



MISSION
Shakti



Launching of

- Mission Shakti Loan at 0% interest upto 10 lakh
- ₹145 Crore Interest Subvention
- ₹730 Crore for Uniform & Blazer assistance

Inauguration of

Mission Shakti Bazaar

Bhubaneswar | 27th February 2024



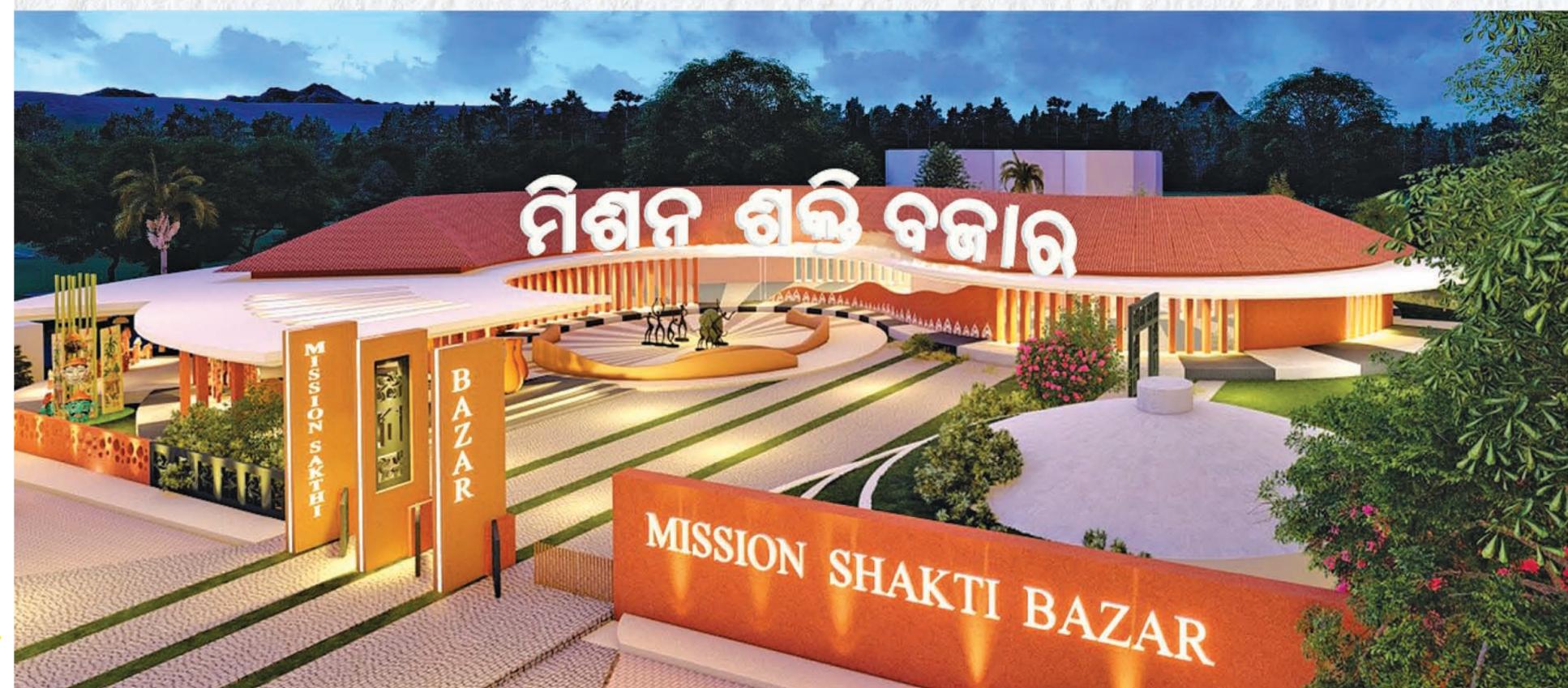
by

Shri Naveen Patnaik

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha

Empowered Women | Empowered Odisha

OIPR-48001/13/00/10/2324



Department of Mission Shakti, Government of Odisha



Maldives cannot distance itself from the geographical and historical significance of India as an ally
ABDULLA SHAHID | VETERAN MALDIVIAN DIPLOMAT

JAPAN LANDER REVIVES AFTER LUNAR NIGHT

Japan's first Moon lander responded to a signal from Earth, suggesting it has survived a second freezing weekslong lunar night, Japan's space agency said Monday. JAXA called the signal, received late Sunday night, a "miracle" because the probe was not designed to survive the lunar night, when temperatures can fall to minus 170 degrees Celsius (minus 274 degrees Fahrenheit)



SNIPPETS

Seoul gives docs 4 days to end walkouts

Seoul: Junior doctors in South Korea have four days to end their walkouts, the government said Monday, or they could face prosecution or have their medical licenses suspended. About 9,000 medical interns and residents have stayed off the job since early last week to protest a government plan to increase medical school admissions by about 65 per cent.

US airman dies after setting himself on fire

Washington: An active member of the US Air Force has died after setting himself on fire outside the Israeli embassy in Washington over the weekend in protest of the war in Gaza, the Pentagon said Monday. Emergency responders Sunday had rushed to the scene just before 1:00 pm (1800 GMT) in response to a "call for person on fire outside the Israeli Embassy," according to a message on X, formerly Twitter, by the capital city's fire department.

Hungary's Parl ratifies Sweden's NATO bid

Budapest (Hungary): Hungary's Parliament voted Monday to ratify Sweden's bid to join NATO, bringing an end to more than 18 months of delays that have frustrated the alliance as it seeks to expand in response to Russia's war in Ukraine. The vote, which passed with 188 votes for and six against, was the culmination of months of wrangling by Hungary's allies to convince its nationalist government to lift its block on Sweden's membership. The government of Prime Minister Viktor Orban submitted the protocols for approving Sweden's entry into NATO in July 2022, but the matter stalled in Parliament over Opposition by governing party lawmakers.

Farmers protest across Europe

The protests are the latest in a series of rallies & demonstrations by farmers across Europe



AGENCIES

Brussels/Madrid/Warsaw, Feb 26:

Farmers Monday blocked a border crossing between Poland and Germany, threw bottles at police in Brussels and gathered in Madrid to demand action on cheap supermarket prices and what they say is unfair competition from abroad. Agricultural ministers from across the European Union pledged to do more to cut red tape and help farmers as they convened in Brussels to discuss the crisis in the sector after weeks of angry protests. The 27-nation EU has already weakened some parts of its flagship Green Deal environmental

policies, removing a goal to cut farming emissions from its 2040 climate roadmap. But farmers are demanding more.

Farmers clashed with police in Belgium Monday, spraying officers with liquid manure and throwing eggs and flares at them in a fresh show of force as the European Union's agriculture ministers met in search of ways to address the protesters' concerns. "We're here again in Brussels today as farmers because the European Union is not listening to our demands. Our demands are for fair revenue," said Morgan Ody, general coordinator of farming organisation La Via Campesina. "We pro-

duce the food and we don't make a living. Why is that? Because of free trade agreements. Because of deregulation. Because the prices are below the cost of production. So we demand the EU to move on this." On the margins of the Brussels rally, riot police fired water cannon at protesters throwing bottles and eggs, while about 900 tractors jammed parts of the Belgian capital, not far from the cordoned-off area where ministers were meeting.

At a protest in Madrid, farmers from across Spain blew whistles, rang cowbells and beat drums, urging the EU to loosen regulations and drop some changes to its Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) of subsidies and other programmes.

"It's impossible to put up with these rules, they want us to work in the field during the day and deal with paperwork at night - we're sick of the bureaucracy," said Roberto Rodriguez, who grows cereal and beetroots in the central province of Avila.

In Poland, farmers angry with cheap imports from non-EU Ukraine blocked the A2 highway at a border crossing with Germany. The EU decided two years ago to waive duties on Ukraine's food exports as Kyiv battles a Russian invasion.

"This is a show of common solidarity, that both Polish and German farmers will not allow these goods from Ukraine to continue to enter the European market," said Adrian Wawrzyniak, a spokesperson for the Solidarity farmers' union.

Palestinian PM resigns



Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh convenes a cabinet meeting in Ramallah, West Bank

REUTERS

Ramallah, Feb 26: Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh announced his resignation Monday, as the Palestinian Authority looks to build support for an expanded role following Israel's war against the Islamist group Hamas in Gaza.

Shtayyeh's resignation must still be accepted by Abbas, who may ask him to stay on as caretaker until a permanent replacement is appointed.

The Palestinian Authority, created around 30 years ago as part of the interim Oslo peace accords, has been badly undermined by accusations of ineffectiveness and corruption and the prime minister holds little effective power.

But Shtayyeh's departure marks a symbolic shift that underlines Abbas' determination to ensure the Authority maintains its claim to leadership as international pressure grows for a revival of efforts to create a Palestinian state alongside Israel. In a statement to cabinet, Shtayyeh, an academic economist who took office in 2019, said the next administration would need to take account of the emerging reality in Gaza,

which has been laid waste by nearly five months of heavy fighting. He said the next stage would "require new governmental and political arrangements that take into account the emerging reality in the Gaza Strip, the national unity talks, and the urgent need for an inter-Palestinian consensus".

In addition, it would require "the extension of the Authority's authority over the entire land, Palestine". No successor has been appointed but Abbas is widely expected to name Mohammad Mustafa, a former World Bank official who is chairman of the Palestine Investment Fund (PIF) with experience of rebuilding Gaza after a previous war in 2014. There has been no word on elections, which have not been held since 2006.

The Palestinian Authority exercises limited governance over parts of the occupied West Bank but lost power in Gaza following a factional struggle with Hamas in 2007.

It has been badly weakened over the years and surveys show it is deeply unpopular among Palestinians. But it remains the only leadership body generally recognised by the international community.

Maryam becomes Pak's 1st woman CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lahore, Feb 26: Senior PML-N leader Maryam Nawaz, the daughter of three-time former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, Monday took oath as the first-ever woman Chief Minister of Pakistan's most populous and politically crucial Punjab province, a development described by her party as a "giant leap" for the country.

Maryam, the 50-year-old senior vice president of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party, took oath as the Punjab chief minister at a ceremony at the Governor House in the presence of her father Nawaz Sharif and uncle Shehbaz Sharif. She earlier won the chief ministerial elections amidst a walkout by lawmakers of former prime minister Imran Khan's party-backed Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC).



"HISTORY MADE! Maryam Nawaz Sharif takes oath as Punjab's FIRST EVER female Chief Minister! A giant leap for Pakistan," her party said in a post on X. In her maiden speech at the provincial legislature earlier, Maryam thanked God, her father, Nawaz Sharif, uncle Shehbaz Sharif and the lawmakers who voted for her.

DSPL-731



ନିଃଶୁଳ୍କ ଔଷଧ ସେବା ସୁନିଶ୍ଚିତ କରୁଛି 'ନିରାମୟ' ଯୋଜନା



- ୫୦୦ରୁ ଅଧିକ ପ୍ରକାର ଔଷଧ ବିନା ମୂଲ୍ୟରେ
- ସମସ୍ତ ସରକାରୀ ଚିକିତ୍ସାଳୟରେ ଔଷଧ ଉପଲବ୍ଧ
- ଉପକୃତ ହେଉଛନ୍ତି ଲକ୍ଷ ଲକ୍ଷ ଲୋକ

ସୂଚନା ଓ ଲୋକସମ୍ପର୍କ ବିଭାଗ

OIPR-15001/13/0478/2324

NUA-O Scholarship
 CM Naveen Patnaik launches NUA-O Scholarship with distribution of sanction orders among 28,112 students

DOWNTOWN | P2

'Hindu prayers to continue'
 Hindu prayers will continue in the southern cellar of the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi, says the Allahabad High Court

NATIONAL | P7

Road to stardom
 Actor Sobhita Dhulipala, ahead of her Hollywood debut, reflects on her journey as a self-made actor

LEISURE | P8

India seal series
 Shubman Gill and Dhruv Jurel help India win the fourth Test sealing the series against England in the process

SPORTS | BACK PAGE

'TIGER POPULATION IN STATE RISES TO 30'
 Bhubaneswar: Odisha's tiger population rose to 30, which is 10 more than what the figure was two years ago, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced Monday. The state currently also has eight cubs but they were not included in the tiger head count as they were less than one year old. Taking to his 'X' handle, Patnaik said, "Glad to share that first All Odisha Tiger Estimation has established the presence of 30 tigers and 8 cubs in the forests of #Odisha, up from 20 reported during 2022. #SimilipalTigerReserve is now home to 27 tigers." The headcount was done between October 15, 2023, to February 10 this year. In 2018, the survey had found 28 tigers in the state.



UPPING THE ANTE: Congress workers led by AICC In-Charge Ajoy Kumar stage a demonstration against the state and Union governments at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar, Monday

PERMANENT COMMISSION IN ICG
Women cannot be left out: CJ

New Delhi, Feb 26: Declaring that women cannot be left out, the Supreme Court Monday told the Centre to ensure that women are granted permanent commission in the Indian Coast Guard and said the court will do it if the government doesn't.

A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said this while taking note of submissions by Attorney General R Venkataramani that there were some functional and operational difficulties in granting permanent commissions to Short Service Commission Officers (SSCOs).

"All these functionality etc argument does not hold water in the year 2024. Women cannot be left out. If you do not do it, we will do it. So take a look at that," the C.JI said. The attorney general also apprised the bench that a board has been set up by the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) to look into the issues.

"You must have women on

board," the bench said, fixing the plea for hearing Friday as the matter could not be taken up due to paucity of time Monday.

Previously, the bench had said that the maritime force must come up with a policy which treats women fairly.

The top court was hearing a plea filed by Indian Coast Guard officer Priyanka Tyagi seeking the grant of permanent commission to eligible women short-service commission officers of the force.

"You speak of 'nari shakti' (woman power). Now show it here. You are in the deep end of the sea in this matter. You must come up with a policy which treats women fairly," the bench had observed then.

It had also asked whether the Union was still adopting a patriarchal approach despite the judgments of the top court on the grant of permanent commission to women officers in the three armed forces - Army, Air Force and the Navy. "Why are you being so patriarchal? You do not want to see the face of women in the Coast Guard," the bench had asked.

Ghazal legend Pankaj Udhas passes away



Mumbai, Feb 26: Renowned ghazal singer Padma Shri Pankaj Udhas, whose velvet smooth voice gave expression to the many colours of love, longing and heartache, died here Monday after prolonged illness. He was 72. Udhas, who also made a mark as a playback singer in many Hindi films, died around 11am at the Breach Candy hospital.

"With a very heavy heart, we are saddened to inform you of the sad demise of Padmashri Pankaj Udhas on 26th February 2024 due to a prolonged illness," his daughter Nayaab wrote in an Instagram post.

The last rites of the singer, who hit his peak in the 1990s, will be held Tuesday. He is survived by wife Farida and daughters Reva and Nayaab. President Droupadi Murmu and PM Narendra Modi were among the many who mourned the singer's death.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

I can't afford a ticket nor can I stand the crowd. I visit the railway station just to enjoy the world-class infrastructure

PM unveils rail infra projects worth ₹2,320cr in Odisha

Bhubaneswar, Feb 26: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday unveiled 73 railway infrastructure projects worth ₹2,320 crore in Odisha. 21 railway stations in the state will be redeveloped under the 'Amrit Bharat Station Scheme' at the cost of ₹900 crore, and 52 road over bridges and road under bridges will be built at ₹1,420 crore.

These are among the over 2,000 rail infrastructure projects worth about ₹41,000 crore unveiled by the prime minister. PM Modi expressed happiness that the 'Amrit Bharat' stations will be symbols of both 'vikas' (development) and 'virasat' (heritage).

He said the Baleswar station in the state is designed on the theme of the Jagannath Temple at Puri.

Among the other stations in the state to be developed are Sambalpur City, Jharsuguda Road, Titlagarh Junction, Rayagada, Koraput Junction, Jeypore, Paradeep, Bhadrak, Belpahar and Brajaraj Nagar.

Governor Raghubar Das, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan joined the programme from different places in the state.

CHIEF MINISTER'S SKILL DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM Odisha

A first of its kind initiative to strengthen Decentralised Skilling in Odisha

Applications open for 2 year* paid fellowship programme for passionate individuals to contribute to the transformative journey of Skilled-In-Odisha at District level and gain grassroot insights.

If you are,

- An Indian Citizen aged between 21-30 years.
- Graduate in any stream (with atleast 50% min marks) with atleast 3 years of work experience
- Motivated and passionate to gain experience in skilling.

To know more and apply, please visit.
<https://nua.skillodisha.gov.in/cmskillfellowship.php>

Applications Open till
12.03.2024

Partners

Skill Development & Technical Education Department, Government of Odisha *conditions apply

OIPR-44011/13/0035/2324

CM LAUNCHES NUA-O SCHOLARSHIP

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 26: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the NUA-O Scholarship, with distribution of ₹28 crore worth sanction orders among 28,112 students of 57 colleges in Sambalpur, Deogarh and Angul districts, Monday.

5T and Nabin Odisha Chairman Kartik Pandian, as per the directive of the CM, visited the three districts and distributed the scholarship sanction orders among the eligible students.

"As many as 13,423 students from 21 colleges of Sambalpur district, 11,265 students from 25 colleges of Angul district and 3,424 students from 11 colleges of Deogarh district will get their scholarship amount in their bank accounts," the 5T Chairman said, while distributing the sanction orders.

He also interacted with students from 57 colleges of these districts.

According to sources, NUA-O Scholarship will be available for students pursuing UG and PG programmes in state universities and government and non-government aided colleges, including Sanskrit colleges under the Higher Education department.

Under the initiative, male students will get ₹9,000 annually, while female students will re-



28,112 students of 57 colleges in 3 districts get sanction orders
Nabin Odisha Magic Card registration portal to be launched March 5 and card distribution to begin August 15

ceive ₹10,000. Male students belonging to SC/ST and Nirman Shramik (construction worker) families will get ₹10,000, while female students of the categories will receive ₹11,000 annually.

The NUA (Nutana Unnata Abhilasha)-O initiative of the state government aims at empowering youth with continuous skilling, re-skilling, and upskilling opportunities. With a budgetary allocation of ₹385 crore for 2023-24 to 2025-26 fiscals, the initiative will cover all 30 districts, prioritising tribal and remote areas.

Pandian said the decade of 2024-34 will be the era of the youth, who will be empowered by the state government to achieve the goal of NUA Odisha.

"Like the empowerment initiatives for women through Mission Shakti, major inter-

ventions for youth engagement, empowerment and development will be implemented in the next 10 years. The process has already started through the college transformation projects across the state. In this context, the NUA-O program has been launched last year and has been a major success and as a next step, the NUA-O scholarship program has been launched," the 5T Chairman said.

Pandian said that the government's next major initiative will be to cover all the students through the launching of the Nabin Odisha Magic Card which will be a 'passport to prosperity'. Online registration portal for the card will be launched March 5, 2024. And distribution of the card will begin August 15.

"Based on points earned

through various activities and parameters, the cards will be upgraded to 'silver, gold and platinum' level. The cards will be allotted and upgraded based on the performance of student in terms of attendance, discipline, academic performance, participation in extracurricular activities, sports, online courses and personality development courses," he said.

These cards can provide access to various facilities like bus, train and flight concession, access to data recharge and Wi-Fi, e-libraries, online academic courses, personality development courses, coaching centres, skill development courses, career counselling, language courses including Odia and English, 'Earn While You Learn' opportunities and volunteering opportunities.

364 SHGs to revamp 95 water bodies in 16 ULBs

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Feb 26: Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) department signed an agreement and distributed work orders to 364 Mission Shakti Self Help Groups (SHGs) here Monday for ecological rejuvenation of 95 water bodies across urban local bodies (ULBs) of the state under the Ama Pokhari initiative.

The water bodies, spread across 16 ULBs, will be rejuvenated through the government's Mukhya Mantri Karma Tatpar Abhiyan (MUKTA) initiative.

Speaking on the occasion, H&UD Minister Usha Devi said that the programme, championed by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, will not be limited to only reviving water bodies but will also work as a transformative journey of empowerment, sustainability and community spirit.

"Mission Shakti women, who are the heart of this initiative, will educate their communities and spread the word about saving our water bodies. The Ama Pokhari Initiative is about giving the women power to earn, lead, and shape their futures. It's about showing everyone that women are change makers," she said.



2-day national seminar held at Derabis College



POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Feb 26: A two-day national seminar organised by IQAC in collaboration with department of Economics of Derabis College concluded here, Monday. The seminar was held on the topic 'Research methodology and academic writing'.

Minaketan Behera, Professor and Chairperson, Centre for Informal Sector and Labour Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi was the keynote speaker of the event.

Siba Sankar Mohanty, Associate Professor, Analytical and Applied Economics, Utkal University and Sarat Kumar Kar, President, Governing Body of the college were the guest of honour while Principal Chandra Sekhar Nayak chaired the seminar.

In his address, Behera highlighted the definition, aims and objectives of research methodology. He also spoke about on-line platforms available for a scholar to write research papers, plagiarism, ethics, e-journals and research designing.

Mohanty elaborated about the techniques of the academic writing and advised the academicians to avoid complexity in report writing. He said research should be brief, exact, clear, objective and systematic.

More than fifty one delegates from various colleges attended the seminar out of which seven presented their papers. Kar assured the students of organising more such seminars to enhance their knowledge. He advised them to put in hard work and prepare themselves to face challenges in life.

Royal Enfield Shotgun 650 roars into Odisha market

Royal Enfield, the global leader in the mid-size motorcycle segment, has launched its much-awaited Shotgun 650 in the Odisha market. The custom-inspired motorcycle available in four unique colours - stencil white, plasma blue, green drill and sheet metal grey - the Shotgun 650 is the ultimate canvas for personalisation, reflecting a blend of raw creative energy, anarchic custom culture and the iconic Royal Enfield DNA. Built on Royal Enfield's globally proven 650-Twin platform, the Shotgun 650 is a tribute to the culture of customisation and a new chapter in design for Royal Enfield with an exciting vision of the future. The ex-showroom price of the motorcycle ranges from ₹3.59 lakh to ₹3.73 lakh while the on-road price will be around ₹4.17 lakh



Gugnani Automobiles, Patia unveiled the Royal Enfield Shotgun 650 at its showroom. The event was attended by Rajesh Gugnani, dealer principal, Narendra Shaw, RBM and Prateek Sheoran, ASM.



Khimji Automobiles, Cuttack inaugurated the Royal Enfield Shotgun 650 at its showroom. The launch was attended by Debendra Dey, area service manager of E4; Trilok Kumar Singh, GM, Khimji Automobiles; Subrat Kumar Behera, sales manager.



Royal Enfield Shotgun 650 inaugurated at Gugnani Automobiles, Mancheswar. The inauguration was attended by Rajesh Gugnani, owner; Victor George Osta, ASM and Chandan Gorei, riding coordinator.



Royal Enfield Shotgun 650 was launched at Jaibaba Automobiles, Bhubaneswar. The inauguration was attended by Madhab Lodha, MD, Harsit Lodha, dealer principal, Sumant Singh, ASM and Prabhudat Patel, biker.



Royal Enfield all new Shotgun 650 entered the market in Angul through the authorized dealer Green Treet Automotive Private Ltd, Angul. Canara Bank Chief Manager Rajkumar Behera graced the occasion as the chief guest and unveiled the ultra-modern two-wheeler. Green Treet Automotive proprietor Anil Kumar Rout and others were also present.



Royal Enfield Shotgun 650 launched at Anmol Motors Cuttack. The people present at the inauguration were Adarshdeep Singh, GM, Anmol motors; Biswaranjan Ghadai, service ASM Royal Enfield and Pritam Patra, Sales Manager, Anmol Motors.



Loyal Automobiles, authorised dealer of Royal Enfield in Bolangir has unveiled the all-new Shotgun 650 at its store. The inauguration was done by Shyamala Agrawal, owner of the dealership. Among others Rajkumar Patel, Shibu Mishra, Subham Panda, Avinash Dash, Ramesh Agrawal, Shankar Jued, Sales Manager Saroj Podha and Service Manager Deepak Rout were present.



Market entry of Royal Enfield's Shotgun 650 took place at authorised dealer The Agents and Distributors, Rourkela. The Agents and Distributors' proprietor Nabakishore Satpathy and Subhranshu Satpathy attended the event as guests of honour and unveiled the bike. Showroom manager Tapanjit Biswal, among others, was also present.



Royal Enfield all new Shotgun 650 was introduced in Berhampur through authorised dealer Vaishnavi Automobiles, Berhampur. Vaishnavi Automobiles proprietor Aswini Kumar Nayak and Kelaupalli Sarpanch Arun Kumar Nayak graced the occasion as guests of honour and unveiled the new variant of the Royal Enfield. Anuj Nayak, Amarendra Nayak, Ajit Kumar Nayak and others were also present.



Royal Enfield's authorised dealer Birendra Motors, Jajpur Road has unveiled the all-new Shotgun 650. The inauguration was attended by owner of the showroom, senior manager, customers and employees.



Royal Enfield's authorised dealer Favour Ride, Balasore has inaugurated the all-new Shotgun 650. The inauguration was done by Merun Kishan Das, owner of the showroom and Sagar Nayak, member of Balasore Royal Club. Among others Favour Ride GM Himanshu Rout and Pranaya Mohanty were present.



Royal Enfield's authorised dealer Favour Ride, Balasore has inaugurated the all-new Shotgun 650. The inauguration was done by Merun Kishan Das, owner of the showroom and Sagar Nayak, member of Balasore Royal Club. Among others Favour Ride GM Himanshu Rout and Pranaya Mohanty were present.

| MARKET WATCH | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| INDEX | VARIATION |
| SENSEX | 72790.13 ↓ 352.67 |
| NIFTY | 22122.00 ↓ 90.70 |
| DOLLAR | 82.88 ↓ ₹0.05 |
| EURO | 89.92 ↑ ₹0.11 |
| GOLD | ₹62,155 ↓ ₹190 |
| SILVER | ₹69,500 ↓ ₹979 |

| WEATHER | | |
|------------------------|--------|--------|
| | BBSR | CTC |
| Max Temp | 30.2°C | 30.0°C |
| Min Temp | 20.6°C | 20.2°C |
| Humidity | 72% | 68% |
| Rainfall | Nil | Nil |
| FORECAST | | |
| LIGHT TO MODERATE RAIN | | |

CLASSIFIED

LOST
Smt. Deepanjali Pradhan has applied for a ML in our Utkal Grameen Bank, Bhawanipatna Evening Branch. She has lost her original Patta vide Khata No.: 171/1966, Plot No.: 171/3261, Area: 0.0405 Hectare, Mouza: Paramanandpur, KISSAM: Gharabari, She along with her son were going to tahasil office in a motor cycle for official work. During travelling in a motor cycle her hand bag containing original ROR was lost. If any financial institution created charge over the said property or any person have any issues on the said property, contact Branch Manager No.: 9668048222, Utkal Grameen Bank, Bhawanipatna Evening Branch, A/P.O.: Bhawanipatna, Kaiahandi-766001 within 15 days.

I, Chema Dehury, S/O-Late Dangi Dehury, At-Biswanathpur, P.O.-Kapilash, P.S.-Gondia, Dist.-Dhenkanal inform that the original Sale Deed of Mouza Biswanathpur, Khata No.-21 has been eaten by White Ants while it was kept in a wooden almira in my house. At present I want a duplicate copy/certified copy of the same document.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar-Dreamland Studio-9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-889550649, Swain Graphics-9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point-Janpath Road, Ram Mandir-9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri-Swosti Mobile Centre-7992914045, World Solution-9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels-Gajapati Nagar-9777675867, Nayapalli-The Cake Room-7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate-Shreeram Medical Store-8763711714, Net Square-Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)-7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar-Maa Communication-9437353424, Sahini General Store-Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar-9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur-Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion-Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision-Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7-LIC Premium Point-9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.



BANKI ASSEMBLY SEGMENT

Prestige battle for BJD, BJP, Cong

POST NEWS NETWORK

Banki, Feb 26: Election for the Banki Assembly segment in Cuttack district has turned out to be a prestige battle for the three mainstream political parties - BJD, BJP and Congress - as the announcement of dates for the 2024 election draws near, a report stated.



Areas under Banki NAC, Banki block, Dampara block and eight panchayats of Barang comprise the Banki Assembly constituency. The upcoming election has become all the more important for the three mainstream parties due to a host of reasons.

The ruling BJD has won on three successive occasions from the constituency. Party candidate Pravata Tripathy won the seat in 2009 and 2014, while his son Devi Ranjan Tripathy won (on BJD ticket) in 2019.

denying Pravata a ticket, had fielded his son Devi Ranjan from the constituency in the 2019 elections.

On the other hand, Congress candidate Debashis Patnaik won once from this seat in 2004, and is desperately eyeing for a comeback. The BJP is yet to open its account and earnestly trying to win this seat, while the BJD is trying to continue its winning streak.

Although no major developmental project has been implemented in the constituency in the last five years, Devi Ranjan has managed to strengthen his political career. He has been appointed as the state president of Biju Chhatra Janata Dal, the

student wing of the ruling party. The party leaders have also appointed him as observer from time to time for various districts for which Devi Ranjan is hopeful of retaining the party ticket in the 2024 elections.

Although speculations are rife that Pravata is lobbying hard to get the party ticket this time, the former MLA himself dismissed those and threw his hat behind his son Devi Ranjan's candidature. He said he will abide by the party decision.

Former Congress MLA Debashis Patnaik do not want to repeat the mistake he committed by shifting his base from Banki Assembly segment and filing nomination from Begunia Assembly segment in 2014 election. He bore the brunt of his mistake as he was trounced in the 2019 election. He came second by managing to get pocket votes of his party. He has been with people on various issues during the last five years for which he is hopeful of getting the party

ticket and secure a win from the constituency. Meanwhile, the BJP has strengthened its position in the constituency than what it was earlier. Party candidates had received less than 10,000 votes in 2009 and 2014 elections, but Subhranshu Mohan Padhi received 32,000 votes in the 2019 election and took all by surprise.

He has strengthened the organisational network in the constituency in last five years by highlighting the various programme and schemes of the Union government. He has also remained in touch with people through various meetings attended by Union ministers. He has created a favourable atmosphere for the saffron party in the constituency.

BJP's Zilla Parishad member Tusharkanti Chakraborty from Barang is also another ticket aspirant. Given the background, the 2024 election has become a prestige issue for all the three mainstream parties.

BHADRAK DHH TENSE AS PREGNANT WOMAN DIES

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, Feb 26: The district headquarters hospital (DHH) here at Gelpur Monday remained tense following the death of a pregnant woman allegedly due to medical negligence, Sunday night.



The deceased was identified as Manjulata Ghadei, 28, wife of Abhimanyu Ghadei, a resident of Biridi village under Agarpada police limits in this district.

Sources said Manjulata complained of labour pain Sunday and was taken to Agarpada community health centre (CHC). The woman was later shifted to the maternal and child health (MCH) unit of the DHH around 11:30pm. However, her family members alleged that doctors did not provide proper treatment to the woman till 2am, except for administering an injection.

Though her husband informed the doctors and nurses about the excruciating pain Manjulata was going through and requested them for a C-section delivery, they allegedly didn't pay any

heed. Later, after getting Abhimanyu signed on the necessary papers, doctors told him that they are going to conduct an operation on her wife.

However, around 3am a nurse came out of the OT and told Abhimanyu that his wife Manjulata is no more. The irate family members and relatives of the deceased created ruckus at the hospital, leaving the hospital tense.

A helpless and frustrated Abhimanyu lodged a complaint at Bhadrak rural police station alleging medical negligence for his wife's death. He also de-

manded stringent action against persons responsible for Manjulata's death.

Police reached the spot and started an investigation into the matter after sending the body for post-mortem.

Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO), Bhadrak Santosh Kumar Patra said the condition of the pregnant woman was not critical. However, she died at 3am. "The exact cause of death will be ascertained once the post-mortem report comes. Action will be taken against the guilty, if medical negligence is proved," he added.

Police outpost soon at Baramunda terminal

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Feb 26: The state government Monday decided to establish a police outpost at Dr Babasaheb Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar Bus Terminal, Baramunda which will be inaugurated in a few days.



The Chief Minister's Office (CMO) Monday said that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has already approved a proposal in this regard. As many as 89 police personnel will be engaged in the outpost. There will be two sub-inspectors, nine assistant sub-inspectors, four havildars, 72 constables and two drivers.

800 buses which is expected to cross 1,800 in coming days.

Earlier, CM Naveen Patnaik announced that the Baramunda Inter-State Bus Terminal (ISBT) in Bhubaneswar will be named after Dr BR Ambedkar, a jurist, social reformer, economist and one of the architects of the Indian Constitution.

The bus terminal is in the last stage of completion. Modern facilities like restaurants, pick-up and drop-off points, shops and bazaars, toilets and bathrooms have been established keeping in view the huge footfall of passengers in coming days.

The ISBT Baramunda project, which is being implemented by Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) on 15.5 acre land, will have facilities for the convenience of passengers, office spaces, parking lots, food court, restaurant and commercial space.

As many as 144 bus bays have been constructed at the bus stand. The facility is now hosting about

3 killed as vehicle hits roadside tree

PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapara, Feb 26: At least three women artistes of a theatre group were killed and four others injured Monday as their vehicle skidded off the road and hit a roadside tree in Kendrapara district, police said.

The accident took place near Ostapur area when their SUV hit a roadside tree, a senior officer said.

The three women died on the spot and the four injured persons were taken to the Kendrapara Hospital, he said.

Three of the injured persons were critical and shifted to the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack. The accident occurred when the members of the theatre group were returning to Cuttack after their programme in Naranpur village.

1,566 from Berhampur ITI get placements

Berhampur: As many as 18 industries from various sectors distributed offer letters to 1,566 students including 404 girls during a campus recruitment drive conducted at Industrial Training Institute (ITI) in Berhampur, Monday. The event was graced by Skill Development and Technical Education secretary Usha Padhee, director of Technical Education and Training Reghu G, through video conferencing as well as senior officials of the department and representatives from 18 participating industries. "The institute is proud to declare that 404 of the students who got placements are women which this demonstrates its commitment to promoting gender equality in the workforce." ITI Berhampur principal Rajat Kumar Panigrahy said while extending a warm welcome to all the participants and guests.

Traces of ancient civilisation found in Kuakhai riverbed

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Feb 26: Traces of an early period civilisation have resurfaced in Kuakhai riverbed near Cuttack with the discovery of several archaeological remains by a team led by co-convener of INTACH's Cuttack chapter Deepak Kumar Nayak.



The remnants of an old settlement that once flourished near Balimangala Devi Pitha, near Uttampur village under Cuttack Sadar block have resurfaced recently in a large area spread over the dunes about 200 metres from the present embankment.

Similar pottery and ware have also been found in the ongoing excavation work being carried on inside Barabati Fort by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

The INTACH team found a large number of fragmented pieces of redware, blackware, grey ware, rings of mud well and bone pieces from a small mound-like structure inside the river. Pieces of sculpted images that were unidentifiable were also discovered.

The type of potteries found are very much identical to those found in the excavated sites at places like Khalakapatana, Manikapatana and Sisupalagada establishing that there has been significant maritime trade in the waterway of Kuakhai river in early centuries.

According to Nayak, the site has a lot of historical significance as it is situated midway between Barabati Fort and Chudangagada Fort in Barang.

According to INTACH Bhubaneswar chapter sources, the findings sug-

gested that there was either a riverside port or a large settlement in the place that had been abandoned due to frequent flooding.

A small-scale archaeological excavation in the riverbed is required to determine relevant history associated with these finds, they said, adding that INTACH will soon write to ASI and state Archaeology department to survey the area.

Biswajit Mohanty of INTACH thinks that the remnants have resurfaced due to erosion of the riverbed due to rampant sand mining. Mahanadi and its delta system have rich archaeological remnants spread on its riverbed and banks, he claimed.

During INTACH's recent comprehensive survey of the Mahanadi Valley, many new sites and heritage structures have been reported and documented.

The report also had details of 63 submerged ancient temples in the Mahanadi which are being destroyed and vandalised by illegal sand mining, Mohanty said.

Make savings a habit; reap financial benefits

Grow your money with the power of compounding

- Save small amounts regularly
- Grow your investments with interest
- Watch your savings grow

RBI Kehta Hai... Make a Right Start, Become Financially Smart!

Issued in public interest by भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक RESERVE BANK OF INDIA www.rbi.org.in

For more details, visit www.rbi.org.in
For feedback, write to rbikehtahai@rbi.org.in

FOCUS AGRICULTURE

MSP LAW IMPERATIVE



Nearly 90% farming households have less than two hectares of land holding. How can their income growth keep pace with national GDP growth?

tributed under the National Food Security Act.

Farm sector woes are many. Risks arise from multiple sources. Price volatility, climate change induced unseasonal wet and dry spells, pest attacks, world geopolitics spiking prices, frequent bans on exports denying farmers windfall gains, and an anti-farmer pro-urban consumer bias in policies. The adverse terms of trade for farm goods vis-à-vis industrial goods or services, and the frequent ban on exports is like a de facto tax on farm incomes. So those people who complain that farm incomes are not taxed, are not fully cognisant of the burden on the farmer. To add to these woes, land fragmentation is relentless and continues in every successive generation. India now has 141 million small land parcels, double of what we had 50 years ago. Smaller land parcels mean lower productivity and less scope for exploiting economies of scale. Nearly 90% farming households have less than two hectares of land holding. How can their income growth keep pace with national GDP growth? Productivity is low and they are stuck in farming, because there are no large scale, higher paying, secure jobs available in the industrial or services sector. Indeed, the lack of large-scale employment creation outside of farming is a major cause of farm sector woes in India. The sustainable solution to farm distress lies outside of agriculture, in industry and services. Meanwhile several initiatives like the mandi law reform, relaxing export bans, allowing contract farming, credit to tenant farmers, incentives for crop diversification, electronic linking of mandis, all these make a difference, large or small. In this messy and second-best world, the enactment of MSP law, without being fiscally too costly, will give a strong positive signal.

The writer is a noted Pune-based economist.

©THE BILLION PRESS

Be fearless and resolute, all obstacles will melt away before you.

THE MOTHER



Food Politics

The All India Household Consumption Expenditure Survey 2022-23 report released on 24 February throws up interesting facts and figures about the patterns and preferences of different food items being consumed by rural and urban India. But, its timing and the main drift of the findings raise more questions than give answers. For, the survey has been made public 11 years after the last one. It is usually conducted by the National Statistical Office every five years, but the last report based on the survey in 2017-18 after the botched up Demonetization and implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) was not released. The government cited "data quality" issues to stop its release. The Central government was criticised for not collecting and sharing proper data on the economy. The reason, as it could be justifiably presumed, was to hide from the electorate the stark reality of the havoc played with the country's economy by the ill-conceived Demonetization and shoddy implementation of the GST regime. The country is again in election mode now and the ruling alliance is in a better position to take on the Opposition. This seems to explain the release of the survey this time around.

There is another weighty reason for the timing of making the survey public. It suits the current dispensation's agricultural policies and electoral purpose. The farmers' agitation over legal guarantee of minimum support price for a slew of agricultural items is snowballing and threatening to be the BJP's Achilles' heel. The release of the survey and its contents may not only divert the attention from the angry farmers' agitation, but change the electoral-political discourse in a different gear.

The figures are being interpreted differently by different stakeholders to suit their political interests. But, the stark reality, as revealed by the survey, is that the poorest 5 per cent of India spend, on an average, merely Rs 46 daily in rural areas and Rs 67 in urban areas against the richest 5 per cent whose daily consumption is Rs 350 in rural areas and Rs 700 in urban parts, indicating a huge inequality in incomes.

The latest report showed that although the average Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) in urban households rose to Rs 3,510 - an increase by 33.5 per cent since 2011-12 - and rural households to Rs 2,008 that is a 40-42 per cent uptick, the jump is more owing to steep inflationary trends than any real rise in incomes. This is borne out by the fact that the proportion of spending on food, as the survey revealed, slid to 46.4 per cent from 52.9 per cent in 2011-12 in rural households, while it dropped from 42.6 per cent to 39.2 per cent in the corresponding period for urban households. The figure points to two possibilities - either people are cutting down on spending on food because of high retail inflation or have been relieved by the government's free ration scheme to 80 crore Indians. The MPCE figures are based on data collected from 2,61,746 households, of which 1,55,014 were in rural areas, spread over all states and Union Territories.

Interestingly, Sikkim's MPCE is the highest among Indian states at Rs 7,731 in rural and Rs 12,105 in urban households. Chhattisgarh is at the bottom of the ladder where the MPCE is Rs 2,466 for rural and Rs 4,483 for urban households.

A BJP apologist predictably finds the survey results highly encouraging for the country's state of economy under the current dispensation. The data relied on for this is the household consumption expenditure for the year 2022-23 which shows per capita monthly household expenditure more than doubled in 2022-23 as compared to 2011-12. From this the conclusion that the ruling party draws is that the government's poverty alleviation measures have been successful.

An interesting finding is the kind of food items on which people are spending more or less. The share of cereals and pulses within overall food consumption expenditure has come down both in rural and urban areas. But, the share of spending on milk has increased to an extent that it has overtaken that on cereals and pulses combined in 2022-23. The same also applies to fruits and vegetables, i.e. foods high in vitamins and minerals.

The political implication of these findings is that the demand for a "legal guarantee" to MSP is mainly from farmers of 23 crops, including foodgrains and sugarcane. But the farm sector's growth is being led by livestock, fisheries and horticulture crops which are outside MSP purview.

All these lead to the inescapable conclusion that one main objective of the release of the survey at a time when the country is getting ready for the general elections is to tell the electorate not to be swayed by the agitation by the farmers who are being described by the Opposition as the country's "anna data" (giver of food). The people now will have to decide whether they survive on fish and chips or dal and roti and vote accordingly.



Ajit Ranade

THE GOVERNMENT HAD ANNOUNCED IN 2016 THAT FARMERS' INCOMES WOULD DOUBLE BY 2022, BUT THAT DID NOT HAPPEN

Farmers are once again barricading roads and highways to the national capital. It seems like a repeat of what happened three years ago, when the three farm laws tabled in Parliament had to be withdrawn due to farm unrest. This time the agitation is for a law to make Minimum Support Price (MSP) a legal guarantee. MSP was introduced in 1967 and is a price support scheme which covers 23 crops, including cereals, pulses, oilseeds and commercial crops like copra and cotton. Sugarcane also has support prices given both by the Centre and the states. But the MSP scheme does not have statutory backing in law. The MSP for crops is set every year on the advice of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices. That advice may or may not be taken fully by the Union Cabinet. Further, even after announcement of MSP for various crops, it is enforced only for a few crops, mostly for wheat and rice.

The Union government (along with some state governments) procures wheat and rice at MSP. The procurement benefit goes only to a few select states. The mandi tax collection which goes to state governments is proportional to the amount of procurement. For a state like Punjab, it is a significant source of the state's revenue. Some states like Madhya Pradesh have occasionally applied MSP based procurement to pulses also. In Maharashtra the government tried to enforce MSP based procurement of pulses on all private traders, who were immediately up in arms and refused to cooperate. Maharashtra was hoping that higher prices could be extracted from private traders and need not be paid from the state's own budget. That scheme had to be given up. So, MSP in practice only helps rice and wheat farmers, and that too those who have large marketable surpluses, and who seem to be confined to Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh.

Is converting MSP into a legal guarantee a bad idea? Not really. For several reasons. Firstly, it won't be a fiscal disaster as some fear. MSP comes into the picture only when free market prices dip below, which on an average will happen only half the time. Secondly, as soon as the government intervenes to procure crops, the prices start moving up negating the need to continue indefinitely. Thirdly, in effect it is a price insurance mechanism, needed because forward markets and commodity derivatives markets are not fully developed and are beyond the reach of most farmers.

Crop prices are extremely volatile and need some insurance coverage, and MSP is like an "option" which protects the downside. The PM Fasal Bima Yojana has not been as effective in providing insurance against a fall in prices. Fourthly, the proposed MSP "guarantee" is much like the rural employment guarantee (NREGA) which works as a proxy for unemployment insurance. That scheme has proved to be a safety net during times of distress such as famines, droughts or a pandemic. Similarly, MSP guarantee is a proxy for price insurance absent forward markets. Sixth, the time has come for an MSP law because of the several woes of farming households. Hence it is no longer irrelevant to merely evaluate the

prospect of a law in terms of costs and benefits. Farming households are in distress. Stepping away from the MSP issue, let's look at some stylised facts. The most stark and relevant data for farm households is that from the 70th and 77th rounds of the National Sample Survey, which had a Situation Assessment of Agricultural Households, respectively in 2013 and 2019. During this period, the farm household saw wage income overtake income from cultivation. And monthly household income at around Rs 10,000 in 2019 is far below the national average. The level of indebtedness remains constant at around 50% of households. Much of the debt is for current expenses and consumption and not for investment purposes. In fact, the farmers' income growth has slowed down from 3.4% per annum during 2004 till 2011 to 2.5% p.a. from 2012 till 2019. Keep in mind, that national income was rising much faster during these periods. So, farming households are falling behind, and it is no wonder that poverty is largely confined to agricultural or rural households. The government had announced in 2016 that farmers' incomes would double by 2022, but that did not happen. A recent government release says it did double in ten years from 2011 onwards, but that includes imputed income of free food dis-

SPECTRUM DIPLOMACY

Athens drawing New Delhi in

Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis' recent visit to New Delhi was significant as it underlined the critical need for both countries to come together. Besides, the visit came after 15 years by a head of the state or head of government of Greece. The process of deepening bilateralism had begun last year in August when PM Modi had visited Greece. That visit was equally or more significant as any Indian PM had been to Athens 40 years ago. During Modi's visit, India-Greece relations were upgraded to a strategic partnership. It was also decided that bilateral trade will be doubled by 2030. Thus, Modi's visit marked a historic occasion when he was conferred the highest civilian award of Greece, Grand Cross of the Order of Honour by President Katerina Sakellaropoulou.

Mitsotakis who was on a two-day official visit and was the chief guest and keynote speaker at the Raisina Dialogue, 2024, said, "PM Modi's historic visit to Athens created a momentum which will be accelerated by his visit to India". He told Greek journalist Alexis Papahalas on the eve of his departure to India: "India will find no better gateway to Europe than my country and

for Greece, there is no better gateway to Asia than a close strategic relationship with India."

Mitsotakis made a forceful plea for proceeding with India-Middle East Economic Corridor (IMEC) despite the continuing conflict in Gaza. This corridor was conceived as a counterweight to Beijing's BRI which made the participating countries debt-prone and impaired their sovereignty. The founding members of IMEC could not meet due to the war in Gaza. Also, Israel's Haifa port owned by Adani Group was expected to be a key point for the ship-and-rail route proposed under IMEC. It would start from India's West Coast through UAE through Saudi Arabia to Jordan and Israel before reaching Greek's Piraeus port and to the rest of Europe.

India-Greece relations go back to 326 BC when Alexander the Great came up to North-West of Indian Sub-Continent up to Beas River where he fought a battle with King Puru of Paurav dynasty. As per the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, 518 identified soldiers of undivided India defending Southern Europe in World War-I were buried in Greece. A Greek national Dimitrios Galanos born in Athens spent 47 years in India. He translated Indians scriptures

into Greek language. He also produced a Sanskrit-English-Greek dictionary containing 9000 words. He died on 3 May, 1833 in Varanasi. A Dimitrios Galanos chair of Hellenic studies was set up in Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi in 2000. The famous Gandhara art is believed to be a fusion of India and Greek art traditions. Both countries are "prisoners" of geography. But their strategic locations are important to the global system and geopolitical prosperity. Recent events in Red Sea have demonstrated that the security of East Mediterranean region where Greece is located virtually depends upon the stability of the Indian Ocean region. That is why perhaps Greece decided to join the Indo-Pacific Ocean Initiatives launched by India during its G20 presidency. Greece has the world's biggest merchant fleet, and its geographical position makes it an obvious partner for the project.

On trade and commerce, India exports aluminium, organic chemicals, fish and crustaceans, plastics, textile articles, chemicals, iron and steel. It imports from Greece minerals, mineral fuels, oil, sulphur, aluminium foil, mineral oils, lime and cement, products for their distil-

lation, electrical machinery and building stones.

During the visit of the Greek Prime Minister, who was accompanied by senior officials and business executives, several agreements were signed. These related to collaboration on start-ups, cooperation in shipping and connectivity, collaboration in higher education, support in defence, cyber security, maritime security and counter terrorism. Mitsotakis said India should be a corner stone of Europe's foreign policy. In any case, this is certainly the case for Greece. The leadership in Greece has been pushing for a closer India and EU relations. In particular, Athens is nudging the EU to sign the Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement between EU and India. The year 2024 is crucial for Europe and the world, and so is for Greece and India.

One hopes that the diplomatic niceties are backed by sincere efforts on both sides. PM Modi is reaching out to new partners and building fresh contacts. Although India and Greece have been connected since long, it is time they make the partnership robust in their mutual interests.

The writer is Secretary General, Association for Democratic Socialism. [amra](mailto:amra@adsindia.org)

WISDOM CORNER

Only a man who knows what it is like to be defeated can reach down to the bottom of his soul and come up with the extra ounce of power it takes to win when the match is even. MUHAMMAD ALI

Lots of people want to ride with you in the limo, but what you want is someone who will take the bus with you when the limo breaks down. OPRAH WINFREY

I have always said that everyone is in sales. Maybe you don't hold the title of salesperson, but if the business you are in requires you to deal with people, you, my friend, are in sales. ZIG ZIGLAR

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1933: Germany's parliament building is set on fire. The Nazis used the Reichstag fire to justify harsh repression against political opponents. The event is considered pivotal in the establishment of Nazi Germany.

1943: Non-violent protests in Berlin prevent the deportation of 2000 Jews. The "Rosenstrasse protest" was carried out by the "Aryan" wives and relatives of detained Jewish men.

1968: During a news broadcast, American journalist Walter Cronkite, who was considered "the most trusted man in America," broke from his usual objectivity to predict that the Vietnam War could end only in a protracted stalemate; his commentary was credited with changing the U.S. public's opinion of the conflict.

1991: U.S. President George H.W. Bush ordered a cease-fire effective at midnight and declared victory in the Persian Gulf War, a conflict triggered by Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait in August 1990.

LOL

Drunk driving

A juggler, driving to his next performance, was stopped by the police. "What are those knives doing in your car?" asked the officer. "I juggle them in my act." "Oh yeah?" says the cop. "Let's see

you do it." So the juggler starts tossing and juggling the knives. A guy driving by sees this and says, "Wow, am I glad I quit drinking. Look at the test they're making you do now!"



DK Giri

ALTHOUGH INDIA AND GREECE HAVE BEEN CONNECTED SINCE LONG, IT IS TIME THEY MAKE THE PARTNERSHIP ROBUST IN THEIR MUTUAL INTERESTS

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

OrissaPOST
B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Exam malpractice

Sir, From Assam to Uttar Pradesh to Rajasthan, and beyond, there have been paper leaks galore. Obviously, the mafia is hand-in-glove with government employees, and more. Small time players are apprehended, and the big fish go unscathed. The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means), Bill 2024, passed by the Lok Sabha in February first week, is aimed at curbing malpractice in competitive exams. Offences are set to be recognised as cognisable, non-bailable, and non-compoundable. Provisions for upto 10 year imprisonment and a fine upto Rs 1 crore, as envisaged in the Bill, for leaking papers and tampering with answer sheets from small time leakers to organised criminals, are apt. Keeping students out of the Bill's ambit seems to be a carefully considered step. The key, however, lies in the Bill's effective implementation by breaking the mafia-officer-politician nexus. Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Criminal justice

Sir, The upcoming overhaul of India's criminal justice system, slated for implementation from 1 July, 2024, is poised to bring significant changes aimed at modernising and streamlining outdated legal frameworks. Three new laws - Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam - are set to replace colonial-era statutes, namely the Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, and the Indian Evidence Act of 1872. These legislative reforms mark a crucial step towards enhancing the efficiency, transparency, and accessibility of the country's legal system. One of the key objectives of these new laws is to make the criminal justice system more citizen-friendly by introducing measures such as online filing of FIRs, digital evidence submission, and video conferencing for court proceedings. By leveraging modern technologies, the aim is to streamline procedures for investigation, arrest, bail, trial, and appeal in criminal cases. Additionally, the introduction of new offenses like terrorism, secession, and subversion reflects an effort to address contemporary challenges and ensure that the legal framework remains relevant in a rapidly evolving societal landscape. With provisions allowing FIRs to be filed online and enabling individuals to approach any police station within their state or Union Territory, regardless of the location of the crime, barriers to accessing legal recourse are expected to diminish. Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH

Shajahan Sheikh to be arrested in 7 days: TMC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Feb 26: Senior TMC leader Kunal Ghosh Monday said party strongman Shajahan Sheikh, who has been accused of sexual atrocities and land grabbing in West Bengal's Sandeshkhali, will be arrested in seven days, asserting that the party doesn't support culprits.



The TMC leader's assertion comes immediately after the Calcutta High Court clarified that there is no stay on the arrest of Shajahan.

"About the arrest of Shajahan Sheikh, Abhishek Banerjee is correct. The matter was stuck in the legal tangle of the court. The opposition was doing politics using this opportunity. Thanks to the high court today for clarifying the matter and allowing the police to take action. Shajahan will be arrested within seven days," Ghosh posted on X.

TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee had Sunday claimed that Shajahan could not be arrested because of legal tangles and stay on FIRs filed by the police.

Later, while addressing a press conference, Ghosh accused the opposition of politicising the court order.

"Because of the legal tangle, the state police were unable to ar-

rest Shajahan. Now with the court clarifying everything, Shajahan will be arrested very soon. We thank the high court. From the very beginning, we have been saying this. It was the ED (Enforcement Directorate) which stopped the case registered by us," he said.

West Bengal Education Minister Bratya Basu said the allegations that the TMC is trying to protect Shajahan are 'baseless'.

"If the West Bengal Police could apprehend Saradha group chairman Sudipto Sen from Kashmir, they can certainly arrest Shajahan. We have also taken action against leaders implicated in corruption cases. Therefore, there are no obstacles from the party's end or from the administration preventing the

arrest of Shajahan Sheikh," Basu said at the press conference.

Saradha group chairman Sudipto Sen was accused in a ponzi scam.

The High Court Monday directed that Shajahan, the Enforcement Directorate, the Central Bureau of Investigation, and the state home secretary be implicated as parties in the suo motu matter initiated on the allegations of sexual atrocities on women and the land grab of tribal people.

Ghosh accused the BJP of trying to vitiate the atmosphere of Sandeshkhali.

"There is no harm in the BJP delegation visiting the spot. But every day these leaders are visiting the area and trying to vitiate the atmosphere," he said.

PM's Kerala visits spark political fervour

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Feb 26: Ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is making his third visit to Kerala in less than two months with the aim of fulfilling his dream of ending the electoral drought for the BJP in the southern state, where the party has historically faced challenges in winning elections.

Almost a year ago, Modi unveiled his party's aspiration to secure power in Kerala. The announcement, made on March 2, 2023, came following the BJP's notable performance in elections within the Christian-majority states of Nagaland and Meghalaya, boosting confidence within the party.

According to party sources, Modi is scheduled to arrive in the Kerala state capital Tuesday for an official programme, where he will also participate in the concluding ceremony of the 'padayatra' organised by the BJP's state unit.

While the state BJP is elated by the back-to-back visits of the Prime Minister to Kerala, hoping to win a few seats in the Lok Sabha polls in the southern state, both the CPI(M) and the Congress assert that the lotus will not bloom in the muddy political waters of the southern state.

Encouraged by the Prime Minister's flurry of visits to Kerala as the state braces for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, Sandeep Vachaspathi, spokesperson of Kerala BJP, expressed confidence in the party's prospects, citing increased focus from the central leadership and



growing acceptance of Modi among Keralites.

Vachaspathi claimed that Modi's appeal is transcending religious and sectarian lines.

He dismissed concerns about past electoral setbacks, banking on Modi's charisma to overcome obstacles and secure electoral success for the BJP in Kerala. The BJP functionary said that their duty is to meet Modi's expectations, noting a rise in the PM's popularity among Kerala's people.

"According to surveys, about 40 per cent of voters in the state see Modi as the next Prime Minister of India," he claimed.

Vachaspathi said that a noticeable change is visible in favour of the BJP on the ground compared to the 2014 and 2019

elections.

The BJP functionary expressed confidence in Modi's appeal, claiming that minorities in Kerala, a significant portion of the population, will support him due to his universal acceptance and non-sectarian image.

However, the Congress and the CPI(M) remain steadfast in their anti-BJP stance.

Senior CPI(M) leader MA Baby accused the BJP of employing a strategy of persuasion and coercion to attract parties outside the NDA fold and said this would not work in Kerala.

He claimed that while such tactics have yielded some gains for the BJP through opportunistic policies, he condemned the approach as manipulative.

Baby criticised the BJP's re-

cruitment of Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, formerly of the Congress, as an example of this alleged political opportunism.

He asserted that such tactics would not succeed in Kerala, implying that Modi is yet to understand this reality.

Dismissing the notion that Modi's personal image would sway voters in Kerala, the CPI(M) politburo member said that the BJP has only managed to secure one seat in the Kerala Assembly way back in 2016.

According to Baby, any significant breakthrough for the BJP in Kerala would require cooperation from the Congress and the UDF, which he doubted would occur due to the risk of damaging their credibility.

"Therefore, the repeated visits by Modi would not pose a threat to the CPI(M) and its allies in Kerala," he told PTI.

Senior Congress leader Kodikkunnil Suresh reiterated the state's resistance to the BJP, citing concerns among minorities about their safety under BJP rule.

"Let Modi come to Kerala many times; there will not be any change in the anti-BJP approach of the people of the state. Because the majority of voters align with the democratic-secular sections of society," he said.

Suresh, one of the senior most members in the Lok Sabha, criticised Modi's alleged inaction on issues like the Manipur violence, asserting that the BJP's attempts to court the Christian community would falter due to apprehensions about right-wing groups.

Kerala last outpost of religious harmony: CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thrissur, Feb 26: Kerala is the last outpost of religious harmony, coexistence and brotherhood, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said Sunday and urged the cultural leaders to combat communalism and fascism in the country.

Vijayan said the cultural history of the country was rich with diversity. Its democracy will slip into fascism when a culture of uniformity is imposed, he added.

The Chief Minister was speaking at a Face-to-Face Programme with people from the culture sector in the state as part of the Nava Kerala Sadas, government's public outreach programme.

He said democracy slips



into fascism when a culture of uniformity such as one language, one culture, one religion, are imposed and added that the spirit of federalism should be protected in the cultural sector as well.

"Kerala is the last outpost of religious harmony, coexistence and brotherhood. It must not be lost. We must be able to strengthen the emotion that is India while preserving the innate culture of Kerala," the

Left leader said.

He said during the deliberations on the future of Kerala, the opinions of those from the cultural field should be considered with utmost importance.

"Effective intervention from the cultural sector is essential to combating the destructive communalism that is gaining ground in contempo-

rary India," Vijayan said.

He said it was political and cultural brotherhood that has made Kerala what it is today.

"If art and the artist want to survive, if the writings and the writers need to survive, we need to combat the forces that destroy the very foundation of unity among the people. There is no point in talking about freedom of expression once fascism reaches our doorstep," he added.

Vijayan said Kerala has a Leftist mindset which has led to the development and high standard of living which is better than most of the states.

The Chief Minister also listed out the various initiatives taken by the Left government to protect and promote the art and culture in the state.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
WALK-IN-INTERVIEW
FOR ENGAGEMENT OF TEACHERS IN MIXED HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL AT KHURDA ROAD ON CONTRACT BASIS

Employment Notice No.ECoR/Pers/04/Engagement/Contract Teacher/24, Dated, 21.02.2024

THE KHURDA ROAD RAILWAY DIVISION IS INVITING APPLICATION FROM WILLING, ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES FOR ENGAGEMENT AS TEACHERS (PGT/TGT) ON CONTRACTUAL BASIS IN THE MIXED HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL, JATNI.

| Name of the Posts | No. of Posts |
|---|--------------|
| POST GRADUATE TEACHER (PGT) | 02 |
| TRAINED GRADUATE TEACHER (TGT) (English Medium) | 01 |
| TRAINED GRADUATE TEACHER (TGT) (Odia Medium) | 04 |

VENUE, DATE AND TIME FOR WALK-IN-INTERVIEW:-

| VENUE | DATE & TIME |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| OFFICE OF THE SENIOR DIVISIONAL PERSONNEL OFFICER, KHURDA ROAD DIVISION, JATNI-752050 | ON 06.03.2024 (Wednesday) 1000 HRS. |

NB: For Remuneration, Application Format, Educational Qualification/ Eligibility, Age, Period of Engagement, & other detailed terms and conditions, candidates may please refer to the official website: www.eastcoastrail.indianrailways.gov.in → About us → Division → Khurda Road Division → Recruitment.

PR-1118/O/23-24 Sr. Divisional Personnel Officer, Khurda Road

PLIGHT OF TRIBALS IN SUNDARBANS

ST panel issues notices to Centre, Bengal govt



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 26: The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes has issued notices to the Centre and the West Bengal government, seeking factual and action-taken reports on the issues of child marriage, human trafficking, human-wildlife conflict and corruption plaguing the state's Sundarbans region.

The commission issued the notices last week following a representation from rights activist and Supreme Court lawyer Radhakanta Tripathy. The tribal population (2,11,927) in the region, comprising primarily the Munda, Santhal, Bhumij and Oraon tribes, remains marginalised despite being the earliest settlers, Tripathy said in his representation to the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST). He highlighted that child marriages were prevalent in the Sundarbans, a cluster of low-lying islands in the Bay of Bengal famous for its unique mangrove forests. It is common for girls to marry at 15-16 years. Around 15 cases of underage marriages are reported annually in the Hasnabad panchayat, Tripathy

said, adding that conservative attitudes contribute to the high rate of child marriages. Human trafficking is a major concern, with West Bengal ranking second in the number of missing women and girls, the activist said.

According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), 1,56,905 women and 36,606 girls were reported missing in the state in 2019-20. "Traffickers exploit economic needs, dysfunctional families, romantic relationships, and mental disorders. Lack of education and poor socio-economic conditions in North 24 Parganas villages are major factors," the representation said.

The rights activists said the struggle for survival of indigenous people in the Indian Sundarbans, home to over 100 tigers, is intensified by environmental challenges, leading to human-animal conflicts and hardships for affected families. He pointed out that illegal construction and environmental violations in Ramsar sites, including the East Kolkata Wetlands and the Sunderbans, have been highlighted in a recent audit report by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG).

Human-animal conflict: Kerala sees decline in fatalities

THE HILLY DISTRICT OF WAYANAD HAS BECOME THE CORE AREA FOR HUMAN-ANIMAL CONFLICT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Feb 26: Amid escalating protests against wild animal attacks threatening lives and property in Kerala, particularly in the hilly district of Wayanad, recent data from the State Forest Department shows that human fatalities resulting from such encounters have notably declined over the past three years.

According to Forest department data available with the PTI, the number of fatalities due to elephant attacks in Kerala during the period 2023-2024 decreased compared to numbers recorded in 2021-2022.

In Kerala, 17 people lost their lives in elephant attacks during 2023-2024. This is a decrease from the 27 deaths reported in 2022-2023 and 35 in 2021-2022, it says.

These numbers, when compared to states like Odisha, Jharkhand and Karnataka, that are infamous for human-animal conflict, are much lesser. According to Forest sources in Jharkhand, over 100 people are killed annually in elephant attacks on an average.

The Karnataka Forest department reported 148 human fatalities due to human-elephant conflict in the last five years.

Additionally, Odisha, Assam,



and West Bengal collectively lost 499, 385, and 358 people, respectively, in human-animal conflicts over the same five-year period, as stated by the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests in response to an RTI query.

The Kerala Forest department data shows that over the past five years, fatalities from wild boar attacks have shown a significant increase in the state.

In 2016-2017, only four human casualties were reported in wild boar attacks, but by 2023-2024, this number had risen to 11, revealed the data.

Conversely, tiger attacks have resulted in one death per year for the last four years. Additionally, in 2023-2024, three deaths were reported due to Indian gaur attacks.

According to the data, instances of injuries in wild animal attacks have also decreased.

The highest number of injuries was reported during the 2020-2021 period, with 988 cases recorded. However, this number decreased to 758 during the 2021-2022 period, says the data.

Officials have highlighted that current data includes snake bite deaths in the tally of fatalities from wild animal attacks, potentially leading to a misleading perception of the numbers.

In Kerala, the hilly district of Wayanad has become the core area for human-animal conflict. Similar cases are also reported in Aralam in Kannur, Coimbatore-Palakkad border areas and in various areas of Idukki district.

Amid heightened protests in Wayanad following the recent deaths of two persons in elephant attacks, state forest officials underscored the necessity for coordinated efforts among all departments to prevent such incidents.

"Prevention of human-animal conflict is not an exclusive forest department work. Many other departments like revenue, LS GD and police also have an active role. All these departments have been working together with us to do whatever best we could do," D Jayaprasad, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden (PCCF&CWW), Kerala told PTI.

"We are implementing mitigation measures, including the development of a 'smart-fence'

system for tigers and elephants, with a model set to be erected in the Chethalayam range in Wayanad," said Jayaprasad, who was present in Wayanad during violent protests triggered by recent elephant attacks resulting in two fatalities.

He said that the Kerala Forest Department has also urged a team from the Ministry of Environment and Forests, which has arrived in Wayanad, to conduct an animal carrying capacity study not only within the hill district but also in the neighbouring forest areas of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

"We have told them that if the study finds excess animals above the carrying capacity, then we will translocate them," he added.

The official said there has been a remarkable improvement in the dispensation of compensation to the livestock and crop loss in wildlife attacks.

"Not even a penny will be pending towards compensation payment. All the backlogs have been cleared by the present government and we are getting excellent support from the Chief Minister to find a solution for the problem," Jayaprasad added.

"We have proposed a 50 per cent hike in compensation for fatal attacks and a two-fold increase in damage compensation to agriculture. This proposal is now under the consideration of the cabinet," another official said.

According to conservation and animal experts, the government and its departments only look for temporary solutions based on the intensity of the public protest.



Farmers holding flags shout slogans against corporate houses during a protest, as part of their 'Delhi Chalo' march, near the Punjab-Haryana Shambhu border, in Patiala district of Punjab



A displaced Palestinian girl, who fled her house due to Israeli strikes, feeds her brother at a tent camp, near the border with Egypt, in Rafah, southern Gaza Strip



Garrett Dong, of Ventura, California, paddle boards in an inflatable dinosaur costume at Lake Manly, a temporary lake formed by heavy rainstorms, at Death Valley National Park, California



Women from Nonia, Bind and Beldar communities take part in a 'Belan Rally' demanding Scheduled Tribes status for their communities, in Patna



Journalists wearing a black cloth tied on their mouth during their silent protest against killing of journalists on International Day for Palestinian Journalists organised by the Tripura Journalists Union (TJU), in Agartala



Upper primary teachers' aspirants stage a demonstration demanding their recruitment in Kolkata



Devotees dressed as Lord Hanuman pose for photographs as they take part in a procession in Amritsar



Followers of former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro rally to express their support for him in Sao Paulo, Brazil

REUTERS/PTI PHOTOS

national



BJP is brazenly weaponising passports, revoking OCI cards & imposing illegal travel bans to harass & punish its critics
MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP PRESIDENT

NEW INITIATIVE

Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang Monday announced a new scheme under which the government will make a fixed deposit of Rs 10,800 in the name of a newborn



Hindu prayers to continue in Gyanvapi cellar: HC

A survey conducted by the Archaeological Survey of India on the court's order had suggested that the Gyanvapi mosque was constructed during Mughal emperor Aurangzeb's rule over the remains of a Hindu temple

Prayagraj, Feb 26: Hindu prayers will continue in the southern cellar of the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi, the Allahabad High Court said Monday while dismissing a plea that had challenged the district court's order to this effect. Justice Rohit Ranjan Agarwal rejected two appeals filed by the mosque management committee challenging the Varanasi district judge's January 17 order that appointed the district magistrate as the receiver of the "Vyas Tehkhana" or southern cellar of the mosque and January 31 order by which he allowed 'puja' to be performed there.

The High Court said worship will continue in the "Vyas Tehkhana" of the mosque adjacent to the Kashi Vishwanath temple. Mohammad Yasin, joint secretary of Anjuman Intezamia Masajid, the committee that manages the affairs of the Gyanvapi, said that their lawyers are studying the judgement and they might approach the Supreme Court against the order. Dismissing the appeals, Justice Agarwal said, "After going through the entire records of the case and considering the arguments of the parties concerned, the court did not find any ground to interfere in the judgment passed by the district judge on January 17, appointing the Varanasi dis-



Security personnel deployed near Gyanvapi mosque area after the Allahabad High Court refused to put a stay on the ongoing puja inside the mosque, in Varanasi, Monday

trict magistrate as the receiver of the property, as well as the order dated January 31 by which the district court permitted puja in the tehkhana." Going through the argument made by the Muslim side that the January 31 order was passed without any application, the High Court said, "In the instant case, by order dated January 17 the composite prayer made in application was allowed, but only relief (a) was incorporated appointing receiver. Relief (b) allowing worship was added on January 31, 2024 after it was brought to the notice of the Court and order stood modified/amended in terms of Sections 151/152 CPC."

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, MOHANA
No. 1247 **OFFICE ORDER** Date: 23.02.2024
No. O-2637: The tender for the following work, invited vide this office Online Tender Bid Identification No. 17/MOHANA/2023-24 is hereby cancelled due to first time single tender.
1. S/R to RD Road to Palapur road for the year 2023-24.
Sd./- Superintending Engineer
RW Division, Mohana
OIPR-25148/11/0042/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (AGRI.) DHENKANAL DIVISION, DHENKANAL
No. 188 Date: 22.02.2024
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) e-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification Number / Tender Call Notice No. E E (A) D/D - 06 of 2023-24
No. L-239: The Executive Engineer (Agril.), Dhenkanal Division, Dhenkanal who has been authorized as the procuring officer for the projects of Dhenkanal Division, Dhenkanal is directed to invite percentage rate bid on behalf of the Governor of Odisha for the Civil construction works under Dhenkanal Division. The costs of the projects are approximately from 10.00 lakhs to 45.00 lakhs. Bid document consisting of detailed tender call notice, the schedule of quantities and the set of terms and conditions of the contract and other necessary documents can be downloaded from www.tendersorissa.gov.in from 26.02.2024 at 10.00 hours to 01.03.2024 at 16.00 hours. The bid will be opened on 02.03.2024 at 03.30 P.M. in the O/o, Executive Engineer (Agril.), Dhenkanal Division, Dhenkanal. All other details regarding term and conditions, corrigendum from time to time if any, DTCN etc. can be seen and downloaded from www.tendersorissa.gov.in.
Email ID: eeagri.dhenkanal@gmail.com
Sd./- Executive Engineer (Agril.)
Dhenkanal Division, Dhenkanal
OIPR-01446/11/0008/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RWS&S DIVISION, SUNDARGARH "e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No.18 of 2023-24
Letter No.326 Dated: 21.02.2024
No. O-2641: The Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Sundargarh on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites bids in Single Cover System from bidders registered with Central Government/MES/Railways and other state government having validity of Civil License for execution of the works detailed in the table below.

| | |
|---|---|
| Nature of Work | : Pipe Water Supply Schemes & Solar Dual Pump |
| No. of Tender | : 04 Nos. |
| Tender Paper Cost | : 6,000/- |
| Class of Contractor | : 'C' & 'B' |
| Date and Time of availability of bid document in the portal | : Dt. 28.02.2024 at 10.00 AM to Dt. 11.03.2024 upto 5.00 PM |
| Date of Opening of Technical Bid | : Dt. 12.03.2024 at 11.00 AM |

The Bidders have to participate in online bidding only. Further details and any type of corrigendum can be seen from the Govt. Website <http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>.
The authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
Sd./- Superintending Engineer
RWS&S Division, Sundargarh
OIPR-25009/11/0003/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS' EMPOWERMENT OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (AGRI.) SOUTHERN ZONE, BRAHMAMPUR, RITE CAMPUS, RENGEILUNDA, GANJAM No. 171 Date: 22.02.2024
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) e-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification Number / Tender Call Notice No. SE(A) SI-Z/07 of 2023-24
No. L-240: The Superintending Engineer (Agril.), Southern Zone, Brahmampur who has been authorized as the procuring officer for the projects of Southern Zone, Brahmampur is directed to invite percentage rate bid on behalf of the Governor of Odisha for the Civil construction works (including IE and PH works) under Southern Zone. The costs of the projects is around 119 Lakhs (Excluding GST & LC). Bid document consisting of detailed tender call notice, the schedule of quantities and the set of terms and conditions of the contract and other necessary documents can be downloaded from <https://tendersodisha.gov.in> from 26.02.2024 at 11.00 hours to 09.03.2024 at 17.30 hours. The bid will be opened on 13.03.2024 at 11.30 hours onwards in the O/o, Superintending Engineer (Agril.), Southern Zone, Brahmampur, RITE Campus, Rengeilunda. All other details regarding term and conditions, corrigendum from time to time if any, DTCN etc. can be seen and downloaded from <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>.
Sd./- Superintending Engineer (Agril.)
Southern Zone, Brahmampur
OIPR-01504/11/0009/2324

'Made mistake by retweeting video defaming BJP'

New Delhi, Feb 26: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Monday told the Supreme Court that he made a mistake by retweeting an allegedly defamatory video circulated by YouTuber Dhruv Rathee related to the BJP IT Cell. A bench of Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Dipankar Datta, without issuing notice on a plea of Kejriwal challenging a Delhi High Court order which upheld summons issued to him as an accused in the criminal defamation case, asked the complainant whether he wanted to close the matter in view of the Chief Minister's apology. The bench also asked the trial court not to take up the defamation case involving Kejriwal till March 11. Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for Kejriwal, said, "I can say this much that I made a mistake by retweeting." He added that it is a case for retweeting on social media platform 'X' and the complaint filed was im-



mediately followed by recording of pre-summoning evidence. "Thereafter, the complaint was withdrawn. When it was refilled, after nine months of the retweeting, it was suppressed that the original complaint was withdrawn," the senior lawyer said. "Look, you are on a technical point, that may not be good enough," Justice Khanna said and asked Singhvi to show the picture of what was retweeted.

After perusing the retweeted message, the bench said, "When it comes to the question of retweeting, there may be two ways of looking at it. First, it may be an endorsement, which may have consequences. The other is say you spot something on the platform and share it for information. Will all these not be a matter of evidence in the case." Singhvi said that the High Court has taken a view.

Centre's flip-flop on 'Indian' recruits in Russian army

New Delhi, Feb 26: An interesting news caught the attention of many Indians this past week. It was primarily an expose about the Russian Army recruiting scores of young Indians to fight in the war against Ukraine. Those in the know were aware that modern warfare was starting to accept the existence of organizations like the Wagner group which was tasked with the initial invasion of Ukraine. Wagner was a private army headed by Yevgeny Prigozhin who later died under mysterious circumstances when his aircraft exploded before landing at Moscow. Some claim that the young Indians, aged between 22 and 31 were hired as "helpers in the military establishment in Russia". However, after the frontline death of Hemal Ashwinbhai from Gujarat last week, the matter drew serious notice globally. The Government of India first claimed

it had no knowledge of any Indian national joining the Russian Army. Later after the death of an Indian soldier it changed tack and admitted some young men had been 'duped' by recruiters and 'these Indian nationals have enlisted for support roles with the Russian Army'. The BBC has extensively reported on this issue and reports from other sources claim these men were willingly enlisted as there were no job opportunities for them at home now. The Ministry of External Affairs admitted February 26 that several Indians who joined the Russian Army were already discharged after such cases were "strongly" taken up with the Russian authorities. The Ministry said it has "seen some inaccurate reports in the media regarding Indians with the Russian Army seeking help for discharge." Under pressure of the MEA, the Russian Army has discharged these men from their duties. Now they will come back home jobless and without an income.

Government of Odisha No. O-2638 OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, JHARSUGUDA
Email: eerw_jharsuguda@yahoo.co.in, Tel.: 06645-271643
Bid Identification No. Online - SEJSG - 29 of 2023-24
NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR ROAD WORK IN ODISHA NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
1. Name of the Work : Road works as per DTCN available in the www.tendersorissa.gov.in
2. Total No. of Work : 03 (Three) Nos.
3. Estimated Cost : Rs.5.81 lakhs to 18.49 Lakhs
4. Period of Completion : 15 (Fifteen) Days
5. Period and time of availability of bid document in the portal : Dt.26.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M. to 02.03.2024 upto 05.00 P.M. for bidding
6. Date and time of bid opening : Dt.04.03.2024 at 11.00 A.M.
7. Name and address of the : S.E., R.W. Division, Jharsuguda
Officer Inviting Bid
1) Other details can be seen from detailed notice inviting tenders, available in website www.tendersorissa.gov.in.
2) Corrigendum if any shall only be published in the above website.
Sd./- Superintending Engineer
R.W. Division, Jharsuguda
OIPR-25104/11/0042/2324

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER: ATHMALLIK DIVISION
Email ID: dfo.athmallik@odisha.gov.in
Tender Notice No.1126/IF/2024
DATED, ATHMALLIK THE 26TH FEBRUARY, 2024
No.MM-479:Short Tender Notice for Purchase of Cuddy Back Camera Traps-70 Nos. for use in Athmallik Forest Division. Short Tender is hereby invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Odisha for the following works from the eligible agencies/dealer as detail below.
1. Name of the items:- Purchase of Camera Traps-70 Nos.

| Sl. No. | Name of Item | Estimated Cost (in Rs.) |
|---------|---|-------------------------|
| 1 | Purchase of Camera Trap-70 Nos. (Including accessories) @ 20,000/- per unit | 14,00,000/- |

2. Place of Work: Athmallik Forest Division. 3. Commencement of download RFP document on website: www.odishaforest.in Dt. 29.02.2024 Time: 11.00 A.M. 4. Last Date of bid submission (by messenger/courier/post): Dt. 11.03.2024 01.00 P.M., Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Athmallik Division, PO/PS- Athmallik, Pin-759125, Dist. Angul. 5. Date of General & Technical and Financial Bid opening: Dt. 11.03.2024 Time:04.00 P.M. Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Athmallik Division, PO/PS- Athmallik, Pin-759125, Dist- Angul. 6. RFP document Cost (Non-refundable): Rs. 1,000/- for each BID by DD issued by Nationalized Bank in favour of the Divisional Forest Officer, Athmallik Division, Payable at Athmallik. 7. Address for Bid submission-Office of DFO, Athmallik. 8. EMD (Refundable): Rs. 20,000/- for each BID by DD issued by Nationalized Bank in favour of the Divisional Forest Officer, Athmallik Division, Payable at Athmallik. 9. Bid validity period: Dt.25.03.2024 from the last date of submission of Bid. 10. Latest Tender document and addendum/corrigendum, if any, will be published at the websites www.odishaforest.in. 11. Disclaimer: Notwithstanding anything else contained to the contrary in this tender document, DFO Athmallik reserves the right to cancel/ withdraw/ modify fully or partially the "Invitation of Bids" or to reject one or more of the bids without assigning any reason and shall bear no liability whatsoever consequent upon such a decision.
Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer, Athmallik Division
OIPR-08125/11/0023/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION, SUNDARGARH
E.mail:rw_sundargarh@yahoo.co.in
E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE BID IDENTIFICATION NO.ONLINE-SESN-33 of 2023-24
No.O-2652:1. Name of the Work: Road Work, 2. Total No. of Works: 01 No Road 3. Estimated Cost: Rs.38.33 Lakhs, 4. Class of Contractor: Only 'C' & 'B', 5. Period of Completion: 01 Calendar Months, 6. Type of Tender: Single Cover, 7. Other details:

| Procurement Officer | Bid Identification No. | Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From | To |
|---|---------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Sundargarh | Online-SESN-33 of 2023-24 | 28.02.2024 10.00 AM | 04.03.2024 05.00 P.M. |

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in.
Sd./- Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Sundargarh
OIPR-25046/11/0046/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION, TITILAGARH
E-Mail Id: eerw_titilagarh@yahoo.co.in
e-Procurement Notice No.O-2636: IFB IDENTIFICATION NO. SETIG-Online-15/2023-24

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. Name of Work | : Building Works |
| 2. Total No. of Works | : 03 (Three) Nos. |
| 3. Approximate Estimated Cost | : Varies from Rs.2.50 to 34.50 lakhs |
| 4. Time for Completion | : 01 (One) Calendar Month |
| 5. Mode of Submission of Tender | : Tender should be submitted online in www.tenders.ori.nic.in |
| 6. Other details are as follow | : As per TCN No. SETIG-Online-15/2023-24 |

| Procurement Officer | Bid Identification No. | Availability of Tender Online for Bidding | Last date and time of seeking tender clarification | Date & time of opening of tender |
|---|--------------------------|---|--|----------------------------------|
| Superintending Engineer, R.W. Divn., Titilagarh | SETIG-Online-15/ 2023-24 | 28.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M. | 07.03.2024 upto 11.00 A.M. | 06.03.2024 at 11.30 A.M. |

• Further details can be seen from the website www.tenders.ori.nic.in
• Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above e-tender website only.
OIPR-25078/11/0019/2324 Sd./- Superintending Engineer, R.W. Division, Titilagarh

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HORTICULTURE, SAMBALPUR
No.668 Date:23.02.24
No.L-245:Office of the Deputy Director of Horticulture, Sambalpur is inviting applications from interested NGOs/ TRUSTs towards Expression of Interest (EOI) to involve in the "Strengthening of livelihoods of mission shakti WSHG members through 'promotion of agriculture production cluster in Odisha' project in selective 2 Nos. of Blocks in Sambalpur district i.e. Bamra and Jujumura from the year 2023-24 to 2027-28 (5 years) under State Scheme. The EOI of the NGOs/ TRUSTs should be submitted to the OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HORTICULTURE, Farm Road, Modipara, Sambalpur- 768002 in prescribed form with necessary enclosures on or before 11th March, 2024 by 5.00 PM through Registered Post/ Speed Post and by no other means. For application form & details please visit Website: www.sambalpur.nic.in & www.apcodisha.net
Sd./- Deputy Director of Horticulture Sambalpur
OIPR-01064/11/0001/2324

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER P.H. DIVISION, ANGUL
Ph.(06764) 296431, Email:eehangul@yahoo.in
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA Bid Identification No.SE PH Division Angul-29/2023-24,dt.23.02.2024
No.C-3225:

| | |
|---|--|
| 1. Name of the Work | : 03 (Three) Nos. |
| 2. Type of Bid | : One No single bid & two Nos double bid system |
| 3. Estimated Cost | : Rs.24.47 lakhs to Rs.118.03 Lakhs |
| 4. Period of Completion | : 03 (Three) Months |
| 5. Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal | : From 11.00 AM of 27.02.2024 to 5.00 PM of 06.03.2024 |
| 6. Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal | : 5.00 PM of 06.03.2024 |
| 7. Date & Time of opening of technical bids | : At 11.00 AM of 07.03.2024 |
| 8. Name & Address of the Officer | : Superintending Engineer P.H. Division, Angul |
| 9. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: https://tendersodisha.gov.in . Any Addendum/ Corrigendum/ Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website. | |

Sd./- (Er. Prasanta Behera) Superintending Engineer P.H. Division, Angul
OIPR-13056/11/0012/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, RAYAGADA
Phone No. (06856) 222081 (Off), E-mail:seemirgd@gmail.com
e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE BID IDENTIFICATION NO.ONLINE-14/MID RGT/2023-24 Lt.No.777// MIDRGD// date 22.02.2024
No.A-1594:The Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division, Rayagada on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids through e-procurement to be received in online mode only for the works as detailed in the table below.

| | |
|--|---|
| 1. Name of Work | : Construction of Distribution System of Nerediguda MIP in Kolnara Block of Rayagada District under District Mineral Foundation Scheme (DMF) 2023-24. |
| 2. Total No. of Works | : 01 (One) No. Only |
| 3. Estimated Cost | : Approximately Rs. 14.18 Lakhs |
| 4. Class of Contractor | : As mentioned against work |
| 5. Period of Completion | : As mentioned against work |
| 6. Date and time of availability of Bid Document in portal | : From 10.00 AM on 27.02.2024 and upto 5.30 PM on 06.03.2024 |
| 7. Last date/time for receipt of Bid Document in portal | : upto 5.30 PM on 06.03.2024 |
| 8. Date/Time of opening of Technical Bid | : From 11.00 AM on 07.03.2024 At O/o SE, M.I. Division, Rayagada on Online |
| 9. Name and Address of Officer Inviting the Bid | : Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division, Rayagada |
| 10. Mode of payment of Bid cost and Bid Security | : Online |

Sd./- Superintending Engineer M.I.Division, Rayagada
OIPR-32056/11/0016/2324

leisure



KYLIE MINOGUE ENJOYS 'LIBERTY' OF SINGLEHOOD

Pop star Kylie Minogue has revealed that she feels liberated by her single status, and is determined to embrace the freedom. The *Padam Padam* hitmaker told the *Sunday Mirror*: "I'm single and enjoying this freedom and the liberty."

JENNIFER ANISTON SPARKS ENGAGEMENT RUMOURS

Hollywood star Jennifer Aniston has sparked engagement rumours after she was seen wearing a humongous diamond ring on her left hand at the SAG Awards. The actress was nominated for her role in *The Morning Show*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
You feel lost and thoroughly depressed today. This will make you turn towards spirituality, says Ganesh. You will devote more time to meditation and will pray a lot. Despite the adverse circumstances, Ganesh says you will make a good deal of material headway.

TAURUS
Feel your imagination run wild as you star-gaze throughout the day wondering about the existence of the extra terrestrial. You will paint the workplace in your flavour of innovation, combined with a drive to work equally hard. Add some smooth talk to the equation and you will find a lot of people in awe of your charm, says Ganesh.

GEMINI
A long and hectic day awaits you. You will be in the mood to finish off long-pending projects at work or at home. There is a chance that your personal life may get affected due to the extra attention you pay towards work. You need to guard against hurting the feelings of your family members, says Ganesh.

CANCER
Ganesh advises you to be careful before signing any document. A hard time for share brokers and traders. So be on the guard during deals and transactions. Average time for business. Ganesh tells you to be self-confidence.

LEO
You will pay serious attention to your work. You will feel that you have no option but to work hard. You will not be in the mood for socialising. This is only a temporary phase, hence there is no need to worry. You will be back to your usual gregarious self in no time at all, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
Matters of religion and spirituality rise to the fore today. Throw yourself into a single-minded pursuit to be successful in your chosen field, and make the most of your skills and natural talent, says Ganesh. Matters of relationships will see you more critical and analytical than emotional.

LIBRA
Ganesh says that today you shall be very careful in money matters. It is nothing to do with miserliness at all. When buying things you will be careful while spending money and will stick to your budget. On the other hand when you are out with your loved ones you will not think about holding back and will spend lavishly. Ganesh says to take the balanced approach in everything in life and things will go well for you.

SCORPIO
It is likely that you shall learn an important lesson in life today. Remember that spite and envy beget enemies. Ganesh advises you to display some errors so as to make you seem more human and approachable.

SAGITTARIUS
You wake up with a smile today. According to Ganesh, you have a knack of solving problems, which you may use it to the optimum. Be cautious of people around you, as their envious nature may affect your work. Ignore them and keep the optimism alive.

CAPRICORN
Whether you're an artist, performer, professional or an entrepreneur, career issues will take the foreground today, while personal matters will wait in queue for your attention, says Ganesh. Your performance will be at its all-time high, and your efforts will be duly rewarded, but credit for this must go to your loved ones who will lend their unceasing support for all your endeavours.

AQUARIUS
Listen to your inner voice, follow what your heart says and you will not need anyone else guiding you on your path. At work, you will have a smooth sailing today, as superiors will be supportive of your actions and decisions. Go on a romantic date in the evening, and mark a perfect ending to the day, feels Ganesh.

PISCES
While you will need loads of moral support to keep your spirits up, you are also likely to be blessed with the company of a person who is equipped to provide just that. Positive results will come your way as long as you do not give up. Use your imagination and creativity to surge ahead of the competition, says Ganesh.

Sobhita's journey as self-made actor

Mumbai: Indian actress Sobhita Dhulipala is set to mark her Hollywood debut in Dev Patel's upcoming film, *The Monkey Man*. As she embarked on this new chapter in her career, Dhulipala took a moment to reflect on her journey.

In a recent interview, the actress opened up about her path to becoming a self-made actor in the Indian Film Industry. *The Night Manager* actress recalled, "I was not connected to the film world. My only entry point was through auditions. And at that time, I was modelling a bit. As a model, you also do auditions for ads."

On how she landed her first film *Raman Raghav 2.0* that earned her Cannes nomination, the actress shared, "I had always been a classical dancer. So creative expression was a part of my life. I just didn't know that acting could also be it; it just didn't strike me because I think we were conditioned to think of finding a job that gives me security, like academics, and then finding work that gives me financial security. So doing something in the creative field was a bit off the syllabus. But I gave myself three years, and I auditioned. I must have done 1,000 auditions in my life," she added.

The actor revealed that she got her

first film audition when there were two months left in her three-year deadline.

AGENCIES



Mumbai: Actor Rashmika Mandanna, who was last seen in Sandeep Reddy Vanga's *Animal*, has responded to comments as to why she is 'not taking ownership of her success' after the 2023 film became a blockbuster. Taking to Instagram Sunday, Rashmika said she had to be back on the set of an upcoming film just a day after *Animal*'s release December 1, 2023. She wrote, "Hi guys! I wanted to just talk about is the topic that was going around saying 'she's not taking ownership of her success in *Animal* and all that'." Elaborating more, she added, "Ok, here's the thing. 1- I know it comes from a place of love, concern, and worry. We have delivered a massive film (*Animal*). I too wanted to take some time out to enjoy it. But I have no time to bask in success. I was back on set the next day of my film's release, and hence I was and am unable to do a lot of interviews or events out there. I have to do these overnight travels for work, and I am shooting for some of the biggest and most intense films in my career."

No time to bask in success: Rashmika

Article 370 banned in all Gulf nations

Mumbai: *Article 370*, actor Yami Gautam's action political thriller, has been banned in the Gulf countries. While the movie has been riding high on success at the domestic and overseas box office, garnering praise from both audiences and critics alike, the ban in the Gulf is another dampener on the Hindi film industry, as it deprives audiences in the region of the opportunity to experience an Indian cinematic offering, which has been widely lauded.

The film primarily explores universal human experiences within the framework of a complex socio-political landscape. Themes of identity, struggle, and resilience resonate deeply throughout the narrative as it delves into the aspirations and challenges faced by individuals amidst turbulent times, fostering understanding and dialogue in the process.



The ban in Gulf countries comes as a surprise, particularly considering the region's thriving tourism industry and the continued presence of Indian movies being filmed there. The disparity between Bollywood's contribution to the Gulf's entertainment industry and the lack of access to Indian films in its theatres is glaring. While Indian cinema enjoys a dedicated fan base in the region, the absence of films like *Article 370* emphasizes a concerning trend of censorship and limited cultural exchange, as per a statement.

Pankaj Udhas: A melodious life lived well



Mumbai: Pankaj Udhas earned his first accolade as a singer when he was 11 years old. He sang the patriotic

song *Ae Mere Watan Ke Logon* at a public event in his hometown Rajkot when the Sino-Indian War was raging in 1962, and he so impressed a member of the audience that he gifted the young singer what was then a princely sum of Rs 51. Pankaj, who passed Monday, however, had not planned to become a singer. He was training to play the tabla at the Sangeet Natya Academy in Rajkot. Born in Jetpur, Rajkot, 1951, Pankaj moved away from his initial love for playing the tabla to training in Hindustani classical music first from Ghulam Qadir Khan and then under the tutelage of Navrang Nagpurkar from the formidable Gwalior gharana. He, however, was not destined

to be on the fringes of the world of music like his brothers, Manohar and Nirmal. He saw a career path in ghazals, for which he started learning Urdu, and by the closing years of the 1970s, he was good enough to be invited to perform at concerts in Canada and the US.

In 1986, Pankaj received an opportunity to sing for Mahesh Bhatt's crime thriller *Naam* starring Kumar Gaurav and Sanjay Dutt in the lead. It went on to become a blockbuster. It was for *Naam* that Pankaj Udhas sang himself into the history books with his soulful *Chitthi Aayee Hai*, the anthem of successive generations of the South Asian diaspora. BBC Radio named it one of the 100 songs of the millennium worldwide. Ironically, the singer had initially been reluctant to sing the song that defined

the career. In 1990, he sang the melodious duet *Mahiya Teri Kasam*, another chart-topper with Lata Mangeshkar for Sunny Deol-starrer *Ghayal*. It was followed in 1994 by the song *Na Kajre Ki Dhar*, from another blockbuster *Mohra*. In the early days of television, he mentored a talent hunt programme for Sony Entertainment Television, and one of his finds was John Abraham, then a model, who got his first acting break in the music video for another Pankaj Udhas classic, *Chupke Chupke*.

Some may now say Pankaj Udhas left too early, but he had a crowded career and has left behind a legacy of memorable songs that will far outlive him and the generation that grew up with him.

PEANUTS



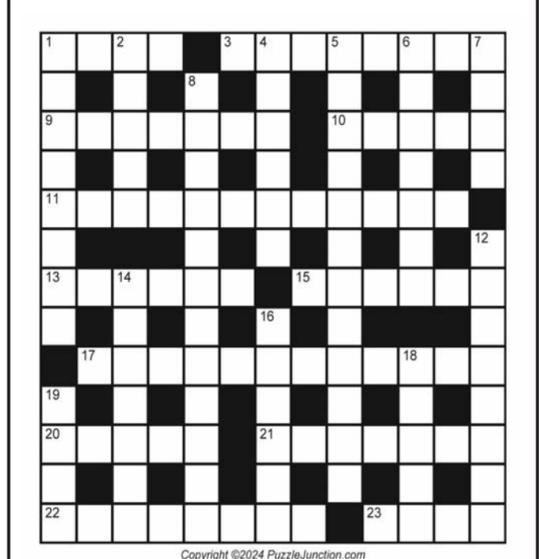
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post CROSSWORD



- Copyright ©2024 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Camera setting
 - 3 Type of saw
 - 9 No longer in existence
 - 10 Country album?
 - 11 Money transporters (8,4)
 - 13 Chickpea, e.g.
 - 15 Nagana carrier
 - 17 Starved
 - 20 Echo, for one
 - 21 Imposing house
 - 22 Sweat
 - 23 Shag rugs of Sweden
 - 5 Derrière
 - 6 Perpetrator
 - 7 Ivory source
 - 8 Show-off's practice (3-9)
 - 12 Impasses (4,4)
 - 14 Linguistics teacher's forte
 - 16 Cardiac problem
 - 18 Hirsute
 - 19 Ginger cookie

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R | L | S | T | P | G |
| S | U | D | O | K | A |
| I | D | N | P | I | A |
| S | N | U | G | B | L |
| E | E | R | O | D | |
| E | M | E | S | N | I |
| P | R | O | B | E | X |
| L | A | S | T | C | A |
| P | A | T | O | E | |
| T | I | M | E | R | L |
| N | E | R | L | T | E |

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



India is in multiple sweet spots. From geostrategic to demographics, there are plenty of well-discussed motivating factors for global investors to look at India favourably

TAIMUR BAIG | MD AND CHIEF ECONOMIST, DBS GROUP RESEARCH

JSL 1ST GREEN H2 PLANT INAUGURATION TODAY

Union Minister Jyotiraditya M Scindia will Tuesday inaugurate the stainless steel industry's first green hydrogen project set up by Jindal Stainless Ltd (JSL). With the inauguration, JSL will become India's first stainless steel company to install such kind of plant on a commercial scale, the officials said



of the day quote

The rapidly growing fintech industry has faced more regulatory scrutiny over the years as with other emerging new-age digital sectors of the economy. As the government has been supportive of the startup ecosystem, it is taking a balanced approach to ensure that the regulatory environment would foster innovation

BIPIN PREET SINGH | CEO, MOBIKWIK

The global challenges posed by high interest rates, macroeconomic uncertainty, and geopolitical risks, that characterised 2023 are expected to continue into 2024 as well

SUMEET SALWAN | PARTNER, DELOITTE INDIA

While the overall PV volume is seen rising 5-7 per cent next fiscal, we expect demand for SUVs to accelerate at twice the pace at over 12 per cent, driven by an array of feature-laden launches at competitive price points, varied technology options including hybrid and electric, and increased access to credit

ANJU SETHI | SENIOR DIRECTOR, CRISIL RATINGS

Sharma steps down as PPBL chairman

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Feb 26: Vijay Shekhar Sharma has stepped down as part-time non-executive Chairman of Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL), and the board of the bank has been reconstituted.

The Reserve Bank has barred the PPBL from accepting deposits and credits from any customer post-March 15 for persistent non-compliances and continued material supervisory concerns in the bank.

PPBL has reconstituted its Board of Directors with the appointment of Ex-Central Bank of India Chairman Srinivasan Sridhar, retired IAS officer Debendranath Sarangi, former Executive Director of Bank of Baroda Ashok Kumar Garg, and former IAS officer Rajni Sekhri Sibal, Paytm said in a regulatory filing Monday.

These persons had recently joined as Independent Directors, it said.

One 97 Communications Ltd (OCL) is the owner of the Paytm brand.

"The company has been separately informed that Vijay Shekhar Sharma has also resigned from the Board of Paytm Payments Bank to enable this transition. PPBL has informed us that they will commence the process of appointing a new Chairman," the filing said.

OCL supports PPBL's move of opting for a board with only independent and executive di-



rectors by removing its nominee, it added.

"PPBL's future business to be led by a reconstituted Board," the filing stated.

Meanwhile, the troubled firm is likely to partner with Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, State Bank of India and Yes Bank for processing transactions via the popular unified payments interface (UPI), two sources aware of the development said.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), last week, asked the NPCI to examine a request from Paytm to become a third party application provider and to facilitate four-to-five banks to act as service providers for it.

"Talks to onboard banking partners are on, and Paytm wants to start this process with large banks that have the technological bandwidth to handle large volumes seamlessly," one of the sources said.

FOOD STOCKPILE ISSUE

India seeks permanent solution at WTO meet

Despite having a clear mandate agreed by the members in the past, the public food stockpile issue continues to be a long-pending problem for the last few decades

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 26: India Monday called on WTO members to find a permanent solution to the long-pending public food stockpile issue, saying it is directly related to achieving the sustainable development goal of zero hunger by 2030.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said that the World Trade Organisation (WTO) should not negotiate rules on non-trade-related subjects like climate change, gender, and labour and rather these should be addressed in respective inter-governmental organizations.

"I re-emphasize that the development agenda would remain incomplete without a permanent solution on public stockholding (PSH) for food security purposes which is directly related to achieving the Sustainable Development Goal of Zero Hunger by 2030," Goyal said.



India firmly believes that any measures taken to combat climate change, including unilateral ones, should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade

PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

"This continues to be a long-pending issue for the last few decades and despite having a clear mandate agreed by the members in the past, finding a permanent solution on PSH remains an unaccomplished agenda on which we have to deliver in MC13".

Trade ministers of 164 WTO-member countries are gathering in Abu Dhabi for the 13th ministerial conference (MC13). The highest decision-making body started the four-day meet

on February 26 in the UAE.

The PSH programme is a policy tool under which the government procures crops like rice and wheat from farmers at the minimum support price (MSP) and stores and distributes food-grain to the poor.

Under the global trade norms, a WTO member country's food subsidy bill should not breach the limit of 10 per cent of the value of production based on the reference price of 1986-88.

India has been seeking amendments to the formula for calculating the food subsidy cap.

As an interim measure, the WTO members at the Bali ministerial meeting in December 2013 had agreed to put in place a mechanism popularly called the Peace Clause and committed to negotiating an agreement for a permanent solution.

Under the Peace Clause, WTO members agreed to refrain from challenging any breach of the prescribed ceiling by a developing nation at the dispute settlement forum of the WTO. This clause will be there till a permanent solution is found to the food stockpiling issue.

Goyal also said that in India, fishermen largely undertake sustenance fishing which addresses hunger, poverty, food and nutrition insecurity of millions of traditional fishers.

Khimji marks first anniv of Puri store



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 26: Khimji Jewellers has unveiled a spectacular offer for its esteemed clientele in celebration of the first anniversary of their Puri store.

Customers are invited to join a unique shopping experience with an exclusive flat 50% discount on making charges for gold and diamond jewellery at the Puri store till March 3.

Mitesh Khimji, Managing Director of Khimji Jewellers, expressed the sentiment behind this exclusive offer, stating, "The first anniversary of our Puri store marks an important occasion for us, highlighting the potency of this vibrant market. We are deeply grateful to our customers for their unwavering trust and support over the past year. As we celebrate this milestone, we are thrilled to extend this exclusive deal to our valued customers. Our brand, with a relentless focus on customer satisfaction, strives to exceed expectations by catering to unique preferences and needs. The 50% discount on making charges not only makes our exquisite jewellery more accessible but also pays homage to the enduring legacy of craftsmanship and elegance that defines Khimji Jewellers."

DSPL-732

ସଶକ୍ତ ଓଡ଼ିଶା, ସମୃଦ୍ଧ ଓଡ଼ିଶା

ଗରିବ ସାମାଜିକରୁ ଉପରକୁ ଉଠିଛନ୍ତି ଏ କୋଟିରୁ ଉର୍ଦ୍ଧ୍ୱ ଲୋକ

ଦକ୍ଷ ଆର୍ଥିକ ପରିଚାଳନାରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଅଗ୍ରଣୀ

ତୁରନ୍ତ ହୋଇଛି
ବିକାଶମୂଳକ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ

ବୃଦ୍ଧି ପାଇଛି
ନିୟୁକ୍ତି ସୁଯୋଗ

ସୁଦୃଢ଼ ହୋଇଛି
ଆର୍ଥିକ ସ୍ଥିତି

ସୂଚନା ଓ ଲୋକସମ୍ପର୍କ ବିଭାଗ

OIPR-1500113/0479/2324

SUPREMACY CONTINUES

'BAZBALL' MEETS ITS MATCH AS INDIA SECURE 17TH STRAIGHT TEST SERIES WIN AT HOME AFTER WINNING THE 4TH TEST, COURTESY GILL AND JUREL, BY 5 WICKETS TO TAKE AN UNASSAILABLE 3-1 LEAD IN 5-MATCH SERIES AGAINST ENGLAND

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Feb 26: India's home supremacy weathered the 'Bazball' storm as Rohit Sharma's men secured a hard-fought five-wicket win over England in the fourth and penultimate Test for a 17th consecutive series triumph in their own backyard here Monday, handing a harsh reality check to the visitors' unidimensional approach.

Overnight 40/0 in a chase of 192 here, India romped home after surviving a few hiccups with the opening duo of skipper Rohit Sharma (55, 81b, 5x4, 1x6) and Yashasvi Jaiswal (37, 44b, 5x4) providing the perfect platform for others to build with their 84-run stand on day four of the match.

There were some jitters after the two departed in close succession followed by Rajat Patidar and Ravindra Jadeja's dismissal but Shubman Gill (52 n o, 124b, 2x6) and Dhruv Jurel (39 n o, 77b, 2x4) guided the side past the finishing line with an unbeaten 72-run partnership.

Left-arm spinner Tom Hartley (1/64) took the prized scalp of Rohit, while Shoaib Bashir was the most successful English bowler, scalping 3/79 in the second innings for a match haul of eight wickets.

India lead 3-1 in the series with the last game scheduled in Dharamsala from March 7. The team's last home series loss was a 1-2 defeat to an Alastair Cook-led England in 2012-13. Since

17 Consecutive Test series wins for India at home, a streak that began by defeating Australia in 2013. The next longest series-winning spree at home is 10 series by Australia between 1994-2000 and 2004-2008

30 India continued their unbeaten record while chasing targets of 200 runs or less in home Tests. India have won 30 of the 33 home Tests where they have had to chase a target of 200 or lower, while the other three Tests ended in draws within 70 runs of the target

971 Runs aggregated by Yashasvi Jaiswal in his eight-match Test career so far - most runs by an India batter after eight Tests, surpassing the 938 runs by Sunil Gavaskar. Jaiswal's tally is also the second-highest by any batter in their first eight Tests, behind only Don Bradman's 1210



JOB DONE: Shubman Gill and Dhruv Jurel smile while walking off the field after guiding India home in Ranchi

then, India have won 39 out of 50 Tests at home.

The host team's victory marked a stunning downfall for 'Bazball', which has been a much-hyped winning mantra for England since 2022 and is now facing all-round criticism for being too rigid and lacking in depth.

Conceptualised after the appointment of Brendon McCullum as coach and Ben Stokes as captain, England's plan to attack

irrespective of circumstances found its match in the unflappable approach of the Indians.

While the visitors remained stubborn barring the conservative Joe Root here, the Indians adapted and refused to be bogged down by setbacks.

The result, England would be going back with their first series defeat under Stokes and McCullum. It is also the first

time they have lost three back-to-back Tests.

England's opening win in Hyderabad was expected to unsettle the home side which was already without superstar Virat Kohli, out due to personal reasons, and the injured KL Rahul.

On the contrary, the team was galvanised by the arrival of rookies, who grabbed their opportunities with both hands. Whether it was batter Sarfaraz



LEADING FROM FRONT: Skipper Rohit Sharma guides one through the off-side during his knock, Monday

Khan in Rajkot or wicketkeeper Jurel and pacer Akash Deep here, the team gained from the infusion of fresh energy.

Jurel was a key factor in ensuring series-deciding win with his gritty 90-run knock in the first innings and the solid cameo in the second essay - both efforts coming in high-pressure situations.

Monday, Rohit and Jaiswal started positively. After seeing through veteran pacer James Anderson's opening over, Rohit brought out his swat flick to dispatch the 41-year-old for a maximum over wide long-on. Bashir operated from the other end as runs came thick and fast for India, be it in singles or in boundaries.

The duo swept and reverse swept to tackle the low bounce from the spinners with Rohit playing the lead role in the partnership. He also got past 9,000 runs in first-class cricket.

With nothing going their way, Stokes brought in Root to unsettle the rhythm and the part-timer did just that by exploiting the rough against the Indian left-hander. Jaiswal failed to control his inside-out shot and Anderson pulled off an absolute stunner with a forward diving catch at backward point.

Stokes was quick to take Root out of the attack and operated with his two spin twins in Bashir and Hartley, who did a decent

job in stopping the run flow. Hartley was rewarded for his miserly spell with the prized scalp of the Indian captain.

Rohit came down the track only to be beaten by the flight and spin from Hartley and Ben Foakes did the needful behind the stumps. Though Rohit was way out of the crease, he was adjudged caught behind after getting a faint tinkle on the way to the wicketkeeper.

Bashir sent back Jadeja and Sarfaraz off successive deliveries right after the lunch break. The Indian chase began to unravel with those dismissals but Gill and Jurel teamed up to steady the ship. And they ensured India of no further hiccups taking the hosts home comfortably.

Brief scores: England 353 & 145 lost to India 307 & 192/5 (Rohit Sharma 55, Shubman Gill 52 n o, Dhruv Jurel 39 n o, Yashasvi Jaiswal 37, Shoaib Bashir 3/79) by 5 wickets.

PRaises POUR IN

VIRAT KOHLI: YES!!! (Indian Flag). Phenomenal series win by our young team. Showed grit, determination and resilience

SACHIN TENDULKAR: The score is 3-won! India once again came back from a pressure situation and fought back to win the match. It shows the character and the mental strength of our players

MICHAEL VAUGHAN: 5 world-class players missing.. Losing the Toss.. Deficit in the 1st innings.. Full credit to India.. That's a very impressive Test victory.. A lot of new young Indian players are arriving and will be around for a long time

INDIA SECOND IN WTC STANDINGS

Dubai: India consolidated their second spot in the World Test Championship (WTC) standings following their win against England in the fourth Test in Ranchi Monday. India's point-percentage jumped from 59.52 to 64.58 following the hard-fought win and they further extended the gap with Australia (55%) and Bangladesh (50%), third and fourth-placed teams, respectively. England, on the other hand, are languishing at eighth with 19.44%, just a spot ahead of bottom-placed Sri Lanka, who are yet to open their account. India have so far played eight Tests in the current WTC cycle, winning five, losing two and drawing one match. New Zealand are leading the standing with 75 percentage points and have played just four Test so far.

WHAT THEY SAY...

It's been a very hard-fought series, so to come on the right side of it feels very good. A lot of challenges thrown at us but we responded and were quite composed. These (youngsters) guys want to be here, growing up in the domestic circuit, local club-cricket, and coming here. It's a big challenge, but the responses I get are encouraging. We have to give them the environment they want to be in, we can't just keep talking to them, they are very clear in what they want to do

Jin logon ko bhookh hai, hum unhi logon ko mauka denge (We will give opportunities to only those who are hungry). Agar hunger nahi hai to unko khila ke koi matlab nahi hai (There's point in playing those who don't have the hunger). I don't see anyone in the team here who is not hungry. All the boys who are here and also those who are



not, they all want to play. But the thing with Test cricket is that you get very few opportunities.

If you don't utilise them, they go away Test cricket is the toughest format. If you want to excel and achieve success in this format, you have to show the hunger

ROHIT SHARMA

It was a great Test match, the scoreboard doesn't give enough credit to the game as a whole, the ebbs and flows. So much credit to our spinners, being exposed to a situation like that at the start of their careers. I couldn't be more proud

BEN STOKES

I think when you are playing on a wicket like this, you just have to keep the cracks out of the game. I mean, if the ball hits the crack, you can't do much about it. But, if the ball didn't hit it, then I think it was a good wicket to bat on

SHUBMAN GILL

Troika show props DC to comprehensive win

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Feb 26: Fluent fifties by Shafali Verma and Meg Lanning and veteran pacer Marizanne Kapp's incisive new-ball spell fashioned Delhi Capitals' smooth nine-wicket victory over UP Warriorz in their Women's Premier League (WPL) match here Monday.

Shafali (64 n o, 43b, 6x4, 4x6) and skipper Lanning (51, 43b, 6x4) steamrolled UPW bowlers in a stunning display of batting as they overhauled the target in just 14.3 overs. But it was Kapp who laid the foundation of that win with a marvellous opening burst of 41-53 that saw the Warriorz getting restricted to 119/9.

Shafali, who was dropped on 48 by Kiran Navgire, and Lanning were severe on UP bowlers from the word go. However, Lanning perished when the scores were level. But the dismissal was only sufficient to delay the inevitable for a couple of minutes.



Marizanne Kapp (2nd from left) celebrates a wicket with her teammates

Earlier, Kapp vindicated Lanning's call to bowl first with stupendous figures as she bowled her full quota in a single burst. She started her destruction job getting rid of Dinesh Vindra for a naught.

McGrath was the next to depart as Kapp disturbed her stumps with a growler. Kapp inflicted an even bigger blow in her third over when she gave marching orders to Warriorz's captain Alyssa Healy. The Warriorz ended the powerplay at 21/3 and they needed a massive effort to turn the flow of the game.

However, regular fall of wickets dented Warriorz despite Shweta Sehrawat (45, 42b, 5x4, 1x6) playing couple of beefy shots. But the total was not even enough to stretch the powerful batting lineup of the Capitals on the night.

BRIEF SCORES: UPW Women 119/9 (Shweta Sehrawat 45; Radha Yadav 4/20, Marijane Kapp 3/5) lost to DC Women 123/1 (Shafali Verma 64 n o, Meg Lanning 51) by 9 wickets.

Harmanpreet confident of Team India's future

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Feb 26: Speaking exclusively to Orissa Post, on the concluding day of the FIH Pro League Sunday, Indian skipper Harmanpreet Singh exuded confidence while sharing his views on the future of the team.

"Experiments are going on right now with the combinations keeping a tab on players' ability to handle pressure, especially the youngsters. You will (definitely) see the (positive) result in coming days," said Harmanpreet.

When asked about the best and the worst thing that he and the team experienced during the tournament in the run up to the upcoming Paris Olympics, he

said: "There is no worst. We did well and learned many things despite the losses and don't forget we drew with the Netherlands and Australia."

Harmanpreet has a very good record in penalty shootout conversion. When asked why he did not take the penalty during the shootout against the Aussies and instead let others take it, he said: "I did not take part in the shootout against the Dutch also. This was a deliberate move. The whole plan was to expose the youngsters to the pressure situation and look at how they handle it."

Elaborating on the call by the team management, he further said: "They were also allowed to experience the feeling of performing in such a situation in



front of a big crowd. Here they had home fans, but in the Olympics and other important matches, they will face a different atmosphere altogether. So, they must learn and this was a chance for them to do so."

The Punjab lad had a lasting positive impression on Birsa Munda International Stadium. "This is for the third time I was playing here. This place is really amazing. It is rare to play before such a massive crowd which not only loves the game but also understands it."

India will next travel to Antwerp, Belgium where they will face the hosts and Argentina before their trip to London for their faceoffs against Germany and Great Britain in the Pro League.

Liverpool win English League Cup

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Feb 26: Jurgen Klopp just couldn't keep the smile from his face. It was deep into extra time at Wembley Sunday and the English League Cup, known as Carabao Cup, final against Chelsea was locked at 0-0. A penalty shootout loomed.

Yet, with tensions running high, Klopp turned to the Liverpool fans, savored the moment and produced that trademark toothy grin. Perhaps he knew what was coming. Virgil van Dijk was about to score a 118th-minute winner to finally break down Chelsea's resistance and secure a record-extending 10th League Cup trophy for Liverpool. Perhaps not.



Klopp is stepping down at the end of the season and this may well be his last Wembley final with the club. Victory keeps Klopp on track for a quadruple of trophies in his final year with Liverpool as he looks determined to go out on a high.

His team is currently top of the Premier League and still in contention to win the FA Cup and Europa League. But even if Klopp cannot add those trophies to the full set he has already delivered, he provided Liverpool with another memorable day at Wembley.

TRIO INVITED FOR NAT'L TRIALS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 26: The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) Monday invited protesting grapplers Bajrang Punia, Vinesh Phogat and retired Sakshi Malik to come for the national trials in March to select the team for two Asian Games competitions, including the 2024 Paris Games Qualifiers in Kyrgyzstan.

One of the conditions put by the United World Wrestling (UWW) while lifting the suspension on WFI earlier this month was that the three grapplers would not be discriminated against for protesting against former national federation chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

The three have been demanding the arrest of Brij Bhushan for his alleged sexual harassment of women wrestlers. The sports

ministry had also suspended the WFI last year in the wake of the serious allegations and instituted an ad-hoc panel to run the affairs of the sport. The ministry had also ordered fresh elections, which were held in December last year; but the newly-elected body was suspended by the ministry three days after its formation for not giving enough time to age-group wrestlers to prepare and travel before announcing the dates for the nationals. The ministry again instituted a three-member ad-hoc panel to run the affairs.

The WFI, while announcing the trials March 10-11, also included the names of Bajrang (65kg), Vinesh (55kg) and Sakshi (62kg), who had announced her retirement from the sport in "frustration" the day Sanjay Singh was elected president.