

DSPL-701



ODISHA
INDIA'S BEST KEPT SECRET.



Launching of Sports Infrastructure worth Rs 660 crores

by

Sj. Naveen Patnaik

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha

23 February, 2024

Bhubaneswar



SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

- 48 Indoor stadiums across the state
- 12 Hockey Training Centers
- Cuttack Table Tennis Academy and Rourkela Gymnastics Academy
- Foundation stone laying for Football Training Center in Cuttack, Women Football Training center in Aul in Kendrapara and Hockey Training Center in Deogarh etc.

“Sports for Youth
Youth for Future”





Inauguration



12 Hockey Training Centres



48 Multipurpose Indoor Stadiums



Table Tennis Academy
Cuttack



Gymnastics Academy,
Rourkela



Multipurpose Indoor Hall,
Bhawanipatna



Foundation Stone Laying



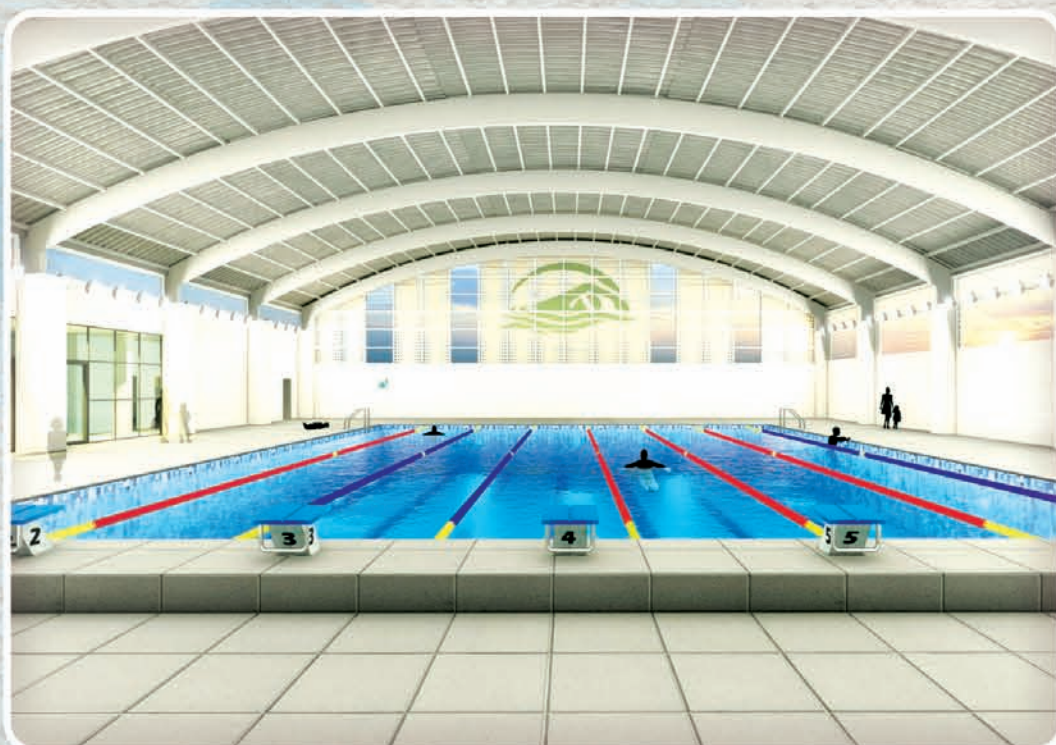
Hockey Training Centre
Deogarh



Women Football Training
Centre, Aul, Kendrapara



Multipurpose Indoor Stadiums
Remuna, Baliguda, Karanjia,
Titilagarh



Indoor Swimming Pool,
Bhadrak



Football Training Centre
Cuttack



ଆମ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ନବୀନ ଓଡ଼ିଶା

ସୁସ୍ଥ ଓଡ଼ିଶା, ସୁଖୀ ଓଡ଼ିଶା

ସର୍ବୋତ୍ତମ ସ୍ଵାସ୍ଥ୍ୟସେବା ସୁନିଶ୍ଚିତ କରିଛି BSKY

ବାର୍ଷିକ ୧୦ ଲକ୍ଷ ଟଙ୍କା ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଚିକିତ୍ସା ସୁବିଧା

DSPL-699

OIPR-15001/13/0407/2324

CBI glare on Malik

New Delhi: The CBI conducted searches at the premises of former J&K Governor Satya Pal Malik and 29 other locations Thursday in connection with alleged corruption in the Kiru Hydropower project.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



X has exposed us. Seems it has taken your advocacy of freedom of speech rather seriously.

KALIA FOR 3 MORE YRS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 22: The state Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Thursday approved extension of the flagship Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) scheme by three more years and effected crucial amendment to Odisha Semiconductor Manufacturing and Fabless Policy-2023, in what is aimed at benefitting the farming community and attracting investment in the high demand semiconductor sector in Odisha.

The two are among the 16 proposals that received nod during the 74th Cabinet meeting here, Thursday. Chief Secretary PK Jena said KALIA scheme has been extended

KEY ODISHA CABINET DECISIONS

- Allotment of DP tenements to 515 displaced families from erstwhile East Pakistan and Burma repatriates free-of-cost in Sunabeda
- Development of Ro-Pax Jetty and allied infra connecting Kaninali in Bhadrak and Talachua in Kendrapara

7.818 acre land at Padanpur under Jatni tehsil for National Skill Training Institute

for three years (2024-25 to 2026-27) and the state government will spend ₹6,029.70 crore for the purpose. "Landless agricultural households will now get ₹2,000 as one-time additional support. KALIA assistance can now be provided anytime in the year," he said.

Jena said the government has approved amendment to Odisha Semiconductor Manufacturing and Fabless Policy-2023. "Now,

semiconductor industry. The government has extended grant-in-aid (GIA) to employees of non-government new-aided high schools and Sanskrit Tolls as per Odisha Revised Pay Scale Rules 2017 (7th Pay), Jena said, adding about 7,796 teaching and non-teaching employees of 627 institutions will receive enhanced benefits.

The government has also revised the GIA (7th pay) to institutions for employees covered under Odisha (Non-government colleges, junior colleges and higher secondary schools) GIA in shape of Block Grant Order, 2014.

As many as 1,798 teaching and non-teaching employees of these institutions will be benefitted. Government will spend ₹27.37 crore for the purpose.

HC tweaks Meitei order

AGENCIES

Imphal, Feb 22: The Manipur High Court has ordered deletion of a paragraph from a March 2023 order that urged the state to consider including the Meitei community in the Scheduled Tribe (ST) list, saying the paragraph was in conflict with the Supreme Court's constitution bench stance.

The March 27, 2023 directive, believed to be a catalyst for ethnic unrest that claimed over 200 lives, was rescinded by a single judge bench of Justice Golmei Gaiphulshillu during a review petition hearing Wednesday.

The contentious paragraph of the last year verdict, which is now deleted, stated "the state government shall consider the case of the petitioners for inclusion of Meitei/Meitei community in the ST list, expeditiously, preferably within a period of four weeks from the date of receipt of the order".

Justice Gaiphulshillu's ruling emphasised the necessity of removing the directive, pointing to the Government of India's stipulated procedure for ST list amendments.

Referring to the constitutional protocol detailed in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs' 2013-14 report, the court highlighted the need for alignment with the SC's constitutional interpretation.

The HC's detailed 19-page verdict, available to media Thursday, underlined the legislative limitations on judicial interference concerning ST classifications, as outlined by a constitution bench ruling in November 2000.

DSPL-697

ଆମ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ନବୀନ ଓଡ଼ିଶା

ହାତପାଆନ୍ତୁରେ 'ଆମ ବ୍ୟାଙ୍କ' ସେବା

ପ୍ରଥମ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟାୟରେ

୭୫୦ଟି ପଞ୍ଚାୟତକୁ ବ୍ୟାଙ୍କ ସେବା

୨୦୨୪ ମାର୍ଚ୍ଚ ସୁଦ୍ଧା ୪,୩୦୦ରୁ ଊର୍ଦ୍ଧ୍ଵ

ଆମ ବ୍ୟାଙ୍କ ହେବ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ଷମ

ଲୋକଙ୍କ ଆର୍ଥିକ ସଶକ୍ତିକରଣରେ 'ଆମ ବ୍ୟାଙ୍କ'

ଆମ ବ୍ୟାଙ୍କ

ଗ୍ରାମାଞ୍ଚଳରେ ସହଜ ହେବ ଆର୍ଥିକ କାରବାର

ଏବେ ବ୍ୟାଙ୍କିଙ୍ଗ ସୁବିଧା ପାଇଁ ଯିବାକୁ ପଡ଼ିବନି ଗାଁଠୁ ଦୂର

ବରିଷ୍ଠ ନାଗରିକ, ଗର୍ଭବତୀ ଓ ଦିବ୍ୟାଙ୍ଗମାନେ ହେବେ ଉପକୃତ

ସୂଚନା ଓ ଲୋକସମ୍ପର୍କ ବିଭାଗ

OIPR-15001/13/0402/2324

Create role models for students: CM



576 HINDI AND SANSKRIT TEACHERS JOIN GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOLS

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Feb 22: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday advised the teachers to inspire the children to fulfil their dreams and create role models for the students. The Chief Minister said this while addressing an orientation-cum-induction programme organised at Lok Seva Bhawan where 576

Hindi (368) and Sanskrit (208) teachers were handed over appointment letters.

Welcoming the new teachers and students, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said that education changes the thinking and consciousness of a nation. He advised the teachers to inspire the children to fulfil their dreams and to create role models for the students.

Stating that 5T school transformation programme is continuing to achieve this goal, Patnaik said that this has brought about a complete transformation in the infrastructure and

environment of schools in the state. There has been a significant improvement in the quality of education in all government and government-aided schools of the state.

He said that 4,605 new classrooms, 16,920 smart classrooms, 7,863 modern laboratories, and 7,920 e-libraries have been created through the high school transformation programme.

Stating that emphasis is being laid on recruiting more teachers in the state, the Chief Minister said the state government has appointed 4,742 teachers in the current academic year at secondary level.

Attending the programme, School and Mass Education Minister Sudam Marndi said that the department has achieved top results based on the 5T mantra under the direction of the Chief Minister. He opined that when the standard of education rises, the country develops. He advised the teachers to make efforts to improve the moral thinking of the children.

S&ME secretary Aswathy S delivered the welcome speech while director Sushant Das proposed the vote of thanks.



COOL EFFECT: A man arranges terracotta water pots near Barabati Stadium in Cuttack, Thursday, as summer starts knocking at the door

OP PHOTO

Voter awareness prog for high turnout

Bhubaneswar: Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Odisha is organising voter awareness programmes across the state to educate eligible people about the voting process and achieve the maximum possible voter turnout during the election. Under this initiative, awareness centres have been created at all district and sub-divisional levels, where EVM (electronic voting machine) and VVPAT (voter verifiable paper audit trail) demonstrations are conducted for the visitors. "Visitors in large numbers are coming to these centres," said an official. "Visitors from all socio-economic strata and regions are showing keen interest in participating in this awareness drive. The young voters in particular are showing more interest and enthusiasm to know more about the EVM and VVPAT machines," said the official.

ICC holds MSME agro int'l summit



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 22: The Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), in association with Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), organised MSME Agro International Summit here, Thursday.

The summit held under the International Cooperation (IC) Scheme, aims to foster collaboration and innovation in the agro MSME sector.

On this occasion, Mercy Epao, Joint Secretary-SME, Ministry of MSME, addressed the summit virtually. She spoke about the statistical present scenario about MSMEs and the support that the Indian government is rendering them.

The dignitaries present included chief guest Asit Tripathy, Chairman, WODC and Principal Advisor to Chief Minister on Regional Development, Tourism, Agribusiness and Industry, guest of honours Sanjaya K Dash, Dean, CAET, Odisha University of

Agriculture & Technology (OUAT), and PK Gupta, Joint Director & HOO, MSME-DFO, Cuttack.

Tripathy stressed on the importance of the Agro and MSME Sector in creation of high volume jobs and the focus of various schemes of the state government to promote entrepreneurship in this sector. Gupta focused on taking traditional food industry forward and making use of modern tools for making it future ready. He also stressed upon how MSME department schemes can help young entrepreneurs.

JB Pany, Chairman, ICC Odisha State Council spoke about how important the summit is with regards to the international linkages facilitating the import-export market. He emphasised on the fact that the second edition of this summit has been cultured in lieu of the IC scheme by the Ministry of MSME and is a pathway to more such collaborative initiatives.

SC's directive on forests hailed

Bhubaneswar: Odisha Environmental Society (OES) Thursday hailed the Supreme Court's order asking the states and Union Territories to act as per the definition of 'forest' laid down by the apex court in a 1996 judgment and directing the government to adhere to the "broad and all-encompassing" meaning of 'forest'.

Pandian reviews irrigation projects in Ganjam

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 22: During his visit to Ganjam district, as per direction of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Chairman 5T and Nabin Odisha Kartik Pandian Thursday reviewed the progress of a dam and major irrigation projects in the district.

The projects reviewed by Pandian included the Pipalapanka Dam Project in Sorada block, Janivilly Barrage Project in Dharakote block and Cheligada Irrigation Project in Digapahandi block. These projects, built at a cumulative cost of ₹1,300 crore, would provide irrigation to a total ayacut area of 1,84,000 acres.

Later, Pandian participated in public grievance meetings at Bellaguntha, Dharakote, Kukurakhandi and Patrapur. The Nabin Odisha Chairman informed about the decisions of the chief minister to increase social security pensions across all



'You could even fire bullets at me'

"You can throw eggs, tomatoes or ink at me or even fire bullets, but that would not deter me from meeting and serving the people of Odisha," 5T and Nabin Odisha Chairman Kartik Pandian said after a man allegedly hurled a tomato at him during a programme in Ganjam, Thursday. The 25-year-old man, identified as Anil Kumar Mallick, a resident of Biripur in Gangapur area was detained, the police said. The incident took place in Belaguntha area where Pandian attended the 'Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha' programme as chief guest. The tomato, however, missed Pandian and the man was nabbed by BJD supporters. The police personnel present at the spot rescued him as he was about to be thrashed by party workers.

categories by ₹500 each that would benefit around 58 lakh people. Pandian also appraised the gatherings of the chief minister's decision to increase pensions under Mukhyamantri

Yojana has been increased from ₹5,000 to ₹10,000 which will further benefit women and infants towards improved nutrition and better health outcomes.

For the benefit of under graduate and post graduate students studying in state universities, government and non-government aided colleges - including Sanskrit colleges and unaided colleges under the Higher Education department - Pandian informed about the Chief Minister's move to provide Nua-O scholarships under which male and female students will get annual incentives of ₹9,000, and ₹10,000, respectively. Similarly, students belonging to eligible SC/ST and Nirman Shramik families will get ₹10,000 (male) and ₹11,000 (female) per annum, he said adding that the scholarships for the current academic year will be deposited in the bank accounts of the eligible students from February 26 onwards.

Kalakar Sahayata Yojana and Mukhyamantri Bunakar o Karigara Sahayata Yojana from ₹1,200 to ₹2,000. He also informed that financial assistance under MAMATA

CLASSIFIED LOST

I, Sanjay Panda, resident of 1890, Chintamaniswar area, Bhubaneswar. Currently residing at Harihara Nagar, Aska. On 21.02.2024 while traveling at 8 A.M. to Kanchuru Branch by unfortunately my bag was missed at Nalabanta. The General Power of Attorney, issued to me by my employer Axis Bank Ltd was also in the bag which was lost with my other documents. If anyone finds the same it may be returned to the above mentioned address.

I Smt. Anupama Das, W/o-Rabindra Kumar Das aged about 56 years of present resident of Qtr No.-G/4, Upper Police Colony, Tulasipur, PS- Bidanasi, Dist.- Cuttack hereby declare that the link Original Sale deed bearing No.- 11831300268 dtd.29.8.2013 and Original R.O.R Khata No.- 119/169 Plot No.-320/3728, 321/3729, Mouza Fakirpara, Trisulia, Cuttack of Sidhartha Sankar Sahoo has been lost in Transit. I further state that I wish to create Mortgage on the said property for availing Home Loan from State Bank of India Branch RASMEC Cuttack, Branch Code No.- 10028. If any body has found the same Sale Deed and R.O.R Please return the Original Document to SBI, RASMEC, Cuttack or contact me on my Mob No- 9861962063.

MoU inked for loans to youths under SWAYAM



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Feb 22: For successful implementation of the newly launched SWAYAM scheme, which aims to promote entrepreneurial skills among the youth, the state government has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) here Thursday.

Under the SWAYAM scheme, CGTMSE will provide guarantee for up to 85 per cent of the loan amount and the state government will guarantee the remaining 15 per cent. Moreover, as per the norms on share of guarantee coverage, the state government, on behalf of the beneficiaries, will bear the annual guarantee fee charged by the CGTMSE.

The chief executive officer of CGTMSE Sandeep Verma signed the agreement with

Prangyasmata Sahu, Director of Institutional Finance, Finance department, who represented the state government. The event was chaired by Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena, who was joined by the Development Commissioner, Additional Chief Secretary and principal secretaries of various departments.

Principal secretary of the Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water (PR & DW) department briefed officials of all banks operating in the state about the newly launched scheme. The bank officials were also informed that the state government will bear the interest burden accrued from the loan amount.

Notably, under the SWAYAM scheme, youth in the age group of 18 to 35 years will be provided interest-free bank loans for project cost of ₹1 lakh to encourage them to start a new business or expand their existing business.

Radio collaring of wild elephants begins in state

PRESS TRUTH OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Feb 22: The Odisha Forest department has successfully fitted a radio collar on a wild elephant in Angul district, which will help track and monitor the movement of the elephants, a senior official said. A male elephant with injury

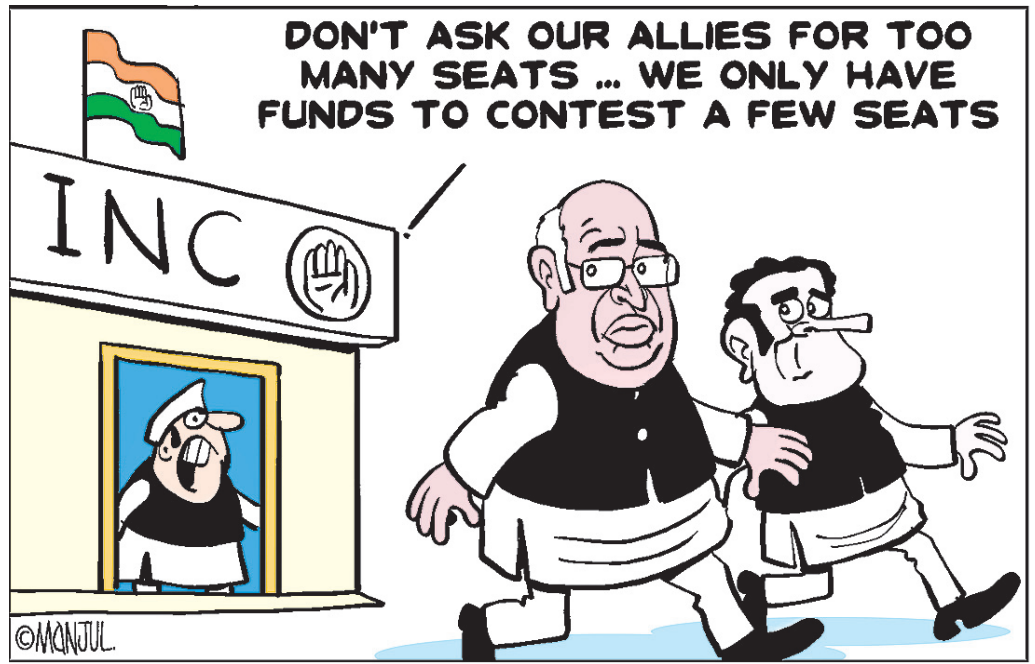
was found in Chhendipada Jungle (Sapiosahi) of Chhendipada range in Angul forest division. It was on observation since February 14 and treated successfully by veterinarians, he said.

On Wednesday, the elephant was tranquillized and a radio collar was fitted to the animal before its release in the forest, said Susanta Nanda, principal chief conservator of forests (PCCF) wildlife Thursday.

It will help track and monitor the movement of the elephant for its post-treatment observation as well as to monitor the behaviour of the tusker, he said.

According to forest officials, the move will also help track the elephant in areas with human-elephant conflict. Further, the injured elephant, which would have been vulnerable to poaching, will now be easier to track its movement to prevent any untoward event.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



| MARKET WATCH | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| INDEX | VARIATION |
| SENSEX | 73158.24 ↑ 535.15 |
| NIFTY | 22217.50 ↑ 162.50 |
| DOLLAR | 82.85 ↓ ₹.012 |
| EURO | 89.90 ↑ ₹0.27 |
| GOLD | ₹62,005 ↓ ₹103 |
| SILVER | ₹70,328 ↓ ₹281 |

| WEATHER | | |
|----------|--------|--------|
| | BBSR | CTC |
| Max Temp | 36.4°C | 35.8°C |
| Min Temp | 23.0°C | 22.7°C |
| Humidity | 90% | 84% |
| Rainfall | Nil | Nil |

FORECAST
DRY WEATHER VERY LIKELY

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

X withholds farmers' posts with protest

NEW DELHI, Feb 22: Social media platform X Thursday expressed disagreement with the Indian government's order to block accounts and posts related to the ongoing farmers' protests and called for extending freedom of expression to the affected posts.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (IT) has ordered social media platforms to temporarily block 177 accounts that were linked to farmers' protests on request of the Ministry of Home Affairs, according to sources.

"The Indian government has issued executive orders requiring X to act on specific accounts and posts, subject to potential penalties including significant fines and imprisonment. In compliance with the orders, we will withhold these accounts and posts in India alone; however, we disagree with these actions and maintain that freedom of expression should extend to these posts," X said in a post.

The social media platform said that a writ appeal challenging the Indian government's blocking orders remains pending and called for making the



order public to enhance transparency.

"Due to legal restrictions, we are unable to publish the executive orders, but we believe that making them public is essential for transparency. This lack of disclosure can lead to a lack of accountability and arbitrary decision-making," X said. The social media firm has provided the impacted users with notice of the government actions in accordance with the company's policies.

Farmers from across the country have been protesting to press for their demands, including a legal guarantee for minimum support price (MSP) for crops and farm debt waiver.

Meanwhile, farmer leaders put their march to the national capital on hold for two days after a protester was killed and about

Cong slams govt

Meanwhile, the Congress alleged that democracy is being "murdered" in the country, after microblogging platform X voiced disagreement with the BJP-led Centre's order to block accounts and posts related to ongoing farmers' protests. Attacking the Centre, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi claimed the public knows that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has "murdered democracy" and the public will give an answer to it. "If farmers ask for MSP, shoot them -- is this the mother of democracy? When the youth ask for appointment, then refuse to even listen to them - this is the Mother of Democracy? If the former governor tells the truth, then send CBI to his house -- is this the mother of democracy?" he asked.

12 police personnel were injured in clashes at one of protest sites on Punjab-Haryana border.

Prez's 4-day Odisha visit from Feb 28

Bhubaneswar: President Droupadi Murmu is set to embark on a four-day visit to the state starting February 28, official sources said. The President will participate in various programmes across several districts, including Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Ganjam, Khurda and Sambalpur. Murmu will arrive in Mayurbhanj district February 28 where she is scheduled to lay the foundation stones for several projects and inaugurate others in Rairangpur. The following day, she will visit Kichakeswari temple in Mayurbhanj to pay her respects to the goddess before proceeding to Keonjhar to inaugurate a national-level seminar on tribals at Dharanidhar University. In the evening, she will attend the 53rd Convocation of Utkal University. On March 1, President Murmu will attend the 25th Convocation of Berhampur University.



TECH BOOST: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurates IT major Accenture's Advanced Technology Centre in Bhubaneswar, Thursday. 5T and Nabin Odisha Chairman Kartik Pandian and Accenture officials look on. Spread over 70,000 sq ft area, the centre is designed to accommodate 2,000 professionals in hybrid work environment with potential for future expansion

'Incredibly rare' turtle discovered in Kerala

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Feb 22: The first breeding population of an 'incredibly rare' turtle has been discovered by conservationists on the banks of Chandragiri river in Kerala.

The University of Portsmouth in England-led team used local knowledge to find the nesting site of the 'secretive' Cantor's giant softshell turtle (*Pelochelys cantorii*), which is native to south and south-east Asia's rivers.

The freshwater turtle is clas-



sified as 'critically endangered' on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) red list of threatened species with its numbers still decreasing.

The research was carried out in collaboration with the Zoological Society of London,

University of Miami, Museum of Zoology at the Senckenberg Society for Nature Research in Germany, Florida Museum of Natural History in the USA, and Wildlife Institute of India.

According to a spokesperson of University of Portsmouth, the species was 'known for its rarity and secretive nature'. It had 'long been a subject of fascination and concern among conservationists'.

"For years, the Cantor turtle's existence has barely been a murmur against the backdrop of

India's bustling biodiversity, with sightings so scarce that the turtle's very presence seemed like a ghost from the past," said Dr Francoise Cabada-Blanco from the university's School of Biological Sciences.

Following several unsuccessful attempts at tracking them down, using conventional ecological survey methods, the research team took a different approach - using local knowledge and historical sightings to piece together the exact location of the nest, the BBC reported.

DSPL-696

ଆମ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ନବୀନ ଓଡ଼ିଶା

ମା' ଓ ଶିଶୁଙ୍କ ଉତ୍ତମ ପୁଷ୍ଟି ସାଧନ ଓ ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟରକ୍ଷାକୁ ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱ

'ମମତା ଯୋଜନା'ରେ ୫୫ ଲକ୍ଷରୁ ଊର୍ଦ୍ଧ୍ୱ ମା'ମାନଙ୍କୁ ମିଳିଛି

₹୧୦,୦୦୦ର ଆର୍ଥିକ ସହାୟତା

'ମମତା ଯୋଜନା'ର ବୈଶିଷ୍ଟ୍ୟ

- ✦ ମମତା ଯୋଜନା ପାଇଁ ₹୫୨୧ କୋଟିର ବ୍ୟୟବରାଦ
- ✦ ମାତୃ ଓ ଶିଶୁ ମୃତ୍ୟୁହାର କମ୍ କରିବା ଦିଗରେ ଉଦାହରଣ ସାଜିଛି ଓଡ଼ିଶା

ସୂଚନା ଓ ଲୋକସମ୍ପର୍କ ବିଭାଗ

OIPR-15001/13/0401/2324

FOCUS LABOUR

LAZINESS AS RESISTANCE



Choosing to disengage from the relentless pursuit of profit within the confines of the capitalist market is not merely an act of idleness but a potent form of political, social, and cultural resistance against an increasingly antisocial culture that commodifies human labour

scape, work under capitalism serves not only as a means of survival but also as the root cause of myriad social, economic, cultural, and political woes. The seemingly innate drive for work, often fuelled by the commitment and morality of the working class, paradoxically reinforces its own subjugation to capital. This passion for work, while admirable in its dedication, unwittingly perpetuates the bondage to capital in the daily lives of working people, entrenching them deeper within the system. The technological and digital revolution was anticipated to liberate working people, affording them more leisure time to pursue socially meaningful activities by enhancing productivity. However, this vision has been overshadowed by the reality of technology infiltrating even the most private spaces of people's lives. In today's job landscape, workers in sectors such as information technology find themselves toiling long hours, often without job security or autonomy over their labour. The rise of technology-led work has blurred the boundaries between professional and personal life, with tasks encroaching into people's bedrooms and bathrooms. Moreover, the principles of bureaucratic Taylorism, emphasising efficiency and standardisation, have become even more deeply entrenched in contemporary workplaces. This trend

serves to intensify the exploitation of workers by imposing greater pressure to accelerate the pace of work, often at the expense of their well-being. Compounding these challenges is the diminishing influence of trade union movements, which historically served as a bulwark against worker exploitation. In the current landscape, workers find themselves more vulnerable than ever, lacking the collective bargaining power that characterised the industrial era. The capitalist work regime ensnares workers within its productivist culture, wherein true emancipation for workers lies in liberation from work itself. There is little merit in fervently dedicating oneself to work and employers when the fruits of labour produced by the working classes are siphoned off by a privileged few bourgeois. Engaging with capitalism as a system of social, political, cultural, and economic organisation only serves to perpetuate the organised plunder sanctioned by authority. Consider the implications if working people were to collectively cease their labour and defy the productivist ideology of capitalism. What would be the future of capitalist work if workers exclusively pursued socially meaningful endeavours aligned with genuine needs and desires? And what might become of the working population if they were to embrace laziness as a political

choice? While imagining a world devoid of work in the midst of the technological revolution may seem utopian, it raises profound questions about the nature of labour and its role in society. Could "No to work," disengagement, and non-cooperation be the only viable responses to these fundamental inquiries? In contemplating these notions, it becomes evident that the current structure of capitalism perpetuates a cycle of exploitation and alienation for the working class. Embracing alternatives that prioritise human well-being over relentless productivity may hold the key to unlocking a future where individuals are liberated from the shackles of labour and empowered to pursue lives socially rich in meaning and fulfillment. In a society steeped in the decadence of capitalism, laziness takes on a new significance—it becomes a virtue. Choosing to disengage from the relentless pursuit of profit within the confines of the capitalist market is not merely an act of idleness but a potent form of political, social, and cultural resistance against an increasingly antisocial culture that commodifies human labour. Let us embrace laziness as a means of tapping into inherent happiness and unleashing the creative potential inherent within every human being that paves the way for social progress, cooperation, solidarity, peace, and prosperity. In this vision, the celebration of living labour extends beyond the confines of economic productivity, fostering a culture of genuine fulfillment and collective well-being. Let us dare to be lazy in pursuit of a world where the true essence of humanity flourishes, unencumbered by the chains of capitalist exploitation. Let's create a society where living labour can celebrate life beyond the capitalist framework of monetisation of time, people, place, and environment. Let laziness be a form of resistance to capitalism.

The writer is a Professor in the London Metropolitan University, UK. Views are personal.



Bhabani Shankar Nayak

RATHER THAN FOSTERING PROSPERITY FOR ALL, THE PRODUCTIVIST IDEOLOGY SERVES TO ENRICH CAPITALISM WHILE PERPETUATING POVERTY AMONG THE MASSES

The productivist ideology lies at the core of the profit-making pyramid of capitalism. It perpetuates a relentless cycle characterised by busy schedules, workplace tension, an imbalance in work-life equilibrium, and a pervasive sense of alienation. These challenges afflict individuals across various professions, all of whom contribute their labour for wages in exchange for the creation of value (the core of profit for capitalists). However, rather than fostering prosperity for all, the productivist ideology serves to enrich capitalism while perpetuating poverty among the masses.

Capitalism as a system thrives on the perpetual cycle of production and reproduction, sustained by necessities and desires of everyday life within the framework of capitalist structures. Regardless of the stage of development, these structures persist in our society, ensnaring individuals in a web of risks, insecurities, low wages, and exploitation. The pillars of the free market economic project, intertwined with the meritocratic political spectrum, further exacerbate these inequalities. They uphold a system where profit accumulation and individual success are prioritised over the well-being of the collective. Thus, the productivist ideology not only sustains the capitalist machinery but also perpetuates a cycle of inequality and hardship for the masses. The May Day promise of an equitable capital-labour accord, advocating for eight hours of work, eight hours of leisure, and eight hours of rest, has withered away in the face of evolving forms of capitalism, especially with the advent of the digital revolution. The traditional collective wage bargaining, once championed by trade union movements, is losing its efficacy as platform economies emerge within the capitalist framework. These platforms further segment the workforce based on various criteria such as skill levels, education, and geographic location, creating hierarchies of labour that exacerbate existing inequalities. In the contemporary land-



THE MOTHER

To stand for the Truth in all circumstances, to declare it if necessary in the teeth of the worst opposition and to be ready to all you can for its sake, is the definition of heroism.

Quest For Wealth

In 1930, John Maynard Keynes published his short essay "Economic Possibilities for Our Grandchildren," in which he outlined his vision of a future global economy characterised by leisure and abundance. As the rapid advance of artificial intelligence threatens to displace millions of workers, it is worth revisiting this brilliant, passionate work.

Keynes originally wrote his essay in 1928 for a lecture at a boys' school in Hampshire, England, and spent two years revising it before its publication. Despite being taken aback by the 1929 stock market crash, he encouraged his readers to view it as a "temporary phase of maladjustment." Demonstrating his characteristic foresight, Keynes avoided making predictions for the next five or ten years, instead focusing on the century to come.

Many of Keynes' insights were remarkably prescient. Modern society, he observed, had become "afflicted with a new disease," whereby technological advances had reduced demand for labour. But he viewed this "technological unemployment" as a reason for hope, not despair, predicting that innovation would drive rapid GDP growth and usher in an age of leisure. "The standard of life in progressive countries one hundred years hence," he speculated, "will be between four and eight times as high as it is." Despite the economic ups and downs of the past century, this prediction has proven to be accurate.

But as far-sighted as he was, Keynes' other forecasts were far off the mark. "Within a hundred years," he asserted, humanity's "economic problem" – the need to work in order to produce the goods that sustain us – would be resolved. While people may still work "three hours a day," mainly "to satisfy the old Adam in most of us," both the poor and the rich would enjoy such prosperity that labour would become unnecessary.

Keynes has been rightly taken to task for this wildly optimistic prediction. As Elizabeth Kolbert noted in *The New Yorker*, the productivity gains of the past century have not translated into increased leisure time for all. To be sure, the economically disadvantaged work less now, both because there are fewer jobs and because life is less precarious than it used to be. But the wealthy, driven by a culture of competitive greed, find themselves working more than ever.

Moreover, work-leisure balance varies across regions and countries. The average American, for example, works 100 hours more annually than the average British worker and 300 hours more than the average French employee. US workers also take fewer vacation days than their European counterparts, who are legally entitled to at least four weeks of paid vacation per year.

But while Keynes failed to anticipate how the economic problem would evolve, his essay's underlying normative argument is often overlooked. Indeed, one of the main reasons why he got his prediction wrong is that he projected his own ethical principles onto others. Much like his Bloomsbury Group peers, Keynes viewed greed with disdain. In the same essay, he described the relentless pursuit of wealth for its own sake as a "disgusting morbidity."

Keynes' mistake was to underestimate human greed and assume that a certain level of financial security would satisfy most people. He envisioned a more equitable world where individuals could enjoy unprecedented prosperity, free from economic anxieties. But, as Joseph E. Stiglitz has pointed out, Keynes misjudged the balance between the desire for leisure and the appetite for consumption. After all, why settle for a single TV when you can work harder and install screens "in every room and in both the front and the back of automobiles?"

Keynes also underestimated the competitive drive that fuels the relentless quest for wealth and social status. The wealthy, in particular, are often motivated by a desire to maintain their relative standing, leading to an endless competition for supremacy. While Keynes believed that a shift toward an equitable world would occur naturally, it has become clear that achieving this goal requires government intervention.

One way to bring about the equitable society Keynes envisioned is to tax the rich. In my recent book *Reason to be Happy*, I propose a tax regime designed to redistribute income from the wealthy to the poor, leaving relative positions unchanged and without undermining individual incentives. This system, which I have dubbed the "accordion tax," aims to narrow the income gap by taxing those with above average earnings and transferring these funds to those with below average wages, as a form of negative proportional tax.

This approach would enable billionaires like Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos to maintain their relative standing, even with substantially reduced post-tax earnings. Given that their primary concern is their rankings among the world's wealthiest individuals, their motivation to innovate and venture into new fields would not be diminished. Meanwhile, the economic well-being of lower-income households would significantly improve.

Contrary to Keynes' expectations, we cannot build a fairer society by leaving people to their own devices. Fortunately, a growing number of people, including several of the world's billionaires, are committed to addressing today's extreme economic disparities, even though that would be to their own disadvantage. Nearly a century after Keynes outlined his vision of the future, the road to solving our economic problem remains long. Still, there is cause for hope. While avarice has grown, so has awareness of its consequences.

The writer, a former Chief Economist of the World Bank and Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India, is Professor of Economics at Cornell University and a non-resident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.

PROJECT SYNDICATE



Kaushik Basu

Nearly a century after Keynes outlined his vision of the future, the road to solving our economic problem remains long

SPECTRUM HOMAGE

A rare legal luminary



Satya Narayan Misra

NARIMAN BELIEVED THAT THE COLLEGIUM STRUCTURE COULD HAVE BEEN CHANGED BUT NOT THE CONCEPT OF COLLEGIUM TO CHOOSE JUDGES

My abiding memory of Fali Nariman, who passed away recently, is standing on one side of Nani Palkiwala and Soli Saurabjee on the other, arguing against the government's unlimited power to amend the Constitution in the Keshvanand Bharati case (1973). Both Nariman and Soli were like legal twins, born the same year, who provided symphony to the ultimate legal maestro of India, Nani Palkiwala, who inked the indelible concept of "Basic Structure," which no majoritarian government can deface, obliterate or amend. Nariman would be remembered for his iconic book, "Before the Memory Fades", where he wrote, "The judiciary is like oxen in the air. It is not enough for the judiciary to be independent of the executives. They must be seen to have noble quality of mind and heart and above all courage."

Nariman was born in Burma in 1930, the same year when the family had to trek from Burma after Pearl Harbour bombing by the Japanese and was nearly trampled by an elephant. He be-

came a senior advocate in the Supreme Court in 1971 and was possibly the longest serving advocate (63 years) in SC. He was appointed as an additional solicitor general in 1972 and resigned in 1975 in protest against the Emergency. He has consistently showed this courage in every case that he fought. In *Menka Gandhi case* (1978), he argued that the procedure being followed by the government in annulling the passport has to be fair and non-arbitrary. This was accepted by Justice PM Bhagwati. Freedom of movement abroad became a second generation right for the Indian citizens. Nariman also was a great advocate of minority rights. In the *TMA Pai Foundation case* (2003), he strongly advocated that the minority rights under Article 30 for running the institution as per their discretion must not be circumscribed by the government bringing in reservation of admission under Article 29 (2). In a recent interview with Karan Thapar, Nariman said that the situation in India today is like a veiled emergency with the

added mood of anti-Muslim and anti-minority sentiments. Coming from a towering intellectual who never took sides and fought against authoritarianism, his sane voice must be respected by the powers that be. Nariman had written recently another book, 'Know Your Constitution' which couldn't have been more timely. Apart from elucidating the high watermarks of constitutional morality, he was anguished that the voice of the Opposition is not being cared for by the party in power. While Nehru was always sensitive to the criticism of the Opposition, Nariman writes that the tendency to turn a deaf ear to the Opposition's view point started with Indira Gandhi and the sad legacy has been carried on by the present regime. Prashant Bhushan calls Fali Nariman the Pitamah Bhishma of the legal fraternity. However, unlike Bhishma who didn't protest when Draupadi was being disrobed, Nariman has raised his voice when democracy has been in danger and the minority community has been unfairly

victimised by the majority community. He spoke against the judgement in Article 370 as being constitutionally flawed. He also spoke against the NJAC judgement when the collegium system for selecting judges was considered offensive of the Basic Structure. Nariman believed that the collegium structure could have been changed but not the concept of collegium to choose judges.

Nariman was not only a great lawyer, but as Kapil Sibbal has said, was one of the finest human beings. Hopefully the courage of conviction that he showed and the ethical principles that he constantly espoused would be a message for the present generation. As India passes through an extremely turbulent period of religious fundamentalism and minority bashing, Nariman's legacy would hopefully permeate through the political landscape of the country and make us a truly secular, multi-cultural and tolerant country.

The writer teaches Constitutional Law. Views are personal.

WISDOM CORNER

- Do the difficult things while they are easy and do the great things while they are small. A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step. LAO TZU
- If you know the enemy and know yourself you need not fear the results of a hundred battles. SUN TZU
- He who learns but does not think, is lost! He who thinks but does not learn is in great danger. CONFUCIUS

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1870: Mississippi was readmitted to the United States following the American Civil War.
- 1917: The February Revolution begins in Russia. The demonstrations and armed clashes ultimately resulted in the demise of the Russian Empire.
- 1945: Six U.S. servicemen raised the American flag over Mount Suribachi on the island of Iwo Jima during World War II.
- 1954: The first mass inoculation against polio is conducted. Virologist Jonas Salk's vaccine is still one of the two versions used today, along with Hilary Koprowski's live polio vaccine.

Sports capital

Sir, The Odisha government has decided to renovate the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack. The Barabati Stadium is one of the oldest stadiums in the state. It has witnessed many national and international sporting events in the past. Barabati is also known to be the hub of cricket in Odisha. To revive Odisha's cricketing history and groom young cricket aspirants in the state, it was necessary to redevelop it. A sports complex having world-class facilities for other sports will also be built along with the new stadium. After hockey and football, Odisha is now investing in the cricketing ecosystem and infrastructure. The developed sports infrastructure will make Odisha a hub for many national and international sporting events. The development of sports in the state will boost the economy as well. Odisha has already hosted the Hockey World Cup and FIFA World Cup and is on its way to becoming the sports capital of India. Deba Prasad Nayak, DHENKANAL

Immortal voice

Sir, In Ameen Sayani's demise India has lost one of the greatest radio entertainers. Who can forget Ameen Sayani and his immortal 'Binaca Geet Mala.' His "bheno aur bhaiyon" remains etched in the hearts of radio listeners. With his golden voice Sayani mesmerised the young and the old alike and the radio show became one of the greatest in the world with one man hypnotising millions with his magical voice! Those who have listened to the 'Binaca Geet Mala' episodes aired by Radio Ceylon and later by Vividh Bharthi would definitely reminisce those beautiful punch lines, catchy phrases, quotes and the entertaining tid-bits that Ameen Sayani catered to his voracious music buffs who savoured every bit of it like sugar candy! Going down memory lane who can forget those Wednesday evenings when Ameen Sayani transported his fans to an exhilarating and soul stirring world of film songs! His ability to blend music along with insightful commentary, excellent humour and beautiful anecdotes created an exhilarating experience for millions for so many decades. The nation conferred him with the Padma Bhushan and the Padma Vibhushan for his unlimited contributions to radio entertainment that will remain eternal. M Pradyu, KANNUR

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

Orissa POST
B-15, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Gobari takes after a jungle as silt, wastes accumulate

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Feb 22: Gobari river, once the lifeline of farmers and residents in Kendrapara district, is dying a slow death with rapid urbanisation taking over the natural landscapes in the district. Unabated dumping of untreated sewage and wastes is spelling doom for the river which has been bearing the brunt of urbanisation.



This has happened as the water route connecting the river in Kendrapara block with Brahmani river under Pattamundai block is lying buried due to heavy deposit of silt and wastes. The river has now turned into a jungle with shrubs and wild plants coming up on the connecting water route.

The development has deprived over 5,000 farmlands of irrigation facilities and hit the cultivation of at least three varieties of crops. Angry locals had filed a case against the state Water Resources department three years back.

The NALSA court heard the matter and directed the state Water Resources department to resolve the problem. However, despite the court order, the department has been silent on the issue and yet to take any steps in this regard.

Petitioners Prafulla Kumar Das, Khirod Mallick, Ashok Bal and Debashis Panda said the economy of Kendrapara district is based on agriculture as it lacks industries. However, the government is not resolving the irrigation problem which is hindering the progress of the district.

Earlier, the Gobari river was connected with Brahmani which also

flows through the district. This was helping in maritime trade and helping the farmers by irrigating their farmlands.

However, things changed after the connecting route between the two rivers was closed down at Pattamundai during the construction of Cuttack-Chandbali road in 1960. As a result, the 20-km water route from Pattamundai to Gandakia has become dry.

With the riverbed going dry, the residents have been deprived of its water which they were using for daily chores and irrigation of their farmlands. In the past, farmers in the region used to produce cash crops, but now they are facing droughts due to lack of irrigation facilities.

Fed up, the residents drew the attention of block and district level officials and even staged demonstrations outside the district collectorate.

However, after failing to get any success, they filed a petition before the

National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) demanding reconnection of Gobari river with Brahmani river, February 14, 2021.

Directed by NALSA, the district legal services authority (DLSA) heard the matter and directed the state Water Resources department to conduct an inquiry and take suitable action in this regard.

However, the state Water Resources department is yet to show any promptitude in conducting an inquiry and take action in this regard.

The residents and farmers hope that revival of the water route between the two rivers will help in cultivation and harvest of three types of cash crops. When contacted executive engineer Umesh Chandra Sathy said a preliminary inquiry has been conducted while admitting that connecting the two rivers will help in development of agriculture in the riparian areas. He assured to take action in this regard keeping interests of farmers in mind.

Odisha needs double engine govt: Rajnath

PNB & AGENCIES

Umerkote/ Berhampur/ Baripada, Feb 22: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on a one-day visit to Odisha Thursday exuded confidence that the state will have a double-engine government after the 2024 elections. However, he refrained from directly criticising the state government.

While addressing a gathering at a party programme in Nabarangpur district, the defence minister said, "We worked in every village, every district during the days when BJP was not a big political party. We had never expected that the BJP would form a government at the Centre on its own. Similarly, the political analysts are now convinced that the BJP will form the government in Odisha this time too."

He urged the party workers to devote at least 12 hours every day for the party work and inform everyone about the achievements of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government. He said India is the fastest developing country in the world.

The Union minister participated in two other party programmes -- at Berhampur in Ganjam district and at Baripada in Mayurbhanj district -- later during the day.

"I can say this with confidence that the Congress government which was at the Centre for a long time did nothing for the development of Odisha. But, Prime Minister Modi is the only person



who has been thinking about the all-round development of Odisha for the first time in the history of independent India. The UPA government allotted only ₹3 lakh crore to Odisha in 10 years while the Modi government has given ₹18 lakh crore to Odisha during just nine years, Singh said in the meeting at Berhampur in Ganjam district.

Singh further said that PM Modi's love for Odisha can be gauged from the fact that he drew the attention of the world towards the Konark wheel during the G20 summit where the heads of many countries participated.

He further stated that BJP fulfilled

all the promises made in election manifestos. BJP revoked Article 370 as promised in the manifesto. BJP ended the scourge of the triple talaq system. BJP fulfilled its promise and constructed Ram temple at Ayodhya.

He addressed a huge gathering in the tribal-dominated Mayurbhanj district in the last of the three programmes during his tour Thursday.

"Seeing the enthusiasm among the party workers and the people, I can say that Odisha is ready to take a new flight. The people of Odisha are ready for a double-engine government in the state," Rajnath Singh said.

He said that Adivasi brothers are unmatched in the matter of bravery and valour. He asserted that tribal brothers and sisters should be given priority in the defence forces so that they can defend the border of India.

DECLARATION
ALAGU MUTHU SANKAR of MAHULPUT is the Lease Holder of MAHULPUT GRANITE MINES situated in Boipariguda Tahasil for an Area of 05.900 Hectares in Plot No.34, 35 and 45 of Khata No. 246 for the period of 27.10.1995 to 26.10.2025. I am personally taking steps in obtaining the orders from different departments and for excavation of materials. I have not done any Registered any Power of Attorney in favour of any person for the said purpose. I learnt that some miscreants are trying to enter into my Lease Hold Area. Anybody poking nose into my business concerning to above lease will be dealt with seriously and any person entering into any agreement without my knowledge or signature will be invalid.

STF arrests drug peddler with 302 gm brown sugar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: The STF of Odisha Police with the help of Mayurbhanj district police has apprehended a drug peddler and recovered 302 gm contraband brown sugar (Heroin) and other incriminating materials from his possession. STF sources Thursday said on the basis of intelligence input, a raid was conducted at Tato Biurnria under Karanjia police station limits in Mayurbhanj district on the intervening night of February 21 and 22 against illegal dealing and possession of narcotic drugs. During the raids, one drug peddler identified as Khirasindhu Samal was apprehended and contraband brown sugar (Heroin) weighing 302 gram and other incriminating materials were recovered and seized from his possession.

AM/NS India scholarships for 147 girls

POST NEWS NETWORK

Barbil, Feb 22: ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India), a joint venture between ArcelorMittal and Nippon Steel, two of the world's leading steel-makers, awarded 'Beti Padhao Scholarships' to 147 girl students of Barbil region in a felicitation ceremony held recently at the auditorium of Rungeta Town Hall, Barbil.

The flagship CSR project of AM/NS India, 'Beti Padhao Scholarship' aims to bridge the gap in education finance by offering scholarships to young women from economically weaker sections to fulfil their academic aspirations. The initiative is aligned with the government's efforts to promote the education of the girl child. The scholarship recipients range from students

of Class IX to those pursuing higher secondary education, graduation, ITI, diploma, engineering, medical, professional courses, and more. Under this initiative, AM/NS India is awarding scholarships to young women of Odisha, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Maharashtra.

The scholarships were presented to the recipients by the chief guest DS Subhadarshi Joshi, Tehsildar, Barbil. Present on the occasion from AM/NS India were Sharanappa Kambalii, Chief of Mining Operations, Pramod Mishra, Mines Manager, Thakurani Mines, LD Babu, Mines Manager, Sagasahi Mines and Ashok Panda, Lead CSR, among others.

AM/NS India has partnered with Protean eGov Technologies for mobilising the scholarships.

TPWODL bridging healthcare gaps



POST NEWS NETWORK

Burla, Feb 22: In an era when accessibility to healthcare is paramount, TP Western Odisha Distribution Limited (TPWODL), a joint venture between Tata Power and Government of Odisha, being an established corporate entity took several steps for development of under-privileged section of the society under its wide-spread corporate social responsibility (CSR) pro-

grammes. The company has deployed three Mobile Health Dispensary Vans in the districts of Kalahandi, Deogarh and Sonepur respectively. This is a step in the right direction to bridge the gap in the rural areas of these three districts so far as healthcare facilities are concerned.

The main objective of the services is to improve healthcare in the rural areas of western Odisha and provide essential treatment to peo-

ple who are deprived of primary healthcare. Taking that into consideration the need for treatment of various infectious diseases prevalent in remote areas, the route of these Mobile Health Dispensary Vans is decided by the Chief District Medical Officers (CDMOs).

These mobile health dispensary vans are equipped with the latest medical facilities, doctors, nurses and pharmacists. They provide various types of primary health care, health check-ups, vaccinations, and fast aid medicines for various diseases.

So far, a total of around 90,000 people in these three districts have been already benefited from these MHD vans. This MHD vans reflect the fundamental thought process of the company. In this regard, the CEO of TPWODL, Gajanan Kale expressed that healthcare is a basic human right and no one should be deprived of medical services."

Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council
(A Government of India Enterprise)

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Enabling Access to Infrastructure and Resources [Bio-foundries] for Bio-manufacturing

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Last date for submission of proposals
25th March, 2024
(till 5:30 pm)

For queries, please contact:
Dr. Prachi Kaushik, Senior Manager, BIRAC Email: pkaushik.birac@nic.in

national

of the day quote

Since the news of discussions on an alliance between AAP and Congress reaching final stages is circulating, AAP leaders have received messages since Wednesday evening that Kejriwal will be arrested if AAP enters into a seat-sharing agreement with the Congress

ATISHI MARLENA | AAP LEADER

First impression is the best impression and Gorakhpur appeared even more beautiful than I had imagined

NIRMALA SITARAMAN | UNION FINANCE MINISTER

Members of the indigenous communities in the state did not have land records documents to legally claim their possession over the plot of land under their possession since time immemorial

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

SHORT TAKES

NSCN-IM leader shot dead

Kohima: Unidentified gunmen barged into the house of an NSCN-IM leader and shot him dead in Mon district of Nagaland, an official said Thursday. Khampei Opeiham Konyak suffered bullet injuries on the chest and died on the way to hospital Wednesday night. The police found three empty cases of cartridges from the spot. The official said a case has been registered in this connection and investigations are on.

India-Nordic-Baltic Eight meet held

New Delhi: The India-Nordic-Baltic Eight meeting was held Thursday on the sidelines of the Raisina Dialogue here with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar saying the exchange of perspectives on regional, global and multilateral issues was extremely useful. In a post on X, Jaishankar said he was pleased to host the India-Nordic-Baltic 8 meeting and thanked the foreign ministers of Sweden (Tobias Billström), Finland (Elina Valtonen), Denmark (Lars Løkke Rasmussen), Estonia (Margus Tsahkna), Latvia (Krisjanis Karins), and representatives of Norway, Iceland and Lithuania for joining.

Kharge given Z-plus security

New Delhi: Ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has been granted Z-plus security across the country by the Union home ministry, official sources said Thursday. The decision was taken by the home ministry early this month based on the threat perception of Kharge, they said. Commandos of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) will provide the Z-plus security to Kharge on all India basis, the sources said.

Sharmila detained

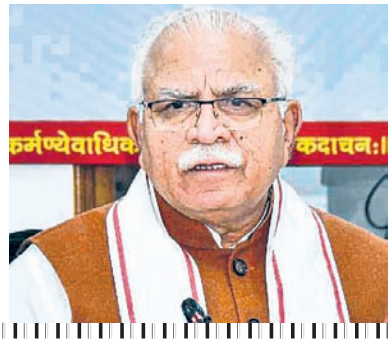
Undavalli (Andhra Pradesh): Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee president Y S Sharmila was detained Thursday on her way to the Secretariat in Guntur district, along with party leaders and activists as part of the 'Chalo Secretariat' protest walk to submit a representation, a police official said. Guntur district superintendent of police Tushar Dudi told PTI that Sharmila was briefly detained. "Sharmila and other Congress leaders were detained for about three hours and let off. Police detained us near Undavalli at the entrance of the riverside road leading to the Secretariat," APCC vice-president K Sivaji said.



I am not against Modi or (Amit) Shah or any person. I am against autocracy
UDDHAV THACKERAY | SHIV SENA (UBT) CHIEF

NO-TRUST MOTION AGAINST KHATTAR GOVT DEFEATED

A no-confidence motion brought by the Congress against the BJP-JJP government in Haryana was defeated through voice vote Thursday after the opposition party's MLAs walked out of the Assembly



CBI searches Malik's premises

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 22: The CBI conducted searches at the premises of former Jammu and Kashmir governor Satya Pal Malik and 29 other locations Thursday in connection with alleged corruption in the Rs 2,200-crore Kiru Hydropower project, officials said.

The federal agency started its operation in the morning, with around 100 officers mobilised to swoop down at the 30 locations in Jammu, Srinagar, Delhi, Gurugram, Mumbai, Baghat, Noida, Patna, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Barmer, Nagaur and Chandigarh, the officials said.

"During searches, evidence of huge cash deposits, investment in fixed deposits, investment in properties in various cities, digital and documentary evidence, etc. Have been recovered," the CBI spokesperson said in a statement.

Premises linked to Malik at R K Puram, Dwarka and Asian Games Village in Delhi, besides those in Gurugram and Baghat, were searched, officials said.

A team of CBI officials reached Malik's ancestral village Hisavda in Uttar Pradesh's Baghat district, where they went to his home seeking to know about his properties in the village, local officials said.

They opened the rooms of his ancestral home, did some videography and left.

They were told by his relatives that Malik does not have any property and has some share in the house which is also in decrepit state, they said.

The searches also covered the premises of alleged associates of Malik, associates of former chairman of Chenab Valley Power Projects Private Limited Navin Kumar Chaudhary and officials of Patel Engineering Limited, they said.

In a post on X, Malik said, "I have been ill for the last 3-4 days and am admitted to the hospital. Despite this, my house is being raided by the dictator through government agencies. My driver and my assistant are also being raided and harassed unnecessarily. I am a farmer's son, I will not be afraid of these raids. I am with the farmers."

Sharad faction gets 'man blowing turha' as party symbol

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Feb 22: The Election Commission of India Thursday allotted "man blowing turha (a traditional trumpet)" as the symbol of the Nationalist Congress Party-Sharadchandra Pawar, the outfit's spokesperson Clyde Crasto said.

"Our candidates will contest the upcoming Lok Sabha polls on this symbol," he told PTI. 'Man blowing turha' is the new symbol of NCP-Sharadchandra Pawar, the ECI said in its order. Also called 'tutari' in Marathi, the trumpet is sounded to mark the entry of important persons, ranging from kings earlier to political leaders now.

The Sharad Pawar faction quoted lines from a popular poem 'Tutari' written by Jnanpith awardee Kusumagraj.

Fresh protests in Sandeshkhali

The NCST delegation, during their interactions with locals, received over 23 complaints of land grabbing and torture, which they pledged to include in their report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata/ New Delhi, Feb 22: Amidst renewed protests in Sandeshkhali Thursday, where locals set fire to property belonging to TMC leaders accused of tormenting villagers, West Bengal Police chief Rajeev Kumar pledged action against the perpetrators, while a visiting NCST team compiled complaints of forced land seizures and torture from the region.

Earlier in the day, upon their arrival in the restive Sandeshkhali area, the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) team led by acting vice-chairperson Ananta Nayak engaged with locals and documented over 23 complaints of forced land grabbing and torture.

Nayak affirmed that these grievances would be included in their report to the President. Meanwhile, West Bengal BJP president Sukanta Majumdar, who was permitted by police to



visit the troubled area for the first time, staged a brief sit-in outside Sandeshkhali police station.

His demand for the arrest of fugitive TMC leader Shahjahan Sheikh led to his forcible removal by law enforcement officers from the unrest zone via a boat. The day witnessed fresh protests in parts of Sandeshkhali, fueled by allegations against local TMC leaders for sexual abuse and forcible land grabbing.

Locals, armed with sticks, vented their anger by setting ablaze a thatched structure near a pond, purportedly belonging to Shahjahan's brother Siraj, who is also a local TMC activist.

A protester said, "Siraj and

his brother Shahjahan have usurped our land. They subjected us to molestation. We demand justice and the return of our land." These demonstrations followed DGP Kumar's assurance earlier in the day that the guilty would not be spared, accompanied by police efforts to engage with the community and address their concerns.

To address public dissatisfaction regarding perceived police inaction against the TMC leader responsible for instilling fear in the area, Kumar, stationed in Sandeshkhali since yesterday afternoon, pledged that police will attentively address complaints from every individual and strict action against those proven guilty. "I came here

to talk to my officers. It's our responsibility to see the well-being of the people. We will listen to the complaints of every individual. If there is any incident regarding land grabbing or anything else, we will take strict action against those found guilty. If people are found involved in torturing, we will take appropriate action against them," Kumar told reporters at Dhamakhali this morning.

In the aftermath of DGP Rajeev Kumar's visit, a significant police presence descended on the area. Officers urged locals to submit grievances and relevant documentation, promising prompt action and land restoration.

However, these efforts failed to assuage public anger, with locals questioning the administration's prolonged inaction.

TMC leaders faced the ire of the community during their visit, prompting acknowledgement of past lapses and assurances of redressal. In an attempt to mollify the gathering storm, the TMC representatives acknowledged past lapses while asserting the party's commitment to rectifying them.

"Yes, mistakes have been made. However, the people of Sandeshkhali repose their complete trust in Mamata Banerjee. All grievances will be duly ad-

ressed," affirmed the TMC leader and Sandeshkhali MLA Sukumar Mahto, seeking to assuage the mounting discontent.

The visit by the NCST team follows previous delegations' recommendations, including the National Commission for Women and the National Commission for Scheduled Castes, who advocated for President's Rule in the state amidst ongoing violence and human rights violations.

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Wednesday issued a notice to the state government and police chief regarding ongoing violence and human rights violations in the area.

Later in the evening, Majumdar, eight days after sustaining injuries during a protest in nearby Taki, gained entry into the restive region, his first since the protests broke out. But after meeting local leaders, the Balurghat BJP MP went straight to Sandeshkhali police station and started a sit-in outside it.

The unrest in Sandeshkhali stems from accusations against TMC leader Shahjahan Sheikh and his supporters of land grabbing and sexual assault, with Shahjahan evading authorities since a mob attack on Enforcement Directorate officials January 5.

I&B Minister launches 4 portals to modernise media landscape



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Feb 22: The Minister for Information and Broadcasting (I&B), Anurag Thakur, Thursday launched four transformative portals, which have the potential to modernise the entire media landscape.

The Press Sewa Portal will bring a paradigm shift in the registration of periodicals and newspapers.

The motive behind the transformative initiative is to facilitate a more conducive business environment for newspaper publishers and TV channels, enhance transparency and efficiency in government communication, and also enable easy access to authentic government videos. Under the initiative, a comprehensive database of Local Cable Operators (LCOs) will also be created to streamline the regulatory processes in the cable television sector.

The I&B Minister, addressing the gathering after the launch, said, "India is viewed as an attractive destination for investment today, with global companies setting up businesses here."

Recalling PM Narendra Modi's emphasis on governance and economic reforms, resulting in the country's enhanced status in ease of doing business, he said that this has led to increased

investment from both existing businesses and new entrepreneurs. "The startup ecosystem, in particular, has flourished, with a significant increase in the number of startups and unicorns," Thakur said.

The Press Sewa Portal, developed under the Press and Registration of Periodicals Act, 2023, is a monumental step towards complete automation of the process for newspaper registration and other related processes. This portal will simplify the cumbersome registration procedures.

Key features of the Press Sewa Portal:

* Online Application: Publishers can file applications for title registration online, using Aadhaar-based e-signatures

* Probability Metre: This indicates the likelihood of title availability

* Real-time Tracking of Application Status: Accessible through an intuitively designed dashboard

* Dedicated DM Module: Enables district magistrates to manage applications received from publishers in a centralised dashboard

The website will also offer easy access to relevant information, featuring an AI-based chatbot for user-friendly interactions.

FARMER DEATH SKM demands FIR against Khattar, Vij

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Feb 22: The Samyukta Kisan Morcha Thursday demanded Haryana Chief Minister and the Haryana Home Minister be booked for the "murder" of a protesting farmer on the Punjab-Haryana border and announced a tractor march next week.

The SKM announced that the farmers will observe a "black day" Friday in the country to mourn the death and will burn effigies of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar, and state home minister Anil Vij.

The SKM, which spearheaded the 2020-21 farm agitation against the now-repealed farm laws, is not

part of the Delhi Chalo agitation, but has extended support to it. Subhkar Singh, 21, a native of Bathinda, had died Wednesday amid clashes between Haryana Police and Punjab farmers. The incident took place when the farmers rushed to the barricades, several layers of which have been erected by Haryana authorities to prevent farmers from proceeding with their march, and clashed with police.

The SKM Thursday held a meeting here to discuss the situation at Shambhu and Khanauri border points where thousands of farmers are camping as part of the 'Delhi Chalo' call.

Speaking to reporters here, SKM leader Balbir Singh Rajewal said a case of "murder" should

be registered against Khattar and Vij and the two must resign.

Farmer leaders also demanded a judicial inquiry by a judge of the Supreme Court in the matter and Rs 1 crore in compensation to the farmer's family.

Bharti Kisan Union (Ekta Ugrahan) president Joginder Singh Ugrahan condemned the "repression" of farmers sitting at Shambhu and Khanauri border points by the Haryana government. Farmer leader Rakesh Tikait said a tractor march will be taken out on highways February 26 and an effigy of the World Trade Organisation will also be burned as the farmers do not want agriculture sector to remain under the international body's remit.



An army rescue team arrives to search for trapped skiers after an avalanche hit struck the Kongdoori slopes trapping several skiers under its debris in Gulmarg. Two people, including Russian skier, died in the landslide and avalanche, while at least 400 roads in Himachal Pradesh remained cut off due to heavy snow and rain

Cong-AAP talks on seat sharing in final stage: Sources

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 22: The Congress and AAP are likely to have a seat-sharing pact in Delhi, Gujarat and Haryana, and the decision is likely to be made public very soon, top sources said here Thursday.

Talks between AAP and the Congress over seat sharing in Delhi and some other states for the Lok Sabha polls are in final stages and the two sides are likely to announce their tie-up soon, sources said. Both sides have agreed on the seats to be contested by each party, they said.

AAP will field candidates from the South Delhi, West Delhi, North West Delhi and New Delhi seats, while the Congress will contest from the Chandni Chowk,

East Delhi and North East Delhi constituencies, the sources in AAP said.

All the seven Lok Sabha seats in the national capital are currently held by the BJP. "The alliance between AAP and the Congress in Delhi is on the verge of finalisation. The two parties may make an official announcement in a day or two," senior AAP leader and Delhi Minister Atishi said in a press conference.

Delhi Congress president Arvinder Singh Lovely said that the two parties are strong constituents of INDIA bloc. "The India bloc will contest the Lok Sabha elections strongly not only in Delhi, but the whole country," he told reporters.

The Congress has also decided to give one seat to AAP in Haryana



and two in Gujarat. While the Haryana seat is likely to be either Gurugram or Faridabad, those in Gujarat include Bharuch and Bhavnagar. Former senior party leader Ahmed Patel's son and daughter were the contenders for the Bharuch seat.

AAP national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind

Kejriwal had Wednesday said the talks over the alliance were delayed and hinted at fresh developments in the next one or two days.

Meanwhile, Ahmed Patel's son Faisal has not taken the move kindly and said in a post in Gujarat that if the Bharuch Lok Sabha seat is allotted to AAP, neither he nor the

EARLIER THIS MONTH, AAM AADMI PARTY (AAP) NATIONAL GENERAL SECRETARY (ORGANISATION) SANDEEP PATHAK DECLARED BENAULIM MLA VENZY VIEGAS AS THE PARTY CANDIDATE FROM THE SOUTH GOA LOK SABHA SEAT

THE CONGRESS HAS ALSO DECIDED TO GIVE ONE SEAT TO AAP IN HARYANA AND TWO IN GUJARAT

WHILE THE HARYANA SEAT IS LIKELY TO BE EITHER GURUGRAM OR FARIDABAD, THOSE IN GUJARAT INCLUDE BHARUCH AND BHAVNAGAR. FORMER SENIOR PARTY LEADER AHMED PATEL'S SON AND DAUGHTER WERE THE CONTENDERS FOR THE BHARUCH SEAT

"conscientious workers" of the Congress will support the AAP candidate. Earlier this month, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national general secretary (organisation) Sandeep Pathak declared Benaulim MLA Venzy Viegas as the party candidate from the South Goa Lok Sabha seat.

He also declared AAP's Dediapada MLA Chaitar Vasava as party's candidate from the Bharuch Lok Sabha seat and Botad MLA Umeshbhai Makwana from the Bhavnagar seat in Gujarat. Previously, the party announced its three Lok Sabha candidates in Assam - Manoj Dhanow from Dibrugarh, Bhaben Chowdhury from Guwahati and Rishi Raj from Sonitpur constituencies. The Lok Sabha polls are likely to be held in April-May.

international



Multilateral institutions are not adequately equipped to deal with current challenges, as demonstrated by the unacceptable paralysis of the Security Council in relation to ongoing conflicts

MARYAM TO MAKE HISTORY

Maryam Nawaz, the daughter of three-time Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, is set to become the first woman Chief Minister of Pakistan's Punjab province following the summoning of the inaugural session of the provincial legislature Friday



Chinese vessel near Male amid India's trilateral drill

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Male, Feb 22: A high-tech Chinese marine research ship Thursday arrived near the Maldives after spending about a month in the Indian Ocean near the island nation, media reports said here.



The ship, 'Xiang Yang Hong 03' reached the Maldives on the same day when Indian and Sri Lankan coast guard ships reached the strategically located archipelago for a trilateral naval exercise. India had already expressed concern about the movement of the Chinese research ship in the Indian Ocean and also prevailed on Sri Lanka to refuse permission for the ship to dock at the Colombo port.

"Chinese research vessel Xiang Yang Hong 03 was moored close to Male City Thursday morning. Around noon, the ship was shown to be near 'Thilafushi,' news portal Edition.Mv reported, quoting the Marine Traffic website that tracks all ocean liners across the globe.

"Xiang Yang Hong 03 began its journey on January 14, 24 hours after Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu concluded his state visit to China. It arrived near Male today after spending about a month near the Maldives' Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)," said Adhadhu.Com, a news portal.

It also claimed that the vessel was "not visible on common tracking sites starting from January 22. It is believed that the vessel's tracking systems had been turned off when it was in the Java Sea off Indonesia then."

An analysis by Adhadhu using satellite AIS tracking showed that the Chinese vessel was later at the EEZ of Maldives, the report said, adding, "The vessel had spent about a month near the EEZ." Muizzu, widely seen as a pro-China leader, won last year's presidential election on an 'anti-India' stance. He made Beijing his first port of call against the tradition of visiting New Delhi first as the Maldivian President.

Taliban publicly executes two murder convicts



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ghazni, Feb 22: The Taliban carried out a double public execution at a stadium in southeastern Afghanistan Thursday as thousands watched the killing of two convicted men as their victims' relatives fired the gunshot.

The Taliban's Supreme Court had ruled that the pair were responsible for the stabbing deaths of two victims in separate attacks, according to a court statement. It identified the two as Syed Jamal from central Wardak province and Gul Khan from Ghazni — though it was unclear who did the stabbing, the two convicted men or others.

The statement also said that three lower courts and the Taliban's supreme leader, Hibatullah Akhundzada, had ordered the executions in retribution for their purported crimes.

Thursday, people crowded outside the stadium in the Ali Lala area of the city of Ghazni, clamoring to get in, and religious scholars pleaded with relatives of the victims to forgive the convicts, but they refused.

Abu Abu Khalid Sarhadi, a spokesman for Ghazni police, said that relatives of the victims executed the two men. He did not say what type of guns they used. The executions started shortly before 1 pm. There were 15 bullets fired, eight at one of the men and seven at the other. Ambulances then took their bodies away.

MISSILE ATTACKS SHIP

Dubai: A suspected missile attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels set a ship ablaze in the Gulf of Aden Thursday as Israel intercepted what appeared to be another Houthi attack near the port city of Eilat, authorities said. The attacks come as the rebels escalate their assaults over Israel's war against Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER BURLA IRRIGATION DIVISION, BURLA. Phone No.0663-2430445, E-mail Id:sambalpurirrigation@rediffmail.com. Corrigendum No. 1 to 'e' Tender Call Notice No. No.A-1585: BID-08/2023-24 (Online)

OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI, GURUNDIA SUNDARGARH. Letter No.-667, Dated:- 21.02.2024. TENDER CALL NOTICE No. 10 / 2023-24. No.i-629:Sealed Tenders are invited from the interested bidder for the civil work under BDO, Gurundia of Sundargarh district.

ODISHA WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD. 2ND FLOOR, UNNATI BHAWAN, No.CAD-422 SATYANAGAR, BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA. Phone: (0674) 2571185, e-mail: eicowssb@gmail.com. National Competitive Bidding through e-Procurement

GOVT. OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION, NAYAGARH. AU/PO-Nabaganpur, Dist-Nayagarh, Ph-06753-252049, Email:nayagarhrw2006@yahoo.in. 1st Corrigendum to Bid Identification No.Tender Online

Pak ex-bureaucrat withdraws rigging claims

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Feb 22: In a volte-face, a former senior bureaucrat who alleged that 13 candidates from Pakistan's garrison city of Rawalpindi were forcefully declared winners in the elections, on Thursday withdrew his allegations and said he made the rigging charges at the behest of ex-prime minister Imran Khan's party which offered him a "lucrative position".

"I take full responsibility for my actions and surrender myself before the authorities for any kind of legal action," Liaquat Ali Chattha, the former Commissioner of Rawalpindi, was quoted as saying by Geo News.

Saturday, Chattha resigned from his office after "accepting responsibility" for manipulation of poll results. "I am taking responsibility for all this wrongdoing and telling you that the chief election commissioner and the chief justice are also completely involved in this," he had said.

He had also accused Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa and Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikander Sultan Raja of facilitating the rigging of votes.

OFFICE OF THE PATTAMUNDAI MUNICIPALITY, PATTAMUNDAI. Letter No.552/ Dt.17.02.24. CORRIGENDUM TO THIS OFFICE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST NOTICE NO.461, DTD.07.02.2024

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, MALKANGIRI. Odisha, Pin-764045, Ph:06861-230244, e-Mail:eomalkangiri@gmail.com. Dated 13.02.24

ZILLA SWASTHYA SAMITI, NAYAGARH OFFICE OF THE CDMO-cum-DISTRICT MISSION DIRECTOR, NAYAGARH. NOTICE. Adv.No.-17/23-24 Date:22.02.2024

BHUBANESWAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION. No. 7780 /BMC Dt 13.02.24. COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, JATNI. Phone: 0674-2490826, Mail- municipalityjatni@gmail.com. No. 491/Date: 15.02.24

INVITATION FOR BIDS No.C-3092. E-Procurement Notice-03/2023-24. Tender Call Notice No- 188/BBN NAC Dt.15.02.2024

BHUBANESWAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION. No. 7685 /BMC Dt 13.02.24. COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HORTICULTURE, DHENKANAL. EXPRESSION OF INTEREST. (EOI) Letter No.474, Dt.21.02.2024

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HORTICULTURE, BALANGIR. EOI No.632 Dt.21.02.2024

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR-CUM-MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT, MENTAL HEALTH INSTITUTE, S.C.B. MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL, CUTTACK. SHORT TENDER CALL NOTICE

BHUBANESWAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION. No. 7685 /BMC Dt 13.02.24. COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

OFFICE OF THE BARIPADA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, BARIPADA. Phone:- 06792-252703, Fax:- 06792-252703. Email: baripadam.hud@nic.in; Website- www.baripadamunicipality.in

leisure



DWAYNE TO PRODUCE FILM ON WRESTLER RIC FLAIR

Actor Dwayne Johnson, known for his roles in *Baywatch* and *Black Adam*, is producing a film based on the life of his wrestler hero Ric Flair, and considers it a 'personal' project, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.

THE INCREDIBLE HULK SEQUEL MAY BE EXPENSIVE: RUFFALO

Actor Mark Ruffalo feels that a sequel to his 2008 superhero film *The Incredible Hulk* may turn out to be 'too expensive.' Marvel Studios is now reducing the amount of content coming out each year. But it may be too late, Ruffalo admits, reports *deadline.com*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
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ARIES
You have to take care of your health, and at last you realise the importance of diet and exercise. However, today you may wish to eat something new, or try some different cuisine. Ganesh says go out with some old friends whom you have been neglecting of late.

TAURUS
Things will tend to get very difficult and complicated, says Ganesh. Be prepared for setbacks and challenges today. No matter how big the issue, your competence, your resourcefulness will see you through. Try to remain focused and alert. Be cautious and circumspect. Act coolly and sensibly.

GEMINI
You will be lost in the memories of the past today. You will be in a nostalgic frame of mind. Intellectual pursuits will attract you. Do not let your past lay a shadow upon your present and your future, says Ganesh.

CANCER
You can improve your finances with your mental capabilities. Ganesh says that you will get success in both private life and career. You will be entrusted many tasks and responsibilities. Yet by evening, you will spend time in your pursuits.

LEO
A lot of people will sing your praises, however you will not be satisfied with whatever is occurring. The answers to some questions that have been bothering you will remain elusive. You may become emotional owing to feelings of personal loss. You will also be bothered about the near future, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
Ganesh foretells that your writing abilities will help you give vent to your emotions without hurting others. You will finish all your incomplete tasks successfully. Ganesh says that you will experience success in everything that you choose to do today.

LIBRA
Ganesh says today is a good day to renovate your home. You will be able to decorate your home artistically because of your designing skills. The atmosphere at your home will be a happy one with the arrival of guests. You will make plans to go for a picnic with close friends or relatives. Ganesh wishes you all the very best for your future.

SCORPIO
It's time to influence people and win their hearts whether it's your crush, love or your boss. You may be eager to express your feelings for them. At work, you are likely to work actively and kick start the projects in the pipeline. Ganesh advises you to keep your eyes and ears open.

SAGITTARIUS
For you, appreciation and recognition for the efforts you put in may be delayed, but it's not denied. There's no point losing heart and getting disappointed. This may only affect your work, instead, wait for a better tomorrow, Ganesh says giving you hope.

CAPRICORN
Your accomplishments may take you on cloud nine today. Success may come easily to you, but don't try your luck too much, advises Ganesh. Make the most of today as tomorrow may not be the same as today. You will be popular today, especially in your social circle as you'll impress everyone with your wit and humour.

AQUARIUS
You will be able to strike a balance between the emotional and rational side of your personality. You will find pleasure in your work and may successfully mix your personal life into your professional life.

PISCES
Just as melting ice caps on faraway mountains can swell the oceans, concerted efforts you make now will have far-reaching beneficial consequences, says Ganesh. Do not be disheartened in the face of obstacles and keep soldiering on.

Priyamani cautious about her film choices

Mumbai: Actress Priyamani, who was last seen in *Jawan*, recently opened up about how she is conscious and cautious about her film choices in the Hindi industry.

"I feel honoured that makers not only from your industry but from other industries are willing to have you on board because they believe in your talent. It feels great that talent is being recognised everywhere and people (actors) are getting more opportunities. It's good that we are being recognised on a national level," the actress told PTI in an interview.

Priyamani's stint in Hindi cinema began with a cameo in Mani Ratnam's bilingual movie, *Raavan*, followed by a dance number in *Chennai Express*. But it was her OTT debut show, *The Family Man*, that led to her becoming famous with Hindi audiences.

"I'm happy that people like my work. I'm a little more known because of *Jawan* here in Mumbai. Earlier, they had to take a second look at me to see if I was the same girl from *The Family Man*. But now the popularity is growing more, so every time I walk, people are like, 'Oh, it's you'," she said.

The National award winner said she is 'conscious and cautious' about her choices in Hindi cinema, and she is looking forward to *Article 370*, *Maidaan*, and *The Family Man 3*.



Kriti opens up on playing a machine

Mumbai: Besides being an appealing beauty, National Award-winning actress Kriti Sanon has made the headlines for her performance in films like *Mimi*, *Bhediyaa* and *Bareilly Ki Barfi*. She has also won hearts with her role in the recently released superhit film *Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya*. The actress recently opened up on the challenges faced by her on playing SIFRA.

she portrayed the character in the film and responding the same, Kriti said, "I always felt that people equated good performances to intense scenes and emotions. This character lacked emotions, so I didn't expect the response to be this overwhelming. To convince the audience that I play a machine in the film was extremely tricky. I knew it was a challenging role, which is what made it easy for me to take it up."

Meanwhile on the work front, Kriti will be seen in soon to release *The Crew* and *Do Patti*.



AJAY'S SPOOKY ENCOUNTERS

Mumbai: Actor Ajay Devgn, who is a firm believer of Lord Shiva and has directed films like *Shivaay* and *Bhola*, incorporating themes around Lord Shiva, has confessed that he has had supernatural experiences.

The actor spoke to the media and shared that he did experience supernatural events. However, he didn't get into the nitty-gritty of those experiences.

"During the first 10-12 years of my career, when we used to shoot outdoors, I did experience supernatural occurrences. What those experiences entailed, I won't get into that, but they were quite unsettling, I must say."

He added, "I love the genre of horror; the audience across the world connects with it, every religion in the world finds mention of 'black magic'."

On the work front, Ajay is currently awaiting the release of his upcoming film, *Shaitaan*, which also stars R Madhavan and Jyothika and is set to release in cinemas March 8.

Sonam decodes secret of Anil's youthful looks

Mumbai: Actress Sonam Kapoor talked about how her father, Anil Kapoor, stays young and why she credits her mother too for that. Talking at the launch of Dr Shiv K Sarin's book *Own Your Body*:

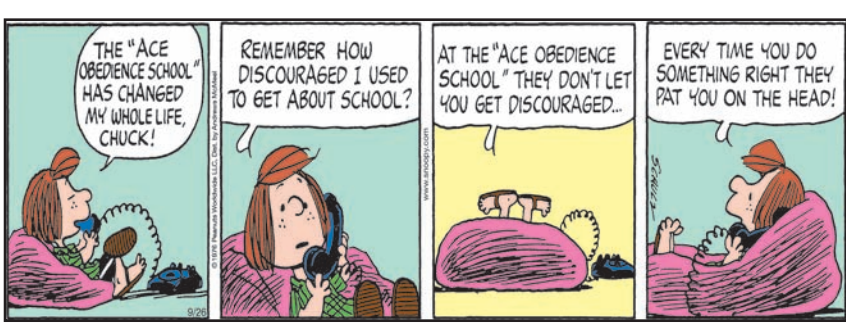
A Doctor's Life-saving Tips in New Delhi, she explained the lifestyle of the three brothers - Anil, Boney and Sanjay.

Talking about her father and uncles, the Neeraja actor said, "My father is an extreme, he doesn't drink, smoke or doesn't do anything. Boney chachu loves the good life, he loves to eat, occasionally he likes to drink, and Sanjay chachu is a moderate one, in between. But they all are good looking healthy men."

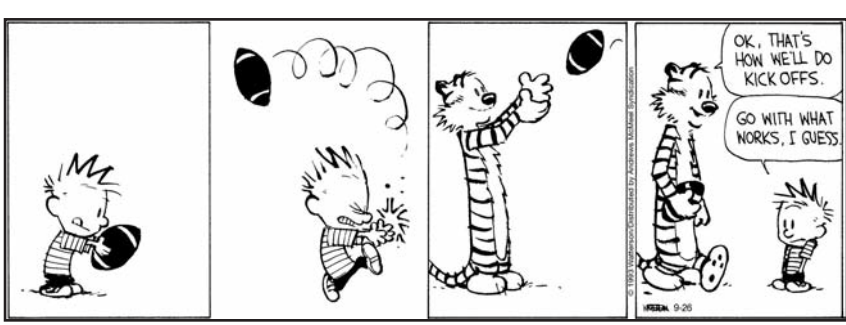
Despite Anil staying away from smoking and drinking, Sonam said that it's her mom Sunita who is 'health conscious' and keeps him in check - especially when he feels like indulging himself.

She also stated that her mom has been health conscious 'from the very beginning.' "Honestly, since I remember my mom started the first personal training gym in Mumbai. This was many many years ago," she said.

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

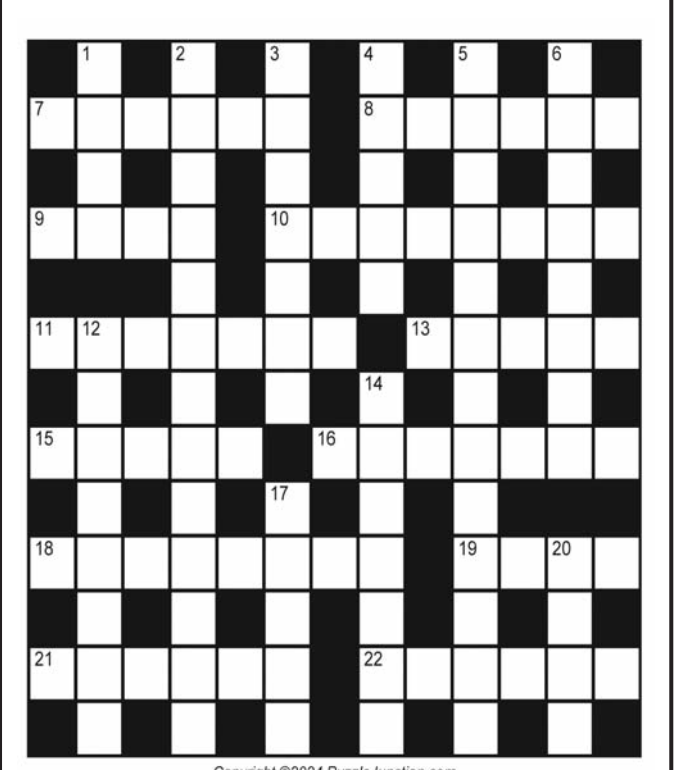


BREVITY



FUN post

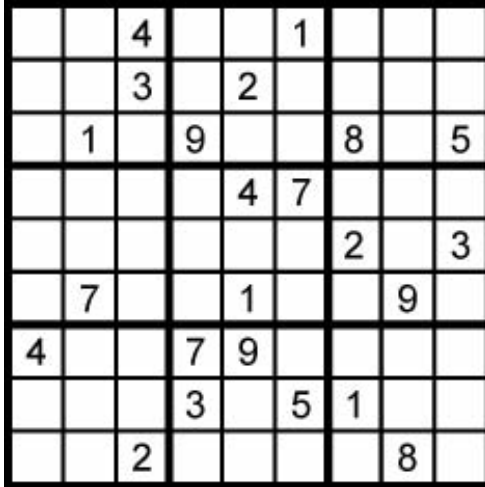
CROSSWORD



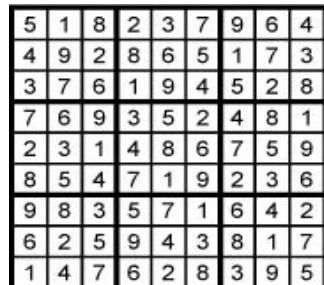
- Across**
- 7 Outline
 - 8 Nuzzle
 - 9 Hack
 - 10 Anthem type
 - 11 Neat
 - 13 Burn with hot water
 - 15 Furious
 - 16 Treasure
 - 18 Trellis
 - 19 Nile wader
 - 21 Stick to
 - 22 In the distance (3-3)
- Down**
- 1 Soup
 - 2 Union bane
 - 3 Building material
 - 4 Pressing
 - 5 Military transports (5,8)
 - 6 Attacks
 - 12 Boxing seat
 - 14 Law officer
 - 17 Tuckered out
 - 20 Data

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

business

of the day quote

India should become an exporter of green energy by 2047 to attract capital
AMITABH KANT | SHERPA, G20



We need to usher in Green revolution 2.0 which would essentially be restoring crop mix that existed Pre Green revolution 1.0. We do not have any other option
AJAY SRIVASTAVA | FOUNDER, GTRI



The Indian economy is growing at a consistent clip at a very good rate. In the next 10 years, India will continue to grow at 6-8 per cent consistent growth rate. I can say that with a high level of confidence
ASHWINI VAISHNAV | UNION MINISTER



SHORT TAKES

Govt allows onion exports to 4 nations

New Delhi: The government Thursday permitted traders to export 54,760 tonne of onion to Bangladesh, Mauritius, Bahrain and Bhutan till March 31. "We have allowed export of 50,000 tonne of onion to Bangladesh, 1,200 tonne to Mauritius, 3,000 tonne of Bahrain and 560 tonne to Bhutan with immediate effect," Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh told PTI. Traders are allowed to export this quantity till March 31. The modalities are being worked out, he said. Currently, there is a ban on onion exports till March 31. The ban was imposed on December 8, 2023, in order to boost the domestic supply and check price rise. Sources said several countries have made a request for the supply of onion from India. The external affairs ministry is evaluating the quantity on a case-to-case basis and a final decision is taken by the group of ministers.

Mineral output up 5.1% in Dec

New Delhi: India's mineral output increased by 5.1 per cent in December as compared to the year-ago period, the government said Thursday. The index of mineral production of mining and quarrying sector for the month of December, 2023 at 139.4 is 5.1 per cent higher as compared to the level witnessed in the corresponding month of 2022, the mines ministry said in a statement. The cumulative growth rate in the mining and quarrying sector for the April-December period of the current fiscal over the corresponding period of previous financial year is 8.5 per cent. In December, the production of coal stood at 929 lakh tonne while that of lignite at 40 lakh tonne, iron ore at 255 lakh tonne and limestone at 372 lakh tonne.

SpiceJet raises additional funds

Mumbai: SpiceJet Thursday said it has secured an additional ₹316 crore, taking its total funds raised to ₹1,060 crore through a preferential share issue. The fresh capital infusion in the struggling airline comes amid its recent announcement of slashing its workforce by 10-15 per cent. In January SpiceJet had received ₹744 crore as the first tranche of funds through the allotment of securities on a preferential basis. On December 12, the airline had said it would raise fresh capital of ₹2,250 crore through issuance of securities. "SpiceJet has raised an additional ₹316 crore, bringing the total investments raised to ₹1,060 crore under its preferential issue," the airline said.

'INFLATION FIGHT NOT OVER'

RBI against policy pivots

Premature move on monetary policy front could undermine efforts to check inflation, says Das

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Feb 22: The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) job to bring down inflation is not over, and any premature move on the policy front could undermine the success achieved so far on the price situation, according to RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das.

RBI's rate setting panel, Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), had met for three days from February 6-8. The panel decided to leave the key policy rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent for the sixth time in row. It is almost a year now that the repo rate or short-term borrowing rate is at 6.5 per cent.



As markets are front-running central banks in anticipation of policy pivots, any premature move may undermine the success achieved so far
SHAKTIKANTA DAS | GOVERNOR, RBI

According to the minutes of the February Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting released by the central bank Thursday, Das had said at this juncture, monetary policy must remain vigilant and "not assume that our job on the inflation front is over".

It was in Feb last year when the RBI hiked the repo rate to 6.5% and has held the policy rate since then

He stressed that the MPC must remain committed to successfully navigate the "last mile" of disinflation that can be sticky.

Das made the remarks while voting for status quo in the key interest rate earlier this month.

"As markets are front-running central banks in anticipation of policy pivots, any premature move may undermine the success achieved so far," the governor said, as per the minutes.

He argued that price and financial stability were essential to sustain a long haul of high growth, and the monetary policy's objective was to stay focused on achieving the 4 per cent inflation target on a durable basis, keeping in mind the ob-

jective of growth.

Five of the six MPC members had voted to keep the short-term benchmark lending rate at 6.5 per cent.

The rate-setting panel consists of three external and three RBI officials as members.

Shashanka Bhide, Ashima Goyal, and Jayanth R Varma are external members, while RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra, and Executive Director Rajiv Ranjan are from the central bank.

Varma had made a case to reduce the repo rate by 25 basis points, and to change the stance to neutral.

The process of fiscal consolidation is projected to continue in 2024-25, he said, adding that this opens up space for monetary easing without risking an inflationary spiral.

"In my view, the time has come for the MPC to send a clear signal that it takes its dual mandate of inflation and growth seriously, and that it would not maintain a real interest rate that is significantly more than what is

UNIQUE COLLABORATIONS

Pre-ordered meals: IRCTC, Swiggy tie up; Bhubaneswar among chosen stations



NEW DELHI: The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has partnered with Swiggy for the delivery of pre-ordered meals booked by passengers through the corporation's e-catering portal. During the initial stage, Swiggy will provide services to IRCTC customers at four railway stations - Bangalore, Bhubaneswar, Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam. The services will be expanded to other stations after the completion of the first phase. "The e-catering service through Bundl Technologies Pvt. Ltd. (Swiggy Foods) may be available soon," the company said in a BSE filing Thursday. The collaboration between Swiggy and IRCTC is expected to boost the business of the food delivery application given the high number of passenger traffic in the country.

Mobility offerings: Uber signs MoU with ONDC

BANGALORE: Uber, one of India's leading ridesharing platforms, Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Open Network for Digital Commerce to explore an integration with the network to expand the range of mobility offerings on the Uber app. The agreement with Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), a private non-profit organisation established by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade of Government of India, stands to strengthen Uber's mission of bringing safe, affordable and reliable rides to all Indians.



needed to achieve its target," Varma said.

RBI Deputy Governor and MPC member Michael Debabrata Patra, according to the minutes, said monetary policy must remain restrictive and maintain downward pressure on inflation while minimising the out-

put costs of disinflation. It is only when inflation subsides and stays close to the target lastingly that policy restraint can be eased, he had said.

Bhide said it was critically important at the juncture to continue with the present policy rates so that the moderation in inflation rate is achieved in a sustained manner.

According to the minutes, Goyal also agreed to the stance interpreted in terms of policy rates still being disinflationary and vote for status quo on the stance.

The next meeting of the MPC is scheduled during April 3-5.

IFFCO KEEPS TOP SPOT GLOBALLY

IFFCO, one of the leading fertiliser players in the country, has been ranked first among top 300 cooperatives in the world. Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Ltd (IFFCO) has again been ranked as top cooperative among top 300 cooperatives in the world, sustaining its position from the last year, according to a statement



Indices rebound on bullish sentiments

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Feb 22: Stocks staged a strong recovery Thursday, with Nifty notching up a fresh all-time high and Sensex surging over 500 points as investors went on a buying spree in IT, technology and automobile stocks.

After volatility persisted for most part of the session, the benchmark indices rebounded in the last one hour of trading amid improving domestic macroeconomic indicators and positive global cues, including impressive earnings from the US technology space.

The 30-share benchmark Sensex soared 535.15 points or 0.74 per cent to close at 73,158.24 points.

As many as 22 Sensex constituents closed in the positive territory and the index touched an intra-day high of 73,256.39 points.

The broader Nifty climbed 162.40 points or 0.74 per cent to hit its highest-ever closing level of 22,217.45 points.

Nifty recorded its previous lifetime peak at 22,196.95 points February 20.

BSE midcap index gained 0.92 per cent, largecap index climbed 0.81 per cent and smallcap index rose 0.54 per cent.

In the Sensex pack, HCLTech rose the maximum by 3.12 per cent, followed by ITC which gained 2.73 per cent and M&M went up 2.61 per cent. TCS climbed 2.44 per cent.

Bellwether auto stock Maruti gained 1.79 per cent, while Tata Motors rose 1.20 per cent. Tech Mahindra, Wipro, L&T and Maruti were among the other major gainers.

Sensex and Nifty Wednesday snapped their six-day winning streak and closed in the red.

While Sensex fell 434.31 points to close at 72,623.09 points, Nifty declined 141.90 points to end the day at 22,055.05 points.

Biz activity surges to 7-month high

REUTERS

Bangalore, Feb 22: Indian business activity expanded at its fastest pace in seven months in February as demand remained strong for both manufacturing and services, according to a business survey released Thursday, which also showed an easing in price pressures.

That supports the findings in a Reuters poll which found India, the fastest growing major economy, is expected to continue to grow at a steady pace over the coming years.

HSBC's flash India Composite Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), compiled by S&P Global, rose to 61.5 this month from January's final reading of 61.2, staying above the 50-mark that separates expansion from contraction for a 31st straight month.

"The pace of acceleration in the output of India's manufacturers and service providers, combined, was at a 7-month high in February. Encouragingly, new export orders rose sharply, particularly for goods producers," noted Pranjali Bhandari, chief India economist at HSBC.

The flash manufacturing PMI for February rose to 56.7 from last month's 56.5, its highest since September, and the preliminary services PMI was at a seven-month high of 62.0 from 61.8 in January.

New orders across the private sector continued to rise at a robust pace driven by demand in the dominant services industry, which expanded at the fastest pace since mid-2010. Factory output accelerated to a five-month high.



Overall international orders increased at the quickest pace since September.

That bolstered the view for the coming 12 months with optimism among manufacturers at the highest since December 2022. However, overall business confidence slipped from January's four-month high.

However, employment didn't increase for the first time since May 2022.

Although services companies noted a stronger increase in cost burdens than manufacturers, the flash data showed a moderation in cost pressures. Overall input prices rose at the weakest pace in three-and-a-half years.

"Producers were able to do both - lower the rate of increase in output prices and improve margins," added Bhandari.

That would likely provide comfort to the Reserve Bank of India, which is expected to keep its key repo rate unchanged before a first cut in the July-September quarter.

However, employment didn't increase for the first time since May 2022.

Khimji marks flagship store anniversary

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 22: In celebration of the milestone anniversary of its flagship store, Khimji Jewellers unveiled a spectacular offer for its clientele.

From 21 February to 3 March, customers are invited to join in a unique shopping experience with an exclusive flat 50% discount on making charges for both gold and diamond jewellery at all three stores in Bhubaneswar, situated in Janpath, Chandrasekharpur, and Soubhagya Nagar.

This exceptional offer provides a golden opportunity for patrons to indulge in a shopping extravaganza while enjoying substantial savings.

It marks the first time Khimji Jewellers has extended such a significant discount, creating an event that promises unparalleled value.

With a legacy of 88 years, Khimji Jewellers is known for its exquisite designs that have been meticulously crafted for generations. Whether it is a dazzling diamond necklace, an elegant gold bangle, or intricately de-



signed bridal jewellery, the brand offers diverse options to cater to every preference and occasion.

Mitesh Khimji, Managing Director of Khimji Jewellers, expressed the sentiment behind this exclusive offer, stating, "Jewellery crafted from diamonds and gold possesses a timeless appeal, representing heritage and prosperity alongside its aesthetic appeal. We are thrilled

to extend this exclusive deal to our valued customers. Our brand, with a relentless focus on customer satisfaction, strives to exceed expectations by catering to unique preferences and needs. The flat 50% discount on making charges not only makes our exquisite jewellery more accessible but also pays homage to the enduring legacy of craftsmanship and elegance that defines Khimji Jewellers."

Airtel doubles retail footprint in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 22: Bharti Airtel, one of India's leading telecommunications service providers, announced that it has launched four new, next-gen company owned stores in Bhubaneswar.

The new stores that have come up in Jharpada, Siripur, District Centre and Acharya Vihar will strengthen Airtel's retail presence and will offer unparalleled service experience to customers. The stores will also showcase Airtel's cutting-edge technologies across its portfolio.

Commenting on the expansion, Balaji R. COO, Bharti Airtel, said, "Customer obsession continues to be the core tenet driving us at Airtel as we embark on a massive retail expansion in the state of Odisha. As a one-stop-shop for all customer needs, these neighborhood stores will offer an exhaustive range of services including mobile, broadband, DTH, etc. The state of Odisha continues to be a big focus market for us and we will continue to invest in this market."

India to be third largest economy by 2027: Jefferies

OVER LAST 10 YEARS, INDIA'S GDP HAS GROWN BY 7% TO \$3.6TN, JUMPING FROM EIGHTH TO FIFTH LARGEST ECONOMY

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Feb 22: Strong reform measures initiated by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government in the last ten years have laid the foundation of a solid economic growth in coming decades, Jefferies Equity Research outlook said.

It also said that India would become the third largest economy by 2027 and expected to achieve a market capitalization of \$10 trillion by 2030.

"With a consistent history of 10-12 per cent CAGR (compound annual growth rate) over the last 10 and 20 years, India is now the fifth largest equity market and market cap will likely to touch \$10 trillion by 2030," the report said.

It added that continued reforms should maintain India's status of being the fastest growing large economy.



supply), improving institutional strength and improvement in governance," it added.

Further, it said that GST implementation in 2017 simplified taxation and improved trade efficiencies, akin to the formation of Euro, and bankruptcy reforms drove a massive cleaning up of corporate and banking sector balance sheets and improved governance.

RERA (Real Estate Regulation Act) cleaned-up housing sector laying the foundation for a multi-year housing upcycle, it said, adding the government's focus on physical (roads, airports, railways etc) and digital infra (UID, UPI, DBT) has helped the startup ecosystem.

highest population in the world, also features favourable demographics with a vibrant and young population, whose average age is just a tad below 30 years.

"The young demographics imply that the ratio of working age population is yet to peak, unlike several large economies and other comparable emerging market economies," it said.

The report added that a strong earnings growth profile, track-record of generating peer beating returns, rising India market weight and deep markets should attract incremental foreign flows.

"The Indian markets saw \$20 billion of equity flows in 2023, though it was not as high as compared to previous levels as a percentage of market cap," it added.

India's market capitalization to become \$10trn by 2030

"Over the next 4 years, India's GDP will likely touch \$5 trillion making it the third largest economy by 2027, overtaking Japan and Germany, being the fastest growing large economy with the tailwinds of demographics (consistent labour

Potential series decider

Confident India face selection dilemma; England aim for redemption when the two sides meet in the fourth Test beginning today



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Feb 22: Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah's absence is a concern but an assertive and adaptive India will have the edge against England's seemingly depth-less 'Bazball' approach when the two sides clash in the potentially series-deciding fourth Test beginning here Friday.

From the dry heat of Rajkot to the much cooler confines of Ranchi, the temperature shift would be the only soothing factor for the Englishmen who have let it slip against the resilient hosts and are trailing 1-2.

Eying a 17th series win on the trot at home, India have been near invincible since the shock defeat to Alastair Cook's England in 2012. After that, India have

won a staggering 38 out of 47 Tests, and have lost just three (two each versus Australia and England) when challenges on home turf.

Captaining a depleted batting line-up in the absence of Virat Kohli, KL Rahul and an out-of-form Shreyas Iyer, Rohit Sharma has found answers from the young guns, whose performance has been the biggest takeaway from the series so far.

Whether it is Yashvi Jaiswal, who has maintained an impressive average of 109 with a total of 545 runs, or Sarfaraz Khan, who ended his prolonged wait for a Test debut with a blazing 66-ball 62 in Rajkot, or Shubman Gill, gradually settling in at No.3, India's next generation of batters are showcasing how a seamless transition

happens. As for replacing Bumrah, who has been the top wicket-taker (17) of the series which was expected to be dominated by spinners, it could well be India's Achilles' heel in Ranchi. Bumrah has been rested after bowling a little more than 80 overs in the three gone-by Tests.

His reverse-swing mastery on day two of the Vizag Test during a six-wicket burst, was the biggest contributing factor in the 106-run win that levelled the series 1-1. On a docile Rajkot wicket too, Bumrah made in-roads giving India crucial breakthroughs.

Keeping in mind the seaming conditions in Dharamsala for the fifth Test and the hectic IPL season ahead, Bumrah has been given a break, making Mohammed Siraj the sole experienced pacer in the line-up.

It will be a toss-up between Bengal duo of Mukesh Kumar and an uncapped Akash Deep for the second pacer's slot in Ranchi.

Fresh from his career-best 10-wicket haul in Ranji Trophy, Mukesh is not only more experienced but also partnered Bumrah in the Vizag Test. He, however, bowled just 12 overs taking one wicket across both innings.

It remains to be seen whether the Indian think-tank will take the gamble of giving another debut cap or persist with Mukesh, who has been average at best. History suggests that the JSCA Stadium pitch will suit a plan featuring two seamers and three spinners.

England brought in off-spin-

ner Shoaib Bashir to go alongside Tom Hartley, replacing leg-spinner Rehan Ahmed. They have another off-spin option in part-timer Joe Root, who has more overs (107) under his belt than runs (77) in this series.

India, on the other hand, have preferred the conventional two-pacer-three-spinner combination and it's unlikely that Axar Patel would be recalled. The team is expected to stick to Ravichandran Ashwin, Kuldeep Yadav and Ravindra Jadeja.

Historically, the Ranchi pitch has proven deceptive for the visiting teams. In the last Test here in 2019, South Africa were blown away by the duo of Mohammed Shami and Umesh Yadav, who shared 10 wickets between them, as against the eight by the spin trio of Ashwin, Jadeja and Shahbaz Nadeem.

For the 'Bazball' inspired England, the win in Hyderabad has become a distant memory and a repeat of 2021 looks likely when India bounced back to win the four-Test series 3-1.

The record 434-run thrashing in Rajkot has triggered criticism of England's so-called aggressive 'Bazball' approach. It seems to have found a match in India after tasting success against New Zealand, South Africa and Pakistan and Australia to an extent.

The go-for-strokes style might have helped the likes of Zak Crawley and Ben Duckett, but it has also doomed the likes of Root and Jonny Bairstow. The desperation to find a way out can be judged from skipper Ben Stokes expediting his rehab from a knee injury by opting to bowl at the nets ahead of the fourth Test.

The pace attack will once again be led by James Anderson and he will pair up with the fresh legs of Ollie Robinson, who has been brought in for Mark Wood.

MATCHDAY

India vs England

4th Test

Time: 9:30 am

Telecast: Sports18 Network

Stream: Jio Cinema

Stokes intrigued by Ranchi wicket



Brendon McCullum (2nd from L) and Co have a close look at the pitch ahead of Ranchi Test

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

It has never been a rank-turner. The pitch would be beautiful for batting for first two days and would assist spin from day three. History should repeat itself

LOCAL GROUNDSMAN

Ranchi, Feb 22: England captain Ben Stokes added spice to the talks on Ranchi pitch for the fourth Test against India, saying he has not seen anything remotely like the 22-yard strip here in the past.

However, discussion about the "platey cracks" on the pitch as described by England batter Ollie Pope has dominated the build-up to this Test. Stokes added a touch of intrigue as well.

"It looked interesting, didn't it? I don't know. I can't say much. I don't know, I've never seen something like that before so I have no idea. I don't know what could happen," Stokes was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo. It indeed was an ominous reading of the playing surface, if you are from the England camp. But then Stokes had a reason for it as well. "If you looked down one side of opposite ends it just looked different to what I am used to seeing, especially out in India."

It looked green and grassy up in the changing-rooms, but then you go out there, it looked different. Very dark and crumbly and quite a few cracks in it," Stokes offered.

The nature of the pitch also delayed England making a decision on their playing 11. Pacer Ollie Robinson will come in for Mark Wood but the call to add fourth spinner in Shoaib Bashir or an extra batter in Dan Lawrence will have to wait for now. Lawrence can also double up as a handy off-spinner.

"He's (Robinson) got unbe-

lievable skills to be a successful bowler anywhere in the world. What we've seen in England is he's very skillful, but we've seen more than that in Pakistan.

"It's similar but different here, but the skill he possesses, he can find any movement, and his release point is always going to be dangerous," said Stokes.

So, will Stokes finally wear his bowling cloak? The Durham man remained a bit secretive. "My knee itself was absolutely fine today bowling. It was just good to push past that 20-minute barrier, which is what I've been working around at the moment. It might be a bit stiff but we'll wait and see," he noted.

Pitch of unknown nature
India batting coach Vikram Rathour Thursday said there are visible cracks on the pitch that will be used for the fourth Test against England here but he is not sure at which stage and to what extent it would turn during the match.

"Everytime we play in India, there's question mark on the pitch... It's a typical Indian wicket, there are cracks, this wicket always had cracks," Rathour told reporters on the eve of the match. "It will turn, but how much it will turn and from when we are not sure. But we have enough balance in our team."

FIRST 17-DAY SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

IPL to be kicked off with CSK-RCB faceoff

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 22: Defending champions Chennai Super Kings (CSK) will take on Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) in the 2024 IPL season-opener in Chennai March 22, the BCCI announced Thursday while unveiling the schedule for the first 17 days of the popular T20 league.

The roster for the remaining matches will be announced once the dates for the upcoming general elections are announced early next month.

As in the past, the BCCI will work closely with government and security agencies, following all necessary protocols and advisories related to the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections in India, the apex cricket body said in a statement.

"Once the dates for the 18th Lok Sabha elections are announced, the Board will review and address any issues pertaining to the schedule of the first two weeks. Subsequently, the BCCI will work in tandem with local authorities to finalise the schedule for the remainder of the season, taking into account the polling dates," the BCCI said. The general elections are expected to be held in April-May.

Only in 2009, the IPL, in its entirety, was held overseas (South Africa) while the 2014 edition was partially held in the UAE due to the general elections. However, in 2019, the tournament was held in India despite the elections.

The first weekend will feature two double headers, beginning with the Punjab Kings hosting the Delhi Capitals March 23, followed by the Kolkata Knight Riders hosting the Sunrisers Hyderabad in the day's second game.

As per the format, 10 teams are



Released schedule

| | |
|----------|-------------|
| March 22 | CSK vs RCB |
| March 23 | PBKs vs DC |
| March 23 | KKR vs SRH |
| March 24 | RR vs LSG |
| March 24 | GT vs MI |
| March 25 | RCB vs PBKS |
| March 26 | CSK vs GT |
| March 27 | SRH vs MI |
| March 28 | RR vs DC |
| March 29 | RCB vs KKR |
| March 30 | LSG vs PBKS |
| March 31 | GT vs SRH |
| April 1 | DC vs CSK |
| April 2 | RCB vs LSG |
| April 3 | DC vs KKR |
| April 4 | GT vs PBKS |
| April 5 | SRH vs CSK |
| April 6 | RR vs RCB |
| April 7 | MI vs DC |
| April 7 | LSG vs GT |

During the period from March 22 to April 7, a total of 21 matches will be played across 10 cities, with each team playing a minimum of 3 matches and a maximum of 5

divided into two groups of five. In the group stage, each team plays 14 games facing the other four sides in their group two times each (home and away basis, four teams in the other group once, and the remaining team two times).

Hardik Pandya will be leading Mumbai Indians for the first time, having replaced Team India's all-format skipper Rohit Sharma.

New Zealand's young sensation Rachin Ravindra will be participating in his maiden IPL following his grand success in the ODI World Cup last year.

CSK talisman MS Dhoni, who has led his team to five IPL titles, has not played any competitive cricket since their triumphant campaign last year.

WPL begins today as Mumbai face Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Feb 22: The second edition of the Women's Premier League, beginning here Friday with a high-profile match between defending champions Mumbai Indians and runners-up Delhi Capitals, will be optimistic about meeting its existential purpose of giving a wider platform to promising home-grown talents.

The foreign stars glittered brightly in the inaugural edition held in Mumbai, and the Indians will be hoping to hog some of the limelight this year as the tournament takes a multicentricity format shape with New Delhi being the other host city.

While Capitals' skipper Meg Lanning, who has now retired from international cricket, took the Orange Cap last year for the highest run-getter, the Purple Cap went to Hayley Matthews of Mumbai for taking 16 wickets.

Amid this surge of overseas players, the Indian cricketers generally struggled for consistency and impact in the previous year, but now some of the young domestic stars will eye this WPL with genuine hope.



READY TO RUMBLE: Team captains (from L to R) Beth Mooney of GG, Alyssa Healy of UPW, Meg Lanning of DC, Smriti Mandhana of RCB and Harmanpreet Kaur of MI pose with the WPL trophy, Wednesday

Let's take Shreyanka Patil of Royal Challengers Bangalore as a case in point. During WPL 2023, she was a wide-eyed young cricketer who was awestruck to rub shoulders with some of the finest names in women's cricket. She played seven matches, but the spotlight was understandably

on players such as Smriti Mandhana or Ellyse Perry or Sophie Devine.

But in the last 10 months or so, Patil has built a place of her own. She earned her maiden India cap in both Test and ODIs in December last year, besides making her mark in the

Caribbean Premier League for the Guyana Amazon Warriors.

Titas Sadhu of Delhi Capitals offers a similar story. Sadhu did not get a single game despite being in the squad but this year the West Bengal player has a changed profile. After making her India debut in the Hangzhou Asian Games against Bangladesh, the 19-year-old has grown in stature.

The medium pacer's 4-1-6-3 spell helped India beat Sri Lanka in the Asian Games final while defending a meagre target of 117. Sadhu proved that that performance was no flash in the pan when she grabbed four for 17 against Australia in Mumbai last month, powering India to a rare T20I win over the Aussies.

So, it will be hard for Delhi management to overlook her claim to be in the starting eleven against Mumbai, or at least in a few subsequent matches.

The Capitals also have in their ranks a talent who is eager to stamp her mark in the WPL — Minnu Mani. The Kerala cricketer is the first player from her state to sign a WPL contract, but her participation last year was limited to just three matches

and two innings to bat.

But then the tournament is not just about contenders, it is also about the trailblazers. The outings of Harmanpreet Kaur, who will have to tame expectations that are generally placed on the title holders, Mandhana, who has the onerous task of landing RCB a maiden title across WPL and IPL, and the UP Warriorz duo of Alyssa Healy and Chamari Athapaththu, two of the best women batters in contemporary game, will be closely watched.

Then there are the second line of players like Jimimah Rodrigues (Delhi) and Deepti Sharma (UP) who come with the Hundred and Big Bash experience behind them. But they could not set the field ablaze in WPL 1 and they would want to write a fresh storyline this time.

MATCHDAY

MI vs DC

Time: 8:00 pm

Telecast: Sports18 Network

Stream: Jio Cinema

India win 2 para gold in ATCC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 22: India won two gold, a silver and a bronze medal, while Malaysia dominated the proceeding with five top-podium finishes on day two of the Asian Track Cycling Championships (ATCC) here Thursday.

On a day when all of India's medals came in the para category, Arshad Shaikh and Jalaluddin Ansari secured a gold-silver in the C2 15km Scratch final, while in women's C2 category 15km Scratch race, Jyoti Gaderiya emerged the winner.

Pavan Kumar Kommoji clinched bronze in the keenly-contested C3 class 15km Scratch final. The gold and silver medals



in this event were won by Adi Raimik of Malaysia and Indonesia's Tifan Abid Alana, respectively.

In the men's junior Scratch race, Sujal Yadav secured the fifth position, while Kazakhstan, Chinese Taipei, and Hong Kong claimed the gold, silver, and

bronze medals, respectively.

In women's junior Scratch seventh position, while Wen Xin Huang of Chinese Taipei clinched the gold. India's Mayuri Dhanraj Lute and Trishya Paul narrowly missed out on medals in the women's Elite Sprint category.

SHAMI RULED OUT OF IPL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 22: Senior pacer Mohammed Shami has been ruled out of next month's Indian Premier League owing to a left ankle injury, for which he will undergo a surgery in the UK, a BCCI source told PTI Thursday.

The 33-year-old, who is not part of the ongoing Test series against England, last played for India in the ODI World Cup final against Australia in November. "Shami was in London in last week of January to take special ankle injections and he was told that after three weeks, he can start light running and take it from thereon.

"But the injection hasn't worked and now the only option left is surgery. He will shortly

leave for UK for surgery. IPL seems out of question," a senior BCCI source said on the condition of anonymity.

Shami, who was one of the architects of India's stupendous World Cup campaign with 24 wickets, played through pain as he had problems with his landing but didn't let it affect his performance.

The development raises a question mark about the injury rehabilitation management programme planned by the National Cricket Academy (NCA) for Shami.

Now it is highly unlikely that the pace bowling artist would be able to make a comeback before India's Test matches at home against Bangladesh and New Zealand (October November). His target could be the marquee away series against Australia.