



ଓଡ଼ିଶାକୁ ସାରା ବିଶ୍ୱ ସହ ଯୋଡ଼ୁଛନ୍ତି ନବୀନ ସରକାର

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଦ୍ୱାରା ଆରମ୍ଭ ହୋଇଛି ଦୁବାଇ, ସିଙ୍ଗାପୁର ଓ ବ୍ୟାଙ୍କିଙ୍ଗ୍ ଭଳି ଅନ୍ତର୍ଜାତୀୟ ସହରକୁ ସିଧାସଳଖ ବିମାନସେବା



OIPR-15001/13/0444/2324

SHORT TAKES
Rajesh Patil appointed BMC Commissioner

Bhubaneswar: Rajesh Pravakar Patil, a 2005-batch IAS officer, has been appointed as the new Commissioner for the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Saturday. Patil would replace Vijay Amruta Kulange. "Rajesh Pravakar Patil, Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Govt, Co-operation Department, is hereby posted as Commissioner, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation," mentioned the GA Dept circular. Soon after, Patil chaired a meeting with the officials, and stressed on the key decisions, that would be undertaken by the BMC. **More inside**

UP: 8 kids among 22 dead as tractor falls into pond

Kasganj (UP): Twenty-two people, including eight children, died when their tractor overturned and fell into a pond here in Uttar Pradesh, Saturday, police said. They said 15 to 20 people were injured in the accident that occurred on the Patiyali-Dariyavaganj road when the occupants were going to take a bath in the Ganga river. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has announced financial assistance of ₹2 lakh to the kin of each of the deceased and ₹50,000 to the injured. **More inside**

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Alas, the AI is not that developed to source info about you from propaganda, sir

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	29.7°C	29.5°C
Min Temp	21.4°C	21.2°C
Humidity	86%	67%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

FORECAST
PARTLY CLOUDY SKY

39 new ULBs in state

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Feb 24: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday announced the formation of 34 new notified area councils (NACs) in 20 districts and the upgradation of five existing NACs into municipalities.

The government, in a statement, said the new NACs and municipalities were created in view of the public demand and increasing population and socio-economic development of the state.

The five NACs, which have been upgraded to municipalities, are Boudhgarh in Boudh district, Karanjia in Mayurbhanj, Kantabanji in Bolangir and Chhatrapur and Aska in Ganjam, official sources said.

Pallahara and Chhendipada



New NACs and municipalities were created in view of the public demand and increasing population and socio-economic development of the state

Boudhgarh in Boudh district, Karanjia in Mayurbhanj, Kantabanji in Bolangir and Chhatrapur and Aska in Ganjam have been upgraded to municipalities

Pallahara and Chhendipada in Angul district, Basta and Simulia in Balasore, Paikamal and Bheden in Bargarh and Agarpada in Bhadrak are among the newly notified area councils

in Angul district, Basta and Simulia in Balasore, Paikamal and Bheden in Bargarh and Agarpada in Bhadrak are among the newly notified area councils.

Similarly, Belapada and Saintala in Bolangir, Binjharpur, Panikoili, Jaraka and Chandikhole in Jajpur, Jayapatna

in Kalahandi, and Raikia in Kandhamal also got the NAC status. Boriguma in Koraput, Sinapali in Nuapada, Chandili, Muniguda and Bisamakataka in Rayagada district, Durguripali in Subarnapur, Bonai in Sundargarh were also declared as notified area councils.

Besides, Shergarh and Kukudakhandi in Ganjam, Kantilo in Nayagarh, Tangi and Begunia in Khurdha, Salipur, Badamba, Narasinghpur and Niali in Cuttack, Betnoti in Mayurbhanj, Parjang in Dhenkanal and Kantamal in Boudh would now be considered NACs.

The state currently has around 115 urban local bodies (ULBs) in 30 districts, including five municipal corporations, 47 municipalities and 63 NACs. After the formation of 34 more NACs and 5 additional municipalities, the total number of ULBs will increase to 154. The decision was taken following 5T Chairman Kartik Pandian's district tours and keeping the demands of people along with development of the areas in mind.

AAP-Cong pact in Delhi, Haryana, Gujarat, Goa

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 24: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will contest four Lok Sabha seats in Delhi and the Congress three, the parties said Saturday as they announced their seat-sharing arrangements for the national capital, Gujarat, Goa and Haryana.

AAP general secretary (organisation) Sandeep Pathak said that sidelining its own political interests, his party entered into an alliance with the Congress as it believes that the 'country is important and the party secondary.'

Senior BJP leader and Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri termed the tie-up between the two parties an 'opportunistic alliance.'

In a joint press conference

here, Congress leader Mukul Wasnik announced that the AAP will contest the New Delhi, the West Delhi, the South Delhi and the East Delhi seats, and his party the Chandni Chowk, the Northeast Delhi and the Northwest Delhi seats.

In Gujarat, the AAP will contest two of the 26 seats in the state -- Bharuch and Bhavnagar -- while the Congress will field candidates on the remaining 24, according to the arrangement.

The Congress will contest both the Lok Sabha seats in Goa and the lone seat in Chandigarh, Wasnik said.

In Haryana, the Congress will contest nine of the 10 Lok Sabha seats while the AAP will field its candidate in Kurukshetra, he added.

New criminal justice laws from July 1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 24: The newly enacted laws- Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshya Act- to completely overhaul the criminal justice system in the country will come into effect from July 1.

However, the provision related to cases of hit and run by vehicle drivers will not be implemented immediately.

The three laws got the Parliament's approval December 21 last year and President Droupadi Murmu gave her assent December 25.

According to three identical notifications issued by the Union home ministry, provisions of the new laws will come into force from July 1.

The laws will replace the colonial-era Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act of 1872 respectively.

The three legislations aim at completely overhauling the criminal justice system in the country by giving definitions of various offences and their punishments.

The government, however, has decided not to implement the provision related to cases of hit and run by a vehicle driver as promised to truckers who had protested against it.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 1 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (45 of 2023), the central government hereby appoints the 1st day of July, 2024 as the date on which the provisions of the said Sanhita, except the provision of sub-section (2) of section 106, shall come into force," one of the notifications said.

After the laws were enacted the truckers had protested the provision of Section 106 (2) which provides for 10 years imprisonment and fine to those who causes death of any person by rash and negligent driving of vehicle not amounting to culpable homicide, and escapes without reporting it to a police officer.

Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla had said the decision to invoke Section 106 (2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita will be taken only after consultation with the All India Motor Transport Congress.

According to the Section 106 (2) of the BNS, "Whoever causes death of any person by rash and negligent driving of vehicle not amounting to culpable homicide, and escapes without reporting it to a police officer or a magistrate soon after the incident, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description of a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine."



Mandatory chips soon for Everest climbers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, Feb 24: Nepal will soon be making it mandatory for all climbers headed to Mount Everest to carry an electronic chip that would be helpful in rescue in case of any emergency at the world's highest peak.

The government will soon be formulating a rule for making such a chip mandatory starting from Spring this year when the climbing season starts with the opening of the narrow window available to climb extremely high altitudes.

Thousands of climbers from all over the world, including India and Nepal, are attracted to the 8,849 metres (29,032 feet) high Mt



Everest. While scores of them do reach the summit, some either lose their lives or are seriously injured during the ascent or descent.

Since 1953, at least 300 persons have lost their lives, according to Nepal government data. In the 2023 Spring season, till May 22, Nepali officials said, as

Summit becomes a tedious job because of the snow storms, avalanches, and other extreme weather events.

"All the climbers to Everest would be provided the electronic chip by the government after paying a certain amount. It will be fitted in the climber's jacket," Rakesh Gurung, Director at the Department of Tourism told PTI.

The chips would cost around USD 10 to USD 15, he said. According to Gurung, the chip will help make the expeditions safe and facilitate emergency rescue operations.

Some reputed climbing agencies have already provided the electronic chips to their climbers, Gurung said.

many as 12 climbers, including four Nepalese, one Indian, and one Chinese, died during their respective expeditions to Mt Everest.

The Everest base camp is situated at an altitude of 18,000 feet. Any search and rescue operation from the base camp onwards to the

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'FEELING LIGHTER THAN AIR AFTER TURNING 41'

Actress Emily Blunt shared that she's feeling 'happy' and 'peaceful' after turning 41. The actress told people.com: "I feel like I've been lighter than air the last couple of weeks. I feel so happy. I don't know if I've had much time to let it sink in. I feel very happy, peaceful, happy."

I'M NOT BRAVE ENOUGH TO USE SOCIAL MEDIA: COLMAN

Oscar-winning actress Olivia Colman shared why she isn't much on social media. Colman told Sky News: "I'm not brave enough. I know it would hurt. I'm not very thick-skinned, and so I don't want to know. I would rather pretend that no one ever sees a film that we make, actually."



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
You will focus your attention today on your beloved. You will feel very energetic, but your commitment to work will falter. So don't be surprised if your superiors are annoyed. However, Ganesh says today is a day for romantic pursuits.

TAURUS
Today, you will be as creative and competent as you can get. Your work style, the deft way you handle things will awe and amaze your colleagues and superiors. Your subordinates will be highly impressed and motivated. They will be eager and compliant and will support and assist you to the utmost.

GEMINI
You will try to think up creative ways to perform your daily routine to get a break from the boredom and the rut of your daily schedule. You need to mingle more with people and practice some humility. Guests will come visiting at your home. You will spend the evening in conversation with your family, friends or neighbours, says Ganesh.

CANCER
The day looks set to be so good that you may end up inviting jealousy and envy from people around you. The stars are favourable for matters pertaining to heart. In short, a great day for boosting love and relationships.

LEO
It is an important day for you. Everyone in the office will accept your capabilities and will praise you. You may incur expenses on entertainment and luxuries. Your financial difficulties will now be solved. It is better to have an eye on long term gains. A progressive day on the whole, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
An unusual dose of creativity will motivate you to make a trip to some exotic place and mingle with new people. You will have some experiences that will enrich you mentally and emotionally. But don't unpack yet, there may be another adventure on the cards.

LIBRA
Ganesh says you will be getting good news from abroad, which will make you happy. Those of you who are searching for jobs will get good news coming your way. Ganesh says that you should not expect too much or you would feel dejected and disappointed when it is not met.

SCORPIO
You are one social butterfly today. However, shunning the gossips, you spread kindness and happiness in your social groups. People will look up to you today for this reason. What goes around, comes around; spread joy and you are sure to receive joy, says Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
Suddenly, you become ambidextrous and plan to multi task today, says Ganesh. Your instincts will guide you today; trust them and move ahead. You may come across few challenges. But, anyway, who wants an easy way out, right?

CAPRICORN
You firmly believe in the concept of 'health is wealth'. You have maintained a very good health so far and it will not be an issue today, also. Successful completion of current projects seem to be a distant target, however, you will finish them off. Your boss may get upset with you for not completing the work on time. You will put monetary issues on the back burner for the day, says Ganesh.

AQUARIUS
You wish to have more than twenty-four hours in a day! You are determined to finish off your pending work but somehow you will find it extremely difficult to get the load off your shoulders.

PISCES
Ganesh asks you not to undertake any new project or business venture due to the alignment of the planets being unfavorable. You will do well in tasks that do not require too much creativity and innovation. Do not take sides when you are not required to and it make have heavy consequences in future.

Not here just to look pretty: Nora



Mumbai: Nora Fatehi is usually known for her glammed up avatars and dance numbers which set the screens on fire. In no time, the actress has made a mark for herself when it comes to her dancing skills and her popularity has reached sky high. However, Nora admitted that she's typecast and not many directors have been able to see beyond her glamorous image.

In her recent release, *Crakk*, Nora had tried her hand at action, which is a huge change for the actress. Directed by Aditya Datt and produced by Vidhut Jammwal, the film also stars Amy Jackson alongside Nora. As the team of *Crakk* spoke to a media agency, Nora urged writers to think of more such interesting characters for female actors.

Amy echoed Nora's sentiments and said, "It's not men against women, it's about great writers and incredible men like Aditya, Vidhut and Arjun that encourage women to perform like this." Nora further quipped, "Yes, it's about pushing our writers to use their brain and write good characters for women because we exist and we are not here to just look pretty."

Having said that, Nora admitted that looking pretty is a full time job too! "Yes, we better look pretty, but it should be pretty with substance," said Nora like a true boss lady! AGENCIES



Bhubaneswar-based drama troupe Rangabhoomi presented Odia play *Samantara* on the second and final evening of the festival at Bhanjakala Mandap, Saturday. Translated from Dinkar Wadekar's Marathi work of the same name by Sibashankar Tripathy, the play was directed by Prashanta Mohapatra. The event, held in the memory of eminent actor, director, painter, and author Asim Basu, was organised by the Asim Basu Foundation in collaboration with Odia Language, Literature and Culture Department and Ministry of Culture, Government of India. PIC: MANORANJAN MISHRA

Kiara on stereotypes in showbiz

Mumbai: Actress Kiara Advani is aware of the stereotypes that prevail in the film industry about actors who choose to get married early.

At a conclave organised by a media agency, she said that the audience today has evolved, so whether an actor is married or not is 'immaterial'. She married actor Sidharth Malhotra in February 2023.

At the summit, Kiara talked in detail about the topic and said, "(People used to say) Why is she (a female actor) getting married? She's just reaching that phase and all of that. But kudos to the audience because I think they have evolved. We keep saying to the directors, producers, or actors, or female actors who've taken on that, but kudos to the audience because they see you as a character."

Kiara, who has *Don 3* and *Game Changer* in her kitty, further added, "Whether I'm married, whether I'm a mother, whether I'm someone's daughter, whatever that is, that's immaterial in that moment. And I think I can say that, post-marriage, I've signed two of my biggest films. And I think, of course, we have so many actresses. I think all the top actresses today are all married. So that speaks volumes in itself and that's a positive change." AGENCIES

'I wanted to showcase Sri Ramchandra Bhanja's democratic beliefs'

BIJAY MANDAL, OP

She is a well-known RJ and an announcer at Doordarshan. However, there is nothing like being the lone Odia among 44 aspiring Indian authors under the age of 30 who have been chosen for the PM-YUVA 2.0 Mentorship Scheme. Rojalin Mohanty of Bhubaneswar has recently been commissioned by the National Book Trust (NBT) to author books on a variety of topics to promote Indian heritage and culture. In a conversation with *Orissa POST*, here's what the young writer had to share on her success.

Excerpts:

- How do you feel about being chosen as the only Odia and what do you believe caught the selectors' attention?**
I consider myself fortunate to have been selected for this rare honour. However, I would have loved to see more people from Odisha on the list. Regarding NBT's decision, I believe they must have liked the theme. Maharaja Sri Ramchandra Bhanja Deo, despite being a king, supported democracy during his reign, which is unusual and unknown to many. The selectors may have been drawn to this part of my work since I highlighted it.
- Why did you select Mayurbhanj royals for your project?**
You could call it a coincidence of sorts. Sri Ramchandra Bhanja Deo was the monarch of Mayurbhanj, but various establishments in Cuttack, including SCB Medical College &

Hospital and Sri Ramchandra Bhawan, are named after him. I was fascinated about it while studying at Ravenshaw University. Then after my marriage, I discovered that my husband had a few volumes of books on Bhanja Deo. After reading those, I wanted to showcase the king's belief in democracy and decentralisation of power.

To whom do you attribute your success?
It's my spouse, Dr Dilip Behera, a physician and well-known author. Despite his involvement in the hospital, he has been really helpful with his valuable inputs. I feel privileged to have him in my life.

You worked as an RJ and anchor for Doordarshan. How has it helped?
I also have worked as a journalist and received several awards from publishing houses like *Katha* and *Kadambini* for my literary contributions. All of these have helped me

improve my writing skills. I am also lucky to have the backing of stalwarts such as Gourahari Das, Bipin Nayak, Gayatri Saraf, and Hiranmayee Mishra. I grew up reading these great authors.

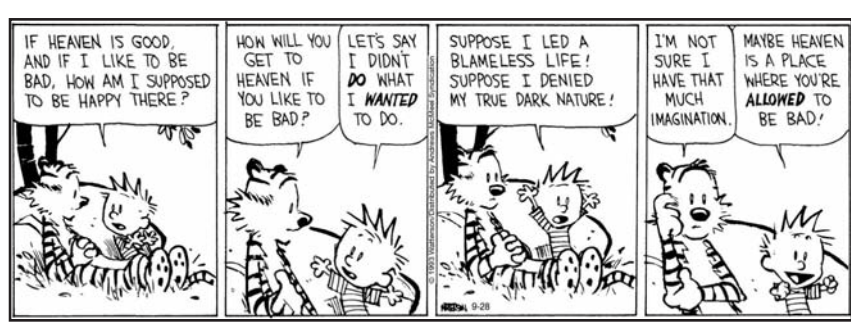
Please share your experience meeting India's President.
I felt lucky to be at Rashtrapati Bhawan and discussing ideas with her. Madam urged all of the writers to keep up the wonderful work, but I was in the spotlight as an Odia. The NBT officials advised me to spend more time with the President.



PEANUTS



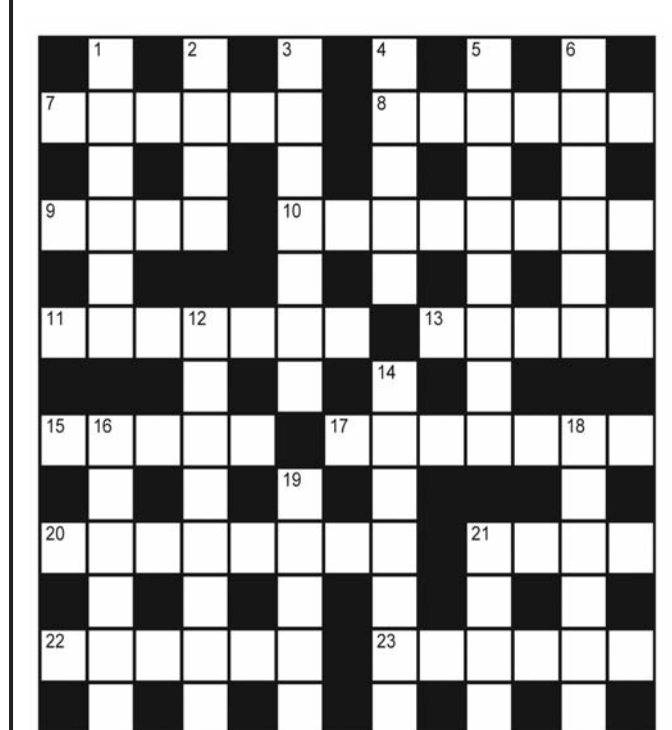
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



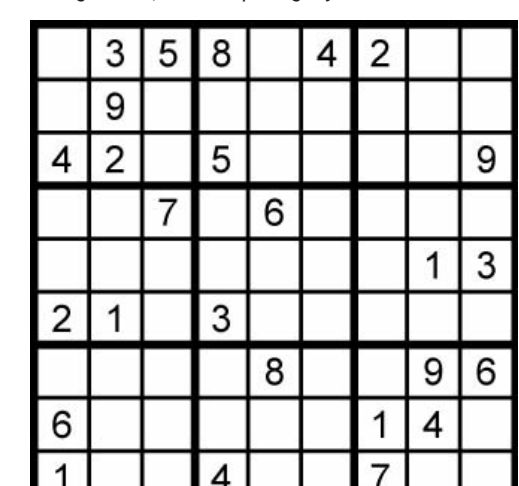
FUN post CROSSWORD



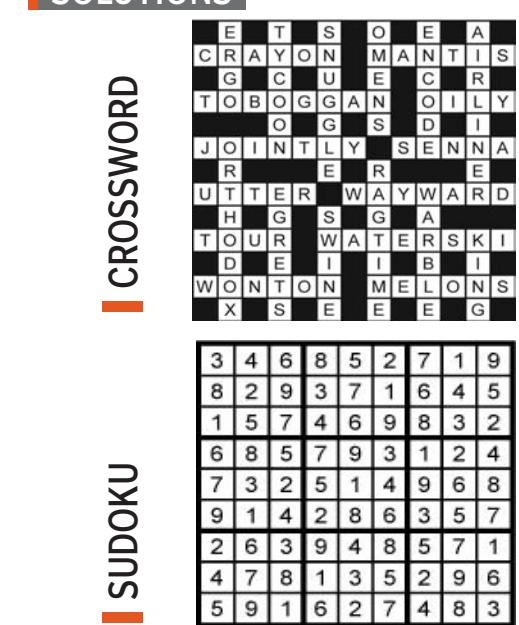
- Copyright ©2024 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 7 Mutilate
 - 8 Win with grey cells
 - 9 Encourage
 - 10 Obligated
 - 11 ___ Empire
 - 13 Small vascular growth
 - 15 Coincide
 - 17 Third tonsil
 - 20 Landing field
 - 21 Croupier's tool
 - 22 Martial art
 - 23 Cavalry swords
 - 5 Tenaciously unwilling
 - 6 No sour grapes here
 - 12 Abroad
 - 14 Fatty
 - 16 Rocker's tool
 - 18 Printer type (3-3)
- Down**
- 1 Rabbit teaser
 - 2 Leer
 - 3 Conference
 - 4 Sullen
 - 19 Salad oil holder
 - 21 Precious stone

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

INDIA TODAY THE STATE OF THE STATE CONCLAVE ODISHA 2024



CM FETED: India Today Group Editorial Director (Publishing) Raj Chengappa felicitates Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik during 'India Today State of the State Conclave Odisha-2024' at a hotel in Bhubaneswar, Saturday, as 5T and Nabin Odisha Chairman Kartik Pandian looks on

22 die as tractor falls into UP pond

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kasganj (UP), Feb 24: As many as 22 people, including eight children, died when their tractor-trolley overturned and fell into a pond in Uttar Pradesh's Kasganj district Saturday morning, officials said.

Earlier, Inspector General of Aligarh range Shalabh Mathur had said that 24 passengers died in the accident and 15 to 20 people were injured.

However, later, Relief Commissioner of Uttar Pradesh Naveen Kumar GS, citing a statement of Kasganj Additional District Magistrate Rakesh Kumar Patel, said, "Twenty-two people died when the tractor-trolley overturned and fell into a pond." "The deceased include 13 women, a man and eight children. Ten people are currently undergoing treatment," the statement said.

The Kasganj district administration said that Rs 4 lakh will be provided to the kin of each of the deceased, while Rs 50,000 will be provided to each of the injured persons.

President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath condoled the loss of lives in the incident.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi also said that Rs 2 lakh ex-gratia from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) would be given to the next of kin of each deceased and the injured would be given Rs 50,000.

The passengers of the ill-fated tractor-trolley belonged to Etah district and they were going to take a bath in the Ganga river on Poornima (full moon).

According to the Kasganj district administration, information about the accident in Daryavganj village was received around 10 am. "A number of people died while others were injured. The injured were sent to the community health centres in Patiyali and Kasganj, and a government hospital in Kasganj," it said.

"The tractor-trolley was coming from Jaithara in Etah district. I am going to the spot with the divisional commissioner (of Aligarh)," Mathur had said earlier, adding that the bodies of the deceased would be handed over to their families after post-mortem.

President Droupadi Murmu termed deaths in the accident 'heart-wrenching'. In a post in Hindi on X, she said, "The death of several people, including women and children, when a tractor-trolley fell into a pond in Kasganj district of Uttar Pradesh is heart-wrenching. I express my deepest condolences to the families who lost their loved ones and wish speedy recovery to those injured." "Terming the loss of lives as 'heartbreaking' and 'saddening', Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "Heartbreaking! The accident that took place when a tractor trolley fell into a pond in Kasganj, Uttar Pradesh is saddening."

PANDIAN REVIEWS BAITARANI PROJECT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 24: On the direction of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Chairman 5T and Nabin Odisha Kartik Pandian visited Bhadrak district, Saturday.

During his 50km journey along the Baitarani left embankment, the 5T Chairman also rode on a bike to review the progress of Baitarani Left Embankment Strengthening and Road Development Project which is

being constructed at a cost of Rs 150.24 crore. The project was taken up following the feedback he received from people during his visit to Dhamnagar in December 2023.

The embankment strengthening project will reduce the impact of floods in Bhandaripokhari, Dhamnagar and Chandbali areas during flood situations in Baitarani. The pucca road from Biridi to Tintar Ghat over the river embankment will reduce the travel time

by 2 hours between Biridi to Tintar Ghat, provide faster access to Jajpur Medical College and NH 16. The project would benefit around 1,20,00 people in Bhadrak district.

He also reviewed the progress of Akhuapada and Kochila in-stream storage structures over river Baitarani at a total cost of Rs 681 crore. Both the projects would provide irrigation facilities to 81,200 acre land. Water would also be available in the rabi season for cultivation. It

would also help in fishery sector development in the area.

The projects have been sanctioned and taken up based on people's grievances and demands to the Chairman Nabin Odisha during his visit to Bhadrak in June, 2023.

All along the route large number of people gathered and welcomed the 5T Chairman appreciating his pro-people approach and traveling all the way to review the ground works personally.

DSPL-708



ଆମ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ବ୍ୟବସାୟ ଓଡ଼ିଶା





ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

ଲୋକବୋର୍ଡରୁ ସ୍ୱାର୍ଥ ବୋର୍ଡ

ଘୋଷ

ସ୍କୁଲର ହୋଇଛି ରୂପାନ୍ତରଣ







ଉନ୍ନତ ଶିକ୍ଷା ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ସହ ବଦଳୁଛି 'ମୋ ସ୍କୁଲ'

- ୪,୩୫୨.୦୫ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କା ବ୍ୟୟରାଦରେ ଶିକ୍ଷାର ରୂପାନ୍ତରଣକୁ ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱ
- ୧୦,୭୯,୪୯୧ ସ୍କୁଲ ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀ ଉପକୃତ
- ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ଉତ୍କଳ ଭବିଷ୍ୟତ ପାଇଁ ସଶକ୍ତ ଓ ସୁଦୃଢ଼ ହୋଇଛି ଶିକ୍ଷାର ସ୍ୱପ୍ନ

ସୂଚନା ଓ ଲୋକସମ୍ପର୍କ ବିଭାଗ

OIPR-15001/13/0443/2324

'Resolved to make youths self-reliant'



Built over 3,237 sq ft area, the centre is equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure, well equipped classrooms and will train youths to get jobs in industries like tourism, media and IT

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Feb 24: While inaugurating the Skill India Centre (SIC) in Deogarh Saturday, Union Minister for Education and Skill Development Dharmendra Pradhan said that the centre will enable youths to apply theoretical concepts in real world scenarios and will partner with other organisations to facilitate their placement.

The minister said, "The government is committed to skilling, re-skilling and up-skilling the youth of India, including Odisha, to make them competent and self-reliant. Furthermore, training in specialized courses will benefit the graduates immensely, who will be equipped with in-demand and futuristic skills to facilitate a thriving and rewarding career in their chosen professions in the global markets."

"The Skill India Centre (SIC) will unlock the potential of the Yuva Peedhi through comprehensive skill training initiatives," said Pradhan. The Skill India Centres will help the youths align their skills with dynamic demands of various industries by serving as pillars of practical knowledge in demand-driven sectors like media, leather, tourism, hospitality, and IT-ITes, he added.

Built over 3,237 sq ft area, the centre is equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure, well-equipped classrooms, advanced laboratories, and specialized spaces that cater to the diverse needs of modern education and skill development.

The centre will impart training to students by integrating academic knowledge with practical, hands on experience across 10 courses for story board artists,

graphic designers, stitchers (goods and garments), cutter (goods and garments), helpers, barista executive, F&B Service Associate and IT Helpdesk Assistant.

"To further facilitate placement, the centre will focus on honing skills of the students in industry-specific courses, building networking opportunities and providing training in emerging technologies that bridges the gap between traditional education and the demands of the modern workforce," said an official.

Notably, Pradhan had inaugurated the Skill India Centre in Sambalpur February 20 which was followed by inauguration of another SIC in Dhenkanal February 23. "These efforts will establish Odisha as a new-age skills hub that will instill confidence in local youth preparing to enter the job market for building lucrative career prospects," he had said.



FOCUSING HEALTHCARE: Participants at the second edition of Youth Pharma Festival by Dadhichi College of Pharmacy, Cuttack, with the theme 'Changing Healthcare Environment and the Role of Pharmacist', at the Institutions of Engineers in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

IMI Bhub hosts 11th annual convocation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 24: International Management Institute (IMI), Bhubaneswar Saturday hosted its 11th annual convocation ceremony to confer post graduate diploma to graduating students of the PGDM 2021-23 batch.

Sanrupt Misra, former group HR, Birla Carbon, director, Chemicals, and director, Group HR, Aditya Birla Group, joined the event as chief guest. VC Agrawal, advisor (HR), RPSG and Himadri Das, director general, conferred the diplomas to the graduating students.

At the outset, Ramesh Behl, director of IMI, delivered the welcome address and presented the annual academic report. He ex-



tended a warm and hearty welcome to graduating students and their parents.

Behl highlighted the achievements of the institute in terms of achieving NIRF rank 67th; international accreditation by Association of MBAs (AMBA); and accreditation by NAAC. He appreciated the efforts of faculty towards research and publications as the institute published more than 48 research

papers, 2 books and 22 book chapters in last academic year as a joint effort.

The director congratulated students on achieving their desired placements and expressed his gratitude to companies who came forward and had faith in the institute. He highlighted the adoption of 'Let's Drive E-Vehicles,' as a step towards green initiatives.

His address was followed by the

address of VC Agrawal, in which he highlighted the importance of intelligence, emotional and social quotients in an individual's life which helps them in excelling in their careers.

Chief guest Misra presented gold medal to Masooma Shamim and silver medal to Laxmi Sarawgi, and Ramesh Behl presented the SIP Project Awards to Kanika Bhattacharyya, Pratyusha Mishra and Ananya Agarwal, students of PGDM 2021-23 batch.

Misra also awarded "Dr Rama Prasad Goenka Best Student Medal" to Charitrika Rajpal and the "Director's Medal for Overall Contribution" to Rounak Kar. He delivered the convocation address and congratulated the passing out PGDM batch.

Dr. Pravas Acharya Samaja's new Printer & Publisher

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 24: Lok Sevak Mandal National Secretary Dr. Pravas Acharya has taken charge as the Printer and Publisher of state's oldest Odia daily, Samaja.

Lok Sevak Mandal National President Raj Kumar Chopra and Samaja Editor, General Manager and senior officials of the Odia daily, which was founded by Utkalamani Pandit Gopabandhu Das, were present on the occasion. Acharya said he would work towards upholding the credibility of the paper among its readers.

OUTR convocation to be held Feb 27

Bhubaneswar: The first convocation ceremony of Odisha University of Technology and Research (OUTR) will be held February 27. OUTR vice-chancellor Bibhuti Bhushan Biswal informed that Governor Raghubar Das will grace the occasion and the event will take place at the university campus. Biswal said that Binay Kumar Das, DS & Director General ECS, DRDO Bangalore will be the chief guest while Skill Development and Technical Education Minister Pritiranjana Gharai and Commerce & Transport Principal Secretary Usha Padhee will be the guest of honours. In the event, 26 students will get certificates in B Tech Architect, 45 in Bachelor of Planning, maximum 1,361 in B Tech, 64 in Integrated MSc, 89 in MCA, 10 in MSc, 36 in M Tech and 26 in M Plan.

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Kulange's sudden exit; speculations galore

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 24: The abrupt shunting of senior IAS officer Vijay Amruta Kulange from the top post of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has created a buzz in the corridors of the state's biggest civic body.

Informed sources claimed that the hushed discussions stemmed from Kulange's decision to go on one month leave and the General Administration (GA) department's clarification that the 2013-batch IAS officer would get posting only after he returned from the long leave.

Sources said the decision taken by the civic body at a meeting Friday to increase the allowance (sitting allowance) of the mayor, deputy mayor and corporators without the state government's prior approval

cost dearly to Kulange.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Kulange announced that BMC will pay Rs 50,000, Rs 25,000 and Rs 10,000 as sitting allowance to the mayor, deputy mayor and corporators respectively from its corpus.

"As there was no prior approval from the state government for the allowance, Kulange was immediately asked to withdraw his statement," sources said. Later, the BMC issued back to back clarifications informing that the commissioner's statement pertaining to the allowance had been withdrawn.

Meanwhile, Kulange's decision to proceed on leave and GA department's notification to appoint a new BMC commissioner in his place fuelled speculations about the price he paid for his one-sided decision, sources added.

Affordable LAccMI at people's doorsteps

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 24: One of the key social behaviours of human beings is to make a dwelling in cities, villages or hamlets and store essentials in order to make life easier, and valuables for celebrations, said Odisha State Road Transport Corporation (OSRTC) General Manager (Admn) Biskeshan Dehury.

People have to travel to distant marketplaces in cities from villages to buy these essentials. As the OSRTC buses were falling short of meeting these travel requirements, the Location Accessible Multimodal Initiative (LAccMI) bus service was introduced, the senior OAS officer said.

Making frequent visits between GPs and block HQs, and blocks and district HQs have been made possible under the Tier-I and Tier-II of the affordable service, respectively.

Similarly, under Tier-III, seamless connectivity has been established between district HQs and Puri as well as major cities, he added.

POST NEWS NETWORK

The transformational bus service has been benefiting women and students with Rs 5 fare, and 50 per cent discounted fare for women commuters to Puri.

The affordable service has financially empowered women as it has eased their daily travel to marketplaces for selling vegetables and other items. LAccMI has also given them easy access to education and healthcare, Dehury said, adding that the hassle-free connectivity between villages and cities has given a boost to farmers and traders.

AI outperforms eye docs in managing retina, glaucoma

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 24: The study, published in JAMA Ophthalmology, suggests that advanced tools like Artificial Intelligence (AI) based large language models (LLM), which are trained on vast amounts of data, text, and images, could play an important role in providing decision-making support to ophthalmologists in the diagnosis and management of cases involving glaucoma and retina disorders

Open AI's based GPT-4 can match and in some cases outperform human ophthalmologists in the diagnosis and treatment of patients with glaucoma and retina disease, according to a research.

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cision-making support to ophthalmologists in the diagnosis and management of cases involving glaucoma and retina disorders, which afflict millions of patients.

"The performance of GPT-4 in our study was quite eye-opening," said lead author Andy Huang, ophthalmology resident at New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai Hospital, US.

"We recognised the enormous potential of this AI system from the moment we started testing it and were fascinated to observe that GPT-4 could not only assist but in some cases match or exceed, the expertise of seasoned ophthalmic specialists," Huang added.

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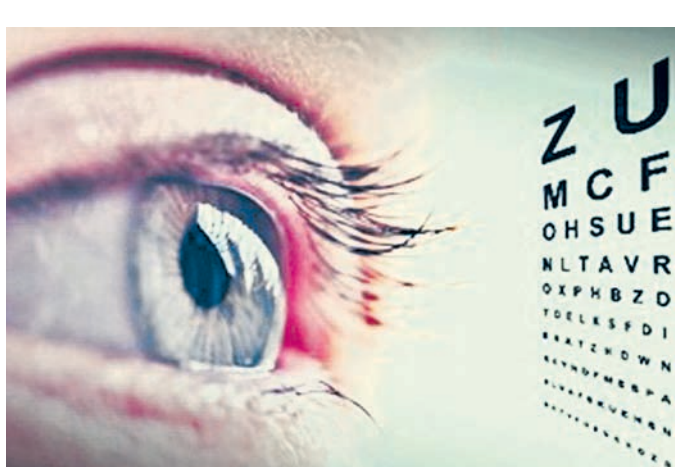
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the moment we started testing it and were fascinated to observe that GPT-4 could not only assist but in some cases match or exceed, the expertise of seasoned ophthalmic specialists," Huang added.

Researchers matched the knowledge of the GPT-4 (Generative Pre-Training-Model 4) with 12 attending specialists and three senior trainees from the Department of Ophthalmology

at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

A basic set of 20 questions (10 each for glaucoma and retina) from the American Academy of Ophthalmology's list of commonly asked questions by patients was randomly selected, along with 20 de-identified patient cases culled from Mount Sinai-affiliated eye clinics.

The results showed that AI matched or outperformed human specialists in both accuracy and completeness of its medical advice and assessments.

More specifically, AI demonstrated superior performance in response to glaucoma questions and case-management advice, while reflecting a more balanced outcome in retina questions, where AI matched humans in accuracy but exceeded them in completeness. "AI was particularly surpris-

ing in its proficiency in handling both glaucoma and retina patient cases, matching the accuracy and completeness of diagnoses and treatment suggestions made by human doctors in a clinical note format," said Louis R. Pasquale, Deputy Chair for Ophthalmology Research for the Department of Ophthalmology.

The findings "could serve as a reliable assistant to eye specialists by providing diagnostic support and potentially easing their workload, especially in complex cases or areas of high patient volume", Dr. Huang said. "For patients, the integration of AI into mainstream ophthalmic practice could result in quicker access to expert advice, coupled with more informed decision-making to guide their treatment."

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EPF benefits soon for ASHAs, MDM, Anganwadi workers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 24: In what may come as good news for Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs), Anganwadi and mid-day meal workers of the state, Odisha office of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has directed the state government to extend to them the benefits of Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions (EPF & MP Act, 1952).

This directive seeks to benefit about 1.20 lakh Anganwadi workers and helpers, 1 lakh mid-day meal workers and 49,000 ASHAs in Odisha.

Assistant Provident Fund Commissioner Maushumi Lata Padhi in a letter issued to Commissioner cum Secretary, Labour and ESI department February 20 has stated that EPF and MP Act, 1952 applies to all establishments employing 20 or more employees for extension of three different schemes such as Employees' Provident Fund Scheme 1952, Employees' Pension Scheme 1995, and Employees' Deposit Insurance Scheme 1976 for allowing provident fund, pension, and insurance to eligible employees of registered establishments. Padhi said appropriate communication should be issued to all departments engaging mid-day meal workers, cook-cum-helpers, ASHAs and Anganwadi workers.

Unabated use of China salt puts public health at stake

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Feb 24: Silk City Berhampur is known as the food capital of Odisha owing to the many varieties of delicacies the city offers to the food lovers.

However, restaurateurs, eateries, hotels and fast food counters continue to add MSG (Monosodium Glutamate), commonly known as Chinese salt or ajinomoto, to food items during preparation as a taste enhancer notwithstanding the serious risks the salt poses to the health of the food lovers.

Reports said that rampant sale of MSG continues in the Silk City as around 15 tonne China salt is sold every month notwithstanding its adverse health effects.

Chinese salt is sold at ₹120 per kilo in the wholesale market and ₹140 in the retail counters. The salt can be found easily in almost all grocery stores and its demand increases manifold during marriage and festive seasons.

Hotels, restaurants and various eateries in the city are thronged by people starting from daybreak till late night to satiate their hunger. With an aim to increase the footfall, these hotels, restaurants and eateries prepare the food early and try to



enhance the taste by adding various chemicals, sauces, food colours, vinegar and especially China salt. According to many physicians, Chinese salt is actually harmful for human health.

Frequent consumption of food laced with the chemicals and Chinese salt has disastrous effects on human health including palpitations, allergic reactions, headache, nausea, vomiting, hypertension, numbness or burning sensation in the mouth and chest pain. It also leads to gastric problems and brain cell degeneration according to many studies.

Pratap Chandra Sahu, a retail trader at Bada Bazaar, said he sells 25 kg or one sack of Chinese salt daily and the sale gets doubled in marriage and festive seasons.

The salt is sold in over 20 spices godowns in the city. A godown trader sells around 80 sacks of

Chinese salt on an ordinary day while during marriage season over 200 sacks are sold.

A godown owner said that around two truckloads of Chinese salt are bought to the city per month. As a result, around 15 tonne of China salt is sold in the Berhampur market which after being added to food items is consumed by people.

A hotel owner Jagannath Panigrahi said Chinese salt is added to the food, especially non-vegetarian items, to enhance its taste and cook it early. "We are forced to add this salt due to heavy competition among eateries to draw more customers," he said.

Medicine specialist Dr Suchitra Haldar said the chemicals present in Chinese salt triggers many health complications. Regular consumption of Chinese salt laced food heightens the possibility of liver cancer. She said people should observe utmost precaution and stay away from consuming such food items.

A foodie Jalal Khan said he loves to eat fast food and visits the fast food counters in the city to savour the delicacies. However, he admitted that Chinese salt and colours added to the food are really harmful for health.

BSF unearths Maoist dumps in Malkangiri

PNN & AGENCIES

Malkangiri, Feb 24: BSF personnel Saturday unearthed several Maoist dumps in a forest in Malkangiri district, police said.

Based on reliable information about dumps of explosive materials by ultras, the BSF personnel carried out a search operation in the Silakota reserve forest of the district.

During an intensive search in the area, the BSF troops located multiple Maoist dumps, buried under trees located closely at a distance of 4 metres from each other. The area was located at a distance of around 300 metres inside the jungle from the connecting road between Bapanpalli and Silakota village along the reserve forest, a BSF release said.

During the search operation, the BSF personnel recovered three pressure cookers, 20 metres of Cordex, 24 gelatine sticks and



two bundles of electric wire from the dumps in the forest.

The BSF said that the area earlier used to be highly influenced by Maoists and their sympathisers.

The Maoist outfits would keep IEDs, arms and IED-making materials at isolated places to be used against security forces and police operating in these areas, the release said.

Earlier Friday, the security personnel had seized a huge quantity of explosive materials after an exchange of fire with a group of Maoists inside a forest in the Paikmal area of Bargarh district.

6 get life term for killing co-villager

Odagaon: A local court handed down life imprisonment to six persons after convicting them of a murder that occurred 22 years back at Keshpania village under Sarankul police limits in Nayagarh district, Saturday. The court of additional district and sessions judge Manas Ranjan Rath also slapped a penalty of ₹10,000 on each of them, apart from the punishment. In default, the convicts will have to undergo an additional one year of rigorous imprisonment, the judge added in his verdict. Additional public prosecutor Indubhushan Mishra pleaded the matter on behalf of the state government. The victim Madan Nahak was hacked to death by 18 persons over past enmity, October 10, 2002. Two of the accused died when the matter was sub judice while 10 others were acquitted for want of sufficient evidence.

Illegal poppy plantation worth ₹26L destroyed

Baripada: The state government destroyed illegally grown opium poppy plants valued at ₹26 lakh in Mayurbhanj district Saturday. Opium poppy plant is grown illegally as it is the source of various narcotic drugs. Based on information regarding illegal cultivation of the poppy plants in two localities of Jashipur area, a joint team comprising officials of the police, Excise, Forest and the district administration conducted an operation. "Approximately, 13,000 plants were uprooted and set on fire in presence of independent witnesses," Mayurbhanj SP S Sushree said. Two cases were registered at Jashipur police station in this regard.

High-decibel DJ claims man's life

Rourkela: A person allegedly died due to high-decibel DJ and loud fire crackers during a marriage procession near STI Chowk here, Friday evening. According to the police, Kalia, 50, a tea seller by profession, was about to close his business for the day. He was busy attending to the last few customers in his shop. A procession was passing through that area. Loud sound from the DJ was reverberating the surrounding and meanwhile, locals said, someone burst a high decibel cracker, which was deafening to hear. Suddenly one of the customers found Kalia collapsing. There were immediate efforts to stabilise Kalia's health, however he succumbed. Doctors at Rourkela Government Hospital (RGH) declared him dead. Kalia had cardiac issues previously and was undergoing treatment.

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FOCUS CULTURE

OLDNESS OF OLD DELHI



Contemporary Old Delhi fits the stereotypical or 'exotic' view of India that one witnesses in the caricatures made by a non-Indian unfamiliar with the city as well as the country

the diverse variety as well as their intensity balance each other out. One of the things that characterises Old Delhi and plays a crucial role in retaining its "oldness" is its cuisine. The first two restaurants that one witnesses while entering Old Delhi through Gate no. 1 of Jama Masjid, are Karim's and Al-Jawahar. Karim's legacy goes back to a hundred years, being established by the descendants of cooks who worked at the royal Mughal kitchens. Al-Jawahar, which Jawaharlal Nehru is said to have inaugurated, also serves traditional Mughlai dishes. There is, at least, an attempt by these outlets and many others to provide authentic Mughlai dishes through the descendants who trace their ancestry and traditional recipes to the peak of Shahjahanabad. Moreover, the Kurtas and Burkhas that one witnesses in Old Delhi are in sharp contrast to the rest of the Delhi, which is rapidly modernising and whose denizens prefer to imitate American fashion. New Delhi, which resides in an altogether separate space albeit harmoniously, deserves a separate article. Delhi has gone through waves of migrations. We see, for instance, the refugee communities settling in places like Chittaranjan Park and Khan Market. A significant portion of Old Delhi's inhabitants, on the other hand, trace their ancestry to its seventh incarnation. Thus, they are the "old" inhabitants of the city. The continuity of the culture, the language, the cuisine as well as the people are what justifies Old Delhi's name.

The writer is a columnist, author and a student at Jindal School of International Affairs.

The "oldness" of Old Delhi is surprisingly not an easy question to answer. Connaught Place, for instance, dates back to almost a hundred years but it is firmly part of New Delhi. The area around Mehrauli dates back to before settlements came about in what is today called Old Delhi. Thus, it is clearly not due to the fact that it's the oldest inhabited part of the city.



Anwesh Satpathy

The answer lies, perhaps, in unravelling the history of Old Delhi over the last few centuries. The city of Delhi has gone through multiple processes of building and rebuilding, with seven (or eight if one separates Lal Kot from Mehrauli) crucial incarnations. The earliest city lies around the area of Qutb Minar, where Anangpal Tomar's Lal Kot fort is situated. The newest part of the Delhi was constructed by Edwin Lutyens. The first Mughal Emperor Babur remarked that the decay or "total destruction" of Indian cities is instantaneous given its populous nature. However, the fifth Mughal emperor Shah Jahan built the seventh incarnation of Delhi called Shahjahanabad which continues to thrive.

Though Shah Jahan inherited elegant Mughal cities like Lahore and Agra, he was dissatisfied. His friend and contemporary Inayat Khan writes that Shah Jahan wanted a "pleasant site on the banks of river" with a fort whose terraces "overlook the river." The region of Delhi was chosen while incorporating older cities of Sher Shah Suri and Feroze Shah. Shahjahanabad was characterised by its expansive gardens, open areas and the river Yamuna providing its inhabitants with a general sense of tranquillity. To the contemporary Delhiwalla, such a description

sounds like the opposite of Old Delhi. Saleh Kamboh, the court historian of Shah Jahan, mentions that the walled city of Shahjahanabad served as an alternative to the perceived chaos of Agra, along with its congested urban development.

Shahjahanabad went through many tumultuous changes after the death of Shah Jahan. A significant blow was Nadir Shah's invasion of Delhi in the aftermath of the death of Aurangzeb. Shah's primary intention was to loot, not conquer. He ordered a massacre which resulted in Chandni Chowk being filled with corpses. Once Delhi's vulnerability was exposed, the Afghans, the Marathas and the Jats ravaged the city soon after. As the British took over the city, the Mughal patronage for the artists and poets of Delhi declined. Even before Bahadur Shah Zafar's reign, Delhi's decline was mourned by the poet Mir Taqi Mir:

There was a city, famed throughout the world,
Where dwelt the chosen spirits

of the age;
Delhi its name, fairest among the fair.
Fate looted it and laid it desolate,
And to that ravaged city I belong.

Towards the end of the mutiny, Delhi's traditional elites i.e. its poets, artisans and chefs had lost their source of patronage. This included Mirza Ghalib, the Shakespeare of Urdu poetry. Over the years, Shahjahanabad's chaos has only increased. Apart from the unnerving crowd, enmeshed electric wires and construction material are the first impressions of most people who enter the space for the first time. Contemporary Old Delhi fits the stereotypical or "exotic" view of India that one witnesses in the caricatures made by a non-Indian unfamiliar with the city as well as the country.

As one walks through the lanes of Old Delhi, the smell of kebabs, biryani, sheermal, nihari and attar fills the air. Not all smells are pleasant. However,

THE CONTINUITY OF THE CULTURE, THE LANGUAGE, THE CUISINE AS WELL AS THE PEOPLE ARE WHAT JUSTIFIES OLD DELHI'S NAME



Aakar Patel

Solidarity is important not only because as humans we should understand the suffering of others but because such participation is our duty

Concerned Citizens

I am writing this from the United States, where I attended an interesting solidarity meeting that I thought I should write about. It was interesting because it combined two struggles — that for secularism in democratic India and against imperialism in occupied Palestine.

Hosted by the Boston South Asian Coalition it featured two speakers. One was our Teesta Setalvad, heroine of the struggle for justice in Gujarat. The other was a young man from South Lebanon named Saleem Hallal. In the audience were a few dozen people including several desis and to my mind this was what made this gathering especially interesting and I will write about why that is later.

The talks by the two speakers were focussed on the facts. About communal crimes in one place condoned by the State (some would say encouraged by it) and in the other a national struggle for the liberation. There was also a common thread and that was historical revisionism and the rewriting of things. The idea in both Palestine and 'New India' that something else used to be here on the ground and in this land a thousand years ago or two thousand years ago. And that idea and that notion therefore justifies violence against people and against structures and monuments in the present. A lot of people in the audience including myself found themselves nodding at the parallels. Setalvad, who has been a friend for a few decades, was precise and deliberate in what she communicated to the gathering, most of whom may not have known of what had transpired in and after 2002 in Gujarat. She spoke of the 174 individuals who had been convicted because of the courage and persistence of the survivors and activists. Of these 124 were given life. These were convictions that came often in the face of resistance from the State to the idea of justice. To understand what sort of effort that took, consider only how rapist-murderer convicts are today mollycoddled by the government in India which wants to release them for no reason other than bigotry. Many might not know now and many who knew will have forgotten that the Supreme Court had moved trials out of Gujarat, something that to the best of my knowledge has not happened since or before.

Hallal spoke directly and with passion about how unjust was both the reality on the ground and the falsity of the narrative constructed to sustain it. That early settlers into Israel survived because of the aid of Palestinians he said, just as the early settlers into America had. What was happening in Palestine was not a religious conflict but one of the occupied against the occupier. He exposed how hollow it was to describe the settler colonialism as the coming together of a "land without people for a people without a land." He explained how the narrative that the Israel Palestine issue was "complicated" was merely something used to complicate a more simple reality. That of occupation and colonialism and the rewriting history with a particular agenda. The talk is on the Boston South Asian Coalition YouTube page and I would encourage all to see it.

Why I said I found this gathering interesting was that it is not uncommon for Indian groups in the US to be shown as backing the government in India. Particularly on such issues as what the government does to minority Indians and in events that are organised by the State ('Howdy'). This is especially and unfortunately true of my own Gujarati community, who are often shown as being at the forefront of this defence of State communalism. But there is another side to this and there are other Indians, many of them, who are opposed to the path we have taken in recent years. It is those who I joined on that day.

At the gathering I spoke briefly on what it was that Indians abroad could do. This was that they should use the democratic process in their country to engage with what was happening in India. The main reason that a discriminatory citizenship law was passed in India in 2019 but not implemented yet was the protest against it. But another reason was the condemnatory position taken against it by the European Parliament. One wonders why it was that MPs in far off lands would be interested in what we might think of as being as our "internal affairs" but it is clear that this was likely because Indians abroad were concerned enough to raise the law with their local legislator. India is a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. There is no reason why our friends cannot remind us of this fact. And this in turn is more likely to happen if desis abroad engage more robustly with what is going on in India.

Solidarity is important not only because as humans we should understand the suffering of others but because such participation is our duty. The Constitution's Preamble says that we Indians have resolved to secure for Indians "fraternity, assuring the dignity of the individual." Fraternity can come only when we stand up for each other. The desis of the Boston South Asian Coalition actually attempt to do that.

WISDOM CORNER

- Knowing your own darkness is the best method for dealing with the darkneses of other people. **CARL JUNG**
- We choose our joys and sorrows long before we experience them. **KAHLIL GIBRAN**
- If you don't stand your ground, then all that happens is people push you backwards. **JORDAN PETERSON**

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1947:** The state of Prussia is dissolved. At its peak, the most important state of the German empire encompassed parts of modern-day Germany, Poland, and Russia.
- 1964:** American boxer Muhammad Ali, known at the time as Cassius Clay, became the world heavyweight champion by knocking out Sonny Liston in seven rounds.
- 1986:** Ousting of Marcos in the Philippines. On this day in 1986, Philippine President Ferdinand E. Marcos, under pressure from the United States, fled his country for Hawaii after a fraudulent electoral victory over Corazon Aquino, who replaced him as president.
- 2001:** Australian cricketer Don Bradman, one of the greatest run scorers in the history of the game and often judged the greatest player of the 20th century, died at the age of 92.

SPECTRUM MULTILATERALISM

Empowering the Pandemic Accord

The COVID-19 pandemic taught us several lessons, many of which came at great cost. Chief among them was that, despite years of rehearsals, the world was not prepared for a fast-moving outbreak of a novel infectious disease.

Countries failed their own citizens, but the global response was even more inadequate. It was marked by an inexcusable absence of cooperation and coordination, ugly nationalism that included vaccine hoarding, and greed on the part of Western countries, which refused to share information, pathogens, and therapeutics. I would say that the response was — to use a word that may seem old-fashioned and out of favour in some quarters — sinful.

The overwhelming lesson we learned the hard way is that no one is safe anywhere until everyone is safe everywhere. Could the wave of infections caused by the second Omicron variant have been avoided if the Global South had been vaccinated more quickly? We cannot be sure. But we do know that international cooperation is not compatible with nationalism, xenophobia, and new forms of colonialism. We need a form of globalisation that works for everyone, because while our world may be deeply fractured, we are all still in-

escapably interdependent.

In response to our collective failures, the World Health Organisation's member states decided to negotiate a Pandemic Accord, an international legal instrument that would provide a global framework to ensure equitable access to vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics. You could call it a pandemic non-proliferation accord, an agreement to help each other and work together in the event of a new public-health catastrophe.

Unfortunately, this global effort is being threatened by a torrent of misinformation and disinformation, blatant lies, and percolating conspiracy theories. Among the falsehoods are that the WHO would be empowered to strip member states of sovereignty, deploy armed troops to enforce mandatory vaccinations and lockdowns, and monitor people's movements through digital passports. All these claims are wholly untrue.

National governments themselves have proposed and are negotiating the Pandemic Accord, and they alone — not the WHO — will be responsible for its requirements and, ultimately, for its success or failure.

We must not underestimate the importance of the Accord, which represents a once-in-a-

lifetime opportunity to improve the world we live in, especially for young people and future generations. Young people, in particular, suffered greatly during the pandemic: their education was disrupted, their lives turned upside down, and their prospects diminished. And, given the endurance of the collateral effects of COVID-19 and its control measures, especially their adverse impact on mental health, young people have a right to expect that their future will be protected.

But the clock is ticking. Countries must act now to meet the self-imposed deadline of May 2024, when they are expected to present an agreement to the 77th World Health Assembly (the WHO's decision-making body). They must not squander the opportunity to adopt a global pact that will protect future generations from a repeat of the devastation wrought by COVID-19. The unprecedented nature of the pandemic requires an unprecedented response.

Some of the current sticking points in the Pandemic Accord are related to intellectual property. But if countries embrace a spirit of global collaboration, they can devise creative solutions that balance intellectual-property rights, incentives, and

the flexibilities in TRIPS, the World Trade Organisation's intellectual-property agreement. Compromise on this issue and others requires recognising that the private and public sectors must work together in the fight against infectious diseases. But above all, security, equity, and equal access to information, technology, and products must be at the heart of the Accord.

People all around the world are desperate for hope. They want assurance that the future will be better than the past. Countries must recognise that adopting a give-and-take approach during the final negotiations is critical to reaching an agreement on the Pandemic Accord, which in turn could provide some much-needed optimism.

We must demonstrate through our deeds as well as our words that we live in a deeply interconnected world in which we share each other's burdens, even when times are difficult. Establishing an effective model of open and inclusive health multilateralism will deliver the crucial message that cross-border cooperation can deliver global solutions to global problems.

The writer is a former Prime Minister of the UK. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE



Gordon Brown

THE OVERWHELMING LESSON WE LEARNED THE HARD WAY IS THAT NO ONE IS SAFE ANYWHERE UNTIL EVERYONE IS SAFE EVERYWHERE

Fall from grace

Sir, Byju Raveendran's days at the edtech firm seem to be numbered. On Friday, the shareholders of Byju's decided to oust its founder CEO, his wife Divya Gokulnath, and his brother Riju Raveendran from the board. The extraordinary general meeting (EGM) approved resolutions that requested the removal of the current management and a reshuffling of the board. The situation turned dire, with some investors filing a complaint with the National Company Law Tribunal, citing the violation of investor rights and mismanagement within the firm.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

Grave allegation

Sir, This refers to "30 firms donated Rs 335 crore to BJP (Orissa Post, February 24). If there is an element of truth in the allegation of the Congress that probe agencies are being regularly misused to extort donations for the BJP from private companies, the apex court considering the gravity of the matter must not let the issue go unaddressed. A thorough probe into the matter is the need of the hour as the BJP is bent on making a mockery of democracy. This quid pro quo arrangement vis-a-vis nexus between the BJP and private companies facing agency wrath must be stopped immediately.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

Radio maestro

Sir, In the passing of Ameen Sayani, the entertainment world has lost its exuberant and spirited radio presenter, who enthralled ardent listeners of the ghetto box for decades. When one mentions Sayani's name, it instantly connects to his iconic opening line, "Namaste bhaiyo aur behno, main aapka dost Ameen Sayani bol raha hoon." These words still evoke nostalgia and ring in the ears of the radio listeners of the past. Sayani was best known for his distinctive and captivating style of presenting, which made him a household name across the country. His most famous programme, Binaca Geetmala was started in 1952 and ran for several decades. With Geetmala, Sayani became the first host in India to curate and present an entire programme, showcasing his deep understanding of the evolving musical landscape. The show's success solidified Sayani's status as a radio maestro.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

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



Ministry of Health
& Family Welfare
Government of India

MODI GOVERNMENT'S GUARANTEE

Ayushman Bharat, Viksit Bharat

For the First time after Independence

5 New AIIMS to be dedicated to the Nation on a single day



AIIMS Rajkot | AIIMS Bathinda | AIIMS Raebareli | AIIMS Kalyani | AIIMS Mangalagiri

Alongwith, foundation stone laying and inauguration of more than 200 Health Projects worth more than ₹ 11,700 crore in 23 States and Union Territories

Firozpur and Sangrur Centre of PGI Chandigarh

Yanam Centre and Karaikal Campus of JIPMER Puducherry

ICMR NIRT's Tiruvallur TB Research Centre

Health facilities under National Health Mission and PM-ABHIM

Nisarg Gram Naturopathy Institute

Central Yoga and Naturopathy Research Institute, Jhajjar

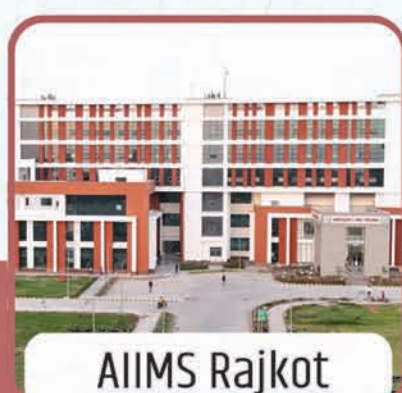
- » The five new AIIMS will cater to the medical needs including tertiary and super speciality care of more than 50 crore people of Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and their neighbouring states
- » 500 MBBS seats of the new AIIMS will increase opportunities for students seeking high quality education in the field of medicine
- » More than 200 health projects will strengthen both primary and critical care medical services in the country making health accessible for all

By
Prime Minister, **Narendra Modi**
on

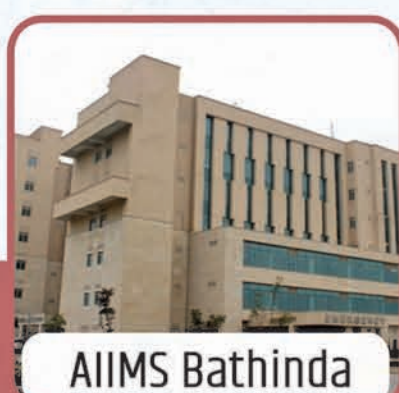
February 25, 2024 | 3 PM | Rajkot, Gujarat

Modi Government's Guarantee for Health:

- » 23 AIIMS to provide high level tertiary medical services in every corner of the country
- » 1 lakh 64 thousand Ayushman Arogya Mandirs ensure primary health services in every village
- » More than 31 crore Ayushman Cards guarantee free hospitalisation and treatment upto ₹ 5 lakh
- » More than 10,600 PM-Jan Aushadhi Centres provide affordable and quality medicines to all



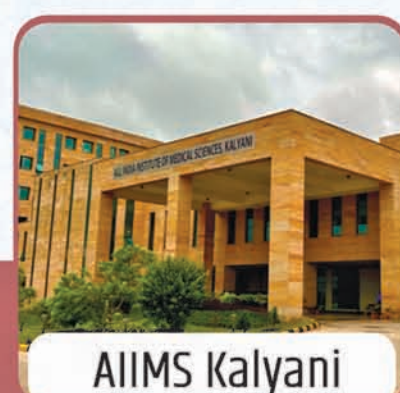
AIIMS Rajkot



AIIMS Bathinda



AIIMS Raebareli



AIIMS Kalyani



AIIMS Mangalagiri

DD
NEWS

Watch LIVE telecast of the event on DD News

of the day quote

All the progress achieved, largely under Dr. Manmohan Singh's prime ministership, has been almost entirely reversed within three years of Modi's Anyay Kaal

JAIRAM RAMESH | CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY

The state government will celebrate the 650th 'parkash utsav' of Sri Guru Ravidas in an unprecedented manner

BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB CM

An aspiration for change is there among the voters. The basic issues for the public are inflation, unemployment, the increasing gap between the rich and the poor. Corruption is on the rise, the credibility of the rupee is falling, China's infiltration on the borders is continuing. Terrorism is not under control in Kashmir. There are many such issues on which voters will make up their mind

HARISH RAWAT | FORMER UTTARAKHAND CM

SHORT TAKES

Actor arrested

Durg: Chhattisgarh actor-director-producer Manoj Rajput was held for allegedly raping a close relative for the past 13 years after promising to marry her, a police official said Saturday. He was held from his office in the state's Durg district Friday on the complaint of the 29-year-old victim, the official said. "On February 22, she lodged a complaint at the Old Bhillai railway police station about Rajput sexually exploiting her since 2011 on the pretext of marriage. After he reneged on his promise, she approached police," Station House Officer (SHO) Rajkumar Borjha said.

NIA attaches houses of accused

Srinagar: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Saturday attached houses of four accused in a narco-terror case in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district, the agency said. The case relates to the use of the "proceeds of narcotic drugs" to fund violent terror activities by proscribed terror groups Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) operating in Jammu and Kashmir's Handwara-Kupwara region, the NIA said in a statement.

Forest department books Sena MLA

Buldhana: Days after Shiv Sena MLA Sanjay Gaikwad claimed he had hunted a tiger in 1987 and has been wearing its tooth around his neck, the state Forest department Saturday seized the accessory and booked him under the Wildlife Protection Act, an official said.

PM to inaugurate Sudarshan Setu today

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Feb 24: Prime Minister Narendra Modi February 25 will dedicate to the nation Sudarshan Setu -- the country's longest cable-stayed bridge -- which will connect Okha mainland and Beyt Dwarka island.

As per PMO statement, the 2.32 km long bridge has been built at a cost of around Rs 980 crores is among the Rs 52,525 crore worth infrastructure projects that PM Modi will inaugurate and lay the foundation stones during his two-day Gujarat trip.

"Sudarshan Setu boasts a unique design, featuring a footpath adorned with verses from Shrimad Bhagavad Gita and images of Bhagwan Krishna on

Sheikh tortured tribals: Probe team

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 24: TMC leader Sheikh Shahjahan and his associates, accused of land grab and sexual assault under coercion in West Bengal's Sandeshkhali, would forcibly take MNREGA wages from poor tribal families and torture them for voting against the party, the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) has learned.

Complainants told a three-member National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) team, led by its Vice-Chairperson Ananta Nayak, that the West Bengal Police allegedly "protected" Shahjahan and his accomplices.

The probe team is back in Delhi and is in the process of filing a report, which will be sent to the government. Nayak said that the panel has received more than 50 complaints of sexual harassment of tribal women and land grab by Shahjahan and his associates.

The riverine Sandeshkhali area in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district -- situated on the borders of the Sunderbans, about 100 kilometres from



DYFI West Bengal State Secretary Meenakshi Mukherjee during a visit to Sandeshkhali, in North 24 Parganas district, Saturday

The probe team is back in Delhi and is in the process of filing a report, which will be sent to the government

Nayak said that the panel has received more than 50 complaints of sexual harassment of tribal women and land grab by Shahjahan and his associates

Congress (TMC) leader Shahjahan, who is absconding, and his supporters.

"The NCST team learned that Shahjahan would instruct poor tribal people to give him their MNREGA earnings. And in case they had already exhausted it, he would ask them to borrow money from lenders and give it to him," Nayak said and added he has not seen anything "like this across the country".

The complaints, the majority of whom are Hindus, told the

Kolkata -- has been on the boil for more than a month with protests against Trinamool



A farmer rests during 'Delhi Chalo' march, near the Punjab-Haryana Shambhu border in Patiala district

VIJAYADHARANI JOINS BJP

Tamil Nadu Congress leader and sitting MLA from Vilavankode assembly constituency, S. Vijayadharani, has quit the party and joined the BJP



'36% RS candidates have criminal cases'

The ADR and the National Election Watch analysed the self-sworn affidavits of 58 out of the 59 candidates in the fray for 56 seats in 15 states. The Rajya Sabha polls are scheduled for February 27



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 24: Thirty-six per cent of Rajya Sabha candidates have declared criminal cases against themselves while the average assets of candidates analysed stood at Rs 127.81 crore, according to poll rights body Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

The ADR and the National Election Watch analysed the self-sworn affidavits of 58 out of the 59 candidates in the fray for 56 seats in 15 states. The Rajya Sabha polls are scheduled for February 27.

Congress candidate from Karnataka G C Chandrashekar was omitted from the analysis due to poorly scanned documents. The analysis found that 36 per cent of the scrutinised candidates have declared criminal cases against themselves.

Additionally, 17 per cent of these individuals face serious criminal charges with one candidate having cases related to attempted murder. According to the analysis, eight (27 per cent) out of 30 BJP candidates, six (67 per cent) out of nine Congress candidates, one (25 per cent) out of four TMC candidates, two (67 per cent) out of three SP candidates, one (33 per cent) out of three YSRCP candidates, one (50 per cent) out of two RJD nominees, one (50 per cent) out of two BJD candidates, and one (100 per cent) BRS candidate have declared criminal

cases against themselves in their affidavits.

Moreover, the analysis delved into the financial backgrounds of the candidates. Approximately 21 per cent of the candidates are billionaires, boasting of assets exceeding Rs 100 crore. The average assets of Rajya Sabha candidates stand at Rs 127.81 crore.

Congress nominee from Himachal Pradesh Abhishek Manu Singhvi with total assets worth Rs 1,872 crore, Samajwadi Party nominee from Uttar Pradesh Jaya Amitabh Bachchan with assets worth Rs 1,578 crore and JD(S) nominee from Karnataka Kupendra Reddy with assets amounting to Rs 871 crore are among the top three wealthiest candidates, according to the analysis.

Among the poorest candidates are BJP's Madhya Pradesh candidate Balyogi Umesh Nath with assets worth over Rs 47 lakh, BJP's West Bengal candidate Samik Bhattacharya with assets worth Rs 1 crore and BJP's Uttar Pradesh candidate Sangita with assets worth Rs 1 crore.

While 17 per cent of the candidates have educational qualifications ranging from 5th pass to 12th pass, a significant 79 per cent hold graduate or higher degrees. A majority (76 per cent) of the candidates fall in the 51-70 age group with a smaller proportion (16 per cent) in the 31-50 age group. Only 19 per cent of the candidates are women, according to the analysis.

Won't end agitation until demands met: Pandher

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Feb 24: Farmers participating in the 'Delhi Chalo' call will not end their agitation until their demands are met, farmer leader Sarwan Singh Pandher said Saturday while indicating that their stir may continue even after the model code of conduct for the Lok Sabha polls comes into force.

Thousands of farmers have been staying put at Khanauri and Shambhu points on Punjab's border with Haryana along with their tractor-trolleys and trucks after their march to the national capital to press the Centre for various demands, including a legal guarantee of minimum support price (MSP) for crops, was stopped by security forces.

Last Wednesday, the 'Delhi Chalo' march, spearheaded by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha (KMM), was put on hold by farmer leaders for two days after a protester was killed and around 12 police personnel were injured in clashes at Khanauri. The incident took place when some protesting farmers were trying to head towards barricades.

Speaking to reporters at the Shambhu border point, KMM leader Pandher said they will announce their next course of action February 29.

"It is certain that this agitation will continue as long as (our) demands are not met. If they (Centre) accept our demands tomorrow, we will take a decision on the agitation," he said.

Assam Cabinet gives nod to repeal Muslim Marriage Act

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Feb 24: The Assam Cabinet has given its nod to repeal the Assam Muslim Marriages and Divorces Registration Act, 1935 in a bid to end child marriage, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

"This Act contained provisions allowing marriage registration even if the bride and groom had not reached the legal ages of 18 and 21 respectively, as required by law. This move marks another significant step towards prohibiting child marriages in Assam," the Chief Minister posted on X.

Opposition parties, however, termed the decision "discriminatory against Muslims" and "attempt to polarise voters in an election year". Congress MLA Abdul Rashid Mandal alleged that by taking a decision to repeal the Act in the year of Lok Saha polls, the government "was trying to polarise voters... It is nothing but a discriminatory decision against Muslims."

The Goalpara (West) MLA added, "The government talks about Uniform Civil Code (UCC) and banning polygamy in the state but no such Bill or ordinance has been brought in the assembly so far for reasons best known to them."

"The BJP government is calling it (Assam Muslim Marriages and Divorces Registration Act, 1935) an obsolete Act and that registration of child marriages is happening under it, but that is not a fact. This is the only mechanism for registration of marriages and divorce for Muslims and is valid under the Constitution," he said.



OPPOSITION PARTIES, HOWEVER, TERMED THE DECISION 'DISCRIMINATORY AGAINST MUSLIMS' AND 'ATTEMPT TO POLARISE VOTERS IN AN ELECTION YEAR'

The CM said that the district commissioners and district registrars will be authorised to take "custody of registration records" currently with 94 Muslim Marriage Registrars on the repeal of the legislation under overall supervision and control of the Assam Inspector General of Registration.

A one-time compensation of Rs 2 lakh will be provided to Muslim Marriage Registrars for their rehabilitation after the Act is repealed. The decision to repeal the Act was taken

at a late-night cabinet meeting Friday as it is an obsolete pre-Independence Act of the British for the then province of Assam, the CM said.

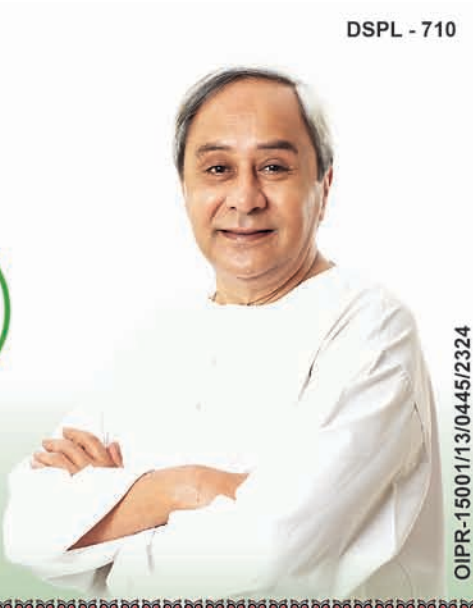
Registration of marriages and divorces is not mandatory as per the Act and the machinery of registration is informal, leaving a lot of scope for non-compliance with extant norms, he said. It was pointed out at the meeting that as per the provisions of the Act, there remains scope for registering marriages of intended persons below 21 years for men and 18 years for women and there is hardly any monitoring for implementation of the Act. AIUFD MLA Rafikul Islam alleged that the cabinet decision was taken with an "intention to target Muslims in an election year". "There were attempts to bring the UCC in Assam but they will not be able to do so as there are several castes and communities and they know it will not be legally tenable," he said.



ଆମ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ବ୍ୟବସାୟ ଓ ଉଦ୍ୟୋଗ

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US reverses West Bank policy

Biden administration reverses Trump-era policy and says Israel's new settlement in West Bank is 'inconsistent' with international law

Charleston (US), Feb 24: The new Israeli settlements in the West Bank are illegal and inconsistent with international law, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has said, reversing a Trump-era policy.

Blinken, at a joint press conference with the Argentine Foreign Minister Diana Mondino in Buenos Aires, said he was disappointed with Israel's latest plans for settlement expansion.

"We have seen the reports, and I have to say we're disappointed in the announcement. It's been long-standing US policy under Republican and Democratic administrations alike that new settlements are counterproductive to reaching an enduring peace," Blinken said in response to a question.

"They're also inconsistent with international law. Our administration maintains a firm opposition to settlement expansion. And in our judgement, this only weakens - it doesn't strengthen - Israel's security," said the top American diplomat, a day after Israel's far-right Finance Minister Bezalel



Smotrich indicated that more than 3,000 new residences would be added to settlements.

The statement comes as the Biden administration's latest shift away from the pro-Israel policies pursued by former president Donald Trump.

The Trump administration reversed the US policy to declare that settlements did not violate international law. In 2019, under Trump, then-Secretary of State Mike Pompeo claimed that "the establishment of Israeli civilian settlements in the West Bank is not, per se, inconsistent with international law".

Blinken's statement was defended by the White House in Washington DC.

"(We have) seen those reports and, frankly, disappointed in the announcement. It's been long-standing US policy under both Republican and Democratic administrations that new settlements are counterproductive to the cause of peace. Frankly, they're also inconsistent with international law. And this administration maintains our firm opposition to settlement expansion."

There should be no Israeli reoccupation of Gaza. The size of Gaza's territory should not be reduced

ANTHONY BLINKEN | SECRETARY OF STATE, US

The reversal comes amidst growing US-Israeli tensions over the war in Gaza, with the latest settlement announcement only adding to the strain

John Kirby, a White House spokesman, told reporters.

The New York Times reported that in November 2019, the then Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, under then-president Donald Trump reversed four decades of US policy by saying that settlements did not violate international law.

"State Department lawyers never issued a new legal determination that buttressed that policy change and Mr Blinken's shift back to the old policy is consistent with a long-standing legal finding of the department," the daily reported.

"We are simply reaffirming the fundamental conclusion that these settlements are inconsistent with international law. This is a position that has been consistent over a range of

Republican and Democratic administrations. If there's an administration that is being inconsistent, it was the previous one," Kirby told reporters.

In Buenos Aires, Blinken said he had seen reports about the post-war Gaza plan.

"I haven't seen the plan, so I want to reserve judgment until we see the details. Having said that, you know that there are certain basic principles that we set out many months ago that we feel are very important when it comes to Gaza's future, including that it cannot be a platform for terrorism," he said.

"At the same time, we have many countries in the region that are working together on a plan for post-conflict Gaza. I think that's very important, and I've spent some time with some of our Arab partners, including recently on the margins of the G20, talking about just as we did when we were at the Munich Security Conference together. So, it's important that we have, again, a necessary plan, but one also that's consistent with basic principles that I think many countries share about what has to be Gaza's future," said the Secretary of State.

WAR ANNIV European leaders vow to back Ukraine

European leaders vow to back Ukraine

Kyiv, Feb 24: European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen vowed that Europe would back Ukraine until it was "finally free" as she and three other Western leaders arrived in Kyiv to show solidarity on the second anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion.

The visit by von der Leyen and the prime ministers of Italy, Canada and Belgium - Giorgia Meloni, Justin Trudeau and Alexander De Croo - was a show of support as Ukraine suffers shortages of military supplies that are hurting it on the battlefield as Moscow grinds out territorial gains.

"More than ever, we stand firmly by Ukraine. Financially, economically, militarily, morally. Until the country is finally free," Von der Leyen, who came with the others on an overnight train from neighbouring Poland, wrote on the social media platform X.

The leaders visited Hostomel airport, site of a ferocious battle at the start of the invasion as Russia tried to fly in paratroopers to seize the capital Kyiv a few kilometres away.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy embraced the Western leaders and delivered a televised speech against a backdrop of wrecked aircraft.

"Two years ago we met enemy troops here with fire, and two years later, we are meeting our

friends, our partners, here," he said. "Any normal person wants the war to end. But none of us will allow our Ukraine to end," he added. "The word 'independent' will always stand next to the word 'Ukraine' in future history."

EAST COAST RAILWAY

(1) Tender Notice No. ST-OT-AMC-TADIRAN-KUR-368, Dt : 15.02.2024

NAME OF WORK : COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL ON SITE MAINTENANCE CONTRACT OF RAIL SADAN MAIN TELEPHONE EXCHANGE (TADIRAN IPX 4000) IN SERVER GATEWAY ARCHITECTURE, TADIRAN GM INTERCOM IN SERVER GATEWAY ARCHITECTURE (RAIL SADAN, RAIL VIHAR AND MANCHESWAR GM INTERCOM EXCHANGE-TADIRAN IPX 3000) AND DRM INTERCOM TADIRAN EXCHANGE, KHURDAROAD.

Tender Value : ₹ 15,52,886.64, EMD : ₹ 31,100/-, Tender document cost : ₹ 2,360/- (Including 18% GST).

(2) Tender Notice No. ST-OT-AMC-AVAYA-KUR-369, Dt : 15.02.2024

NAME OF WORK : COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR THE IP EXCHANGE AVAYA MAKE AT KHURDA ROAD FOR THREE YEARS (36 MONTHS).

Tender Value : ₹ 26,72,699.76, EMD : ₹ 53,500/-, Tender document cost : ₹ 3,540/- (Including 18% GST).

Bidding Start Date : 26.02.2024 (for all Tenders).

Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1100 Hrs. of 11.03.2024 (for all Tenders).

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and receipt in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : <http://www.treps.gov.in>

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 15 days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender.

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, PR-1115/O/23-24 | Khurda Road

Navalny's body handed over to mother, says aide

Navalny's body handed over to mother, says aide

Moscow, Feb 24: The body of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny has been handed over to his mother, a top aide to Navalny said Saturday on his social media account.

Ivan Zhdanov, the director of Navalny's Anti-Corruption Foundation, made the announcement on his Telegram account and thanked "everyone" who had called on Russian authorities to return Navalny's body to his mother.

Earlier Saturday, Yulia Navalnaya, Navalny's widow, accused President Vladimir Putin of mocking Christianity by trying to force his mother to agree to a secret funeral after his death in an Arctic penal colony.



"Thank you very much. Thanks to everyone who wrote and recorded video messages. You all did what you needed to do. Thank you. Alexei Navalny's body has been given to his mother," Zhdanov wrote.

Navalny, 47, Russia's most well-known opposition politician, unexpectedly died Feb 16 in an Arctic penal colony and his family have been fighting for more than a week to have his body returned to them.

Prominent Russians released videos calling on authorities to release the body and Western nations have hit Russia with more sanctions as punishment for Navalny's death as well as for the second anniversary of its invasion of Ukraine.

Indian mission raises Kandula case with Seattle officials

Indian mission raises Kandula case with Seattle officials

WASHINGTON: India's consulate in Seattle has raised with authorities the case of Indian student Jaahnavi Kandula after the prosecution attorney said an overspeeding Seattle police officer who struck and killed her while responding to a drug overdose call will not face any criminal charges citing lack of "sufficient" evidence.

Kandula, 23, from Andhra Pradesh, was struck by a police vehicle driven by Officer Kevin Dave when she was crossing a street in Seattle January 23 last year. He was driving 74 mph (more than 119 km/h) on the way to a report of a drug overdose call. Kandula was thrown 100 feet when she was struck by the speeding police patrol vehicle. In bodycam footage released by the Seattle Police Department, Officer Daniel Auderer laughed about the deadly crash and dismissed any implication Dave might be at fault or that a criminal investigation was necessary.

Germany joins legal cannabis club

Germany joins legal cannabis club

Berlin, Feb 24: Germany Friday joined the small group of countries and jurisdictions that have legalised cannabis when the Bundestag passed a law allowing individuals and voluntary associations to grow and hold limited quantities of the drug.

The law passed by Chancellor Olaf Scholz's ruling three-party coalition legalises cultivating up to three plants for private consumption and owning up to 25 grams of cannabis.

Larger-scale, but still non-commercial, cannabis production will be allowed for members of so-called cannabis clubs with no more than 500 members, all of whom must be adults. Only club members can consume their product.

"We have two goals: to crack down on the black market and improved protection of children and young people," Health Minister Karl Lauterbach

said at the start of a rowdy debate where the opposition accused him of promoting drug use.

"You are asserting in all seriousness that by legalising more drugs we will contain drug use among young people," said Christian Democrat legislator Tino Sorge. "That is the most stupid thing I've ever heard."

But Lauterbach said that this amounted to "sticking our heads in the sand": not only had cannabis use soared among young people, whose developing brains were particularly endangered, but drugs on the streets were both stronger and more impure nowadays, greatly increasing their harm.

Some 4.5 million Germans are estimated to use cannabis.

Germany becomes the ninth country to legalise recreational use of the drug, which is also legal in some sub-national jurisdictions in the United States and Australia.

Many more countries allow its medical use as a painkiller. Cannabis remains illegal for minors as does consuming it near schools and playgrounds.

Some legislators questioned whether the new regulations would have much impact on dealing, since those who are unwilling to grow their own cannabis or join a cannabis club may still prefer to buy the drug.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. A-1600

Office of the Superintending Engineer, Kanupur Rehabilitation, Camps & Building Division
AT/PO- Basudevapur, Dist.- Keonjhar, PIN-758047

e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE Bid Identification No. SE, KRC & BD-18/2023-24
Email- eekrcbdsasudevapur@gmail.com

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Approx value of work. (Rs. in Lakh)	E.M.D./Bid Security in Rs. (To be remitted online)	Cost of Bid document in Rs. (To be remitted online)	Period of Completion	Class of Contractor	Name & address of the Division under which the work will be executed
1	"Construction of Market Complex including electrification at Dhabalabeda (Daduan) for the DPs of village Daduan of KIP".	28.27	2900.00	6,000.00	06 (Six) Calendar months	"C" & "B"	Kanupur Reh. Camps & Building Division, At/PO- Basudevapur, Dist.- Keonjhar
2	"Construction of Jagyaon mandap at Birikala & Gobindapur R & R colony for the DPs of Birikala & Gobindapur village of KIP".	8.27	8,300.00	4,000.00	06 (Six) Calendar months	"D" & "C"	Kanupur Reh. Camps & Building Division, At/PO- Basudevapur, Dist.- Keonjhar

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding		Date & time of opening of tender		Place of Opening
		From	To	Date	Time	
Superintending Engineer, Kanupur Reh. C. & B. Division, Basudevapur, Dist.- Keonjhar	SE, KRC & BD-18/2023-24	29.02.24 From 10:00 Hours	11.03.24 Up to 17:00 Hours	5	12:03.24	11:00 Hours

OIPR-32053/11/0009/2324 Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Kanupur Reh. C. & B. Division, Basudevapur

Bank of India Zonal Office : Bhubaneswar Zone, 1/1D, Star House, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Ph.: 0674-2362249

AUCTION SALE OF VEHICLES

Sl. No.	Branch Name	Name of the Borrower	Vehicle Details	Reserve Price / Bid Increment Amount
1.	IIT ARUGUL BRANCH	Mrs Manorama Routray	MARUTI SUZUKI WAGON R VXI Regd. No.: OD-02-AM-3634 Year of Manufacturing: 2017	Rs.2,86,000/- Rs.5,000/-
2.	PATIA BRANCH	Mr Rupak Kumar Kar	TATA INDIGO eCS Regd. No.: OD-33-H-9896 Year of Manufacturing: 2016	Rs.1,26,800/- Rs.5,000/-

DATE OF AUCTION: 13.03.2024 from 11.30 A.M. to 12.30 P.M., Auction Venue - M/s City Investigation & Detective, Santoshi Maa Mandir Backside, Patrapada, Bhubaneswar, Contact: 8908502936

Parking Yard Address: M/s City Investigation & Detective, Santoshi Maa Mandir Backside, Patrapada, Bhubaneswar .

Terms & Conditions: Interested bidders can inspect the vehicles after obtaining prior appointment from the Concerned Authority at the parking yard as mentioned above. The bidders are informed to be present at the venue positively. The successful bidder has to deposit 25% of bid amount as upfront amount and the balance amount within 7 days from the date of auction, failing which the money deposited by the successful bidder would be forfeited. The cost of transfer of ownership & statutory dues/all misc. charges, if any is to be borne by the successful purchaser. Vehicle will be auctioned on "AS IS WHERE IS & AS IS WHAT IS" basis. However the Bank reserves the right to accept /reject/ cancel the auction sale process of the vehicle at its own discretion at any point of time. Auction will be done through offline mode. For further information regarding inspection & Details of the Vehicles contact at Ph. No.: IIT Arugul Branch - 9776687307, Patia Branch: 7750931444, ZO.: 8337911737, Parking Yard: 8908502936 .

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 23.02.2024 Zonal Manager, Bank of India

Acharya Harihar Post Graduate Institute of Cancer
(Formerly: Acharya Harihar Regional Cancer Centre)
Cuttack-753007

Advertisement No.: AHPGC/E-01/2024

No. E-882:- Eligible candidates are invited for walk-in-interview for the selection for the posts of Senior Resident (SR)/ Tutor in different disciplines of AHPGC, Cuttack, Odisha on 06.03.2024.

Application Form and guideline are available in the AHPGC website that can be downloaded from www.ahrgc.in. For any corrigendum all notices will be notified in AHPGC website. OIPR-10171/11/0013/2324 Sd./- Director, AHPGC, Cuttack

fincare Small Finance Bank

Registered Office: 301-306, 3rd Floor, ABHJEET -V, Opp. Mayor's Bungalow, Law Garden Road, Mithakhali, Ahmedabad - 380006, Gujarat.
www.fincarebank.com.

LOAN AGAINST GOLD - AUCTION NOTICE ON "AS IS WHERE IS" BASIS

The below mentioned borrower/s have been issued notices to pay their outstanding amounts towards the loan against gold facilities availed from Fincare Small Finance Bank Ltd ("Bank"). Since the borrower/s has/have failed to repay his/her/their dues, we are constrained to conduct an auction of pledged gold items/articles on 02 March 2024 between 11:00 AM - 03:00 PM (Time) at below mentioned branches according to the mode specified therein. In case of deceased borrowers, all conditions will be applicable to legal heirs. Please note that in the event of failure of the above auction, the bank reserves its right to conduct another auction without prior intimation.

E-Auction Branch Details (E-auction will be conducted by using Weblink <https://gold.samil.in>)

BHADRAK - 23660000797888 23660001273107 23660001889078 |
CUTTACK - 23660001416330 23660001568533 | JAJPUR - 23660001378280 23660001408715 23660001740269 23660001774054 |
KUAKHIA - 23660000781918 23660001143243 236600014612333 |

Note: The auction is subject to certain terms and conditions mentioned in the bid form, which is made available before the commencement of auction.

Sd./- Manager
Fincare Small Finance Bank

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, JEYPORE (R&B) DIVISION, JEYPORE
ID: ee.randbjyp@gmail.com

e-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. S.E. (R&B)-18/2023-24/JYP(K)
No. 1766 Dated: 20.02.24

No. B-1842:- Bid Documents consisting of work, Estimated Cost, Cost of Tender paper, EMD, Time of completion, Class of Contractors and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in Govt. Website i.e www.tendersodisha.gov.in.

- Name of the Work : Building Works as mentioned in DTCN.
- No. of Works : 2 Nos.
- Estimated Cost : Rs.26.12 to 39.81 lakhs
- Period of completion : Three Months
- Date & Time of Bidding : From 11.00 hours of 26.02.2024 upto 17.00 hours of 06.03.2024
- Last date & time for receipt of bids in portal : 17.00 hours of 06.03.2024
- Bids received online shall be opened on : 11.00 hours of 07.03.2024
- Name and address of the officer inviting Bid : Superintending Engineer, Jeypore (R&B) Division, Jeypore

Further details can be seen from the www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Jeypore (R&B) Division
OIPR-34027/11/0022/2324

of the day quote

India's e-commerce industry will look quite different, and more democratised, than what has unfolded in the United States and China

HENRY H MCVEY | HEAD OF GLOBAL MACRO & ASSET ALLOCATION, CIO, KKR

You can see 6-8 per cent real growth and 10-14 per cent nominal growth in at least the next 10 years. So, make your business plans, strategic plans and mould your Capex plans according to this parameter

ASHWINI VAISHNAV | UNION IT AND RAILWAY MINISTER

An interesting feature of the FPI trend recently is the decline in FPI equity outflows despite the rising bond yields in the US

VK VIJAYAKUMAR | CHIEF INVESTMENT STRATEGIST, GEJIT FINANCIAL SERVICES

SHORT TAKES

RBI makes transit payments easier

Mumbai: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Friday permitted banks and non-banking institutions to issue pre-paid instruments for making payments across various public transport systems. With the introduction of these instruments, commuters will have more options to pay for tickets besides cash mode. The instruments will provide convenience, speed, affordability and safety of digital modes of payment to commuters for transit services, RBI said in a notification. Public transport systems across the country cater to a multitude of commuters on a daily basis, it added. Welcoming the decision, fintech MobiKwik's Co-Founder and CEO Bipin Preet Singh said, "This marks a pivotal moment in our journey towards modernising transit systems".

Green energy: Adani, Uber may form JV

New Delhi: In a thrust to the government's green energy goals, the Adani Group and Uber may soon announce a joint venture (JV) to help the global ride-hailing major expand its fleet that runs on alternative and renewable energy, sources said Saturday. With this, Uber's fleet in the country is likely to grow to 200,000 vehicles in the short term, people close to the development told IANS. According to sources, the Adani Group is likely to explore partnerships with major Indian vehicle manufacturers to further build the fleet in the key sunrise sector. This JV will also provide employment opportunities to several thousands of people directly and indirectly, according to people close to the matter.

EV charging: Log9, Trinity sign pact

New Delhi: EV charging provider Log9 and EV company Trinity Cleantech Saturday joined forces to establish a seamless interoperable charging network in the country. Trinity will provide 2,000 public charging stations that will be deployed across the country by the end of the next financial year. Trinity's 'Thunder' platform will integrate with Log9's 'Instacharge' platform as part of the collaboration, streamlining operations and enhancing user experience, they said in a statement. The companies plan to boost the adoption of Type 6 fast chargers, the next-generation EV standard.



Unemployment is really not India's problem in my view. Our problem is underemployment, so productivity is low. So the job that can be done by one person often gets done by two people or maybe three people

ARVIND PANAGARIYA | CHAIRMAN, 16TH FINANCE COMMISSION

SEBI USING AI FOR PROBES

Sebi is using Artificial Intelligence (AI) for investigations, its Whole Time Member Kamlesh Chandra Varshney said Saturday and emphasised that entities should keep track of technological developments. Against the backdrop of instances of manipulations in the stock market, he said the message is that abiding with the law will be more beneficial and violations will cause problems



'I continue to remain CEO'

BYJU'S founder, CEO Byju Raveendran says management remains unchanged, a day after EGM by select investors to oust him and his family from the company

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 24: A day after investors of the troubled edtech firm BYJU'S voted for a leadership change, Byju Raveendran has penned a note to employees saying he continues to remain CEO and the management remains unchanged, as he dubbed Friday's EGM as a "farce".

The note to employees assumes significance as it comes after BYJU'S shareholders (prominent investors) Friday voted for removing Founder-CEO Raveendran and his family from the board over alleged "mismanagement and failures" at what was once India's hottest tech startup, but the company dug in its heels, calling the voting done in absence of founders as invalid and ineffective.

In a note to employees Saturday, Raveendran alleged that a lot of essential rules were "violated" at Friday's



Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM).

"This means that whatever was decided in that meeting does not count, because it didn't stick to the established rules... It is crucial for everyone to understand the specific issues that make this EGM a farce," he wrote. PTI has seen a copy of the letter.

Raveendran said he firmly believes that the truth will inevitably prevail, despite the "relentless trial by the media".

"I am writing this letter to you as the CEO of our company. Contrary to what you may have read in the media, I continue to remain CEO, the management remains unchanged, and the board remains the same," he said, adding it is "business as usual" at BYJU'S.

"To reemphasise, the rumours of my firing have been greatly exaggerated and highly inac-

CASH STARVED: BYJU'S was valued at \$2 bn in 2022 and it is now valued at \$200mn in a rights issue

curate," Raveendran said.

Outlining what he claimed were "key discrepancies" at the EGM, he said the meeting was convened without following the proper procedure set out by the law and the company's Articles of Association.

"To pass any resolution the meeting needs to have a proper quorum, a set of people who are mandatory. Our articles are clear on the quorum requiring the presence of at least one founder director. Consequently, any resolutions taken at the meeting are not enforceable as per law," he said.

Zurich Insurance to buy 70% stake in Kotak General



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 24: Kotak Mahindra Bank Friday said Zurich Insurance Company has agreed to pick up 70 per cent stake instead of 51 per cent in its general insurance arm.

In November, Zurich Insurance Company had announced plans to acquire a 51 per cent stake in Kotak Mahindra General through a combination of capital infusion and share purchase, followed by a subsequent acquisition of an additional stake of 19 per cent within a period of three years from the initial acquisition.

"The parties to the aforesaid transaction, viz, the bank, Zurich, and Kotak General have mutually agreed that Zurich will acquire 70 per cent stake in Kotak General by way of a combination of primary and secondary acquisitions in a single tranche, for a total consideration of approximately Rs 5,560 crore, instead of the proposal announced in our earlier disclosure," the bank said in a reg-

ulatory filing.

The other terms of the transaction remain unchanged, it said.

The proposed 70 per cent acquisition would be subject to fulfilment of customary conditions precedent, including the receipt of regulatory approvals from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai), it said.

As per the current regulatory guidelines, a foreign entity can own up to 74 per cent in an insurance venture in India.

Earlier this month, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved acquisition of 70 per cent stake by Zurich Insurance Company Ltd in Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company Ltd.

The acquirer is a wholly owned subsidiary of Zurich Insurance Group Ltd (Zurich Insurance Group). It is a leading multi-line insurer serving people and businesses in more than 200 countries and territories.

India dedicated funds witness 49th straight week of inflows

THE INFLOWS INCLUDE \$712 MILLION THIS WEEK AFTER \$766 MILLION IN THE PREVIOUS WEEK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 24: India dedicated funds have now seen the 49th straight week of inflows, Elara Securities said in a report.

The inflows include \$712 million this week after \$766 million in the previous week. Largecap funds continued to see the biggest portion of this flows (\$631 million).

Some revival is also seen in smallcap funds where a total \$280 million has come in the past nine months. India flows continue to be strongest from US investors (\$215 million), followed by Ireland (\$177 million) and Japan (\$124 million) investors, the report said.

Countries where both domestic and foreign inflows are strong include the US, Japan and India, the tracker said.

On the other hand, China is witnessing strong domestic inflows, but foreign flows are still weak. Over the past month, the pace of inflows by domestic investors into Chinese equity was strongest since 2015.

Overall, the global liquidity situation continues to remain benign with most markets witnessing strong domestic flows, it added.

"China funds have started showing strong outperformance over India funds, finally. Similar outperformance was seen in May 2022 after which we saw a round chasing into this trade. Likewise, the second big leg was from November 2022 to February 2023 with an outperformance of 40 per cent," the report said.

With the strong domestic flows and beginning of outperformance, it will be key to see if foreign flows start shifting there, though there is no sign of this trade as of now, the report said.



Go First gets two financial bids: Bankers

REUTERS

Mumbai, Feb 24: India's Go First has received two financial bids as part of its bankruptcy process, said two bankers who attended a meeting of the airline's creditors held Friday.

Budget carrier SpiceJet's managing director, Ajay Singh, and Busy Bee Airways have jointly submitted a bid of Rs 16 billion (\$193.10 million) for the airline, the bankers said.

"The plan includes additional fund infusion to restart the air-



line's operations," said a banker with a state-run bank that has exposure to Go First.

The bankers did not wish to be identified as they are not authorised to speak to the media.

Go First's resolution professional, who conducts the bankruptcy process, Singh and Spicejet did not respond to emails seeking comment.

"Our bid for launching the airline remains confidential, guarded by the Committee of Creditors (CoC) until a successful bidder is announced," Nishant Pitti, majority shareholder of Busy Bee Airways, said.

The airline has also received a financial bid from Sharjah-based Sky One Airways which is lower than the competing bid,

one of the bankers said, without disclosing the amount.

Sky One Airways did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Due diligence on the bids is expected to be completed next month, the second banker, also with a state-run bank, said.

Go First filed for bankruptcy in May last year. Its bankruptcy filing lists Central Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, IDBI Bank and Deutsche Bank among creditors to which the carrier owes a total of Rs 65.21 billion.

Creditors face haircut of 68% on admitted claims under IBC

REUTERS

New Delhi: The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) seems to be incentivising debtors to settle their defaults even before the cases are admitted under the code with over 27,500 applications for initiation of CIRPs with an underlying default of Rs 9.74 lakh crore withdrawn before their admission, as per an analysis by Care Edge Ratings. The average time taken for resolution or liquidation continues to increase for operational creditors (OCs) and financial creditors (FCs) during the December quarter. Meanwhile, the overall recovery rate till Q3FY24 was 31.86 per cent, implying a haircut of approximately 68 per cent, the analysis said. The cumulative recovery rate has been on a downtrend, decreasing from 43 per cent in Q1FY20 and 32.9 per cent in Q4FY22 as larger resolutions have already been executed and a significant number of liquidated cases were either BIFR cases and/or default with high-resolution time, the analysis said. After slowing in the pandemic period of FY21 and FY22, the number of insolvency cases referred has increased by around 19 per cent y-o-y in Q2FY24. However, despite the increase, the number of cases admitted to the insolvency process continued to be lower compared to earlier quarters in FY20, the analysis said.



Solar installations dip 44% in '23

REUTERS

New Delhi: India has reported a 44 per cent fall in solar installations at 7.5 gigawatt in 2023 due to land acquisition-related issues, research firm Mercom Capital said. According to the US-based research firm's latest report, a total of 13.4 gigawatt (GW) solar capacity was installed in the country in 2022. As of December 2023, the cumulative installed solar capacity stood at 72 GW. Of which utility-scale projects accounted for 85.4 per cent, and rooftop solar accounted for 14.6 per cent, the report said. "In 2023, large-scale solar installations fell 51 per cent to 5.8 GW from 11.7 GW in 2022. Extensions granted to several large-scale projects and delays primarily due to land (acquisition) and transmission (connectivity) issues impacted capacity additions during the year. Large-scale solar accounted for 77.2 per cent of annual solar capacity additions, and rooftop solar contributed 22.8 per cent," it said. Rajasthan followed by Karnataka, and Gujarat were the top three states for cumulative large-scale solar capacity, accounting for 54.8 per cent of installations in the country as of December 2023. India's large-scale solar project pipeline stood at 105.3 GW, with another 70.6 GW of projects tendered and pending auction, the report said.



WTO MEET India's stance on data transfers spooks chip giants

WSC in its letter also urged India to work toward a WTO agreement to permanently prohibit countries from subjecting cross-border data and digital tools to customs duties and procedures

REUTERS

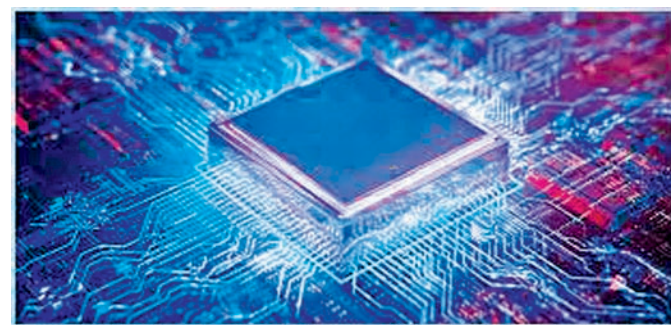
Bangalore, Feb 24: A global consortium of semiconductor industry groups has asked India to reconsider its plan to push for duties on cross-border digital e-commerce and data transfers at an upcoming global trade meeting, warning that India's stance will stifle its own chip design industry.

Ministers from across the globe are convening for a World Trade Organization meeting in Abu Dhabi early next week to try to

discuss several trade-related issues, including extending a moratorium in place since 1998 on applying duties on electronic transmissions.

Developing nations like India, South Africa and Indonesia are set to oppose efforts by US and Europe to extend the moratorium. If no agreement is made, the moratorium would expire this year.

The moratorium collapse would mean tariffs on digital e-commerce and an innumerable number of transfers of chip de-



sign data across countries, raising costs and worsening chip shortages, the World Semiconductor Council (WSC) wrote to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday.

The chips sector is a key plank of Modi's agenda to push India's economic growth, with a \$10 billion incentive package in place

to boost the industry.

Duties on data transfers would "also impede India's efforts to advance its semiconductor industry and attract semiconductor investment, especially as more than 20% of the world's semiconductor design workforce is based in India," the group wrote in the letter, a copy of

FISHING DEAL: A new global agreement on tackling fisheries subsidies that lead to overcapacity and overfishing could be sealed when the World Trade Organization holds its ministerial conference next week

which was reviewed by Reuters.

WSC comprises of chip industry associations in regions like the US and China, which represent chip stalwarts such as Qualcomm, Intel, AMD and Nvidia.

New Delhi has said that physical goods like books and videos, once governed by traditional tariff rules, were now available as digital services and should be subject to duties. Developing nations are facing massive loss in potential revenue with such imports from developed countries on the rise, India maintains.

WSC in its letter also urged India to work toward a WTO agreement to permanently prohibit countries from subjecting cross-border data and digital tools to customs duties and procedures.

India's support to renewing the moratorium will "send a strong signal to semiconductor companies that India is an investment friendly environment," the group wrote.



LAccMI

CONNECTING PEOPLE, TRANSFORMING LIVES

Odisha, the land of rich culture and varied landscapes, has made significant strides in connecting its communities. With an impressive road network linking over 90 per cent of its gram panchayats (GPs), the state has shown a strong commitment to growth and accessibility. To match the aspirational growth of the state in various sectors, the need was felt for an expanded and efficient transport network ensuring every part of the state contributes to and benefits from the development journey. LAccMI (Location Accessible Multimodal Initiative), which was born out of this aspiration and vision, now covers 99.95 per cent GPs ensuring last mile connectivity across 30 districts of Odisha.



ACROSS 30 DISTRICTS

1,623
LUXURY BUSES

₹3,178cr
DEDICATED BUDGET

6,031
GRAM PANCHAYATS COVERED

62,291
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS CONNECTED

4cr +
PEOPLE BENEFITTED

37K + jobs
TO BE CREATED IN STATE



VISION

- Affordable first and last-mile connectivity
- Bridging urban and rural gap
- Sustainable and efficient access to vital services
- Promoting socio-economic development

3-TIER CONNECTIVITY

- Gram panchayat to block
- Block to district headquarters
- District headquarters to Bhubaneswar, Puri and major cities



TRANSFORMATIVE INITIATIVE

- Efficient public transportation connecting 99.95 per cent gram panchayats
- Advancing accessibility, safety and service efficiency
- Ensuring equitable access to markets, education and healthcare
- Special focus on women's safety
- Fostering public-private partnerships
- Prioritising sustainable practices
- Boosting tourism and economic growth
- Building a more inclusive and interconnected community fabric
- Ensuring easy market access to farmers' produce and transportation of farm equipment



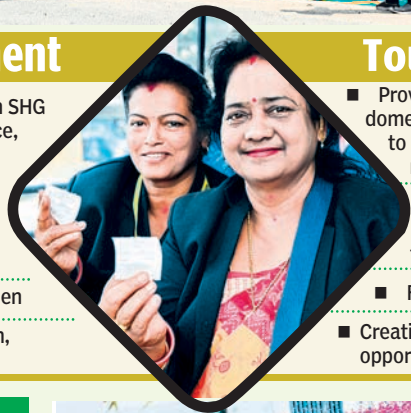
TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

- Real Time Passenger Database
- Vehicle Tracking System & Route Optimisation
- Intelligent Transport Management System
- Cashless Fare



Women empowerment

- Designated routes managed by women SHG members in every district (maintenance, management, and operations)
- Affordable bus service fosters community welfare
- A beacon of social change
- Fosters leadership quality among women
- Just ₹5 fare for every travel (for women, students & differently abled)



Tourism boost

- Providing easy access of domestic and international tourists to state's rich cultural and natural heritage
- LAccMI network connecting all popular tourist attractions
- Fillip to regional tourism
- Creating more livelihood opportunities



PHASES OF IMPLEMENTATION

- Malkangiri on October 12
- Gajapati on October 20
- Kalahandi on November 1
- Rayagada on November 25
- Nabarangpur on November 30
- Koraput on December 14
- Deogarh, Angul and Dhenkanal on January 31
- Mayurbhanj, Bolangir, Bargarh, Keonjhar and Sundargarh on February 12
- Khurda, Puri, Kendrapara, Bhadrak, Jajpur and Nayagarh on February 16
- Cuttack, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Subarnapur and Kandhamal on February 19

FOSTERING SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROWTH

- ENHANCING CONNECTIVITY
- UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES
- ENSURING ACCESS OF EVERY CITIZEN TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND OPPORTUNITIES
- RS 5 TRAVEL REVOLUTION
- SHOT IN THE ARM FOR WOMEN SHGS

RATE CHART



NON-AC BUS SERVICE

BLOCK CONNECTIVITY	Distance	Ticket price
	0-10km	Rs 5
	11-20km	Rs 10
	21-40km	Rs 15
	41-60km	Rs 25
	61-80km	Rs 30

AC BUS SERVICE

DISTRICT CONNECTIVITY	Distance	Ticket price
	0-10km	Rs 10
	11-20km	Rs 20
	21-40km	Rs 40
	41-60km	Rs 60
	61-80km	Rs 80



BASHIR BURST FLOORS INDIA



Shoaib Bashir is surrounded by Ben Stokes (L) and Ben Foakes after getting a wicket

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Feb 24: Young off-spinner Shoaib Bashir scythed through the Indian line-up with an impressive four-wicket haul that left the hosts stuttering at 219/7 on day two of the fourth Test here Saturday.

The 20-year-old Bashir, playing only his second Test, got rid of Shubman Gill (38, 65b, 6x4), Rajat Patidar (17), Ravindra Jadeja (12) on a pitch that has uneven bounce and cracks to rattle the Indian top and middle order.

He returned after the tea break in his marathon 31-over spell across two sessions to clean up in-form Yashasvi Jaiswal (73, 117b, 8x4, 1x6) with a ball that skidded through the defence of the left-hander.

With intermittent wickets pegging India back, they were forced to play a catch-up game and are still trailing by 134 runs.

If it was not for a combative

partnership between Dhruv Jurel (30 batting) and Kuldeep Yadav (17 batting), India would have struggled to cross even 200-run mark. They had joined forces when the scorecard read 177/7.

The two batters played late and did not commit early into their shots, a play that worked well in their unbeaten 42-run stand.

This was after England's first innings folded for 353 after starting the day at 302/7. The total could have been bigger if Ollie Robinson (58, 96b, 9x4, 1x6) had not attempted an audacious reverse sweep off Jadeja (4/67).

The 22-year-old Jaiswal yet again produced a confident knock. He now has scored 618 runs with an average of 103 in this series. He looked for another big one before being done in by low bounce.

Left-arm spinner Tom Hartley returned with figures of 2/47 that included the crucial breakthrough of Sarfaraz Khan (14) who had a frustrating stay. He also survived

A memorable feat

Ranchi: Opening batter Yashasvi Jaiswal Saturday became only the fifth Indian to score 600 or more runs in a Test series, during the second day's play of the fourth match against England here. The 22-year-old Jaiswal joined Indian batting legends Sunil Gavaskar, Virat Kohli, Rahul Dravid as well as Dilip Sardesai to amass more than 600 runs in a Test series. It was in the away series against West Indies in 1970-71 that Gavaskar created the record of most runs for any Indian batter in a Test series, garnering 774 runs. Gavaskar holds the distinction of being the only Indian to have scored more than 700 runs in a Test series on two occasions. The 'Little Master' also churned out 732 runs in six Tests when the West Indies toured India in 1978-79. The world record for most runs in a Test series is held by Australian batting legend Donald Bradman (974 runs in five Tests against England).

a run-out. India lost Rohit Sharma (2) cheaply when old warhorse James Anderson induced a faint-edge from the skipper in the third over of their innings. But thereafter, Jaiswal showed why he is India's latest run machine when he overcame some anxious moments to post his fourth fifty-plus score in this series.

From a watchful start, India No.3 Gill accelerated post-lunch break. But Bashir gave England the breakthrough by trapping Gill, halting the fine 82-run alliance between Gill and Jaiswal.

He delivered a ball that took off the crack just outside off stump, trapped Gill on the pad as Indians reviewed unsuccessfully. It sort of triggered the Indian collapse as the batters failed to grind deep in, showing little application.



Yashasvi Jaiswal plays a shot through the off-side during his innings, Saturday

Having given a lifeline after sloppy displays in Rajkot, Patidar had a nervy and tentative stay. The only bright spot of his innings was driving down Anderson past the gully for a boundary that brought up the 100 for India. It was just a matter of time before Bashir trapped him with a ball that skidded onto his pads.

Post his century in Rajkot, Jadeja retained his No.5 spot and counter-attacked Hartley for successive sixes. But Bashir was in the thick of the action again as his ball came off the cracks with Jadeja managing to loop the ball straight to short leg.

England added 51 valuable runs to their overnight total as the Indian attack failed to make early penetration. The last five England batters added 241 runs after being 112/5 at lunch on the opening day.

Joe Root, who dug in deep with his classical century spanning a little more than six hours, remained stranded on 122 (274b, 10x4).

Robinson gifted away his wicket

after making a career-best score that resulted in England's first innings ending at 353. Root and Robinson's eighth wicket alliance yielded 102 runs for England.

However a bizarre shot selection ended his gritty knock as he employed a grounded reverse sweep which was not necessary at that moment as Indian bowlers were hardly troubling the visitors. The ball missed the edge of the bat but touched the gloves of Robinson before being grabbed by 23-year-old Dhruv Jurel that ended a dogged 102-run stand with Root.

England then fell in a jiffy with Bashir swinging his bat to the second ball and skied the ball to be caught at point. Jadeja trapped Anderson to end England resistance.

BRIEF SCORES

England 353 (Joe Root 122 n o, Ollie Robinson 58; Ravindra Jadeja 4/67); **India 219/7** (Yashasvi Jaiswal 73, Shubman Gill 38, Dhruv Jurel 30 batting; Shoaib Bashir 4/84). Match to continue.

INDIA GO DOWN FIGHTING Asha, Richa, Meghana help RCB pip Warriorz



POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Feb 24: India went down fighting against Australia 3-0 via penalty shootout after the regulation time ended 2-2 in their FIH Pro League match at the Birsu Munda Stadium in Rourkela, Saturday.

It was the same old story for India as they conceded a late goal to take the match into penalty shootout. They also lost to the same opposition earlier in the tournament - February 15 in Bhubaneswar - when they conceded three goals in the last quarter after leading 4-2 at half-time.

This time, they were leading 2-1, thanks to the goals by skip-

per Harmanpreet Singh and Amit Rohidas - both from penalty corners. Blake Govers cancelled out Harmanpreet's goal converting a penalty strike before Tom Craig's 53rd minute field goal give the visitors a chance to redeem themselves in the shootout.

Australia converted their three chances into goals in the shootout, while the Indians missed all their three chances.

Right from word go the Indians adopted the changing positions adhering to the coach's plan of 'aalo' combination where 10 players will be able to fit into any position during attack as well as defending.

First quarter remained evenly

poised as both teams adopted attacking approach with India earning the first PC. An Australian PC was denied through video referral. India drew the first blood in the 23rd minute through Harmanpreet's precise execution of the PC.

In the 23rd minute, the Aussies won a penalty stroke and Govers made no mistake in firing it into the net. Meanwhile, India won another PC, but the ball hit the face of Jake Whetton.

The second half continued to be eventful as India got another PC at a crucial juncture just before the breather. And this time Rohidas was given the opportunity to take the strike and the local lad responded as expected and the stadium broke into celebration.

Despite being an eventful 15 minutes, the third quarter couldn't change the scoreline - 2-1 in favour of India. The final quarter got off to a slow start, but Australia's attack earned them another penalty stroke, which Govers failed to score. However, the Aussies redeemed themselves when Craig restored parity in the 53rd minute through a brilliant field goal.

Earlier in the day, Alvaro Iglesias' hat-trick helped Spain rout Ireland 7-0 at the same venue. Jose Basterra, Eduard de Ignacio-Simo, Borja Lacalle and Marc Reyne were the other scorers for the Spanish side.



Sobhana Asha was pumped up after dismissing an RCB batter, Saturday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Feb 24: Authoritative fifties by Richa Ghosh and Sabbhineni Meghana were well-supported by crafty leg-spinner Sobhana Asha as Royal Challengers Bangalore celebrated their first home WPL match with a fighting two-run win over UP Warriorz here Saturday.

Richa (62, 37b, 12x4) and Meghana (53, 44b, 7x4, 1x6) pushed RCB to a par 157/6 on a slightly tacky pitch as they added 71 runs for the fourth wicket in 50 balls. Grace Harris (38, 23b, 4x4, 2x6) and Shweta Sehrawat (31, 25b, 2x4, 1x6) milked 77 runs in 44 balls for the fourth wicket but

UPW could not survive a five-wicket haul by leg-spinner Sobhana (5/22), ending up at 155/7.

The Warriorz were well on course for a win at 116/3 in the 15th over, but Sobhana's three-wicket burst in the 17th over changed the complexion of the game. She jettisoned Harris, Sehrawat and Kiran Navgire in that over to break UPW's hopes by a thin margin.

Earlier, RCB batters hobbled to a total that proved just enough on the night. The RCB were tottering at 54/3 in 7.5 overs after being asked to bat first. Sensing the situation, Meghana and Richa took their time to settle into their partnership, but once they got their eyes in, the RCB pair did not look back.

Meghana, who was dropped on 20 and 22, made full use of those let-offs to play some stunning shots around the ground. She reached her fifty in 40 balls, and Richa, who hammered pacer Saima Thakor for 16 runs in the 14th over, reached her own mark soon. The partnership was broken through Rajeshwari Gayakwad (2/24).

BRIEF SCORES

RCB Women 157/6 (Richa Ghosh 62, Sabbhineni Meghana 53; Rajeshwari Gayakwad 2/24) beat UPW Women 155/7 (Grace Harris 38, Shweta Sehrawat 31; Sobhana Asha 5/22) by 2 runs.

Pramod, few others in finals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pattaya (Thailand), Feb 24: Pramod Bhagat, Suhas Yathiraj and Krishna Nagar progressed to the men's singles finals in various categories at the Para Badminton World Championship here Saturday.

In men's singles SL3 class, Paralympic gold medalist Pramod outwitted fellow Indian Manoj Sarkar 23-21, 20-22, 21-18 and will face England's Daniel Bethell in the final. Bethell beat India's Nitesh Kumar 21-18, 20-22, 21-14 in the other semifinal.

World No.3 Yathiraj, a Paralympic silver medalist, upset World No.1 Lucas Mazur of France 21-16, 21-19 in the men's singles SL4 semifinal to reach the finals for the first time in his career. Yathiraj, a reigning world champion and paralympic gold medalist, will square off against Indonesia's Fredy Setiawan, who defeated Sukant Kadam 13-21, 19-21, in the final.

In women's singles SU5,

Manisha Ramadass beat France's Maud Lefort 19-21, 21-21, 21-14 in the semifinals to set up a summit clash against China's Yang Qiu Xia. In SH6 women's doubles, Rachana Shaileshkumar and Nithya Sre Sumathy Sivan also entered the finals with a 21-16 21-17 win over Indonesian pair of Daria Bujnicka and Oliwia Szmigiel.

The men's doubles pair of Chirag baretha and Raj Kumar, and women's combination of Mandeeep kaur and Manisha Ramadass, advanced to the semifinals of SU5 and SL3-SU5 class to assure medals for themselves in the tournament.

Among others, Nithya Sre, Palak Kohli and Manisha Girishchandra lost their respective semifinals in SH6, SL4 and SL3 class in women's singles to sign off with bronze medals.

Pramod and Sukant also settled for bronze in men's doubles SL3-SL4 after losing 16-21, 16-21 to Thai pair of Mongkhon Bunsun and Siripong Teamarrom.

Odisha FC, MBSG share spoils



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Feb 24: Odisha FC and Mohun Bagan Super Giant played out a goalless draw in their Indian Super League (ISL) encounter at the Kalinga Stadium here. With competitors elevating their performance levels lately, the pressure has been built on the Juggernauts to not drop points in their pursuit of the top spot of the points table.

Mumbai City FC equalled them

in points Friday with their win over Chennaiyin FC, with only a superior goal difference keeping the Sergio Lobera-coached side ahead in the race.

However, they were unable to make the most of the opportunity at home against an upbeat Mohun Bagan, who extended their unbeaten streak to five games under Antonio Lopez Habas in the ISL.

Contrary to what the scoreline suggests, it was an end-to-end encounter that produced umpteen

opportunities for either side to break the deadlock. A total of nine shots were taken out of which six were on target, combined for both teams, with Isak Vanlalruatfela and Albanian striker Armando Sadiku leading the charge for their respective teams.

Isak, in particular, was a menace for the Mariners, coming close to bagging the first goal of the night for Odisha FC multiple times in the opening half. Just as the half was drawing to an end, Roy Krishna laid up a pass for an onrushing Diego Mauricio on the right flank. The Brazilian collected the pass in his stride before unleashing a fierce shot that deflected off the crossbar.

Sadiku will be regretting not converting the several chances that came his way from close quarters. The striker had Asish Rai and Sahal Abdul Samad setting up deliveries for him both when he was at the edge of the box as well as at the centre in the 26th and 34th minutes respectively. But, his efforts went in vain.



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