₹22,085.10 crore in 2021-22, the Rajya Sabha was informed last month.

### PROTEST FOR ST STATUS

## 88 trains cancelled, hundreds of vehicles stranded

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jhargram, April 6: Eighty-five trains were cancelled, and hundreds of vehicles remained stranded as different organisations of the Kudmi community continued their rail and road blockade in West Bengal's Paschim Medinipur district Thursday demanding ST status, officials said.

The protest started at 6 am Tuesday with the blockade of the old National Highway 6, which connects Kolkata to Mumbai, at Khemasuli in Kharagpur Local police station area by Kudmi Samaj West Bengal, they said.

Another organisation of the community, Adivasi Kudmi Samaj, joined the protest Wednesday, blocking the railway tracks at Khemasuli station in Kharagpur-Tatanagar section, and Kustaur station in Adra-Chandil section in Purulia district, they added.

Among the trains cancelled Thursday were Howrah-Pune Duranto Express, Howrah-Jagdalur Express, Howrah-Pune Azad Hind Express, Howrah-Ahmedabad Express, Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express, Howrah-Ranchi Express, Shalimar-LIT Express, Howrah-Mumbai CSMT Mail and Santragachi-Rani Kamalapati Humsafar Express, the South Eastern Railway said in a statement.

Hundreds of vehicles were stranded on NH 6, triggering massive traffic snarls even on the adjoining roads in Paschim Medinipur and Jhargram districts.

Some of the vehicles were being diverted through Balibhasha in Jhargram to bypass the blockade, officials said. Drivers of the stranded vehicles said they were facing scarcity of food and water.

## Hope China will allow continued presence of Indian journalists: MEA

THE COMMENTS BY ARINDAM BAGCHI IN DELHI CAME DAYS AFTER CHINA DECIDED TO "FREEZE" VISAS OF TWO INDIAN JOURNALISTS



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Beijing, April 6: India Thursday hoped that Chinese authorities would facilitate continued presence of Indian journalists in China.

The comments by External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi in Delhi came days after China decided to "freeze" visas of two Indian journalists.

"There are Chinese journalists who have valid Indian visas to undertake journalistic activities," Bagchi said responding to a question on the issue.

From that perspective, we don't see any difficulties in doing reporting (by the Chinese journalists), he said. "As regards to Indian journalists working in China, we would hope that Chinese authorities would facilitate their continued presence and reporting from China," Bagchi said.

"We are in touch with Chinese authorities in this regard," he said. Meanwhile, China has sought re-

iprocal measures from India for the facilitation of its journalists even as it defended its recent move to freeze the visas of the two Indian correspondents.

China's Foreign Ministry officials on Tuesday informed Ananth Krishnan, the China correspondent of The Hindu, and Anshuman Mishra, the Beijing-based correspondent of Prasar Bharati, who are currently in India on leave that their visas have been "frozen" and they cannot return until further orders.

Asked why China resorted to the suspension of visas of the two Indian journalists, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told a media briefing that "for a long-time Chinese journalists have received unfair and discriminatory treatment in India". "In 2017, India shortened the visa for Chinese journalists from three months to one month. In 2020, India refused to approve applications from Chinese journalists to go to India," she claimed.

## Delhi Excise 'scam': ED files supplementary chargesheet



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 6: The Enforcement Directorate Thursday filed a supplementary charge sheet before a court here in a money laundering case related to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam in which former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia is also an accused.

Special Judge Vikas Dhull put up the charge sheet before the judge concerned for consideration April 14. Sisodia is currently in judicial custody till April 17 in the matter and a Delhi court is scheduled to hear his bail plea April 12. This is ED's second supplementary prosecution complaint (agency's equivalent of a charge sheet).

The complaint has been filed against Raghav Magunta, Rajesh Joshi, Gautam Malhotra and five firms related to them. The agency, which has arrested senior AAP

leader Manish Sisodia, has yet not filed a charge sheet against him. With today's report, filed by ED's Special Public Prosecutor N K Matta, the number to accused charge-sheeted in the case rose to 25.

In its charge sheet containing around 2,000 pages, the agency has included statement of witnesses and accused persons as well as e-mail and other data. During the arguments on Sisodia's bail application, the ED had told the court on April 5 that the investigation in the case against Sisodia is at a "crucial" stage and it has found fresh evidence of his complicity.

A Delhi court had earlier dismissed Sisodia's bail application in the corruption case related to the excise scam that is being probed by the CBI.



Devotees rush to vehicles parked near burning camphor, lit on fire as part of a ritual during the celebration of the 'Karaga' festival at Dharmaraya Swamy temple in Bangalore, Karnataka

## SC closes contempt plea against Delhi police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 6: The Supreme Court Thursday closed activist Tushar Gandhi's contempt plea against the Delhi Police after taking note of submissions that a charge sheet in a case of hate speeches made at religious assemblies in the national capital in 2021 was filed in a court here.

A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice J B Pardiwala considered the submissions of Additional Solicitor General K M Nataraj, appearing for the Delhi Police, that a charge sheet after conclusion of the investigation was filed in a court of the Metropolitan

Magistrate here April 4. The bench refused to direct Delhi police that a copy of the charge sheet be made available to Gandhi, who is not part of the proceedings before the trial court.

Now the charge sheet is filed, our role has come to an end," the bench said, adding that now the proceedings in the trial court will

be conducted as per the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).

Earlier, the Delhi Police had said the investigation into the case was at an advanced stage and a probe report will be filed shortly.

Nataraj had said that the police were expecting a Forensic Science Laboratory report on voice samples of the accused and the charge sheet will be filed after that.

## Air pollution linked to lower Covid vax response: Study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 6: People exposed to higher levels of air pollution before the pandemic had lower antibody responses to Covid-19 vaccines, according to a study.

In particular, exposure to fine particulate matter (PM2.5), nitrogen dioxide (NO2) and black carbon was associated with about a 10 per cent decrease in IgM and IgG antibody responses in people without prior infection, the researchers said.

The findings, published in the journal Environmental Health Perspectives, provide further evidence on the adverse effects of air pollution on the immune system.



"Air pollution has been linked to adverse health outcomes, including lung cancer, cardiovascular and respiratory disease, and diabetes," said Manolis Kogevinas from the Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal). "Air pollutants have been shown to affect immune

responses, so in this study we wished to determine whether air pollution also affects antibody responses to COVID-19 vaccines," said Kogevinas.

The team analysed data from 927 participants aged 40 to 65 years, who answered questionnaires and gave blood samples in the summer of 2020 and in the spring of 2021. All had received one or two doses of the main Covid-19 vaccines administered in Spain made by

AstraZeneca, Pfizer or Moderna. The research team measured IgM, IgG and IgA antibodies to five viral antigens (three of them on the spike protein contained in the vaccine). Exposure to PM2.5, black carbon, NO2 and ozone (O3) was estimated for each participant based on their address before the pandemic.

"The collaboration of all volunteers in the cohort, with more than ten years of data, has allowed us to reliably estimate the level of en-

vironmental exposure of all participants," said Rafael de Cid, co-author of the study.

The results show that in uninfected individuals, pre-pandemic exposure to PM2.5, NO2 and black carbon was associated with a 5 to 10 per cent reduction in vaccine-induced spike antibodies.

The decrease in antibodies was shown both for early IgM responses and late responses measured by IgG, the researchers said. The IgG response after the first dose peaked later in participants exposed to higher air pollution levels, and lower IgG levels persisted for several months after vaccination. Results were similar for the three vaccines.

"Air pollution can induce chronic inflammation, which has been associated with a negative effect on vaccine efficacy," said Carlota Dobano, co-senior author of the study, together with Cathryn Tonne. "Our findings are consistent with evidence that persistent organic pollutants reduce vaccine responses in children," Dobano added.

The fact that previous infections lead to higher vaccine responses could explain why the effect of pollutants was only observed in people without a prior infection, the researchers said. However, the role of long-term exposure to air pollution on hybrid immunity (infection plus vaccination) deserves further investigation, they added.



## THE NEW NORMAL

Actor Radhika Apte believes that women-centric films are recently getting extra attention from viewers

LEISURE



## RISING TENSIONS

China's maritime safety administration launches a special patrol and inspection operation in the central and northern parts of Taiwan Strait

INTERNATIONAL P6



## BENZEMA SINKS BARCA

Karim Benzema's hat-trick helps Real Madrid thrash Barcelona 4-0 and enter the Copa del Rey final

SPORTS BACK PAGE

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BHUBANESWAR | FRIDAY, APRIL 7 | 2023

P1



**VOICING DISSENT:** Leaders of various Opposition parties participate Thursday in the 'Tiranga March' towards Vijay Chowk from Parliament in New Delhi to protest against the misrule of the BJP

# LS productivity only 34%

Despite the Budget Session going full distance, the first time during the Modi 2.0 regime, frequent disruptions affected functioning of both Houses

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, April 6:** After a series of truncated sessions during the 'Modi 2.0 regime', the Budget Session of the Parliament was the first one to conclude as per schedule. It was the only session to have gone the full distance in the last three years. The Budget Session began January 31 and ended April 6 with a recess from February 14 to March 12.

Both the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha were adjourned sine die Thursday amid disruptions. The 2023 Budget Session saw both the Treasury Bench and the Opposition causing frequent disruptions and both were responsible for hampering the proceedings. As a result productivity of both the Houses suffered. While the Lok Sabha had a productivity of little over 34 per cent, the same for the Rajya Sabha was a poor 24.4% as per information provided by Union Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Arjun Ram Meghwal.

"The productivity of the Lok Sabha during the Budget Session, 2023 was approximately 34 per cent and that of the Rajya Sabha was 24.4 per cent," informed the minister. Against the 27 scheduled sittings, a total of 25 only could be held in both the Houses, but for 18 days the Houses could not sit for the scheduled six hours per day due to ruckus.



Disruptions claimed at least 108 hours and 30 minutes of the Rajya Sabha and over 96 hours of Lok Sabha.

According to the PRS Legislative Research, both Houses witnessed repeated adjournments of the Question Hour throughout the Session. The Lok Sabha could take questions for 4.32 hours while the figure for Rajya Sabha was worse at 1.85 hours for the entire Budget Session.

Meanwhile Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said in his speech that the House began January 31 and President Droupadi Murmu delivered her address to the joint sitting on that day. He said there were over 13 hours of debate on motion to thank the President for her address and 143 MPs participated in it. The Prime Minister replied to the debate.

Birla said the budget was pre-

sent February 1 and the debate on it took place for over 14 hours with 145 MPs participating and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman giving her replies.

Birla stated that the Lok Sabha has not been functioning properly since the second part of the Budget Session began March 13 due to protests by Opposition and the Treasury Benches.

While the Opposition was unrelenting in its demand for a JPC, the Treasury Benches demanded an apology from Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his democracy is under attack remarks in London.

Significantly despite the continuous logjam in both the houses, the Session was not curtailed as it had happened in the last three years. **Contd...P3**

# NO CHANGE IN RBI REPO RATE

AGENCIES

**Mumbai, April 6:** After raising interest rate by a cumulative 250 basis points in 11 months, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) unexpectedly kept Thursday the benchmark rate unchanged as global banking woes added uncertainty to the economic outlook.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das however pledged to hike the interest rate again if needed. He said the decision to pause was 'for this meeting only'. "If I have to characterise today's monetary policy in just one line...It's a pause, not a pivot," Das told reporters.

Most analysts had expected one final hike of 25 basis points in RBI's current tightening cycle before hitting a pause.

The RBI lowered its inflation forecast to 5.2 per cent for 2023-24 from 5.3% with Das saying 'war against inflation has to continue'.

The RBI also revised the economic growth projection for the current fiscal to 6.5 per cent. **P7**

# 4 dead in 2 road accidents

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jharsuguda, April 6:** Three truck drivers were charred to death as their vehicles collided and caught fire in this district in the wee hours of Thursday, police said. Two others were also critically injured in the blaze. The Odisha government is observing 'zero fatality week' but there has been no let up in the spate of road accidents in the state.

The accident happened on National Highway 49 near Jharsuguda Sadar police station, police informed. The drivers of the three trucks could not come

out of their vehicles after the collision, following which they were burnt alive, police informed. They added that since one of the trucks was laden with coal, the blaze spread very quickly not giving the victims any chance to come out of the vehicles.

Fire services personnel arrived at the spot and doused the blaze. They informed that the identities of the victims or the injured are yet to be ascertained. With the injured, who are undergoing treatment at the district headquarters hospital here, still not regaining sense, police have not been able to get their identities.

Police also stated that most of the documents in the vehicles have been reduced to ashes and hence, there is no proof to establish the identities of the victims.

In another road accident, a person was killed when a car and truck collided head-on near Bidanasi Square in Cuttack late Wednesday night, police said. Two others were seriously injured and are currently undergoing treatment at the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack. The deceased and the injured are from Dhenkanal district. Police added that the car was moving on the wrong side of the road.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



We are indebted to Nathuram ji! It is because of him this man became famous in the world

# SI held for taking bribe

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, April 6:** A sub-inspector (SI) of Khandagiri police station was caught red-handed Thursday along with an accomplice while receiving a bribe of ₹50,000. The SI, Susanta Kumar Swain was allegedly accepting the money to help a person against whom a fraud case had been registered in the same police station in 2021. Sources said Swain had joined the service in 2015. Meanwhile, the other accused, Chiranjiv Bala, was working as a computer operator on a daily basis at the same police station.

Sources in the Vigilance department said Swain was the investigating officer in the case (No 22/21) registered January 9, 2021. It was filed by Amiya Kumar Ratha who accused that one Prakash Chandra Nayak allegedly duped him of ₹16 lakh on the pretext of providing a plot of land



Susanta Kumar Swain

in the Odisha capital. Swain allegedly asked Nayak to pay ₹2 lakh to him promising that he would provide a favourable final report in the case. Sources said that earlier he had taken bribes to the tune of ₹4 lakh. However, Swain continued to press for more money from the complainant.

Irritated at the constant demand for bribes, Nayak informed the Vigilance department. Accordingly a trap was laid and Swain was apprehended red-handed.

"Following the arrest, simultaneous raids are being conducted on properties of Swain. Both Swain and Bala have been arrested and will be forwarded to the court," Vigilance sources said.

A case (No 9/23) has been registered at the Bhubaneswar Vigilance Police station under sections 7 PC Act, 1988 as amended by PC (Amendment) Act, 2018.

## Kalahandi to get new medical college soon

**Bhawanipatna:** The National Medical Commission (NMC) approved Thursday the opening of a government Medical College in this town of Kalahandi district. The medical college which will be functional from 2023-24 academic season onwards will have 100 MBBS seats. Basant Pradhan principal/dean said the construction work of the academic and administrative block, hostels and staff quarters has been completed at an investment of ₹200 crore. **P3**

## Naravane appointed Jharsuguda Collector

**Brajrajnagar:** The Odisha government Thursday, appointed 2015-batch IAS officer Aboli Sunil Naravane as the new District Collector and Magistrate of Jharsuguda. Her appointment comes ahead of the by-poll to the Jharsuguda Assembly segment which will be held May 10. Naravane will replace Saroj Samal. Naravane was serving as the District Collector of Subarnapur district prior to her new appointment and she has been asked to take up the new assignment immediately.

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	59832.97 ↑ 143.66
NIFTY	17599.15 ↑ 42.10
DOLLAR	82.16 ↓ ₹0.01
EURO	89.42 ↑ ₹0.07
GOLD	₹60,517 ↓ ₹339
SILVER	₹74,300 ↓ ₹255

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	37.6°C	37.4°C
TEMP MIN	25.6°C	25.6°C
Humidity	81%	83%
Rainfall	0.1mm	40.2mm
Forecast	Light to moderate rain	

# Trump 'cashing' in on felony charges

Since indictment, 'Not Guilty' T-shirts with Trump's mug shot are doing brisk business and \$12mn has been raised as election funds

AGENCIES

**New York, April 6:** Donald Trump did not have his mug shot taken when he was arrested and arraigned at a Manhattan court here. However, his re-election team is using his indictment to raise funds by marketing T-shirts with a specially-created 'Not Guilty' mug shot of the former US president.

Trump pleaded not guilty Tuesday to 34 felony counts of falsifying busi-



- Trump has been charged with 34 counts of felony
- Trump is 1st US President to be arraigned and arrested

ness records in connection with \$1,30,000 paid in hush money to adult film star Stormy Daniels during the 2016 US presidential election campaign.

Trump, 76, was arrested Tuesday and arraigned before New York

Supreme Court Justice Juan Merchan, as the global spectacle of the first criminal indictment ever of a former US President captivated audiences in America and around the world.

The former US president surrendered to the Manhattan district attorney's office Tuesday afternoon. He was fingerprinted while he was in custody but he was not handcuffed and neither was any mug shot taken as is done with people facing similar charges.

Trump and his aides are using his indictment and arraignment to bolster further support for his 2024 re-election campaign. His team claims to have collected more than USD 12 million since a grand jury voted to indict the former president last week. **Contd...P3**

DSPL-02

## World Health Day

7th April, 2023

"On the occasion of World Health Day, I convey hearty congratulation to all individuals and institutions involved in providing Health Care Services in the State."

(Naveen Patnaik)  
Chief Minister, Odisha

Healthy Odisha  
Happy Odisha

Achievements of the State Government in providing "Health for All"

- ▶ 'Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana' provides Universal Health Coverage to the people of the State.
- ▶ Odisha achieved the highest reduction in Infant Mortality in the country, for the period 2005-2020.
- ▶ Odisha achieved the highest decline in Malaria in the country through DAMaN programme which was also appreciated by WHO.
- ▶ Odisha ranks No. 1 in Full Immunisation Coverage in the Country.
- ▶ In last seven years, 7 new Medical Colleges and 2 new Post Graduate Medical Institutes have been established in the State.
- ▶ Odisha University of Health Sciences has been established to provide standardised and best quality medical education in the state.

Health & Family Welfare Department

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http://www.health.odisha.gov.in

OIPR-10003/13/0003/2324

An aimless life is always a miserable life.  
THE MOTHER



## Hope for Humanities

At a recent conference of German and American literary scholars, I suggested that our high-level discussions would matter only if we helped change students' lives. It is not enough to tell students how the skills developed in reading literature can "transfer" to other parts of their lives. Rather, we must help them become better interpreters of each other, so that they can become better friends, family members, and citizens.

I had anticipated that this argument would meet with skepticism or insistence that studying great works of literature is important for its own sake. To my surprise, the response went much further than that, and even included an accusation that I was condoning "tyranny." The idea that we might teach people how to live well, I was told, wrongly assumes that we ourselves know how to live well, and that we are right to impose our views on others.

There is some logic to this concern. After all, far-right politicians in many countries are currently trying to impose their values on students by banning certain subjects and books. But I was not advocating for university instructors to tell people how to live. My point was simply that we should help our students connect the classroom to their daily lives through meaningful reflection. The heated response I received speaks volumes about how some humanists have abdicated their historic role: to help people find meaning.

Too many teachers nowadays avoid engaging in serious conversations about living well. With the future of humanities instruction in doubt, this is a grave mistake. We urgently need to reconnect the humanities classroom to the age-old quest for a meaningful life, not least because there is deep yearning for this kind of education. From 2013 to 2019, sales of "self-help" books increased annually by 11% – and that was before they became an even bigger hit during the pandemic. Psychological treatment for stress and anxiety continues to rise, with reports of year-long waitlists just to see a therapist. In many countries, there simply are not enough mental-health services to meet the demand.

Moreover, as universities have gradually ceased to be centers for deep conversations about life, people have been creating their own forums for humanistic engagement. Groups like the Catherine Project, Night School Bar, and Premise are bringing people together outside of universities to hold wide-ranging discussions about life and art. It is little wonder that when universities do offer these kinds of classes, students respond. Three of Yale University's most popular courses are about happiness, death, and how to lead a life worth living. Unfortunately, these are the stand-out exceptions that prove the rule.

In the absence of thoughtful guidance, people will increasingly seek meaning elsewhere, and not always in healthy or fruitful ways. Social-science research demonstrates that when people feel adrift or deprived of meaning in their lives, they become more susceptible to authoritarian leaders. Open-minded humanists should probably worry less about the "tyranny" of helping people find meaning, and more about how the lack of meaning can lead to actual tyranny.

Given that there is massive demand for humanistic knowledge, why has such teaching been marginalised in the university? One reason is rooted in the Enlightenment's ideal of disinterested knowledge. Modern scientific investigation was supposed to free itself from "interests," especially misguided quests to deny science and follow religious dogma. But as science freed itself from oppressive theology, it also moved away from the search for meaning. Scientists rightly wanted to explain what was empirically verifiable, and there was no mathematical formula for how to live well.

Humanistic research also went down this path. For example, many scholars stopped trying to understand what poetry can teach us about how to live, and focused instead on offering formal, sociological, and historical accounts of poetry's role in human society. But as worthwhile as such research may be, it became too dominant, unwittingly leading to an academic monoculture of knowledge production that marginalises the bigger questions of life.

The good news is that we can re-engage with these bigger questions without recreating the problems of the past. Considerate classroom discussions of big humanistic questions can help everyone (students and instructors alike) better understand what a good life can be; and the knowledge of modern scholarship about topics like ecology, identity, narrative, and interpretation can be valuable aids in adding depth and relevance to these discussions.

The coming years may offer humanists a major new opportunity to reinvent themselves as the people who can best help students explore the wonders and challenges of human existence. Since the start of the pandemic, when so many people began to question economic pieties about the increasingly career-oriented nature of college, universities around the world have reported a resurgent interest in humanistic study. In the current academic year, for example, the number of declared humanities majors at the University of California, Berkeley, surged 121% compared to last year.

To be sure, these are preliminary figures, and we will have to see if the trend continues. But even a small uptick represents a crucial opportunity for the humanities. Even as we avoid "tyrannically" imposing our own assumptions on our students, we should be equally wary of neglecting to help them understand how to live well on their own terms.

The humanities can do that, and it is an instructor's job to show students how. Our classrooms should be places where the thorniest issues of life are considered, debated, and reimagined; where meaning and purpose are kindled and cherished; and where everyone can work together to understand and appreciate the fullness of life. It falls to us to ignite new enlightenments, where we combine the best of our scientific knowledge with the wisdom to make a meaningful world for all.

The writer is a research fellow at The New Institute in Hamburg.

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## WISDOM CORNER

The ideal man bears the accidents of life with dignity and grace, making the best of circumstances. ARISTOTLE

Concern should drive us into action and not into a depression. No man is free who cannot control himself. PYTHAGORAS

There are in fact two things, science and opinion; the former begets knowledge, the latter ignorance. HIPPOCRATES

## LOL

### NOBODY

This is the story of four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was



Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. Consequently, it wound up that Nobody told Anybody, so Everybody blamed Somebody.



DK Giri

THE USA IS BENEFITTING CONSIDERABLY FROM THE WAR IN UKRAINE THROUGH THEIR SALES OF WEAPONRY TO UKRAINE AND FUEL TO EUROPE



Avram Alpert

Our classrooms should be places where the thorniest issues of life are considered, debated, and reimagined

## FOCUS GEOPOLITICS

# EUROPEAN DILEMMA



Europeans realise and admit that Beijing is posing a systemic threat to the world seeking to change the global political system beyond what Europeans have lived with for centuries

I was talking intensely over a week with a European friend, who is also a friend of India with commendable knowledge of India's politics and business. The intriguing conclusion that emerged is that the world is running on the 'inescapable' principle of pragmatism while orating rhetoric on a rule-based international order. No wonder, the United Nations is rendered infructuous. It is time to assess the role and perspective of each power, mainly Europe.

Throwing a caveat, a word on the UNO – United Nations Organisation – is in order. The nomenclature of this world body itself is problematic. Having a fetish on the meaning of the words and concepts, I must say they have three kinds of meaning – actual, contextual and deeper. In all the three, the UN fails the test. UNO is not constituted by nations but by countries which are political structures. Nations are an idea, or an emotion manifested in cultures with multiple attributes – language, race, ethnicity, religions, castes (in India and Nepal or in other Hindu Diaspora), food and clothing habits, festivities and so on. Each of these attributes could constitute a nation. Is that the case in UNO? Definitely not. Consequently, when countries present themselves as nations, contradictions surface.

The above premise has partly caused the war in Ukraine. Note that Ukraine split from USSR as an independent country. But Russia considers Ukraine a part of the same race (nation) hence wants to reclaim it. Ukraine becoming a security threat for Russia at the behest of NATO is another story. But fight over nationalities is more complex than any other issues. Note the status of Kurds, Balochs in Pakistan, Basques in Spain, Uyghurs in China, Rohingya in Myanmar and the list goes on.

Europe has been the cradle of democracy, but in practice, at least in their external relations they have sacrificed human rights and democratic values at the drop of

a hat. They will like to do brisk business with Beijing as a matter of national economic interest and will go with the USA as their history, culture and security are unbreakably linked. The European countries, the big ones like Germany and France may not warm up to either China or USA, but they carry on with both.

The German Chancellor Olaf Scholz was in China immediately after coming to power. At the time of writing, the French President, Emmanuel Macron was in Beijing. Europe does not have direct enmity with Russia, yet it has to go with USA in isolating Russia for their affinity with the former for the reasons mentioned above. In fact, they are in quite an uncomfortable position. In view of the sanctions, Europe could not buy oil and gas from Russia and is compelled to buy at a much higher rate from USA. My friend asserted that the USA is benefitting considerably from the war in Ukraine through their sales of weaponry to Ukraine and fuel to Europe. USA too is pragmatic!

The Scandinavian countries have a bigger problem now. Dealing with an autocratic regime in Russia is a nightmare. Soviet Union made a blunder in 1979. Putin is doing it in the neighbourhood – Chechnya,

Georgia and now Ukraine. Putin believes that break-up of Soviet Union was the biggest mistake that he had his way, he would restore the Union by force. At any rate, brow-beating Ukraine is a nationalistic issue. Countries like Finland and Sweden are geographically close to Russia and cannot risk living beside an autocratic regime. So, they are joining NATO (Finland has already joined).

Europe is thrown into an existential dilemma with China. Following USA, they have had booming trade and commerce with Beijing to exploit the captive labour force, strict labour laws and so on. China has become too powerful now, a Frankenstein as I said before in this column. Europeans realise and admit that Beijing is posing a systemic threat to the world seeking to change the global political system beyond what Europeans have lived with for centuries, so said my friend. Second, China is challenging the supremacy of USA. On the other hand, USA is trying to curtail China. Europe will have to follow suit.

Although Europe is dithering at the moment on China, they will have no more room to manoeuvre, if Beijing took any military

aggressive step in Japan, Taiwan, Australia or any of the USA's formal allies. China is belligerent on India but since New Delhi is a hybrid ally of USA and perhaps of Europe, Indian predicament may not spur Europe to act against China.

This is precisely the strategic point I wish to underline for Europe and India to consider. I have long argued that European Union and the Union of India are natural partners, and it is high time they grasped and embraced this reality. Both are diverse, federal democratic polities. The trajectory of their union-building is contrasting but the nature and the purpose are the same. India began as a Union of States and is maintaining it. Europe constructed the Union and is seeking to profile it.

There are two elements missing on both sides. Europe needs to defocus on economic growth at the expense of human rights (like dealing with China). Europe is economically and politically advanced enough; it needs to maintain then the changing mindsets on consumption. India on the other hand needs to build its economy and society in material terms and maintain its federal and democratic polity. Instead of falling for China's economic bubble, the so-called miraculous growth, Europe needs to refocus on its political richness and social modernism.

Europe should be patient with India for its slower but steadier growth. India is going to be the biggest country and the largest market in the world with greater diversity and stability. Likewise, New Delhi should reach out to Europe, not Russia, which is fading, nor China which hangs as the 'sword of Damocles' over the world, and not the USA which feeds its own interests rather than anyone else's. It is time for Union of India and the European Union to draw closer.

The writer is Secretary General, Association for Democratic Socialism. @INFA

## SPECTRUM PERSONAL FINANCE

# Investment strategy for current scenario



Sourajeet Pradhan

AS THE SVB CRISIS UNFOLDED, GOLD AND SILVER FOUND A NEW LEASE OF LIFE, THIS TIME LED BY A VERY SHARP FALL IN INTEREST RATE EXPECTATIONS

The Federal Reserve of the US has practically endorsed the notion of 'All is Well' as far as financial stability is concerned, by hiking the policy rates by 25 bps (basis points). This was something that was expected before the meeting. Albeit, the Fed could have justified a 'no hike', but it would have led to more conjectures and wouldn't have done any good.

As per the Fed, the peak rate is expected to be 5.125%. Hence there is a room for another 25 bps hike as per the SEP (Summary of Economic Projections). There has been no upward revision to this forward-looking measure. A lot will depend on strength of economic data. The Fed has modestly revised its growth estimate for 2023 – from 0.5% earlier in Dec to 0.4% now. More dovish is the downward revision to GDP estimate for 2023, wherein now it expects the US to grow by mere 1.2% as compared to its December estimate of 1.6%.

Therefore, most importantly, the Fed's projection for interest rate cuts by 100 bps in 2024 assumes significance now. Earlier Fed had guided for three cuts of 25 bps each and now it is guiding for four cuts. Maybe, we have one more rate

hike coming up next quarter, which may not matter to the market significantly anymore, if it is accompanied by a view that rate hikes are done with. Extended pause and eventual rate cuts are likely to take centre stage going forward. On financial stability, the probability for any systemic risk which can have economy wide contagion remains very much possible.

From an 'equity strategy perspective', considering the time correction, it's appropriate to shed 'defensive stance' towards equities. This implies that one can remain equal weight in equity asset class, and those who are under-invested, should execute their investments in next six months, rather than twelve months (a reluctant position).

A durable rally may commence once inflationary data looks decisively on the decline. This may still take 3 to 6 months to show up. Growth and quality stocks may outperform value-based stocks over 2 to 3 years. Equities are at a juncture which can outperform debt over three years' time (not necessarily in one year). Dynamically managed equity funds can still outperform debt in next one year.

From a 'debt investment strategy perspective', it is prudent to invest in FMPs (Fixed Maturity Plans) and Target Maturity Products to lock the high prevailing yields. The 10Y government G-Sec yields is close to 7.6%. If any rate cut takes place in November this year, the mark-to-market value of debt investments will be more lucrative. Event risks and accidents like SVB (Silicon Valley Bank) and Credit Suisse are the unknown risks, which may continue to offer opportunities in the fixed income space.

Gold and silver, once again have come back to prominence, as risk aversion takes prominence due to developed market's 'banking turmoil'.

The rally in gold, witnessed in October-January, was led by a sharp fall in USD (against a basket of other currencies), fall in real US yields and some build up in speculative demand. During this period, silver outperformed gold by 5%, being a high 'beta' (risk) asset class as compared to gold.

Since then, gold prices have reversed, primarily because US interest rate expectations have shot up sharply (from 4.5% by Dec 2022 at start of February, to 5.55% by 8

March before the SVB crisis unfolded).

As the SVB crisis unfolded, gold and silver found a new lease of life, this time led by a very sharp fall in interest rate expectations (Dec 2022 forecast has fallen from 5.55% to 3.98% currently – a massive fall). Absolute level of yields in the US has also fallen sharply. Risk aversion has also gone up as evident in increased volatility in equities and global bonds. As a result, gold prices are up by 9% while silver is up by 12%.

Going forward, the probability of bond yields falling are higher than the other way round, which is positive news for gold (and therefore for 'high beta' silver). Speculative demand remains much below the cycle peak. Therefore, the macro set up remains favourable, wherein silver can naturally outperform.

Both gold and silver (put together) should ideally not exceed 10% of the overall portfolio, and should only be seen as diversifier or a hedge instrument (reduces portfolio volatility) instead of big contributor to portfolio gains.

The writer is an investment banker. Views are personal.

## Transgression of sovereignty

# 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, Rusalgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Sir, Persistent attempts made by China to rename certain regions in Arunachal Pradesh are a violation of India's sovereign rights. India must deal with this issue strictly. China recently released the third batch of "standardised" names of 11 places in Arunachal Pradesh and these places are called Zangnan or Southern Tibet. It may be recalled that in 2017 and 2021 China had released six and fifteen names respectively for regions in Arunachal Pradesh. In 2021 the Indian government had severely criticised the renaming. As transgression of sovereignty of our country is a great threat, India needs to deal with it effectively. As China is adopting similar strategies in Taiwan and in many parts of South Asian region, its assertions must not be taken lightly. China does not recognise the legitimacy of McMahon Line and it gives importance to the cultural and historical ties with the region. However, it is unjustified to reclaim parts of Arunachal Pradesh on such flimsy grounds. China must understand that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of India and such moves by it will lead to conflicts. Such acts by China must be countered on an urgent basis. China may adopt pressurising strategies to make bargains at international meetings. India has done well in increasing deployment of military force in the LAC. In the same way it must be on alert so that its sovereign rights are not transgressed by China.

Venu GS, KOLLAM (KERALA)

## Historian's paradise

Sir, India is a land of not just geographical and ethnic, but also cultural diversity. The country has been home to many kings and their kingdoms, lands and their lords, and governments and their heads. But, not all of them have survived to speak of their saga as before like the historical illustriousness of the place like Hampi, the capital of Vijayanagara Empire in the 14th century. It is really unfortunate that the historical significance linked with each structure of this ruined city, has been completely forgotten and hidden from the textbooks for our kids to study in schools. Medieval India stands out for its magnificent amalgamation of the diverse streams of architecture, sculpture, and art. Hampi is a popular temple town, which sadly is a "heritage in ruins" today, yet breathes on to offer tourists an enchanting display of its history and traditions. Hampi is a historian's paradise, poetry in stone which tells some captivating stories in silence to remember for ages.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

# Naveen visits Nippon Steel plant in Japan

### THE CM DISCUSSED THE USE OF SIMILAR GREEN TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE PLANTS COMING UP IN KENDRAPARA AND JAGATSINGHPUR DISTRICTS



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, April 6:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday visited the Kimitsu Steel Works of Nippon Steel Corporation (NSC) in Japan.

Patnaik along with the state team, which is on a Japan tour, was briefed about the plant and given a tour of the facility. The state delegation's visit to NSC's Kimitsu Steel Works provided an opportunity for the delegation to learn about the latest technologies and processes used by NSC in the production of steel.

miration for the state-of-the-art facility and the commitment of NSC towards excellence in steel production. He discussed the use of similar green technologies for the plants coming up in Kendrapara and Jagatsinghpur districts.

The proposed plant will also focus on specialised steel products which will enable downstream industries in Odisha.

He highlighted the immense potential for collaboration between NSC and Odisha, given the state's rich mineral resources and potential in the steel sector.

Patnaik also assured the NSC officials about the committed support of the government of Odisha for Arcelor Mittal-Nippon Steel (AM/NS) India's upcoming integrated steel plants in Kendrapara and Jagatsinghpur in Odisha.

The projects will use huge volumes of iron ore fines which will help in value addition of the mineral within Odisha in comparison to current trend of exporting the iron ore fines.

The Chief Minister expressed his appreciation for the warm hospitality extended by NSC towards the delegation and conveyed his hope that the visit would contribute to strengthening the relationship between NSC and Odisha.

Continued from P1

## Trump 'cashing' in on felony charges

An email titled 'NEW ITEM: MUGSHOT' reads, "NOT GUILTY. Do you stand with President Trump, Friend? Please make a contribution of USD 47 or more to win in 2024 - and we'll send you your own 'NOT GUILTY' T-Shirt for FREE."

## Parl productivity very low

Since 2020, not a single session of the Parliament under the current regime could function till the last day. As per the analysis of Lok Sabha data, at least eight sessions were adjourned sine die before the due date.

## NMC approves opening of medical college in Kalahandi



PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhawanipatna/Bhubaneswar April 6:** The National Medical Commission (NMC) has approved opening of a Government Medical College in Odisha's Kalahandi district headquarters town with 100 MBBS seats from the academic session 2023-24.

side the college campus with an estimate of Rs 206 crore is underway. The Bhawanipatna government hospital will function as teaching hospital for the medical college.

## NHAI asked to make patrolling stronger

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, April 6:** The state government has asked the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to ensure regular patrolling on NH stretches in Odisha and immediate removal of break-down and accident-hit vehicles from roads.

RTO, due to standing of a breakdown vehicle near Gokaneswar Temple, Deuliapali, Jarka an accident occurred in which two persons died.

NHAI has signed an agreement with private parties for patrol on NHs and removal of accident vehicles, breakdown vehicles, dead animals etc. from the road.

"It is to state here that, loss of human lives should not be compromised at the cost of negligence of some persons. Criminal cases should be lodged against them," she warned.

The NHAI CGM was asked to instruct the project directors of various stretches of road under NHAI, Odisha to ensure that regular patrolling is conducted and breakdown/accident vehicles are removed from the road immediately.



UP IN ARMS: Teachers of 662 category, under the banner of Nikhil Odisha Besarkari Adhyapak Karmachari Sangha, staged an agitation at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar seeking fulfilment of their demands, Thursday

## State has potential to up seafood export: Min

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, April 6:** Having been blessed with natural resources like a long coastline and brackish water areas, Odisha holds huge potential for seafood exports in future, said Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Resources Development Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain at a workshop on Odisha seafood export here Thursday.

Inaugurating the workshop organised by the department, Swain said that 86,481 metric ton of seafood worth Rs 4,526 crore has been exported from Odisha in 2021-22. The state has seen a 12 fold increase in seafood exports in last 20 years.



good market in western countries. He suggested chilled seafood export by air to nearby markets like the Middle East, West Asia and East Asia. He further emphasized on deep sea fishing along the Odisha coast encouraging people to go for high value fishes like Tuna.

Swain assured all support to the seafood industries in terms of policy intervention and ease of doing business. Speaking on the occasion, Balasore MLA Swarup Kumar Das urged for a roadmap to achieve the targeted export value.

**Odisha occupies fourth place in the country in terms of aquaculture production with a supply of 10.60 lakh metric tons of fish annually**

Sudhansu Sekhar Parida, MLA, Remuna said that Odisha Fisheries Policy 2015 helped immensely in the growth of fisheries sector in the state. Department principal secretary Suresh Kumar Vashishth said that state government is giving priority in developing new infrastructure in fishing harbours and fish landing centre.

## City AIIMS holds health mela

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, April 6:** AIIMS Bhubaneswar organised a health mela at Sijua in Khurda district and provided free medical assistance to the residents of the villages in the locality, Thursday.

Doctors of the hospital provided health check-ups to 220 villagers including 65 school students who were given special attention on their nutrition status. Geriatric groups were provided with holistic examination of various health ailments. The health officials dealt with various women-health related issues, prioritising on creating awareness over menstrual cycle and breast health. Over 40 women were counseled in the process.

In a blood donation camp organised on the occasion, nine units of blood were collected from the donors.



draw inspiration from the Prime Minister's call to make 'Jan Bhagidari' (public participation) a strong element of India's G20 Presidency, has and arrange this health mela and blood donation."

Senior doctors from Community and Family Medicine department, Transfusion Medicine department, paramedical staff and other employees of AIIMS actively contributed in furnishing health services at the event.

## 4 kids critical after consuming pesticide

**Tihidi:** As many as four children were rendered critical after they mistakenly consumed pesticide during play at Jhinkiria village under this police limit in Bhadrak district, Thursday. After coming to know about the incident, family members rushed them to Tihidi hospital first and later shifted them to the district headquarters hospital in Bhadrak. Their health conditions improved after doctors administered treatment, hospital sources said.

## Hackathon in City

**Bhubaneswar:** To promote sustainability among the entrepreneurs of the state, Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) organised a 'Sustainability Hackathon Challenge 2023 - Boot Camp,' in association with World Trade Center (WTC) here Thursday.

## EOW nabs bank manager for misappropriating ₹8cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, April 6:** The manager of a public sector bank was arrested in Odisha's Kandhamal district for allegedly misappropriating Rs 8 crore, officials said.



The deputy manager, posted in Phulbani, was accused of illegally recommending and processing 59 'Xpress Credit' loans meant for the salaried person to non-salaried people, and 26 pension loans meant to non-pensioners, they added.

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# Students form human chain to create awareness on G20 event

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Berhampur, April 6:** Ahead of the third G20 Education Working Group Meeting at Bhubaneswar from April 27 to 29, students of Industrial Training Institute (ITI) here formed a human-chain in the form of the acronym of the Group of Twenty.

Wearing blue and saffron uniforms, 1,500 students, including 400 girls, Wednesday sat in the playground of the institute as part of the Jan Bhagidari event for the ensuing G20 Education Working Group Meeting in the state capital. India has assumed presidency of the G20 group for one year. The group comprises 19 countries - Argentina, Australia, Brazil,

Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the USA - and the European Union.

The government has decided to launch Jan Bhagidari events across the state to generate interest among people about the G20 events under India's presidency.

"The government had asked us to organise innovative events in the wake of the third G20 Education Working Group Meeting at Bhubaneswar. We decided to form a human chain to generate interest among the students," Rajat Kumar Panigrahy, principal of ITI, said.



**BOAT RACE:** Participants row their boats in the Mahanadi during Minaketan Deheri memorial state-level boat race organised by Veer Bajrang Sangh at Bada Bazaar in Sambalpur, on the occasion of Chaitra Purnima, Thursday

# PARADIP FISHERMEN, TRADERS WORRIED

## Drop in fish population raises concern

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Paradip, April 6:** Decline in marine fish population has posed a serious threat to the fishery business in this port town and rendered scores of fishermen jobless, a report said Thursday.

The fishing harbour in this town, which was once abuzz with activities, now wears a gloomy look with a visible slump in fishing activities.

Things have come to such a pass that many boats have stopped venturing into the sea for fishing. While some of them are berthed at the fishing harbour, some others can be found parked at the dry dock meant for boat repairing.

Arabinda Swain, secretary of Odisha Marine Fish Producers Association (OMPA) said that fishing in sea is a major means of earning livelihood for scores of fishermen in unorganised sector. Out of the 559 functional boats only 10 per

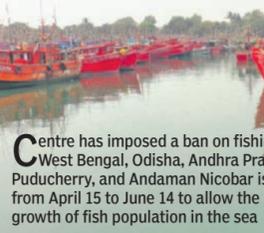
cent now go to the sea for fishing. While fish traders are struggling to stay afloat in the business, the two-month ban on fishing which is going to be imposed soon will further hit them hard, he said, adding that all the boats will stop venturing into the sea for two months from April 15, as per the government order.

OMPA president Srikanth Parida said that over 50,000 people are directly or indirectly dependent on the Paradip fishing harbour for their livelihood. It is a major avenue of employment and no other sector gives employment to so many people like fishing.

He said that the state government is receiving lot of foreign exchange from fish exports but has done little for the development of the fishing harbour and fishermen. The Paradip fishing harbour alone exported 2,00,602 metric tonne of fish in 2022-23 FY, he said.

Meanwhile, the Centre has im-

posed a ban on fishing in West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Puducherry, Andaman Nicobar islands on the eastern coast from April 15 to June 14 for a period of 61 days to allow the growth of fish population in the sea.



**Centre has imposed a ban on fishing in West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Puducherry, and Andaman Nicobar islands from April 15 to June 14 to allow the growth of fish population in the sea**

posed ban on fishing in West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Puducherry, Andaman Nicobar islands on the eastern coast from April 15 to June 14 for a period of 61 days. Parida demanded the state government to intervene and supply them diesel at concessional rates, construction of cold storages and financial assistance to the fishermen during the fishing ban period.

He said that the fish catch has dropped sharply while the rise in fuel price has served a blow to their business. With a sharp drop in catch, fish traders suffer heavy loss in comparison to the expenses they incur in their business. As a result, they have voluntarily withdrawn from fish business due to drop in fish catch and ever increasing in establishment and maintenance costs.

A local fisherman TB Ramanna said that fish catch has dropped as the fish are escaping to the deep sea due to blow of southern wind. Gone are those days when fishermen used to catch fish from the sea for 12 months in a year. Environmentalist and engineer Amaresh Naresh Samant blamed climate change, rampant industrialisation and increasing environmental pollution for decline in fish population in the sea.

Another main reason is the use of ring nets and phasi nets that catch the mother fish along with the fingerlings, Samant said.

# YOUTH BLUDGEONS BROTHER TO DEATH

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Berhampur, April 6:** A youth bludgeoned his younger brother to death with a dumbbell over a property dispute behind Gosaninuaogaon police station in Silk City, Wednesday.

The victim was identified as Surendra Behera, 31, alias Budu, son of Seema Behera of 10th lane, Nehru Nagar here.

The accused Purna Behera, 35, surrendered at the police station after the murder. Police sent the body for post-mortem and launched an investigation. A scientific team was also pressed into service and the blood-stained dumbbells were also seized from the spot. Police arrested the accused after registering a case over a complaint filed by the mother of the deceased and the accused.

Preliminary inquiry by police suggested the woman Seema Behera had received a house-106, Block-B at 10th lane in Nehru Nagar under the Centre-sponsored Rajiv Awas



Yojana (RAY). The woman was staying in the house with her three sons. The eldest son was disabled. The house was the bone of contention between the two other siblings as the deceased was the nominee of the house owned in the name of their mother.

This enraged Purna as he decided to eliminate Surendra. The incident occurred when their mother left the house to go to work Thursday morning. The eldest son had also gone out on some work. The matter came to the fore when Seema returned home at 9am and found her younger son lying dead in a pool of blood.

She rushed to the police station and informed the police. There she found her middle son who had surrendered at the police station and admitted to his crime.

# Public hearing held for expansion of sponge iron plant

**Keonjhar:** The expansion of MSP sponge iron plant at Haldiguna village under Sadar block in Keonjhar got a boost as locals of the affected areas extended their support to its expansion at a public hearing camp, a report said Thursday. Chief Development Officer cum executive officer of Keonjhar ZP Bishnu Prasad Acharya presided over the public hearing camp held Wednesday. The integrated steel project will carry out its expansion at an expense of Rs 758 crore. The public hearing camp was held to gauge people's opinion on the effects of the expansion on the adjoining areas on the basis of rules framed by Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change. At the outset, Pradip Dey, director of the MSP sponge iron plant read out the projects details. He said that the plant when expanded will result in employment of 760 persons while works on peripheral development will be undertaken under the firm's CSR programme.

# POLITICKLE by MANJUL



# Police bust IPL betting racket, nab 6 members

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Rourkela, April 6:** Odisha Police busted an IPL betting racket in Rourkela steel city and arrested six persons in connection with it, a police official said Thursday.

The six were arrested in a police raid at a house in the city's civil township area Wednesday night after receiving information about the racket, the official said.

Eight bank accounts, which had a total amount of Rs 2.5 lakh in them, being used by the alleged fraudsters were blocked, the police said in a release.

No details were released by the police as to which match the bet-



ting was being done on. An IPL match was held between Kolkata Knight Riders and Royal Challengers Bangalore at the Eden Gardens in the eastern metropolis Thursday. The arrested are aged between 21 and 29 years. One of them hails

from Uttar Pradesh, one from Maharashtra and the rest from Chhattisgarh.

The police seized 20 mobile phones, three laptops, four ATM cards of different banks, laptop and mobile phone chargers, besides extension cords. They have been booked under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, the police said.

A police official said, "We have so far arrested six people. They tried to escape from the scene by pushing us. However, our alert personnel nabbed them."

Asked about Rourkela being a hideout for IPL betting, he said, "We are still investigating the case."

# Tribals make hay with natural farming

55 FARMERS ENGAGED IN ORGANIC FARMING ON OVER 80 ACRE LAND UNDER A PILOT PROGRAMME AT TELIGHANA VILLAGE OF KUTRA BLOCK IN SUNDARGARH DISTRICT

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sundargarh, April 6:** Environment-friendly farming methods and chemical-free produce are the prime focus of agriculture in today's time. Going by this mantra, Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA), Sundargarh promotes natural farming in its command area benefiting especially the tribal farmers in the district.

Natural farming was started on a pilot basis during FY 2022-23 at Telighana village of Kutra block in Sundargarh district. Farmers from tribal families were engaged in the program.

"In the tribal majority Sundargarh district, natural farming is being encouraged to restrict the use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides. The farmers have also shown a keen interest towards natural farming. There is a sure shot market demand for crops grown naturally. The pilot programme at Telighana will soon be expanded to other parts of the district," says ITDA, Sundargarh Project Administrator Ram Krishna Gond.

The productivity of agricultural land gets degraded upon using chemical fertilisers and insecticides while also negatively impacting the envi-



ronment. ITDA Sundargarh sensitises the tribal farmers on the same while extending necessary support to pursue natural farming. District Mineral Foundation (DMF) Sundargarh extends financial assistance towards the same.

55 farmers of Telighana village are engaged in natural farming. Rice and groundnut cultivation was done

also good," says Eman Budu, a farmer from Telighana village.

"Chemical fertiliser and pesticide proved heavy for our pockets. Now, by opting for natural farming, our costs have reduced. Along with rice and groundnut, we grow vegetables using this method. Apart from a good harvest, the produce sells well in the market," shares Bimla Barla, a woman farmer.

Natural inputs like Jeevamruta, Ghana Jeevamruta, Dasaparni Arka, Bramhastra, Neemastra and Beejamruta are provided to farmers for use in cultivation. ITDA, Sundargarh trained the farmers on preparing the above nutrients themselves. The organic manure can be produced using cow dung, cow urine, droppings of other domestic animals, gur (sugar molasses) and besan (gram flour).

Prior to starting the pilot programme, officials of ITDA, Sundargarh undertook a field survey at Telighana village. The farmers then prepared the land for rice and groundnut cultivation. The mandays for the same were provided under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).

"Earlier, we used chemical fertilisers in the field. Then, officials from ITDA, Sundargarh came and explained the benefit of natural farming to us. We were interested in natural farming and started with rice and groundnut cultivation. The yield was

STATE BANK OF INDIA		DEMAND NOTICE	
STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH Plot No.: 778, First Floor, Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007			
<b>Notice under Sec 13 (2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002</b>			
A notice is hereby given that the following Borrower/Legal Heirs of deceased Borrower who have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loan facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loan has been classified as Non Performing Assets (NPA). The notices were issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 on their last known addresses but one notice of <b>M/s. Maa Gurubai Traders</b> and three notice of <b>M/s. Maa Gurubai Decor</b> has been returned unserved & as such all are hereby informed by way of this public notice.			
BALUGAON BRANCH / A/c. No. / Name & Address of the Borrower/Legal Heirs / Guarantor	Details of Property / Address of Secured Assets to be Enforced	Date of Demand Notice / Date of NPA	Amount outstanding
<b>A/c. No.: 3187722725 (CC), 39443029697 (GECL)</b> <b>Borrower: M/s. Maa Gurubai Traders, Proprietor: Jagannath Pradhan (Deceased), S/o.: Late Khali Pradhan / Legal Heirs of Jagannath Pradhan (Deceased Proprietor) are : 1) Mrs. Kabuli Pradhan, W/o.: Late Jagannath Pradhan, P.O.: Late Jagannath Pradhan, 2) Mr. Sanjib Ku Pradhan, S/o.: Late Jagannath Pradhan, 3) Mr. Ranjib Ku Pradhan, S/o.: Late Jagannath Pradhan, 4) Mr. Basanta Ku Pradhan, S/o.: Late Jagannath Pradhan, All are At: Gumusarpadar, P.O.: Ghiakhala, Dist.: Khurda - 752030 / Guarantor: Mr. Biranchi Narayan Pradhan, S/o.: Late Khali Pradhan, Both are At: Gumusarpadar, P.O.: Ghiakhala, P.S.: Balugaon, Dist.: Khurda-752030</b>	Equitable Mortgage of property situated at Khata No.: 594, Mouza: Santarapur, P.S.: Banpur, Thana No.: 298, Tahasil: Chilika, SRO: Banpur, Plot No.: 313, Area: Ac.0.030 Dec., Plot No.: 315/1888, Area: Ac.0.042 Dec., Kissam: Gharabari, stands jointly in the name of <b>Late Jagannath Pradhan &amp; Mr. Biranchi Narayan Pradhan</b> , Bounded by East: K. Gandhi Patra, West: Debendra Subudhi, North: Road, South: Bhaskar Patra	23.01.2023 / 29.10.2022	₹40,88,380/- as on 23.01.2023 with further interest and incidental expenses, costs
<b>A/c. No.: 31696294779 (CC), 39547123818 (GECL)</b> <b>Borrower: M/s. Maa Gurubai Decor, Proprietor: Mr. Biranchi Narayan Pradhan, S/o.: Late Khali Pradhan / Guarantor: Jagannath Pradhan (Deceased), S/o.: Late Khali Pradhan, All are At: Gumusarpadar, P.O.: Ghiakhala, P.S.: Balugaon, Dist.: Khurda-752030 / Legal Heirs of Jagannath Pradhan (Deceased Guarantor) are : 1) Mrs. Kabuli Pradhan, W/o.: Late Jagannath Pradhan, 2) Mr. Sanjib Ku Pradhan, S/o.: Late Jagannath Pradhan, 3) Mr. Ranjib Ku Pradhan, S/o.: Late Jagannath Pradhan, 4) Mr. Basanta Ku Pradhan, S/o.: Late Jagannath Pradhan, All are At: Gumusarpadar, P.O.: Ghiakhala, Dist.: Khurda - 752030</b>	Equitable Mortgage of property situated at Khata No.: 594, Mouza: Santarapur, P.S.: Banpur, Thana No.: 298, Tahasil: Chilika, SRO: Banpur, Plot No.: 313, Area: Ac.0.030 Dec., Plot No.: 315/1888, Area: Ac.0.042 Dec., Kissam: Gharabari, stands jointly in the name of <b>Late Jagannath Pradhan &amp; Mr. Biranchi Narayan Pradhan</b> , Bounded by East: K. Gandhi Patra, West: Debendra Subudhi, North: Road, South: Bhaskar Patra	23.01.2023 / 17.12.2022	₹13,91,697/- as on 23.01.2023 with further interest and incidental expenses, costs
The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above Borrower/Legal heirs/ Guarantor are hereby called upon to make payment of outstanding amount within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, further steps will be taken after expiry of 60 days from the date of this notice under sub section (4) of section 13 of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002			
The borrower's/Guarantor's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section(8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.			
Place : Bhubaneswar, Date : 06.04.2023		Sd/- Authorised Officer, State Bank of India	



# national

## of the day quote

Kinnaur district has a rich culture and the government would come up with innovative ideas to promote the rich cultural heritage of this tribal district



SUKHVINDER SINGH SUKHU | HP CM

Opposition has a habit of repeatedly accusing the independent agencies of the country. Whole country is watching what opposition is doing. All corruptors have united and playing politics by making false allegations. Supreme Court verdict is going to show mirror to all of them



JP NADDA | BJP NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Our position on the Palestine question has been clear and consistent. We are committed to supporting all efforts to resume direct negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians to achieve a two-state solution



ARINDAM BAGCHI | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON

## SHORT TAKES

### Cabinet gives nod to Indian Space Policy

**New Delhi:** The Union Cabinet Thursday approved the Indian Space Policy, 2023 under which roles and responsibilities of organisations such as ISRO, NewSpace India Limited and private sector entities have been laid down. The government had earlier opened up the space sector for the private sector to help boost development of the segment.

### Train fire suspect brought to Kerala

**Kannur/Kozhikode (Kerala):** The man suspected of starting a fire onboard a train in Kerala which led to the death of three, including a toddler, was brought to the southern state by road Thursday and is presently admitted in the Kozhikode medical college. A source in the medical college said the suspect, who was caught from Ratnagiri in Maharashtra on the Wednesday, was admitted there after his examination.

### Protests in JNU

**New Delhi:** Students at the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) Thursday staged a protest on the campus against alleged discrepancies in the allotment of hostel seats by the administration. The protest was organised by the AISA outside the office of the JNU's Dean of Students. The protesters claimed students who had already been assigned hostels have been given rooms again by the administration. They also accused the administration of "exacerbating the hostel crisis" by converting the Sabarmati dorm into a COVID-19 isolation centre.

## Centre mulling tweaks in IPC, CrPC, SC told

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, April 6:** The Centre told the Supreme Court Thursday it is considering amendments to the Indian Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The submission was made by Attorney General R Venkataramani before a bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice J B Pardiwala during the hearing of a PIL challenging a CrPC provision related to service of summons only to a family's male member if an accused in a criminal case is unavailable. The central government is actively considering amendments in criminal laws, the law officer said, adding, "Consultations have taken place. In fact, I have personally asked the government to take an active role in this. Some of this (amendments) has to do with the sedition laws."

When the bench asked the top



Tourists visit historical Albert Hall Museum during a hot day in Jaipur

### After Ram Navami clashes Hanuman Jayanti celebrated peacefully in WB

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, April 6:** The Hanuman Jayanti celebrations passed off peacefully in West Bengal as security forces maintained a strict vigil across the state to avoid a rerun of the violence that marked the Ram Navami festival last week.

Following a Calcutta High Court order, three companies of central armed police forces were deployed in parts of Kolkata, Hooghly and Barrackpore to assist the state police in maintaining law and order during the day. "The celebrations have been peaceful. No untoward incident happened," a senior police official said. The peaceful Hanuman Jayanti celebrations in presence of central forces were in sharp contrast to the violence and arson during the Ram Navami festival in Howrah and Hooghly, sparking a fresh war of words between the ruling TMC and the opposition BJP. While the saffron camp questioned the administrative capabilities of the Mamata Banerjee-led state government, the TMC claimed that BJP leaders "behaved like good boys" this time.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, April 6:** Opposition parties, including the Congress, TMC, BRS and Samajwadi Party, came together in a show of unity Thursday and accused the Modi government of getting the second half of the budget session "washed out", while asserting that if this attitude continues, the country will move towards "dictatorship".

Kharge accused the Narendra Modi government of not walking the talk on democratic principles and causing disruptions in Parliament to divert attention from the Opposition's demand for a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) probe into the Adani issue. In a boost to Opposition unity, the Trinamool Congress, Bharat Rashtira Samithi, the Aam Aadmi Party and the Samajwadi Party, which had been blowing hot and cold on sharing stage with the Congress on earlier occasions, participated in the march and the JPC presser to give a joint call against

## PLEA ON ROAD SAFETY

The Centre told the Supreme Court Thursday that 15 states have participated in a meeting convened by a committee headed by former apex court judge A M Sapre and apprised the panel about the steps taken with regard to road safety, including the aspect of monitoring enforcement of safety norms by electronic means



## BUDGET SESSION ENDS

# Oppn shows unity, slams govt



the government on issues such as the Adani matter, price rise and alleged attack on democracy.

Most Opposition leaders also skipped Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla's customary tea in his chamber in Parliament at the end of the session. However, National Conference's Farooq Abdullah and Nationalist Congress Party's Supriya Sule were present for the tea. In his remarks at the press conference, Kharge said, "The budget of Rs 50-lakh crore was passed in just 12 minutes, but they (BJP) always alleged that the opposition parties have no interest and they kept disturbing the House."

Asked if Rahul Gandhi was the

prime challenger to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, DMK's T R Bалу claimed that the BJP is jittery and after the Bharat Jodo Yatra it is afraid of Rahul Gandhi.

BRS MP K Keshava Rao said the parties on the podium had "distance and differences" between them but were now working to come together. To a query on the Opposition's leadership issue, Rao said, "Why are you always obsessed with the leadership issue, a nation will certainly be led by a person, led by a combination of ideologies and the programmes. What we are trying to do is to see that kind of programme is on the board that we are all on the same page."

AAP's Sanjay Singh said the message behind Rahul Gandhi's disqualification was clear that one can attack the Centre but not Adani "for whom the government was working". Kharge said 18 to 19 opposition parties raised the Adani matter and how his wealth increased to Rs 12 lakh crore in just a period of 2 to 2.5 years.

# Antony's son joins BJP

Anil Antony, who headed the Kerala Congress' digital media cell before quitting the party earlier this year, was welcomed into the BJP by Union ministers Piyush Goyal and V Muraleedharan, as the ruling party seeks to increase its foothold in the southern state

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, April 6:** Anil Antony, son of former Defence Minister A K Antony, joined the BJP Thursday and slammed a section of the Congress leadership for "serving the interests of a single family" instead of working for the country.

In Thiruvananthapuram, Congress veteran A K Antony, a close confidant of former Congress president Sonia Gandhi, termed his son's action "wrong" and "very painful" for him. Goyal described Anil Antony as a "very grounded political worker" who was convinced that the BJP cared for the country and also shared the prime minister's vision of sustainable growth.



Anil Antony joins the BJP in the presence of Union Minister and senior party leader Piyush Goyal in New Delhi

Anil Antony had resigned from the Congress in January after criticising the party's stand on a controversial BBC documentary BBC on Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Kerala Congress accused Anil Antony of "betraying his father" on "Maundy Thursday".

"Today (Maundy Thursday) is the day of Judas (Iscairiot) who betrayed Jesus Christ for a payment of 30 silver coins. Many such things will happen on that day. This (Anil joining BJP) should also be seen as such an incident," Kerala Congress President K

Sudhakaran said in Thiruvananthapuram.

Soon after joining the BJP, Anil Antony began his address with a verse 'Dharmo Rakshati Rakshitah' from epic Mahabharat. The verse loosely translates into 'Dharma (religion) or state of law protects those who protect it'. "I believe in Dharmo Rakshati Rakshitah. Nowadays, some Congress leaders believe that it is their dharma (duty) to serve the interests of a family. But, I believe that it is my duty to serve the nation," Anil Antony said.

# JAIN'S BAIL PLEA DISMISSED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, April 6:** The Delhi High Court Thursday dismissed the bail plea of former Delhi minister Satyendar Jain in a money laundering case being probed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), noting the witnesses' claim that he was the conceptualiser, initiator and fund provider in the alleged crime.

The high court said the senior AAP leader was an influential person having the potential to tamper with evi-



dence. It "out- rightly" rejected Jain's submission that he was not found in physical possession of any property, saying for the offence of money laundering physical possession of the pro-

ceeds of crime is not necessary.

Satyendar Jain, who was arrested May 30 last year by the ED, is accused of having laundered money through four companies allegedly linked to him. Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma also rejected the bail pleas of Vaibhav Jain and Ankush Jain, the co-accused in the case. "The petitioner Satyendar Kumar Jain is an influential person and has a potential to tamper with the evidence as indicated by his conduct during the custody," the judge said.



most law officer about the relevance of the submission that the change in sedition law was also in the offing, he said the government was actively looking at amending the CrPC and the IPC. The AG sought adjournment and requested that the matter be listed after the monsoon session of Parliament. "We are informed that amendments in CrPC and the IPC

are under active consideration," the bench said and fixed the PIL filed by Kush Kalra for further hearing in the last week of July.

Earlier, the top court had November 21 last year issued a notice to the Centre besides seeking the attorney general's assistance on the PIL challenging a CrPC provision related to service of summons on a fam-

ily's male member alone if an accused in a criminal case is not available. The plea alleged the provision discriminates between male and female and is violative of various fundamental rights, including the right to equality.

"Service when persons summoned cannot be found: Where the person summoned cannot, by the exercise of due diligence, be found, the summons may be served by leaving one of the duplicates for him with some adult male member of his family residing with him, and the person with whom the summons is so left shall, if so required by the serving officer, sign a receipt thereon on the back of the other duplicate," reads section 64 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The PIL said the provision provides for serving the summons only to male members of the house if the accused is not found and this is violative of various fundamental rights.

## OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI BHANDARIPOKHARI SHORT TENDER CALL NOTICE

BID IDENTIFICATION NO. 01 / 2023-24. Dt. 05.04.2023

No.i-39:Block Development Officer, Bhandaripokhari, Bhadrak, Odisha Invites sealed tenders in the prescribed forms (as annexed) from reputed manufacturer (OEM) / Authorized Distributor / Dealer / Supplying Agency for supply of IT Equipment such-as Desktop Computers, Peripherals & Network Accessories as tabulated hereunder for supply and installation in the e-libraries set up in 13 (thirteen) numbers of High Schools in the 3rd Phase of High School Transformation (HST) under ST. The detailed term and conditions of the tender, general information and specification of the product etc. can be obtained from the office of the Panchayat Samiti, Bhandaripokhari, Bhadrak in any working day/hour from Date. 06-04-2023 to Date. 12-04-2023 or can be downloaded from the website www. bhadrak.nic.in.

Date of Commencement of Sale of the Tender Document : 06.04.2023

Last Date & Time of the Receipt of Tender : 12.04.2023 (3.00 PM)

Date & Time of Opening of Tender : 12.04.2023 (4.30 PM)

Cost of the Tender Paper : Rs. 6,000/- in shape of Bank Draft drawn in favour of the Block Development Officer, Bhandaripokhari payable at Bhadrak

Place of opening of Tender : Office of the Panchayat Samiti, Bhandaripokhari, Bhadrak

Sl. No.	IT Equipment	Specification	Qty per School	Total Qty (approx.)	Preferable Brand
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Monitor	20 Inch	05	65	HP/Dell
2	CPU	Intel Core i5, 12th Generation, 8 GB RAM, 512 SSD, Windows 11 OS, Warranty 3 Years	01	13	HP/Dell
3	Key Board	-	05	65	HP/Dell
4	Mouse	-	05	65	HP/Dell
5	N Computing Device L-300	-	05	65	-
6	Network Switch	DLlink	01	13	-
7	16 Port D Link Cable	-	Per meter	As reqd.	-
8	D Link RJ 45 Connector	-	As reqd.	As reqd.	-
9	Headphone	-	05	65	HP/Dell

The Tender will be opened in the scheduled venue, on the scheduled date and at the scheduled time in presence of the Bidders or their authorized representatives. In the event of the date being declared as a holiday, the due date of submission of bids and opening of bids will be the next immediate working day.

Any tender received after the due date & time will be rejected and returned to the sender unopened. The tender will be received through Regd. Post / Speed Post only. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all the Tenders received or may cancel the tender process at any time without assigning any reason thereof. For detailed T & C please refer the Tender Document.

**Sd./- Block Development Officer, Bhandaripokhari**  
Signature of the Bidder  
OIPR-19182/11/0001/2324

**ODISHA LIFT IRRIGATION CORPORATION LTD.**  
(A GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA UNDERTAKING)  
PLOT NO.17/2, NAYAPALLI, BHUBANESWAR-12  
Phone:(0674) 2390195, Fax:(0674) 2395844, E-mail:olcilt123@bsnl.com, olcilt@gmail.com  
4P-15/23, No.2749/OLIC, Dated: 05.04.2023

**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement**  
No.CAD-74:The Managing Director, OLIC Ltd., Bhubaneswar invites online tender through e-procurement with Technical and Commercial bids for supply of Submersible pump sets in conformity with detail tender call notice from reputed manufactures as per the following schedule.

Sl. No.	Tender Specification No.	Brief Description	Approx. Quantity Required in Nos.	Estimated cost in (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD to be deposited (Rs. in lakhs)	Cost of tender paper (In Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	IT-14 (E) 2022-23	Submersible Pump set to deliver 3.50 LPS at 70 mtr. Head	100	31.416	0.31416	6,000/-+ GST 18% on reverse charge basis

1. Period of Completion :- 60 days from the date of issue of purchase order.  
2. Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal:- From Dt.06.04.2023 to Dt.06.05.2023  
3. Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal:-Dt.06.05.2023 upto 17.00 hrs.  
4. Last date of seeking clarification: Dt.15.04.2023 upto 17.00 hrs.  
5. Name and address of the Officer inviting Bid:- M.D., OLIC, Plot No. N- 17/2, Nayapalli, P.B.No.155, Bhubaneswar-751 012  
6. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>  
Any Addendum/ corrigendum/ Cancellation of tender will be available in the said website. Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

OIPR-32432/11/0020/2324

**SD./- MANAGING DIRECTOR**

**ODISHA LIFT IRRIGATION CORPORATION LTD.**  
(A GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA UNDERTAKING)  
PLOT NO.17/2, NAYAPALLI, BHUBANESWAR-12  
Phone:(0674) 2390195, Fax:(0674) 2395844, E-mail:olcilt123@bsnl.com, olcilt@gmail.com  
4P-02/23, No.2655/OLIC, Dated: 05.04.2023

**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement**  
No.CAD-85:The Managing Director, OLIC Ltd., Bhubaneswar invites online tender through e-procurement with Technical and Commercial bids for supply of Submersible pump sets in conformity with detail tender call notice from reputed manufactures as per the following schedule.

Sl. No.	Tender Specification No.	Brief Description	Approx. Quantity Required in Nos.	Estimated cost in (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD to be deposited (Rs. in lakhs)	Cost of tender paper (In Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	IT-01 (E) 2022-23	Submersible Pump set to deliver 1.75 LPS at 20 mtr. Head	87	14.021	0.1402	6,000/-+ GST 18% on reverse charge basis

1. Period of Completion :- 60 days from the date of issue of purchase order.  
2. Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal:- From Dt.06.04.2023 to Dt.06.05.2023  
3. Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal:-Dt.06.05.2023 upto 17.00 hrs.  
4. Last date of seeking clarification: Dt.15.04.2023 upto 17.00 hrs.  
5. Name and address of the Officer inviting Bid:- M.D., OLIC, Plot No. N- 17/2, Nayapalli, P.B.No.155, Bhubaneswar-751012  
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Any Addendum/ corrigendum/ Cancellation of tender will be available in the said website. Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

OIPR-32432/11/0006/2324

**SD./- MANAGING DIRECTOR**

# international



**Relations between Russia and the US... are going through a deep crisis**  
VLADIMIR PUTIN | RUSSIAN PRESIDENT

## HELICOPTER CRASHES

A missing Japanese army helicopter carrying 10 crew members is believed to have crashed into the sea off a southern island after objects appearing to be aircraft parts were spotted in the area, an official said Thursday



## of the day quote

Unfortunately, over the years, bilby populations have shrunk considerably. But we have a very special Easter message here today, a new plan to help protect the bilby. The government will invest A\$5 million (\$3 million) in programs to protect the species



ANTHONY ALBANESE | AUSTRALIAN PM

A two-track world of haves and have-nots holds clear and obvious dangers for every country. We urgently need to rebuild global cooperation and find the solutions to our current crises in multilateral action



ANTONIO GUTERRES | UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

Turkish airspace is closed for flights to and from Iraq's Sulaymaniyah airport for three months due to the activities of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party in the region



TANJU BILGIC | TURKEY'S FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON



NO END IN SIGHT: A unionist kicks a tear gas canister during a protest in Nantes, western France

PTI PHOTO

## RISING TENSION

# China to inspect ships in Taiwan Strait

*The move comes amid heightened tensions between China and Taiwan, with US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy hosting Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen in California Wednesday, becoming the most senior US figure to meet a Taiwanese leader on US soil in decades*

REUTERS

**Beijing, April 6:** China's Fujian maritime safety administration launched a three-day special joint patrol and inspection operation in the central and northern parts of the Taiwan Strait that includes moves to board ships, it said on its WeChat account.

The move comes amid heightened tensions between China and Taiwan, with U.S. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy hosting Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen in California on Wednesday, becoming the most senior U.S. figure to meet a Taiwanese leader on U.S. soil in decades.

The maritime safety authority in the southeastern Chinese province said on Wednesday the operation included "on-site inspections" on direct cargo ships and construction vessels on both sides of the Taiwan Strait "to ensure

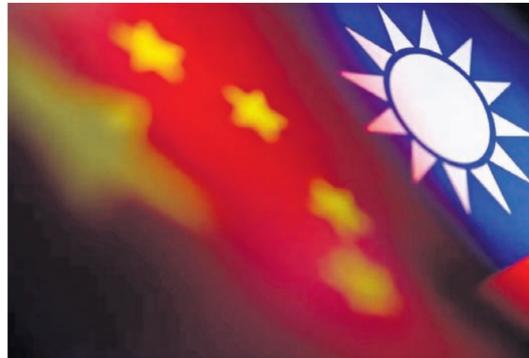
the safety of vessel navigation and ensure the safe and orderly operation of key projects on water".

Taiwan's Transport Ministry's Maritime and Ports Bureau said in a statement late Wednesday said it has lodged a strong protest with China about the move. It said it has notified relevant shipping operators that if they encounter such requests from China they should refuse them and immediately notify Taiwan's coast guard to render assistance.

"If the mainland side insists on taking one-sided actions, it will create obstacles to normal exchanges between the two sides. We will be forced to take corresponding measures," it added, without giving details.

Areas covered by the operation include the Pingtan-Taiwan direct container route, the "small three links" passenger route, the Taiwan Strait vessel customary route, the densely navigable areas of commercial and fishing vessels, and areas with frequent illegal sand mining activities. The "small three links" passenger route refers to boat routes between Taiwan's Kinmen and Matsu islands which sit opposite China and Chinese cities.

The fleet, a joint special operation with East China Sea Rescue Bureau and the East China Sea Navigation Support Center, will continue to carry out cruise inspections in the central and northern parts of the Taiwan Strait over the next two days.



# UKRAINE CONFLICT Xi willing to call Zelenskyy: EU chief

REUTERS

**Beijing, April 6:** China's Xi Jinping expressed willingness to speak to Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the head of the EU said Thursday, after French President Emmanuel Macron urged Beijing to talk sense to Russia over the war in Ukraine.

In closely watched talks, EU chief Ursula von der Leyen and Macron met with Xi in Beijing. Macron said the West must engage China to help end the crisis and prevent "spiral" tensions that could split global powers into warring blocs.

Xi, who has sought to position China as a potential mediator in the conflict but is seen by the West as favouring Russia, responded by saying he hoped Moscow and Kyiv could hold peace negotiations as soon as possible.

"It was interesting to hear that President Xi reiterated his willingness to speak" to Zelenskyy, Von der Leyen said, calling his words "positive". Xi said a conversation could happen when the



French President visits China with EU chief von der Leyen

Macron hopes Xi can use Russian ties to seek Ukraine peace

Trade 'risks' and business deals also on summit agenda

EU-China relations have soured in recent years

that calls on both sides to agree to a gradual de-escalation leading to a comprehensive ceasefire. The plan was largely dismissed by the West due to China's refusal to condemn Russia, and the United States and NATO then said China was considering sending arms to Russia, which Beijing has denied.

"Arming the aggressor is a clear violation of international law," von der Leyen said. "This would indeed significantly harm the relationship between the EU and China." The French diplomatic source said Macron had urged Xi not to provide weapons to Russia, and that Xi had replied that it was not his war. In comments after the meeting, Xi called for Ukraine and Russia to resume peace talks and find a political solution to the conflict. More than a year into a conflict that has claimed thousands of lives, there is little sign either side is keen to negotiate. France said the discussions between the leaders were "frank and constructive," while China described them as "friendly" and "in-depth".

## ROCKETS FIRED FROM GAZA

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Jerusalem, April 6:** Palestinian militants fired a barrage of rockets early Thursday, setting off air raid sirens in southern Israel, as violence erupted for the second day in a row during a sensitive period of overlapping holidays.

The Israeli military said seven rockets launched from the Gaza Strip all exploded in midair. No group claimed responsibility for the barrage. The barrage came after another tense night at Jerusalem's most sensitive holy site, the Al-Aqsa Mosque, where Israeli police clashed with Muslim worshippers attempting to stay overnight.

Since Ramadan began March 22, scores of Muslims have repeatedly tried to stay overnight in the mosque, a practice that is typically permitted only during the last 10 days of the month long holiday. Israeli police have entered nightly

to evict the worshippers, but on Tuesday the scene erupted in violence.

Worshippers threw stones and firecrackers at police, who responded with beatings that left dozens bloody and the arrest of hundreds. On Wednesday, the Israeli police made no arrests but did detain and question some Palestinians, a spokesperson said.

The Palestinian Red Crescent said it was not allowed into the compound Wednesday, but dozens were injured from beatings, rubber bullets and stun grenades, including an ambulance driver. Israeli newspaper Haaretz said protests on Wednesday night drew hundreds in communities across Israel's north, home to many of Israel's Palestinian citizens, who make up one-fifth of its 9.6 million people. Police said they arrested five protesters in the large town of Um al-Fahm.

## RECONCILIATORY MOVE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Beijing, April 6:** Iran and Saudi Arabia have agreed to jointly pursue economic stability, the Iranian foreign minister said Thursday, as well as reopen missions in their respective countries as the regional rivals stepped toward reconciliation after seven years of tension.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian made the announcement in a tweet after talks with his Saudi counterpart, Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, in Beijing. The ministers also agreed Thursday to reopen embassies in the countries' respective capitals and representative offices in two other major cities.

The rapprochement not only lowers the chance of armed conflict between the Mideast rivals — both directly and in proxy conflicts around the region — but also represents a major diplomatic victory for the Chinese as Gulf Arab states perceive the United States slowly withdrawing from the wider region.

# Saudi, Iran restore ties Temple vandalised



The ministers agreed to reopen embassies in the countries' respective capitals and representative offices in two other major cities

a conflict in which both Iran and Saudi Arabia are deeply entrenched. Amirabdollahian's tweet came after Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said foreign ministers from both nations had signed a joint statement and expressed their determination to improve ties in line with their talks in Beijing last month.

The official Iranian news agency, IRNA, said that as part of Thursday's agreement, the two long-time regional rivals would reopen representative offices in their respective capitals and in two other major cities — Mashhad in Iran and Jeddah in Saudi Arabia.

**Toronto, April 6:** A prominent Hindu temple in Canada's Ontario province has been vandalised by unknown people with "anti-Hindu and anti-India graffiti", in what is described by police as a "hate-motivated incident."

In a statement, the police in Ontario's Windsor city said on Wednesday that it has launched an investigation into the incident and looking for two suspects. The High Commission of India in Ottawa, Canada has strongly condemned the act of vandalism.

"We have taken up with the Canadian authorities the hateful act of putting anti India graffiti on the walls of BAPS Swaminarayan temple in Windsor. We strongly condemn this act of vandalism," the mission said in a tweet.

The Windsor Police Service said officers were dispatched to the Hindu temple in the 1700 block of the Northway Avenue following a report of hate-motivated vandalism on Wednesday. "Officers discovered anti-Hindu and anti-India graffiti sprayed in black on an exterior wall of the building," the police said in a statement.

The Windsor Police Service was investigating vandalism at the temple "as a hate-motivated incident," the statement said. Through investigation, officers obtained a video that shows two suspects in the area just after 12 a.m. In the video, one suspect appears to commit the vandalism on the wall of the building while the other keeps watch, it said.

At the time of the incident, one suspect wore a black sweater, black pants with a small white logo on the left leg, and black and white high-top running shoes. The second suspect wore black pants, a sweatshirt black shoes, and white socks. Police asked residents in the immediate vicinity of the temple to check their home surveillance or dashcam video footage for evidence of the suspects.

# Pilot safely lands plane after cobra shows up in cockpit

Engineers stripped parts of the plane in an attempt to find the snake but were unsuccessful by the time night fell, when they decided to continue the next morning

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Johannesburg, April 6:** Pilots are normally trained for a number of worst-case scenarios, but certainly not for dealing with a snake in the cockpit.

But South African pilot Rudolf Erasmus has just done that. Erasmus has been lauded by flight experts for a safe emergency landing after a highly venomous Cape cobra reared its head in the cockpit mid-flight. Erasmus, who has been flying for the past five years, maintained his nerve as the cobra slid back under his seat as soon

## UNUSUAL VISITOR



as he saw it. He was flying a small Beachcraft plane with four passengers on Monday morning, from Worcester to Nelspruit. Erasmus explained his dilemma to the website TimesLive. "When we did the preflight (procedure) on Monday morning, the people at Worcester airfield told us they had seen a Cape cobra lying underneath the wing on Sunday afternoon. They tried to catch it themselves but unfortunately it sought refuge inside the engine cowlings. The group opened the cowlings but the snake was not there so they assumed it had slithered away," he said. "I usually travel with a water bottle that I lodge between my leg and my hip towards the side wall of the aircraft. When I felt this cold sensation where my love handles are, I thought my bottle was dripping. As I turned to my left and looked down, I saw the cobra putting its head back underneath my seat," Erasmus said. He said that for a moment he was stunned silent. "I had a moment of stunned silence, not sure if I should tell the passengers because I didn't want to cause a panic. But obviously they needed to know at some point what was going on," he said. "I just said, 'listen, there's a problem. The snake is inside the aircraft. I've got a feeling it's under my seat so we are going to have to get the plane on the ground as soon as possible," he said. "We were cruising at 11,000 feet in the air when I felt something cold against my hip," Rudolf Erasmus said. The flight was close to the airport at Welkom, so Erasmus declared an emergency with the control tower in Johannesburg. "I told them I had an unwelcome passenger. As soon as the aircraft came to a stop, we started getting out. The three passengers in the back came out first and then the one sitting in front with me," Erasmus said. "I got out last and as I rolled the seat forward, I saw it curled underneath my seat. We contacted a few people around trying to get some snake handlers but by the time they arrived it had disappeared inside the aircraft again," Erasmus said. Engineers stripped

parts of the plane in an attempt to find the snake but were unsuccessful by the time night fell, when they decided to continue the next morning.

They also left some maize meal around the plane, to see if the cobra perhaps slithered out during the night, but this was still undisturbed the next morning.

Erasmus said they are hoping it found its way out earlier while they were waiting for the engineers. Aviation specialist and SA chief air show commentator Brian Emmenis, who has been in aviation for 38 years, told the website Erasmus had displayed "the greatest skill in aviation". Emmenis said he had never heard of such a case in his four decades in the aviation industry.

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**The government is hopeful of a record wheat output of 112.2 million tonne in 2022-23 crop year ending June despite inclement weather conditions in some parts of the country affecting grain quality**  
SANJEEV CHOPRA | UNION FOOD SECRETARY

**UPI CRAZE AMONG MILLENNIALS**

Unified Payments Interface (UPI) emerged as the second most preferred repayment method for digital loans, while SIP (Systematic Investment Plan) is the most popular investment option for millennials, according to a report. About 84% of millennials prefer credit lines over personal loans (14%) and Buy Now, Pay Later (2%)



**of the day quote**

**Tata Steel India reported a record-breaking operational performance in FY23 despite a challenging environment. Our strong marketing network and agile business model enabled us to grow across segments**  
TV NARENDRA | CEO & MD, TATA STEEL

**The Indian housing market is witnessing a significant growth, with both sales and new launches on the rise. This is particularly noteworthy considering the challenging global environment and the hardening of interest rates on home loans in the domestic market**  
VIKAS WADHAWAN | CFO, PROPTIGER.COM

**Smart TV contribution to overall shipments reached its highest-ever of 90 per cent during the year. It is expected to go up further due to more launches in the sub-Rs 20,000 price range and non-smart-TV-to-smart-TV migration**  
ANSHIKA JAIN | SENIOR ANALYST, COUNTERPOINT RESEARCH

**SHORT TAKES**

**Discoms' dues to gencos decline**

**New Delhi:** The outstanding dues of power distribution companies (discoms) to power generating companies or the gencos have reduced to ₹91,061 crore in March, Parliament was informed Thursday. The outstanding dues which were at ₹1,38,378 crore earlier declined to ₹91,061 crore as March 28, 2023, Union Minister for Power, New and Renewable Energy RK Singh said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha. He further said that the government promulgated Electricity (Late Payment Surcharge and Related Matters) Rules 2022 June 3, 2022, recognizing the cash flow problems arising out of outstanding receivables of gencos and in order to increase basic payment discipline in the power sector value chain.

**Crisil upgrades JSL outlook**

**New Delhi:** Jindal Stainless Ltd (JSL) Thursday said Crisil Ratings has revised its outlook on the stainless steelmaker's long-term bank facilities and debt to positive and reaffirmed the 'AA-' rating. The rating agency has revised its outlook in view of the company's improved business risk profile, an expected uptick in scale and forward integration with capacity expansion and acquisitions, JSL said in a statement.

**BID TO CALM INVESTORS**

*In a series of roadshows from Hong Kong to New York held in recent weeks for fixed income investors, the group committed to achieving 20% year-on-year growth in core earnings and to diversify its debt portfolio*

**New Delhi, April 6:** India's Adani group told investors that several top Japanese and European banks have reaffirmed confidence in the embattled conglomerate after it was pummeled by a US short seller's critical report, a company document showed. Led by billionaire businessman Gautam Adani, the group's seven listed stocks have lost about \$120 billion in market value since a January 24 report by Hindenburg Research accused it of improper use of offshore tax havens and stock manipulation, allegations the group has denied. Adani group shares and bonds have regained some lost ground

**Govt revises gas pricing formula**

**New Delhi, April 6:** The Union Cabinet Thursday approved a revision in the formula for pricing of natural gas and imposed cap or ceiling price to help cut CNG and piped cooking gas prices by up to 10 per cent. Natural gas produced from legacy or old fields, known as APM gas, will now be indexed to the price of imported crude oil instead of benchmarking it to gas prices in four surplus nations such as the US, Canada and Russia, Union I&B Minister Anurag Thakur told reporters. APM gas will be priced at 10 per cent of the price of a basket of crude oil that India imports (Indian basket of crude oil). The rate such arrived at however will be capped at \$6.5 per million British thermal unit. There will also be a floor or base price of \$4 per mmbtu. The ceiling price is lower than the current rate of \$8.57 per mmbtu and would translate into a reduction in prices of piped cooking gas as well as CNG sold to automobiles, he said. Piped cooking gas prices will be cut by up to 10 per cent across cities while CNG will see a little lower reduction, he said. Rates of piped cooking gas, called PNG, and CNG have jumped 80 per cent in one year to August 2022. Following the decision, the CNG price in Delhi will be cut from ₹79.56 per kg to ₹73.59 and that of PNG from ₹53.59 per thousand cubic meters to ₹47.59. In Mumbai, CNG will cost ₹79 per kg instead of ₹87 and PNG will cost ₹49 per scm instead of ₹54. The Indian basket of crude oil is currently priced at \$85 per barrel and 10 per cent of that translates into a price of \$8.5 but the cap would mean the APM gas produces, ONGC and Oil India Ltd would get only \$6.5 per mmbtu.

**Washington, April 6:** The International Monetary Fund expects global economic growth to dip below 3% in 2023 and to remain around 3% for the next five years, IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said in prepared remarks Thursday. That is the global lender's lowest medium-term growth forecast since 1990, and well below the average growth of 3.8% seen in the past two decades. Georgieva said strong and coordinated monetary and fiscal policy actions to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine had prevented a much worse outcome in recent years, but growth prospects remained weak in both the near- and medium-term given persistently high inflation. "Despite surprisingly resilient labor markets and consumer spending in most advanced economies, and the uplift from China's reopening, we expect the world economy to grow less than 3 percent in

**5-year global growth outlook weakest since '90, warns IMF**

*IMF notes India and China would account for half of global growth in 2023, but about 90% of advanced economies would see a decline in their growth rate this year*

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**RBI cuts inflation target for FY24**

**RBI SLASHES INFLATION PROJECTION TO 5.2% IN FY24 AMID ADVERSE CLIMATE, UNCERTAINTY IN GLOBAL FINANCIAL MARKETS AS RISKS**

**New Delhi, April 6:** The Reserve Bank Thursday marginally cut retail inflation projection to 5.2 per cent in the current fiscal, but flagged adverse climatic conditions and rising uncertainty in international financial markets as future risks. Although the expectation of a record Rabi harvest bodes well for easing of food price pressures, milk prices are likely to remain firm going into the summer season due to tight demand-supply balance and fodder cost pressures, RBI said. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Thursday decided to keep the key benchmark policy rate at 6.5 per cent even as inflation is trending above its tolerance level. The rate hike has been paused after six consecutive rate increases aggregating to 250 basis points since May 2022. Although the Reserve Bank pared its inflation estimate from its

February projection of 5.3 per cent, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said the overall outlook remains "dynamic and fast evolving" amid the recent jump in crude oil prices following sudden announcement by OPEC+ countries to cut output. Assuming annual average crude oil price of \$85 per barrel and a normal monsoon, the retail inflation in the current fiscal is projected to moderate to 5.2 per cent, Das said in the monetary policy statement. In the last fiscal, which ended March 31, RBI projected average annual retail inflation at 6.5 per cent. US lenders - Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank, New York, - went belly up last month sending equity markets into a tizzy. Soon after, Switzerland-based Credit Suisse too came to the brink of collapse forcing the government to arrange for a takeover by its rival bank UBS.



**Interest rates have been effectively tightened by 290 basis points in the past year -- a 250 bps increase in the repo rate and a 40 bps increase when the standing deposit facility was introduced**

With the fight against inflation far from over, the global economy is now confronted with serious financial stability challenges from the recent banking sector developments in some advanced economies. For the June quarter, the RBI projected retail inflation to average 5.1 per cent, and rise to 5.4 per cent each in the September and December quarter. It is expected to decline to 5.2 per cent in the March

On the upside, adverse climatic conditions are a risk to the future inflation trajectory. Milk prices are also likely to remain firm going into the summer season due to tight demand-supply balance and fodder cost pressures. The rising uncertainty in international financial markets and imported inflation pressures need to be monitored closely

SHAKTIKANTA DAS | GOVERNOR, RBI

2024 quarter. The RBI has the mandate of keeping inflation at 4 per cent, with a band of (+/-) 2 per cent on either side. Retail inflation has remained above the RBI's upper tolerance level of 6 per cent for two months and in February it was 6.44 per cent. "The war against inflation has to continue until we see a durable decline in inflation closer to the target. We stand ready to act ap-

**KEY TAKEAWAYS**

- Benchmark lending rate unchanged at 6.50 per cent
- RBI projects 6.5% economic growth for 2023-24, better than 6.4% projected in Feb
- Inflation to be 5.2% in 2023-24, against 5.3% estimated in Feb
- RBI to set up centralised portal for public to search unclaimed deposits in multiple banks
- Rupee moved in an orderly manner in 2022 and continues to be so in 2023, RBI remains watchful
- CAD to remain moderate in Q4 2022-23 and in the year 2023-24 at a level that is both viable
- Next meeting of the monetary policy committee scheduled for June 6-8

appropriately and in time. We are confident that we are on the right track to bring down inflation to the target rate over the medium term," Das said. Except for November and December 2022, retail inflation has remained above RBI's upper tolerance level of 6 per cent since January 2022, before softening in November and December.

**GROWTH PROJECTION HIKED TO 6.5%**

The Reserve Bank Thursday marginally raised India's economic growth projection for the current financial year to 6.5 per cent on back of higher Rabi crop output, moderating commodity prices, and the government's plan of higher capital expenditure. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had earlier projected the gross domestic product (GDP) at 6.4 per cent. India's GDP is expected to have recorded a growth of 7.0 per cent in 2022-23. The World Bank in its latest 'India Development Update' (IDU) has slashed the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) forecast to 6.3 per cent, against the earlier estimate of 6.6 per cent in 2023-24. Asian Development Bank also expects India's economic growth to moderate to 6.4 per cent due to tight monetary conditions and elevated oil prices, as compared to 6.8 per cent expansion for the financial year ended March 2023.

**INDUSTRY LAUDS DECISION**

The pause in policy repo rate by RBI is a welcome move given the evolving macro-economic and financial markets scenario. The renewed phase of turbulence that central banks are grappling with globally given developments in the banking sector, geopolitics and slowdown in growth & trade flows warranted a prudent response which RBI has delivered

SUBHRAKANT PANDA | PRESIDENT, FICCI

RBI's pause is a prudent stance in the wake of high level of volatility in the global financial markets and geopolitical events

DEEPAK SOOD | SECRETARY GENERAL, ASSOCHAM

**RBI's decision to maintain the repo rate has been received well by the Indian real estate industry as it will not only accelerate housing demand and supply but also supplement sectoral growth overall**

HARSH YARDHAN PATODIA | NATIONAL PRESIDENT, CREDAI

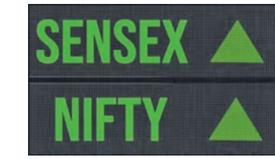
**Union Bank lays foundation stone**

**CUTTACK:** The foundation stone of Union Bank of India Regional Office, Cuttack was laid by MD & CEO A Manimekhalai in the presence of Field General Manager Sarvesh Ranjan, FGM office, Bhubaneswar and Regional Head of cuttack region Tushar Kanta Kar. The function started with the welcome of Manimekhalai followed by the 'Bhumi Pujan' and later the curtain of the foundation stone was unveiled by her. The staff members were also briefed about the new campaign 'EDGE' and were motivated regarding their contribution in upliftment of the Bank by Manimekhalai.



**Indices rise for 5th day in a row**

**Mumbai, April 6:** Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty continued their winning run for the fifth day Thursday as RBI's surprise policy move to pause rate hikes boosted buying in interest rate-sensitive stocks. Gains in index majors HDFC twins and Reliance Industries helped offset losses in IT, Power and FMCG stocks amid weak global trends. Bouncing back from early fall, the 30-share BSE Sensex rose by 143.66 points or 0.24 per cent to settle at 59,832.97. During the day, it advanced 260.75 points or 0.43 per cent to 59,950.06. The broader NSE Nifty gained 42.10 points or 0.24 per cent to finish at 17,599.15 after falling in initial trade. Sensex surged 2,219 points or 3.73 per cent while Nifty jumped 647 points or 4.21 per cent in the five-day rally, bolstered by a recovery in



financial, banking and auto shares. The rupee declined by 12 paise to close at 82.02 against the US dollar on Thursday as the RBI decided to keep the key benchmark policy rate at 6.5 per cent. At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened weak at 81.95 against the dollar, and touched a low of 82.06 in the day trade. Meanwhile, global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.54 per cent to \$84.53 per barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital markets Thursday as they purchased shares worth ₹475.81 crore.

**IT RULES AMENDMENT**  
**Strict rules for internet firms**

**New Delhi, April 6:** Internet firms like Google, Facebook and Twitter may lose protection under safe harbour if they fail to remove content identified by the government-notified fact-checker as false or misleading information, Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar said Thursday. He said that fact-checkers are a reference point to fight against misinformation and rejected arguments that it will adversely impact "free speech". "If you want section 79 safe harbour protection as an intermediary then you have some obligation. The obligation is that you have to be proactive on misinformation. If you choose to have a disagreement with the fact checker, you can continue to have that on your platform but then the person who has been aggrieved by that disinformation and you will have a legitimate dispute in the court ... Section 79 was a safe harbour. That will get removed," he said. Internet platforms and social media platforms such as Google, Facebook, Twitter, and internet service providers etc fall within the ambit of an intermediary. The safe harbour clause protects intermediaries from legal action on them for any objectionable content posted online by their users. The IT ministry will notify an entity that will flag false information posted online pertaining to the government, Chandrasekhar said. While releasing guidelines under the IT rules 2021, the minister said that the work on fact check is still in progress. "Government has decided to notify an entity through Meity and that organisation then would be the fact checker for all aspects of content online and only those content that are related to the government," he said.



IMF expects less than 3% global economic growth in 2023  
Growth dropped by almost half to 3.4% in 2022 following the shock of Russia's war in Ukraine from the 6.1% rebound seen in 2021

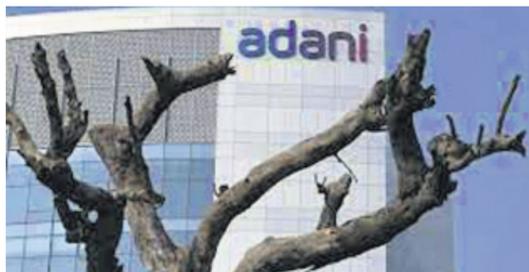
2023," she said in prepared remarks ahead of next week's spring meetings of the IMF and World Bank. Low-income countries, saddled by higher borrowing costs and weakening demand for their exports, would see per-capita income growth staying below that of emerging economies, she said.

The IMF chief called on central banks to stay the course in the fight against inflation as long as financial pressures remained limited, but to address financial stability risks when they emerge through appropriate provision of liquidity. Recent bank failures in Switzerland and the United States had exposed risk management failures at specific banks and supervisory lapses. "The key is to carefully monitor risks in banks and non-bank financial institutions, as well as weaknesses in sectors such as commercial real estate," she added. "Now is not the time for complacency." Technological decoupling could see some countries suffer losses of up to 12% of GDP, she said.

**With rising geopolitical tensions and still-high inflation, a robust recovery remains elusive. This harms the prospects of everyone, especially for the most vulnerable people and countries**  
KRISTALINA GEORGIEVA | MD, IMF

**Adani trumpets stable ties to global banks**

over the past month or so after it repaid some debt and attracted a \$1.9 billion investment from boutique investment firm GQG Partners. Still, Adani is battling an investigation by India's market regulator which is looking into Hindenburg's allegations as well as the group's related party dealings following a Supreme Court directive. In a series of roadshows from Hong Kong to New York held in recent weeks for fixed income investors, the group committed to achieving 20% year-on-year growth in core earnings and to diversify its debt portfolio, the document showed. Global banks such as "MUFG, SMBC, Mizuho, Standard



Chartered, Barclays, DBank (Deutsche Bank), consortium lender banks have reaffirmed confidence in Adani group," said the document which stated its goal was to assuage investors. The document, which was reviewed by Reuters, did not elaborate on how the lenders reaffirmed their commitment to the Adani group. Several of the banks already have business relationships with the group, ties which the con-

glomerate has previously pointed to as a sign of its strength to counter Hindenburg's allegations. **CONCERNS ABOUT DEBT** The Hindenburg report had sparked concern among investors about banks' exposures to the Adani group. Brokerage CLSA estimated in a January 26 report that the consolidated debt of the top five Adani group companies, with some element of double counting, stood at \$25.56 billion, with Indian banks

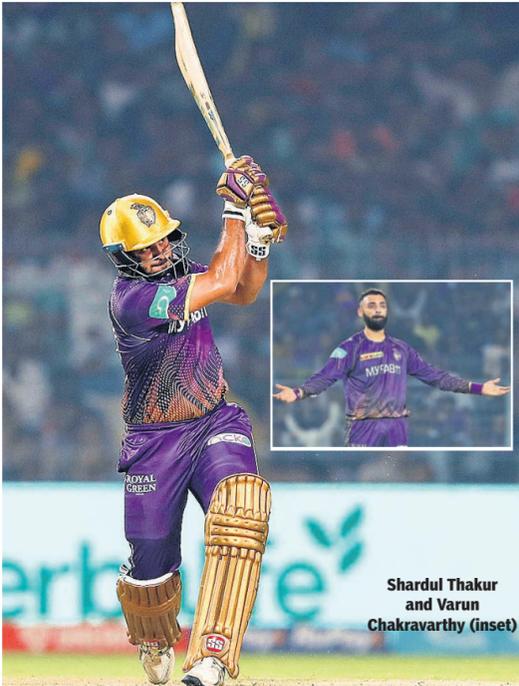
**NSE, BSE tighten surveillance on Adani Green Energy**

Leading bourses NSE and BSE on Thursday said Adani Green Energy will be moved to the first stage of the long term additional surveillance measure framework from April 10. On March 28, both the exchanges had put Adani Green Energy under the second stage of the long term Additional Surveillance Measure (ASM) framework. In two separate circulars, the bourses said Adani Green Energy will continue in the framework but will be moved to respective lower stage ASM from April 10. The parameters for shortlisting securities under the ASM framework include high-low variation, client concentration, number of price band hits, close-to-close price variation and price earning ratio. Meanwhile, stocks of all the 10 listed firms of the Adani group on Thursday ended the day in the positive territory, with Adani Transmission, Adani Green Energy, Adani Total Gas and NDTV each climbing 5 per cent.

forming 38% of that. "The group has consistently diversified its long term debt portfolio and has reduced its exposure to banks by using other sources of capital," the document said. Now, 39% of Adani's debt is currently in the form of bonds, 29% is from global banks and 32% comes from public or private banks in India, the Adani document added. Adani was forced to shelve a \$2.5 billion share sale due to the stock market rout that followed the Hindenburg report in which the short-seller also raised many questions on Adani's debt levels. The State Bank of India and other public sector lenders "have raised no red flags" and were comfortable with its financial position, and lenders "have reaffirmed they will continue to lend to Adani", the document added.

# Shardul, Varun help Knights thrash RCB

**Kolkata, April 6:** Shardul Thakur (68, 29b, 9x4, 3x6) smashed a counter-attacking half century before the spinners played their part to perfection as Kolkata Knight Riders made a memorable homecoming with an 81-run win over Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL here Thursday.



Shardul Thakur and Varun Chakravarty (inset)

KKR found themselves tottering for 89/5 before Thakur led a superb recovery with his knock to power his team to 204/7 after RCB opted to bowl. Coming in at No.7, Thakur hammered the joint-fastest fifty of the season off 20 balls and shared an entertaining 103-run wicket partnership off 47 balls with Rinku Singh (46, 33b, 2x4, 3x6). In reply, RCB failed to last the distance and folded up for 123 in 17.4 overs with the trio of Varun Chakravarty (4/15), Sunil Narine (2/16) and debutant Suyash Sharma (3/30) sharing eight wickets between themselves. Thakur also took one wicket in his all-round show in KKR's first home match after almost four years. RCB were going great guns at 44 no loss in 25 balls in pursuit of the big chase before the Narine triggered the collapse, foxing Virat Kohli (21) with a beauty in his 150th IPL match. Chakravarty then gave a double blow dismissing Glenn Maxwell (5) and Harshal Patel (0) in three balls. Thereafter, it was 19-year-old

leg-spinner Suyash who made a dream debut after being included as an impact player in place of Venkatesh Iyer. The long-haired mystery spinner got two wickets in one over to have KKR reeling at 86/8. At 42 for no loss, the RCB opening duo looked set for another easy chase when Narine triggered the collapse, cleaning up Kohli with a beauty. The star Indian completely missed the line as the ball sharply turned in to knock his stumps. Earlier, Willey (2/16) and Karn Sharma (2/26) took wickets off successive deliveries in powerplay and middle overs respectively to give RCB the initial edge as KKR were reduced to 89/5 inside 12 overs. Then Thakur and Rinku helped the home team go close to 200. Earlier, Rahmanullah Gurbaz first taking the charge against a

wayward Akash Deep en route to his 44-ball 57 (6x4, 3x6).

**BRIEF SCORES:** KKR 204/7 (Shardul Thakur 68, Rahmanullah Gurbaz 57, Rinku Singh 46; David Willey 2/16, Karn Sharma 2/26) beat RCB 123 (Faf du Plessis 23, Virat Kohli 21; Varun Chakravarty 4/15, Suyash Sharma 3/30, Sunil Narine 2/16) by 81 runs.



# Benzema hat-trick humbles Barcelona

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
**Barcelona, April 6:** Barcelona entered the final 'clasico' of the season with a chance of earning a fourth straight win against Real Madrid in the same season for the first time. But when it was all over, they had endured one of their worst ever home losses to their archrival. With another hat-trick by Karim Benzema, Madrid overturned Barcelona's advantage in the Copa del Rey semifinals with a re-sounding 4-0 win at Camp Nou Stadium to reach the final for the first time in nearly a decade. Madrid hadn't beaten Barcelona by four goals at Camp Nou since a 5-1 win in 1963. Vinicius Junior also scored as Madrid advanced 4-1 on aggregate after having lost the first leg 1-0 at home. Benzema also had a hat-trick in Madrid's 6-0 rout of Valladolid in the Spanish league Sunday.



Madrid will face Osasuna in the May 6 final in Seville. Osasuna eliminated Athletic Bilbao 2-1 on

losing the title match against Real Betis in 2005. Madrid hadn't made it to the final since 2014, when they beat Barcelona to win the last of their 19 Copa titles. Barcelona, the tournament's most successful club with 31 titles, were trying to return to the final for the first time since winning it in 2021 for their last triumph with Lionel Messi still in the squad. With the win, Madrid avoided losing four straight matches to Barcelona in the same season for the first time. Madrid won 3-1 in the first "clasico" of the season in the Spanish league, but since then had lost 3-1 in the Spanish Super Cup final, 1-0 in the first leg of the Copa semifinal and 2-1 in the other league match. Barcelona coach Xavi was trying to win four 'clasicos' in the same season and repeat a feat last achieved when Pep Guardiola won five in a row from 2008-10. Barcelona beat Madrid four times in 1982-83, but not in consecutive matches.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Rajawat stuns Nishimoto to enter quarters

**ORLEANS (FRANCE):** India's Priyanshu Rajawat notched up a stunning straight-game win over top seed Kenta Nishimoto of Japan to progress to the men's singles quarterfinals of the Orleans Masters Super 300 badminton tournament here Thursday. World No.58 Rajawat showed immaculate skills and tactical acumen en route a 21-8, 21-16 win over World No.12 Nishimoto, who had claimed the Madrid Spain Masters title on last Sunday. It could turn out to be an all-Indian quarterfinal contest if national champion Mithun Manjunath can get past Chinese Taipei's Chi Yu Jen.

### India rise to 101st in latest FIFA rankings

**NEW DELHI:** The Indian men's football team Thursday moved up five places to be at 101st spot in the FIFA rankings, riding on the wins over Myanmar and Kyrgyzstan in the recent Tri-nation tournament. With 1200.66 total points, the Igor Stimac-coached team is, however, at 19th place among 46 Asian nations. India's best ranking was 94th, attained in 1996. World Champions Argentina rose one place to be on top of the list, followed by France, Brazil, Belgium, England, Netherlands, Croatia, Italy, Portugal and Spain in the top 10. Japan are the top-ranked side among the Asian countries.

### Meredith replaces Richardson at MI

**NEW DELHI:** Mumbai Indians (MI) Thursday named Riley Meredith as a replacement for injured fast bowler Jhye Richardson. Richardson is suffering from a hamstring injury and was earlier ruled out of the Indian Premier League (IPL). His replacement, Australian fast bowler, Riley Meredith has played 5 T20 Internationals, picking up eight wickets. The 26-year-old has previously represented the Punjab Kings and Mumbai Indians in the IPL. "He joins MI for Rs 1.5 Crore," read an IPL advisory.

# Rashford scores again in Man United victory

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**

**Manchester, April 6:** The composed finish. That now-familiar finger-to-the-temple celebration pose. Marcus Rashford continued his prolific post-World Cup scoring spree for Manchester United Wednesday to put the team back on course for Champions League qualification. The England forward's 28th-minute goal secured a 1-0 victory over Brentford in the pouring rain at Old Trafford as United ended a three-match winless run in the Premier League to move back into the top four. United are tied for points with third-placed Newcastle, who was helped by some woeful defending by relegation-threatened West Ham in a 5-1 thrashing at the London Stadium. Callum Wilson and Joelinton scored two goals apiece in Newcastle's fourth straight win. Boos from the home fans greeted the



final whistle, with West Ham only out of the relegation zone on goal difference and manager David Moyes seemingly back under big pressure. Newcastle and Man United look to be the favorites to claim the final two Champions League spots behind Arsenal and Manchester City, the teams battling for the title. Tottenham is three points further back in fifth but has played one game more.

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