

Nora's regret
Actor Nora Fatehi says that the Hindi film industry doesn't take her seriously due to her background as a dancer

LEISURE | P2

Unusual Move
The Kerala government has petitioned the Supreme Court against President Droupadi Murmu for withholding assent to four bills passed by the state Assembly

NATIONAL | P9

EAM snubs China's claims
External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar dismisses China's repeated claims on Arunachal Pradesh

INTERNATIONAL | P10

Srikanth marches on
Kidambi Srikanth reaches Swiss Open badminton tournament semifinals, making it his first last-four stage qualification in 16 months

SPORTS | P12

- THE AWARDEES**
- ANESH AGARWAL**
Sun Automobiles (Sun Honda)
 - ANUP KUMAR BAGAI**
Khata Mitha
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 - KAMAKHYA DAS**
Kruti Coffee
 - KAUSHAL PODDAR**
Orissa Plasto Pipes
 - KOTNI TIRUMAL KUMAR**
Sridurga Retail
 - MANOJ KUMAR DASH**
Dadhichi Group of Institutions
 - NIRANJAN DASH**
Torrent Advertisers
 - PRANGYAN PARAMITA MISHRA**
Carcinova Cancer Hospital
 - RAMAWATAR AGRAWALA**
Sri Balaji Incentive Industries (Madhukunj Agarbati)
 - SANTOSH KUMAR PADHY**
Nirmalya Group of Hotels
 - SAROJ KUMAR PATRO**
Shoukeen Industries
 - SHARAT KUMAR SAHU**
Stalwart Projects
 - SITARAM AGRAWAL**
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NIST University
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Kasturi Flour Mill
 - TRINAYAN RATH**
Fast Communication
 - VIJAY DUGAR**
iDestiny

CONSISTENCY KEY TO SUCCESS



LEADERSHIP TALK: Salil Panigrahi, the Managing Director of Atmospherecore group of hotels and a prominent name in global hospitality industry, addressing the fourth edition of Business Eminence Awards at Hotel Swosti Premium in Bhubaneswar, Saturday while Orissa POST and Dharitri Editor Tathagata Satpathy and Principal Secretary of Electronics & IT Department, Government of Odisha, Manoj Kumar Mishra look on.

Bhubaneswar, March 23: Consistency is key to success and one should focus on strategic development and time management, said Salil Panigrahi, Managing Director of Atmospherecore Group of Hotels, to emerging entrepreneurs in Odisha.

Speaking as chief guest at the fourth edition of Dharitri-Orissa POST Business Eminence Awards, held at Hotel Swosti Premium here, Saturday, Bhubaneswar-born Salil, who has made a name for himself for running a chain of internationally renowned hotels and resorts in the Maldives and several other countries in South Asia, including India, said transparency and truthfulness are also important for any venture to succeed.

Addressing the gathering as chief speaker, Principal Secretary, Electronics and IT department Manoj Kumar Mishra said, "Entrepreneurship is essential to achieve economic growth and high GDP, but unfortunately people do not want to pursue that. Therefore, the new generation should be encouraged to adopt it more and more."

He applauded Orissa POST and Dharitri for setting examples by giving entrepreneurs the respect they deserve through organising the Business Eminence Awards.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

Are you sure we'll get the contracts? He is saying party doesn't keep any record of electoral bond donors!!

BJD got ₹944.5cr through bonds

Bhubaneswar, March 23: The Biju Janata Dal (BJD), led by Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, has received ₹944.5 crore through electoral bonds over the last six years from 2018-19 to 2023-24 (up to September).

Data submitted by State Bank of India to the Election Commission, now available on the ECI website, reveals the breakdown of these donations. In the initial three years, the party received ₹213.5 crore in 2018-

19, ₹50.5 crore in 2019-20, and ₹67 crore in 2020-21. Subsequently, there was a significant increase, with the following three years contributing over ₹613 crore. The highest amount was recorded in 2021-22, reaching ₹291 crore, followed by ₹170.50 crore in 2023-24 (up to September) and ₹152 crore in 2022-23.

Meanwhile, the Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) has raised concerns about the sources of these donations, particularly from mining and steel industries, urging

the BJD to disclose the reasons behind such substantial contributions via electoral bonds over the past six years.

AICC media coordinator for Odisha, Bobbeeta Sharma, remarked that the BJD has emerged as the wealthiest regional party in India within just six years, attributing this to donations from companies investing in Odisha.

"Naveen Patnaik-led BJD party has become the richest regional party in India because of companies that have invested in the state through electoral bonds within the six-year period from 2018-19 to 2023-24," she said.

Prominent corporate houses who have contributed through electoral bonds are Aditya Birla Group's Essel Mining which donated ₹174.5 crore, Utkal

Alumina (₹70 crore), Grasim Industries (₹10 crore), JSPL (₹100 crore), Rungta Sons Pvt Ltd (₹50 crore), Jindal Steel (₹30 crore), and Rashmi Group (₹90 crore), she claimed. Similarly, Rashmi Metallic Ltd has donated ₹27 crore to the BJD, while SN Mohanty has given ₹45 crore, Vedanta Ltd (₹40 crore), Penguin Trading Agency Ltd (₹30.5 crore), the Congress leader said.

However, the BJD was yet to react to the donations received through the electoral bonds.

MOSCOW CONCERT HALL DEATH TOLL 133

Moscow, March 23: The death toll in the Moscow concert hall attack has risen to 133, Russia's top state investigative agency said Saturday. The update from the Investigative Committee comes as authorities are combing the charred wreckage of the Crocus City Hall on Moscow's western edge for more victims. Officials previously put the death toll from Friday's raid at 115.

The Islamic State group's Afghanistan branch claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement posted on affiliated channels on social media. **P10**

THREE KILLED IN ROAD ACCIDENT IN JAJPUR

Jajpur: Three persons were killed in a road mishap here at Kalinga Nagar Saturday after the motorcycle they were travelling in was hit by a truck. The deceased were identified as Chakradhar Saonia of Suania village, and Anil Hansda and Sunil Hansda of Tangiriapala village in this district. Locals blocked the road demanding action against the truck driver and steps to regulate traffic in the area.

Kejriwal moves HC against arrest

New Delhi, March 23: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Saturday moved the Delhi High Court challenging his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate in the money laundering case linked to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam but the court is unlikely to grant an urgent hearing.

According to highly placed court sources, the plea is not likely to be heard before March 27 as the court is closed for Holi.

Sources in Aam Aadmi Party had said Kejriwal's legal team would request the high court to hear the matter urgently, preferably Sunday.

Friday, a trial court had remanded him in ED's custody till March 28 "for his detailed and sustained interro-

INDIA FUMES OVER BERLIN'S REMARKS

New Delhi: India Saturday summoned the German deputy chief of mission here and lodged a strong protest against the country's foreign ministry's remarks on the arrest of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. "We assume and expect that the standards relating to the independence of Judiciary and basic democratic principles will also be applied in this case," the German official had said. A Ministry of External Affairs official termed Berlin's reaction 'biased assumptions' and 'most unwarranted'.

"In his plea, Kejriwal, who was apprehended by the ED Friday night, contended that his arrest and remand were illegal and that he was

entitled to be released from custody immediately. The ED had arrested Kejriwal hours after the high court refused to grant him protection from coercive action by the Central anti-money laundering agency.

Kejriwal had approached the high court for quashing and setting aside all proceedings including the summonses issued against him.

In that petition, Kejriwal said he is a 'vocal critic' of the ruling party, an opposition leader and a partner in the INDIA bloc, and the ED, being under the Centre's control, has been 'weaponised'.

Meanwhile, according to a NDTV report published late Saturday night, the Delhi High Court turned down Kejriwal's request and listed it for hearing next week.

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	36.4°C	36.2°C
Min Temp	22.0°C	22.8°C
Humidity	83%	80%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

FORECAST
MAINLY CLEAR SKY

60% children at risk of digital addiction

New Delhi, March 23: A new survey has revealed that about 60 per cent of children between the age of 5-16 years exhibit behaviours indicative of potential digital addiction, underscoring the urgent need for effective strategies to mitigate these negative effects.

The survey, based on a sample size of 1,000 parents, is conducted by smart parent solution company Baatu Tech.

The survey aims to expose how heightened screen exposure poses various risks, including poor sleep

quality, reduced physical activity, social withdrawal, and decreased academic performance.

"A staggering 60 per cent of children exhibit behaviours indicative of potential digital addiction, and an overwhelming 85 per cent of parents express difficulties in managing their children's online content consumption," read the survey.

The survey, emphasising on the concerning impact of excessive screen time, highlighted "70-80 per cent" of children are surpassing recommended limits daily.

It underscored gaming and social media as the two predominant platforms frequented by children, and raised concerns regarding potential exposure to inappropriate content and its associated implications.

"Only 10 per cent of parents currently utilise parental control features, implementing strategies to limit screen time can yield positive outcomes," it added.

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BLAKE LIVELY APOLOGISES FOR REMARKS ON KATE MIDDLETONE

Actress Blake Lively issued an apology for her recent remarks, seemingly aimed at Princess Kate Middleton, amidst the controversy surrounding her Mother's Day photo editing. She expressed regret on her Instagram Stories without directly mentioning Middleton, reports *People magazine*.

JOKER TO HAVE AT LEAST FIFTEEN COVER SONGS

The upcoming film *Joker: Folie à Deux* is poised to become a jukebox musical, featuring around 15 reimagined popular songs, including 'That's Entertainment' from *The Band Wagon*, reports *Variety*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES

You will delight in romantic pursuits today. You would like to spend the whole day with your friends and loved ones, indulging in activities that appeal to you. But Ganesh says your peers may not approve, as they may think you are trying to shirk work.

TAURUS

You will be in a mood to dominate and boss over your subordinates and assistants as soon as you land at your work place. Ganesh urges you to get rid of this idea instantly. Otherwise you are likely to lose a lot of money in store for you. You are likely to feel bored and listless later in the day.

GEMINI

You will feel the need to break free from the shackles of your daily routine. You will try to complete all your work in one go and this will give rise to mental stress and worry. You will be able to concentrate on your personal matters only later on in the day, busy as you will be with work related matters in the afternoon.

CANCER

Ganesh predicts that your life is going to take a new turn owing to some sudden events. Make the most of this period, and instead of getting intimidated, take this as a learning and stepping stone. You may end up travelling a lot for work today.

LEO

It is the right time to take up new projects and sign new contracts. Your business capability will also increase now. You will have to labour under the burden of increased expectations, however, it is natural for others to have such expectations from those who are blazing a path to success for themselves.

VIRGO

Ganesh says that Lady Luck will shine on you today. You will receive good news from distant places, maybe even from overseas. There are chances that you will take the lead in initiating an affair of the heart. There will be a lot of clarity in your perceptions today.

LIBRA

Ganesh says there is all possibility of a trip for business or pleasure today. This journey will leave a long term impact on your memory and your life. You will win every ones heart by your powerful speech. You may forget your duty towards your family as you will show more inclination in trade and business.

SCORPIO

Today, you may not be in a mood to work as you may lose focus every now and then. This may create problems in meeting deadlines in future. Evening will be full of romantic conversations as you spend some quality time with your beloved, predicts Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS

Your optimistic attitude, logic and reasoning will solve half of your problems today, foresees Ganesh. Stress and tension may take a toll on your health. But also have a reason to rejoice as you near and dear ones cheer you up, when your spirits are low.

CAPRICORN

The work pressure is mounting and you find it extremely difficult to bear the burden. Deadlines are closing in and there is still a lot to be done. But, none can dampen your spirit and break you down. Not only you'll fight with full force, but also will choose the right path to move forward, says Ganesh.

AQUARIUS

You will be very unpredictable, today. Your opponents will not be able to anticipate your moves, and when the competition is tough such unpredictability will give you an upper hand, foresees Ganesh. Your honesty and efforts will be appreciated and rewarded at work.

PISCES

You will begin your day on a self confident note but as the day goes by things will fall into place, just like they always do. The routine might lull you a bit and as you take decisions you might be doubting how appropriate they are. Any meetings that you attend after afternoon will be fruitful for all parties involved.

'There will always be an audience for theatre'

Mumbai: Actress Aahana Kumra doesn't believe in letting go of her roots. So, even though she is busy with films and web shows, the actress makes it a point to keep time aside for theatre. At the start of her journey, she did several plays with Naseeruddin Shah's theatre group.

Talking about performing in front of a live audience, she says, "I was introduced to theatre very early on. I have always stayed in touch with theatre, while there are so many actors who stopped doing it after they stepped into the world of movies. I made a conscious decision to continue doing theatre."

She added, "There are some plays that take us back to rehearsals. We have to cut off from the world consciously for those two or three months, and this is exactly what happened with my recent play *Constellations* with Kunaal Roy Kapur."

She felt that there are several mediums that have opened up when it comes to entertainment, but there will always be an audience for live performances. She said, "I can say that first-hand, as I have been doing theatre for so many years. I have seen housefuls of boards. Sometimes we have the same people coming to the shows repeatedly. Maybe they love to come and listen to the lines, or they just find solace in that space." AGENCIES



Mumbai: From college romance in *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai*, family drama in *Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham*, testing human relationships in *Kabhi Alvida Naa Kehna*, and gender fluidity in *Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani*, Filmmaker Karan Johar, known for his massy films, has always tried his hand at new subjects. Citing the importance of the process, he shared that, as a filmmaker, one cannot be in a cocoon.

He said, "Reinvention happens when you actually listen to and observe the environment you are in. It is important to get out of your own bubble, your cocoon, step outside, and hear what the audiences and people who work with you have to say."

He shared, "You should also acknowledge the brilliance of others so you can achieve that brilliance on your own. We tend to sometimes, in an industry like this, get very insular. I never wanted to be that person. I read every review and all the comments on social media. I also observe what people do in their work. I take feedback very seriously. I believe that a film is a group process, as it is a team that makes it, and you must spread an atmosphere where people can voice their opinion." He concluded, "If you believe what you have is great without asking anyone, it is not going to take you anywhere. If you ask honest questions, you will get honest answers. You cannot have a God complex where only what you think is right. It's ridiculous. Being fully democratic as a filmmaker has helped my process of reinvention." AGENCIES

Democracy in filmmaking fosters reinvention: Karan



Nora's stance on industry stereotypes

Mumbai: Actress Nora Fatehi, who will feature in Kunal Khemu's directorial, *Madgaon Express*, expressed that she had to toughen up to handle both the industry and social media, and the industry is not taking her seriously because she's a dancer.

In an interview with a newspaper agency, she spoke about how the entertainment industry tends to put people into specific roles, but she doesn't hold anyone responsible for it. Instead, she focuses on improving herself and taking on multiple projects simultaneously to avoid feeling overwhelmed. She shared that she's observed her actor friends experiencing depression when their movies don't do well or when they struggle to find consistent work.

When asked about navigating the industry and if they don't take her seriously because she's a dancer, she replies, "I don't have a 'one-dimensional' answer to that."

The *Street Dancer 3D* actress mentioned that it's challenging to explain because it's not a straightforward issue to blame others for. She expressed that the industry tends to stereotype people, which limits opportunities. Additionally, she noted that individuals often don't have the time to understand or explore others because they're focused on achieving success and mingling with influential figures. Nora emphasised that she doesn't hold anyone else responsible but herself. She believes it's her responsibility to continually demonstrate her diverse talents and capabilities to others. She acknowledged that it's a personal challenge she's actively tackling. She stressed the importance of self-improvement, recognising that no actor or artist is flawless. AGENCIES



Avantika yearns to work in B-town

Mumbai: Indian-American actress Avantika Vandanapu, who is receiving appreciation for her performance in *Big Girls Don't Cry*, shared her aspiration to be part of Indian cinema, stating she has grown up watching films like *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge* and *Veer Zaara*.

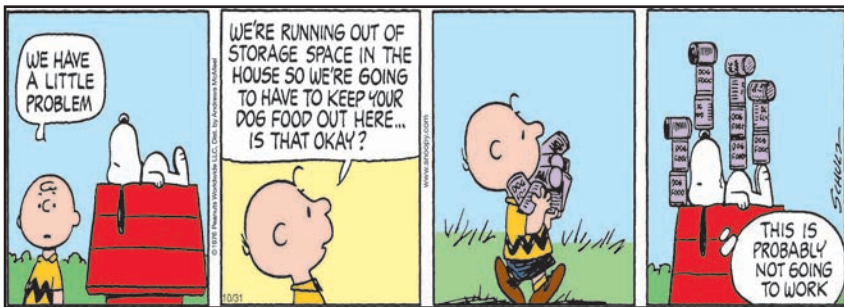
Avantika, who made her mark in several Hollywood projects, including *Mean Girls*, *Spin*, and *Senior Years*, among others, reflects on her journey.

She shared, "It's truly surreal to come full circle and return to India, from my roots as a child actor to now leading a Hindi series like *Big Girls Don't Cry*. This homecoming feels like a dream come true. Since my childhood, I have been watching Yash Chopra films like *Chandni*, *Veer Zaara*, *DDLJ*, *Darr*, etc., fell in love with Indian cinema, and developed the desire to work in Bollywood films. I love the colour, emotions, and cheerful Indian movies and cannot wait to be a part of them."

Big Girls Don't Cry, a coming-of-age school drama set against the backdrop of a fictionalised all-girls boarding school, is currently streaming on Amazon Prime Video. AGENCIES



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

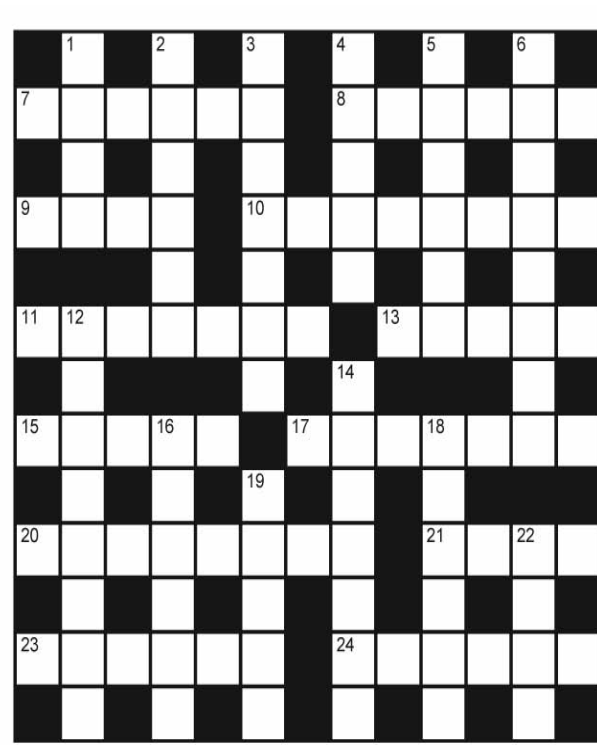


BREVITY



FUN post

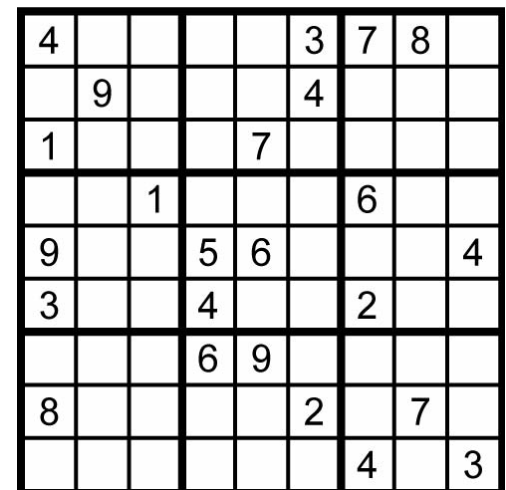
CROSSWORD



- Across
- 7 Relinquish
 - 8 Like the sea, at times
 - 9 Successor
 - 10 Sample
 - 11 Talk over
 - 13 Wait on
 - 15 Sphere
 - 17 Railroad bridge
 - 20 Uncivilised
 - 21 Beginner
 - 23 Type of action
 - 24 Raffish
 - 4 Largish combo
 - 5 Meek
 - 6 Commotion
 - 12 Doomed (3-5)
 - 14 Usher in
 - 16 Fumble
 - 18 Stomach exercises (3-3)
 - 19 Representative
 - 22 Hera's mother
- Down
- 1 Yawner
 - 2 Weight unit
 - 3 Take over, like an evil spirit

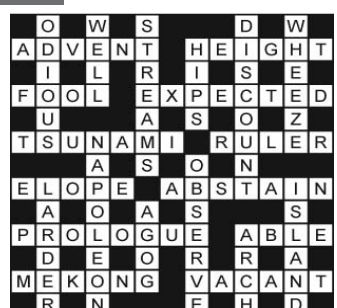
SUDOKU

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

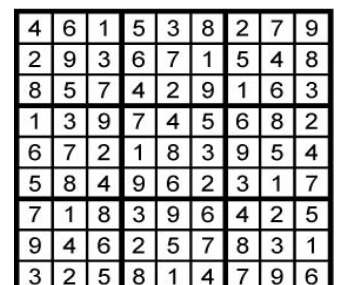


SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

BUDDING TALENT

Students take part in a state level chess championship organised by KT Global School and IS Chess Centre in Cuttack, Saturday



Brown sugar worth ₹26L seized; 2 women arrested

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, March 23: The police have claimed to have arrested a woman accountant and her roommate on charges of drug trafficking in Bhubaneswar, Friday.

The narcotics wing of Commissionerate Police seized 256 grams of brown sugar worth ₹26 lakh from their possession during a raid at Jadupur area under Khandagiri police station limits in the City.

The kingpin of the drug syndicate, however, managed to give a slip to the police and is at large, said a senior officer of the narcotics wing.

The accused women are identified as Karishma Rout, 30, a native of Bhadrak district and Pragyan Priya Swain, 23, a native of Puri district. Karishma is a +2 passout and is working in



a private firm as an accountant, while Pragyan is the PG in Computer Application from a local college in Bhubaneswar.

According to police, the duo had been running an illicit narcotics trade from a rented accommodation in Jadupur area for the last one year.

Briefing the media Saturday, twin-city Police Commissioner Sanjeeb Panda said a tip-off was received by the officials from an informer, which alleged the

According to police, the duo had been running an illicit narcotics trade from a rented accommodation in Jadupur area for the last one year

The accused women were sourcing brown sugar from a dealer and later peddling it among youths in small sachets

two women were sourcing brown sugar from a dealer and later peddling it among youths in small sachets. Following this, the officers raided the house of the women and seized the drugs from their possession.

Panda added that three mobile phones and a laptop were also seized from the accused during the raid.

The officials have booked the accused under relevant sections of the NDPS Act and produced the duo before a local court.



POLL PROMISE: With the Assembly and general elections approaching, former Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee president and party convenor Prasad Harichandan released a 'list of guarantees' at the party office in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

'Art for Earth' at DPS Kalinga

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 23: Delhi Public School (DPS) Kalinga in collaboration with Ila Panda Centre of Arts (IPCA) hosted a unique art exhibition 'Art for Earth - From Trash to Treasure' in DPS Kalinga Saturday showcasing art made from everyday waste materials like water bottles, coconut shells, glass, paper cups, CDs, broken mirrors, tyre tubes and wood pieces.

The chief guest of the day Sunita Mohapatra, Executive Director, IPCA spoke about raising awareness among school students about Reduce, Reuse and Recycle and how this process can foster the creativity of students into making beautiful art pieces.

Pro Vice Chairperson Mala Mishra applauded the efforts of IPCA in promoting art and creativity among students. The Art exhibits from RePART and DPS Kalinga were a part of the exhibition.



Advisory issued to prevent hosp fire during summer



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

New Delhi/Bhubaneswar, March 23: In order to prevent hospital fires during the summer months the Union Health Ministry and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) have issued a joint advisory to all States/UTs with specific instructions on taking proactive measures.

State Health Departments and State Disaster Management Authorities have been directed to work in close collaboration to ensure that all accredited hospitals within their jurisdiction take immediate action on conducting comprehensive fire safety audit / on-site inspections of all hospitals to assess fire safety compliance.

They are to ensure that fire-fighting systems, including fire alarms, fire smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, fire hydrants, and fire lifts,

are present and fully functional. Address the critical issue of insufficient electrical load capacity. Hospitals must regularly conduct electrical load audits, particularly when adding new equipment or converting spaces into ICUs. Any identified discrepancies must be promptly rectified.

Hospitals must strictly adhere to regulatory requirements and obtain valid fire No-Objection Certificates (NOCs) from their respective state fire departments. Prioritize re-calibration of electrical loads in older buildings constructed before adopting fire safety norms.

A detailed set of instructions outlining the steps and measures to be undertaken by hospitals to ensure fire safety compliance have also been provided to Chief Secretaries of all States and UTs, recommending them to disseminate the information among all accredited hospitals.

Governor, CM join Earth Hour

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, March 23: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik appealed all to join the global movement and conserve electricity as well as reduce global warming for a sustainable Earth, Saturday. Later, he switched off all light at his residence for an hour.

Taking to his social media account, the CM wrote, "Joining Earth Hour; I will switch off all lights at Naveen Niwas from 8:30pm to 9:30pm today."

Governor Raghubar Das also shared the message saying, "Let's come together to conserve electricity and combat global warming for a sustainable future", he exhorted all to join the #EarthHour by turning off all lights from 8:30pm to 9:30pm.

A sand art created by renowned Sand Artist Sudarsan Pattnaik depicted the message of Earth Hour 2024. He also shared message, "Give an Hour for Earth. Join us for Earth Hour; Saturday. Switch of all non-essential lights. Be a

part of the change tonight to show your commitment to a healthier planet. Together, we can make a big difference."

Earth Hour is a worldwide movement organised by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). The event is held annually, encouraging the individuals, communities, and businesses to give an hour for Earth, and additionally marked by landmarks and businesses switching off non-essential electric lights, for one hour usually on the last Saturday of March, as a symbol of commitment to the planet.

Cops nab man for killing brother-in-law

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, March 23: The cops Saturday arrested a man who allegedly killed his brother-in-law in Mancheswar area in City over family dispute late Friday night.

The accused identified as Padia alias Pritam Behera, 25 is a resident of Kalyanpur village in Nandankanan area here. He was arrested near Mancheswar railway station while try-

ing to leave the City in the wee hours of Saturday, the police said.

ACP Zone V Gautam Kishan informed that the deceased Babaji Mahabhoi and accused Pritam's sister Sunita had been married since 2018. The relationship got sour between the couple due to Babaji's drinking habits. He often lost temper and assaulted Sunita in a state of stupor. Pritam, on several occasions, had intervened and also warned

Babaji against beating his sister.

On the fateful day of March 20, when Pritam visited Sunita's house he found the couple quarreling. In a fit of rage, he rained blows on Babaji inflicting severe injuries.

Though their relatives soon rushed the victim to a hospital, the doctors declared him dead on arrival.

Pritam was booked under Sections 302 and 34 of IPC and was later produced before a local court.

3-day Debrigarh hiking camp organised



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, March 23: As many as 22 hikers from several states of the country recently participated in a 3-days, 2-nights hiking expedition at the Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary near the Hirakud Dam organised by the sanctuary authorities in collaboration with trekking group India Hikes.

The hikers joined from different parts of India including Andhra

Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Kerala, Haryana, Karnataka, Chandigarh, Jharkhand, and Delhi. They were accompanied by two experts from the hiking group who guided them through the sanctuary.

"This hiking programme was organised under the Nature Education Programme of Hirakud Wildlife Division and trained naturalists accompanied the participants for three days, giving them details about the

flora and fauna of the sanctuary," said an official.

The group covered different landscapes of the sanctuary including the valleys, cliffs, mountains, grasslands and islands.

"On the first day, the hikers trekked up to 500ft altitude and held their night camping at Ranibasa. Next day they trekked down through mountains and valleys and reached Batisland. Next night they camped at the Cattle Island after hiking through the uninhabited island situated in the middle of Hirakud Lake. Night camps were temporary and were made with sustainability in mind with zero plastic and zero litter. Limited biotoilets were used during the hiking," informed the official.

The official informed that the sanctuary conducted different activities for the hikers including 'connect with nature and talking to the trees.' "For the first time, night camping was organised at the cattle island in an eco-friendly manner, an initiative we intend to carry forward," he added.

Be smart.

Verify the credentials of unknown callers, investment portal sites and requests for urgent help for money through social media.

Prasidh Krishna
Indian Cricketer, RBI Employee

Beware of fraudsters:

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The Atheist is God playing at hide and seek with Himself."



SRI AUROBINDO

Hostile To Federalism

Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal's arrest before the elections will be seen as an attack on democracy, which it is without doubt. It is also of a piece with the BJP's distrust of federalism. Down the years, but especially after the linguistic states were formed, the party wanted federalism and the entire edifice of states in India to be abandoned in favour of a single legislature and, given that we were in a parliamentary system, a single leader.

The RSS head MS Golwalkar wrote an essay in 1956, that is reproduced in his book "Bunch of Thoughts." He writes: "Then came our present Constitution converting our country into a number of almost distinct units each with a 'state' of its own and all 'federated' into one 'Union'... When one pauses to think of the conditions in which makers of this Constitution lived when they framed this Constitution one sees that the atmosphere then was extremely congenial to the formation and evolution of a Unitary State - One Country, One Legislature, One Executive Centre running the administration throughout the country - an expression of one homogeneous solid nation in Bharat or what remained of it then. But mind and reason of the leaders were conditioned by the obsession of 'federation of states' where each linguistic group enjoyed a 'wide autonomy' as 'one people' with its own separate language and culture."

He continues under the subhead "There Is a Remedy." "Towards this end the most important and effective step will be to bury deep for good all talk of a federal structure of our country's Constitution, to sweep away the existence of all 'autonomous' or semi-autonomous 'states' within the one State viz., Bharat and proclaim 'One Country, One State, One Legislature, One Executive' with no trace of fragmentation, regional, sectarian, linguistic or other types of pride being given a scope for playing havoc with our integrated harmony. Let the Constitution be re-examined and re-drafted, so as to establish this Unitary form of Government."

The second source we have for the hostility to federalism and Article 1 of the Constitution is from Deendayal Upadhyaya. Article 3 of the BJP constitution says the Integral Humanism shall be the Basic philosophy of the party. Integral Humanism is the name given to a set of four lectures Upadhyaya gave in Bombay between April 22 and April 25, 1965. What follows is a quotation from the third lecture. It is headlined "Constitution Cannot Be Arbitrary." Upadhyaya writes: "Is the Constitution too, not subject to some principles of a more fundamental nature? We have a written Constitution, but even this written Constitution cannot go contrary to the traditions of this country. In as much as it does go contrary to our traditions, it is not fulfilling Dharma. That Constitution which sustains the Nation is in tune with Dharma."

There is no recognition of the idea of Bharat Mata, our sacred motherland, as enshrined in the hearts of our people. According to the first para of the Constitution 'India that is Bharat will be a Federation of States,' i.e. Bihar Mata, Banga Mata, Punjab Mata, Kannada Mata, Tamil Mata, are all put together to make Bharat Mata. This is ridiculous. We have thought of the provinces as limbs of Bharat Mata and not as individual mothers. Therefore, our Constitution should be Union instead of Federal."

With such hostility to the provinces, even if it has gone mostly unnoticed, it should not surprise us that Chief Ministers are not seen as legitimate even if they are elected. The BJP can hold on to the position, at least justifying it to itself, that we are a democracy and that elected Chief Ministers can be jailed without conviction.

After 2014, this ideological attack on federalism has manifested itself in several ways. i) The use of Union agencies to intrude into 'law and order,' ostensibly a state subject; ii) The ending of states' right to tax with GST and their total dependence on the Union's largesse; iii) The call for 'one nation, one election,' which privileges the Union one over all the rest; and iv) The Union government's attack on Opposition governments and leaderships in Bengal, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Telangana and Delhi whether through arrests, denial of allocated funds or through constant intrusion.

This is untenable in democracy and we can see the tension having built to bursting point. This is the background to the arrest of Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia and other ministers before that, and of the Chief Minister of Jharkhand, Hemant Soren last month and the jailing of Telangana leader K Kavitha this month. It shows the contempt the government has for the Opposition and for democracy, the disregard it has for the judiciary and the extent to which it can go to secure its interests over those of the country.

The question is: What is to be done to resist the twin thrusts of the BJP's ideology, majoritarianism and a strong centripetal instinct against federalism?

The internal mechanisms of opposing authoritarianism have never worked well in India including during the Emergency. Jayaprakash Narayan was an exception but one wonders what he might have achieved in an era of ED and CBI



Aakar Patel

The internal mechanisms of opposing authoritarianism have never worked well in India including during the Emergency. Jayaprakash Narayan was an exception but one wonders what he might have achieved in an era of ED and CBI



Anwesh Satpathy

DESPITE POPULAR PERCEPTIONS OF BEING AN ALIENATED AND VIOLENT CITY, DELHI IS A PLACE INHABITED BY MULTIPLE REFUGEES

Any city, much like any person, has a story. It is often believed in common parlance that trauma helps shape an individual's personality traits as well as future course of actions. Though the merits and demerits of such a perspective is for psychologists to evaluate, it certainly holds true for cities. A city is made up of its people and those inhabitants are shaped by courses of history or accidental events over which they had little to no control, at least individually. The conflict that had affected Delhi the most, both at a humane as well as an administrative level, is partition.

On the eve of Independence, Delhi underwent an intense crisis due to partition. At the heart of this crisis was the battle between authoritarian legacy of the colonial rulers and the attempt at democratic refashioning by the then government. That there was an enchantment with the state has been pointed out before by the likes of Sudipta Kaviraj. Even as partition was happening, there were simultaneous clashes between political parties. The CPI, for instance, passed a resolution declaring India's Independence to be a false one as Indian politicians were apparently still under the influence of feudal and American overlords. To control the massive violence and displacement of the refugees owing to partition, the state felt the need to maintain the large and centralised state that it inherited from the British. Investigative agencies, such as the Central Investigation Department (CID), engaged in spying and gross violation of privacy of "suspicious" private citizens. Neither the elites nor the commoners were immune for it. The historian Rotem Geva writes about the interfaith couple Ravi Raj Chopra and Naima Qureshi, who moved to Delhi from Lahore post-partition and got married.

FOCUS SOCIETY

CONFLICT & THE CITY



Delhi's openness and cosmopolitanism would not have been possible without the conflicts that have shaped the city, or the migrants who have made it their own

Both belonged to upper class educated families. They were accused of being communists/Pakistani spies. Even after the Deputy Commissioner of Police investigated and found nothing substantive, the CID continued its surveillance activities as well as interception of their personal letters. Such gross violations of administrative norms and privacy were extremely common as the investigative agencies would spy on any citizen they found to be of "doubtful loyalty" including the communists, Hindu Mahasabha members and particularly common Muslims.

At the personal level, the city underwent drastic changes in its culture as well as language. Many of the refugees who came to Delhi were from upper class wealthy families. Nevertheless, when they arrived in Delhi, they had to reside in refugee camps and congested houses. For instance, William Dalrymple recounts the story of a wealthy refugee family from Lahore who expected to return in a few months. Alas, that was to never happen. It took families decades to settle. There is also the rather

famous case of Chaudhry Khaliqzaman. He was among the three prominent leaders, along with Nehru and S. Radhakrishnan, who addressed India's Constituent Assembly on the eve of our Independence. Though formally a part of the Muslim League, Khaliqzaman was personally well respected among the Congress leaders. Yet, even he left India for Pakistan after a bitter meeting with Jinnah who did not seem to like his mild defence of the Indian government's attempt to maintain peace. On the other side, Pakistan's first law minister Jogendra Nath Mandal left the country in a matter of weeks citing mistreatment of minorities. This serves as an illustration of the fact that not even the elites were immune from the sentiments of disharmony that had engulfed the nation.

Before partition, Delhi was characterised by its prominent elite Urdu culture and a strong Muslim presence. The elites of the city were descendants of the courtiers of the Mughal court, who organised elaborate Urdu mehlfils. During the Mughal period, poets, including Mirza

Ghalib, were patronised by the rulers. The Urdu elites looked down upon the Punjabis as boorish while the Punjabis looked down upon the Urdu-speaking inhabitants as slothful and effeminate. Dalrymple recounts of the chasm that has grown between these two worlds. While Punjabi elites are characterised by their conspicuous consumption and showmanship of the nouveau riche, the Mughal elites yearn for the nostalgia of past sophistication. This is not to mention that many of the Urdu-speaking Muslim elites fled to Pakistan during partition. Thus, Urdu language, celebrated around the city not so long ago, has suffered a noticeable decline.

Delhi, despite popular perceptions of being an alienated and violent city, is a place inhabited by multiple refugees. It is a city that has not only given refuge a place to stay but also to excel. While travelling through the city, a cab driver from UP recounted to me the freedom that the city had given him. Owing to Delhi's diverse population, provincial sentiments of language and caste are mostly absent. The only community that mattered was the sense of solidarity that existed among the taxi drivers, a feature not so obvious in the states he previously worked in. The fact that Delhi's most exclusive market i.e., Khan Market started out as a refugee market bears testimony to Delhi's openness. Similarly, the now upscale Chittaranjan Park started out as a colony for refugees displaced during the Bangladesh genocide. Delhi's openness and cosmopolitanism would not have been possible without the conflicts that have shaped the city or the migrants who have made it their own.

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

SPECTRUM HEALTHCARE

AI could help eliminate tuberculosis



Mohammed Yassin

BY LEVERAGING AI TO AUGMENT LOCAL MEDICAL EXPERTISE, WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO OVERCOME TB ONCE AND FOR ALL

Groundbreaking new technologies seem to be emerging with increasing frequency nowadays. Since its launch in November 2022, OpenAI's generative artificial intelligence chatbot, ChatGPT, has become a global sensation, attracting more than 100 million users and inspiring numerous imitators. The technology's fast-evolving capabilities have also commanded the attention of world leaders, dominating discussions at both the COP28 and the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos.

It is not difficult to understand why. By harnessing AI tools developed by private companies like OpenAI, governments and civil-society organisations could make significant strides toward tackling global challenges like climate change and economic inequality. Similarly, they could revolutionise how we fight infectious diseases, ensuring that life-saving care reaches those who need it most.

Tuberculosis is a prime example. TB, a preventable and curable disease, claims an average of more than 3,000 lives per day. Although the mechanisms of TB transmission are well understood, and highly effective treatment regimens - including new and improved medications

- are available worldwide, TB still led to 1.3 million deaths globally in 2022.

AI tools could play a major role in the global effort to end TB. To this end, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria is pursuing public-private partnerships with the goal of developing and deploying innovative digital public-health tools. During a recent trip to Bangladesh, for example, I encountered a team of health-care providers from the public and private sectors, along with local community partners, who are using digital X-rays, AI, and telemedicine to facilitate rapid TB screening. Patients whose X-ray results show signs of TB could immediately submit sputum samples for analysis and receive treatment at the community level, free of charge.

Similar initiatives are being launched around the world. In Pakistan's Punjab province, the humanitarian aid organisation Mercy Corps uses AI tools to identify "hot spots" - remote or rural areas where TB cases might go undetected - and set up mobile health camps to deliver diagnostic and treatment services directly to local residents. In the Padre de la Vega prison in Paraguay, health-care workers use Fujifilm ultralight portable

X-ray machines and AI technology to provide rapid and precise TB screening.

Likewise, physicians at Cambodia's National Center for Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control in Phnom Penh bring portable Delft X-ray machines to nearby provinces to screen individuals unable to travel to the capital. And in Indonesia, a new partnership between the Global Fund, Siemens Healthineers, and the country's national TB programme aims to scale up early detection efforts by combining deep-learning AI technology and X-ray analysis to enable radiologists to read scans remotely.

Targeted, innovative projects such as these are crucial to overcoming persistent inequities that fuel the spread of infectious diseases: poverty, conflict, and weather-related displacement, overcrowding, and limited access to health facilities. Moreover, they are laying the groundwork for resilient health systems capable of meeting every person's needs. For example, in addition to TB screenings, Pakistan's mobile health camps offer essential services focusing on women and young children.

These examples underscore the importance of fostering collaboration among companies, in-

dustry leaders, governments, and local health providers to devise innovative ways to address solvable problems like TB. That is why the Global Fund, which contributes 76% of all international financing to end TB, also allocates more than \$150 million annually to develop digital tools aimed at promoting equity and helping remote communities access critical health-care services.

But much more is needed. Devising targeted, effective, and sustainable solutions requires active engagement with local communities to mitigate a wide range of other public-health threats, such as pandemics and antimicrobial resistance. This is why it is crucial to have committed partners who can envision and develop cutting-edge digital tools.

By leveraging AI to augment local medical expertise, we have an opportunity to overcome TB once and for all. In a world brimming with innovative ideas and emerging technologies that until recently were beyond our imagination, ending this global scourge, and perhaps others, is finally within reach.

The writer is Senior TB Adviser at the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria.

WISDOM CORNER

- No one changes the world who isn't obsessed. **BILLIE JEAN KING**
- Either you run the day or the day runs you. **JIM ROHN**
- Sometimes life hits you in the head with a brick. Don't lose faith. **STEVE JOBS**

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1882:** Robert Koch announced in Berlin that he had isolated and grown the tubercle bacillus, which he believed to be the cause of all forms of tuberculosis.
- 1944:** More than 75 Allied prisoners undertook a daring escape from a POW camp in Sagan, Germany, though most were eventually recaptured; it inspired the classic World War II movie *The Great Escape* (1963), starring Steve McQueen.
- 1945:** With the debut of the Billboard magazine pop album chart, American pianist and singer Nat King Cole's King Cole Trio became the first record album to appear at No. 1.
- 1989:** Oil tanker Exxon Valdez runs aground in Prince William Sound, Alaska. The mishap resulted in one of the most devastating environmental disasters in history, killing up to 250,000 seabirds and other wildlife.
- 1999:** For the first time in its history, NATO attacks a sovereign country. The military alliance bombed Yugoslavia during the Kosovo War - without a UN mandate.

Growing inequality

Sir, At a time when economic development is celebrated as a shining example of the economy, the news of a widening inequality gap is unexpected. Certainly, the fact that the majority of the population is limited to a tiny circle demonstrates a serious failure in policy. The paper titled 'Income and wealth disparity in India, 1922-2023: The Rise of the Billionaire Rule' produced by three economists, including Thomas Piketty, has outlined that in 2022-23, the richest one per cent of the country's population's income share has increased to 22.6 per cent, but its wealth share has risen to 40.1 per cent. The income and wealth disparity between the rich and the poor appeared to be narrowing after Independence until the early 1980s. However, it then began to increase. The research advises that the wealthy people pay a fair share of taxes so that the average Indian can progress. The point is, if the government's slogan is "development for all," why is it that only one per cent of the population owns forty per cent of the country's resources or property? In comparison, in 2022-23, the bottom half of the country controlled only 15 per cent of the total wealth. Clearly, this is the effect of the country's policies, in which the richest class continues to enrich itself while the rest of the population's economic situation deteriorates.

Abhijit Roy, JAMSHEDPUR

Protect democracy

Sir, This refers to "Kejriwal remanded till March 28" (Orissa POST, March 23). Assuming but not admitting that the Delhi CM was directly involved in the case of proceedings of crime allegedly generated in the Goa election campaign of the AAP way back in 2022, what prevented the ED from filing the chargesheet against Kejriwal? The offence, if any, is complete. There is nothing on record to show that evidences were tampered with necessitating the arrest of Kejriwal at this crucial juncture when the Model Code of Conduct is very much in force. This sort of tyranny of the ruling party at the Centre needs to be stopped if the government at all desires the sanctity of democracy to be preserved.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

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

Now, diarrhoea invades Hirakud

ONE DEAD, 150 TAKEN ILL

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, March 23: Panic gripped people after a person died of diarrhoea and over 150 persons were taken ill during the last three days following outbreak of the disease at industrial town Hirakud in Sambalpur district, a report said Saturday.

Some critically affected patients have been admitted to the VSS Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR) at Burla in the district. One of the patients died during treatment Saturday while the rest are undergoing treatment.

The disease has been spreading its tentacles in Kalupada, Gurudwarpada, Goudpada and New Market area of the town leaving the residents gripped by panic.

More than 40 patients were admitted to Hirakud hospital Saturday while many of them were discharged after primary treatment.

On being informed, RDC (North) Srikant Prusty, Sambalpur Collector Akshaya Sunil Agarwal along with Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO) Dr Sujata Rani Mishra visited the Hirakud hospital to take stock of the situation and interacted with the affected patients and doctors.

The kin of the patients and other residents attributed sup-



ply of contaminated drinking water as the probable reason behind the spread of the disease.

They alleged that pipes through which drinking water is supplied to the residents have developed cracks due to road repair work leading to contamination of the supplied water as it gets mixed with drain water or waste water overflowing under the supply lines. Local residents

have fallen sick after drinking the contaminated water bearing disease-causing micro organisms.

When contacted, the CDMO said water samples have been collected from four places and a three-member medical team has been sent on deputation to Hirakud hospital for treatment of the patients. The Health department is visiting door to door and distributing halogen tablets,

ORS packets as part of its measures to create awareness among residents and prevent the outbreak. The mobile health unit is also keeping its eye on the current situation as part of preventive measures.

It is pertinent to mention that the consumption of contaminated water led to the outbreak of diarrhoea at Hirakud six months back.

15 poachers held with seizure of 20 firearms

PNN & AGENCIES

Balasure, March 23: Police have arrested 15 poachers and seized as many as 20 country-made firearms from them during a raid in Kuldiha forest range area in Balasure district, police said Saturday.

The joint operation was conducted by officials from Kuldiha forest range, Similipal Tiger Project and Nilagiri police.

After three days of operation, 15 poachers were arrested and 20 country-made rifles seized, a police officer said.

Balasure SP Sagarika Nath Saturday said, "In the joint raid, Berhampur police and Kuldiha forest range officials seized the illegal country-made weapons."

She said, "Seven people have been apprehended under Section 25-(1-A) of Arms Act and further investigation is going on."

The raid was conducted after two green brigade personnel sustained gunshot injuries near Panchalingeswar beat in Kuldiha forest Monday night, officials said.

The operation also unearthed an illegal arms unit adjoining the forest area and several gun-making items were seized, police said.



AWARENESS RALLY: Students of Saraswat Bal Mandir at Jaynagar of Jeypore in Koraput district take out an awareness rally on water crisis, forest protection and heatwave related ailments, Saturday

Tension in hospital over patient's death

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chandbali, March 23: Tension ran high at Chandbali community health centre (CHC) after a patient died here while undergoing treatment Friday night. The deceased patient has been identified as Akash Nayak, 19, son of Kamalakanta Nayak from Naugorada village under Bhatapada panchayat and Chandbali police limits in Bhadrak district.

Family members of the deceased and co-villagers blamed the doctor's negligence for the death and uproar ensued in the hospital premises. Informed, Chandbali PS IIC Panchanan Mohanty reached the spot and defused the situation after pacifying the angry relatives of the deceased youth.



Family alleges medical negligence for son's death

According to sources, Akash was admitted to the hospital Friday evening and died Friday night during treatment. After the incident, parents of the deceased blamed the doctor. On the other hand, Pradyumna Sahu, the doctor who was treat-

ing the youth, refuted the allegation and said that the young man drank poison with too much alcohol for some reason.

"Before starting treatment, we had informed the family that anything could happen to the patient at any moment," said the doctor.

The police then seized the

youth's body and sent it for post-mortem. Notably, Chandbali CHC does not have enough doctors and during emergencies AYUSH doctors are engaged for treatment. It is alleged that patients are facing various problems as they are usually referred to Bhadrak and Cuttack.

Retd RI gets 4-yr jail term for bribery

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, March 23: Keonjhar Special Vigilance Court Judge Rashmita Dalei after hearing a bribery case Saturday sentenced the then Raisuan Revenue Inspector (RI) to four years of rigorous imprisonment and also slapped a fine of ₹4,000 on him. In default, the convict will have to undergo an additional two months imprisonment, the judge ordered.

The convicted retired RI was identified as Banchhanidhi Satapathy, a resident of Basudevpur village in Bhadrak district.

According to the case diary, there was a land dispute between Ajit Kumar Naik and Tikeshwar Sahu, both residents of Raisuan Harshpur village under Sadar tehsil and Raisuan RI circle in this district. Ajit then reported to Sadar police station April 10, 2017 requesting identification



written complaint in this regard to SP (Vigilance), Balasure through DSP (Vigilance), Keonjhar.

Based on the complaint, the Vigilance department registered a case (No-17/2017) and arrested RI Banchhanidhi Satapathy along with the bribe amount he had received from the complainant at his office April 11, 2017.

The Special Vigilance Judge passed the above sentence based on the investigation report of the Vigilance department and statements of 12 witnesses. However, the then peon of the RI office, Tarnisen Patra, who took the bribe money and kept it in the office drawer, has been acquitted due to lack of evidence.

As the bail plea of the convicted RI was denied, he was sent to jail, said Special Public Prosecutor Debadatta Biswal was pleading the case on behalf of the government.

Man gets life term for raping woman

Baripada: A 25-year-old man was sentenced to life imprisonment by a court in Mayurbhanj district Saturday for raping a woman. The incident happened in the Morada police station area in March 2021 when the woman, 22, had gone to relieve herself. He dragged the married woman behind a bush and raped her, according to the prosecution. Fast Track Special Court Judge Santosh Kumar Nayak sentenced the man to life imprisonment. The court also imposed a fine of ₹10,000 on the convict, said Special Public Prosecutor Manoranjan Pattnaik. The verdict was based on the statements of the survivor and 12 witnesses, besides the medical report.

HUGE QUANTITY OF LIQUOR SEIZED AT ODISHA-AP BORDER

PNN & AGENCIES

Berhampur, March 23: A huge quantity of liquor was seized at the Odisha-Andhra Pradesh border, police said Saturday.

A total of 11,640 bottles of different brands, worth around ₹25 lakh, were seized Thursday night while being smuggled in a pickup van to Andhra Pradesh from Ganjam district, they said.

One person, identified as P Gopi of Pati Sonapur, was arrested. The vehicle was also seized, said Berhampur SP Saravana Vivek M. Along with the Lok Sabha polls, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha will also vote for their assemblies. Further investigation was going on to nab other persons suspected to be involved in the liquor smuggling, police said.

The SP said that since the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) came into force with the announcement of the polls, check-gates have been set up along the Odisha-Andhra Pradesh border for round-the-clock surveillance.



POLL BOYCOTT CALL: Residents of Gambhariguda village under Kucheipadar panchayat of Kashipur block in Rayagada district Saturday warned to boycott the upcoming polls over wrong inclusion of their village in Kashipur block which is about 70 km from their village instead of Dasmanthpur in Koraput district

Kalpana Patel's journey of empowering entrepreneurship

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, March 23: In the heartland of Jhurimal Van Surakhya Samiti (VSS) in Sundargarh district, a beacon of hope shines bright amidst the shadows of adversity.

Kalpana Patel, a 50-year-old entrepreneur, has ignited a remarkable transformation in her community through the art of indigenous (Desi) poultry farming, defying odds and setting a new standard for rural entrepreneurship.

The tale of Kalpana's resilience begins with the crushing blow of the Covid-19 pandemic, which ravaged livelihoods and pushed countless families into despair. Forced to shutter her family's 20-

year-old grocery shop, Kalpana, along with her husband Udit Patel and only daughter Rosy, faced a dire financial crisis compounded by medical hardships and personal loss.

Amidst these trials, Kalpana's indomitable spirit refused to yield. Despite setbacks, she found a ray of hope through the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project (OFSDP-II) and the unwavering support of Jhurimal Vana Surakhya Samiti in Sundargarh district. With a ₹50,000 revolving fund, expert guidance, and vital market connections, Kalpana embarked on a journey of entrepreneurship that would redefine possibilities.

In just one year, Kalpana's venture blossomed, yielding



RISING FROM ADVERSITY

an impressive income of ₹1.42 lakh. Her indigenous poultry farming, steeped in authenticity and natural methods,

captured the essence of traditional practices while also embracing modern support systems. Her success story

extended beyond financial gains. This encompassed innovations like her handmade incubator machine that symbolised the fusion of low-cost technology with high-impact results.

From humble beginnings with 30 hens, Kalpana's determination and the collaborative efforts of OFSDP-II have propelled her enterprise to new heights. Today, her model stands as a testament to the potential of rural entrepreneurship, offering a roadmap for others in her community to follow suit.

As Kalpana's business flourishes, the spotlight now shines on replicating her model across other VSS areas. With widespread economic growth and

empowerment on the horizon, her journey epitomizes the triumph of the human spirit over adversity, illuminating pathways to prosperity in rural India.

Kalpana says, "Though our family was plagued by despair, the OFSDP-II bestowed upon us a direct opportunity for livelihood. For this, we owe a debt of gratitude to the Sundargarh DFO, Ujalpur FMU, our Jhurimal VSS, and the staff of partner social and voluntary outfit 'Sewak'. In the days ahead, I plan to establish a larger indigenous poultry farm, aiming to generate an income exceeding ₹50,000 per month and provide employment opportunities to women in the village."



Dharitri and Orissa POST Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy lights the ceremonial lamp at the fourth edition of Business Eminence Awards at Hotel Swosti Premium in Bhubaneswar, Saturday, as Editor of the dailies Tathagata Satpathy, along with chief guest Salil Panigrahi – MD, Atmospherecore Group of Hotels – and chief speaker Manoj Mishra – Principal Secretary, E&IT department, looks on

Entrepreneurship is the ability and readiness to develop, organise and run a business enterprise, along with the lurking uncertainties, in order to make a profit. It is highly risky but can also be equally rewarding as it serves to generate wealth, economic growth, and innovation. In the fourth edition of the Business Eminence Awards, Dharitri and Orissa POST honour some of the leading business talents of the state and celebrate the spirit of entrepreneurship.



SALIL PANIGRAHI
MD, Atmospherecore Group of Hotels



MANOJ KUMAR MISHRA
Principal Secretary, E&IT department



TATHAGATA SATPATHY
Editor, Dharitri and Orissa POST



ADYASHA SATPATHY
Chief Executive, Dharitri and Orissa POST



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Army cancels seminar on UCC after backlash in J&K

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, March 23: The Army in Jammu and Kashmir Saturday cancelled a seminar, which was aimed to raise awareness about the Uniform Civil Code and other topics after a backlash from the political parties here.

The Army late Friday sent invitations to the media houses for a seminar on the subject "Navigating legal frontiers: Understanding Indian Penal Code 2023 and the quest for Uniform Civil Code". The seminar was scheduled for March 26 at the Kashmir University Auditorium.

However, there was a backlash from the regional political parties with former chief minister and National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah questioning the Army's involvement in a "divisive" issue like the Uniform Civil Code in a "sensitive" place like Kashmir.

"Is it appropriate for the Indian Army to get involved in the divisive issue of the uniform civil code & that too in a sensitive area like Kashmir? There is a reason the Indian Army has remained apolitical & areligious. This ill-advised UCC seminar is a threat to both these basic tenets," Abdullah said in a post on X.



He said going ahead with the seminar risks opening up the Army to charges of getting involved in the "murky world" of politics coupled with "interfering" in religious matters. His party colleague and NC's chief spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq asked the Election Commission of India (ECI) to "assess the appropriateness" of the Army discussing an issue that figures prominently in the BJP's manifesto while the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) is in effect.

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) also criticised the Army for conducting the seminar. "What we are seeing is the continuation of the trend of 'Naya Kashmir' and Akhir Kab Tak campaigns in which the Army as an institution was seen as playing a partisan role and directly interfering in the political affairs of J-K," PDP spokesperson Najmus Saqib said.

"Post backlash, we had seen

■ The Army late Friday sent invitations to the media houses for a seminar on the subject "Navigating legal frontiers: Understanding Indian Penal Code 2023 and the quest for Uniform Civil Code"

■ The seminar was scheduled for March 26 at the Kashmir University Auditorium

some systemic changes, but unfortunately the seminar by the India Army as an institution depicts how far the lines between politics and security apparatus have blurred in J-K," he added.

Saqib said this is a "very dangerous trend" and is a "manifestation of larger systemic erosion of the Constitution". After the backlash, the Army cancelled the event "due to implementation of the Model Code of Conduct".

"The Legal Awareness Seminar on March 26 by Kashmir Jurist in Kashmir University has been cancelled due to implementation of the Model Code of Conduct," Srinagar-based Defence Spokesman Lt Col Manoj Sahu said.

The invite for the seminar to the mediapersons was sent by Srinagar-based PRO Defence on behalf of General Officer Commanding HQ 31 Sub Area, Major General PBS Lamba.

People in power ignoring farmers: Pawar

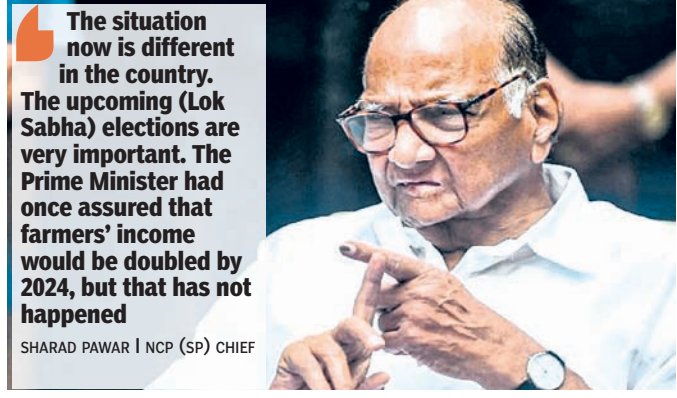
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, March 23: People in power do not care about the farmers in the country, said NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar Saturday, claiming that the Centre has failed to keep its promise of doubling their income by 2024.

The veteran politician was addressing a farmers' rally at Indapur in Maharashtra's Pune district in the presence of Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) leaders like Sanjay Raut, Balasaheb Thorat and Supriya Sule. MVA comprises the Congress, NCP (SP) and Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) and is a part of the opposition INDIA bloc.

"The situation now is different in the country. The upcoming (Lok Sabha) elections are very important. The Prime Minister had once assured that farmers' income would be doubled by 2024, but that has not happened," said Pawar.

Lok Sabha elections in Maharashtra, which elects 48



The situation now is different in the country. The upcoming (Lok Sabha) elections are very important. The Prime Minister had once assured that farmers' income would be doubled by 2024, but that has not happened

MPs, will be held in five phases between April 19 and May 20. The 83-year-old NCP leader said the country's farmers have demanded relief over onions. "But those in power do not care about the farmers," he said at the rally in Indapur, which is a part of the Baramati Lok Sabha constituency.

Pawar's daughter and three-term MP Supriya Sule will be contesting from Baramati. The former Union agriculture minister said Sena (UBT) leader

Raut was put behind bars after he spoke against the government, referring to the Raja Sabha MP's arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in an alleged money laundering case in 2022.

"Despite his hard work, Arvind Kejriwal has been sent to jail. In the last Delhi elections, the BJP won only 2 per cent of the seats and the rest was in favour of Kejriwal (AAP)," he said.

The ED Thursday arrested Kerjwal in an excise policy-

linked money laundering case. On Friday, he was remanded in ED's custody for six days. At the rally, Raut also targeted the BJP-led Centre and state government.

"We don't want your 'Acche Din'. Give us the days we had before 2014. There's no impact on us after Ajit Pawar joined their alliance. Our party has grown stronger after Eknath Shinde left us. Maharashtra didn't witness the difference after those who left us," he said.

The Sharad Pawar-founded NCP split last year after Ajit Pawar and several MLAs loyal to him broke away to join the Maharashtra government. In 2022, Shinde had triggered a similar upheaval in the original Shiv Sena to become the chief minister with BJP's help.

"Do not threaten us. We are not going to be afraid of anything. We will see a change in the government in the country in the next four months. Once our government is formed, no one will be left in your party," he added.

Maha allows free shoots on government premises

Certain government departments have enacted laws specifying charges for filming activities which shall be changed in the next session of the Maharashtra legislature



and foreign languages," said an official order.

Certain government departments have enacted laws specifying charges for filming activities which shall be changed in the next session of the Maharashtra legislature. However, though there will be no fees for shooting, a nominal security deposit will have to be paid with each application - ₹40,000 for commercials, ₹100,000 for teleserials and ₹250,000 for feature films.

This is to ensure that after the shooting, the premises are left clean and in case of any damage to the public properties, it will be recovered from the security deposit.

Sinha explained that on an average, 500 feature films are made in India each year in multiple languages, and more than 100 are produced in Mumbai alone.

Officials said that Mumbai has over 500 production houses, 250 theatres and multiplexes, and 150 cinema halls which provide huge employment through a well-established ecosystem for the expensive film production processes.

Through the SWC, the Maharashtra Film, Theatre and Cultural Development Corporation earns around ₹8-10 crore per annum through filming process activities.

Bollywood circles say many places in the state, including beaches, forts, lakes, forests, historical monuments, memorials, sanctuaries, skyscrapers of Mumbai, Thane, Navi Mumbai, promenades, mega-infrastructure sites or bridges, etc. are popular among film-makers, depending on their requirements.

Presently, free filming on government properties is allowed in Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh gives certain concessions to local producers, while Maharashtra is contemplating subsidies to Marathi film production, as part of the larger strategy to make the state a "global film destination".

₹27CR CASH SEIZED SINCE MARCH 20

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, March 23: After the process for the first phase of the general elections started with the filing of nominations for 5 Lok Sabha seats in the Vidarbha region from March 20, the state election authorities with the help of the police have seized ₹27 crore in cash, 17 lakh litres of liquor, 699 kg of drugs and 43 kg of precious metals from various parts of Maharashtra.

Of the ₹27 crore, ₹3.60 crore was seized from the Mumbai suburbs alone, said the state's chief electoral officer S Chockalingam here Saturday. He however, clarified that the cash seized may not all be illegal and therefore no offence has been registered immediately with the Economic Offences Wing of the police.

BSF's SDG reviews operational preparedness along LoC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, March 23: Special Director General (SDG) of the BSF's Western Command, Yogesh Bahadur Khurania, concluded a five-day visit in the Kashmir valley which was aimed to assess the security situation and operational preparedness of the force along the Line of Control (LoC), an official said here Saturday.

The SDG of Western Command Chandigarh undertook a significant five-day visit to the Kashmir Frontier from March 18 to 22, a BSF spokesman said. The spokesman said the visit aimed to assess the security situation and operational preparedness along the LoC, reaffirming the commitment of the BSF to safeguard India's borders.

The visit commenced with a detailed briefing by Inspector General, BSF Kashmir Frontier, Ashok Yadav, on the security situation on the LoC and hinterland, he said.

The spokesman said the visit included an aerial reconnaissance and visits to forward defended localities, as well as to the Sector Headquarters (SHQ) BSF in Kupwara and Srinagar. At each location, the SDG engaged with the local BSF



At each location, the SDG engaged with the local BSF Commanders and troops gaining firsthand insights into the security scenario and operational readiness along the LoC

The BSF officer visited the Composite Hospital and STC BSF, Kashmir, where he reviewed ongoing physical and professional skill training of recruits

Commanders and troops gaining firsthand insights into the security scenario and operational readiness along the LoC.

Khurania also called on General Officer Commanding (GOC) 15 Corps, Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai, and discussed the collaborative efforts between the BSF and the Army, and underscored the paramount importance of synergy for achieving peace, prosperity and development in the valley, the spokesman said.

The BSF officer visited the

Composite Hospital and STC BSF, Kashmir, where he reviewed ongoing physical and professional skill training of recruits. He commended the professionalism and expertise of the training team at STC BSF, Kashmir, highlighting their role in shaping the future of BSF personnel.

During the visit, Khurania interacted with senior officers, subordinate officers and jawans through a "Praharis Sammelan". The BSF SDG lauded the high level of professionalism exhibited by the BSF personnel and urged them to maintain high vigil to thwart any attempts to disrupt peace and harmony in the valley.

Khurania's visit to the Kashmir Frontier underscores the BSF's unwavering commitment to safeguard India's borders and ensure the safety and security of its citizens, the spokesman said.

Maha's first-time voters consider climate action a key poll issue

The survey was conducted in collaboration between Asar Social Impact Advisors, the Climate Educators Network (CEN) and CMSR Consultants

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, March 23: Climate action ranks as the second-most crucial factor influencing the choice of political candidates or parties among first-time voters in Maharashtra, according to a recent survey.

The survey titled 'Perception of First-Time Voters (aged 18-22 years) on Climate Education in India' revealed that 52.2 per cent of respondents advocate for climate education as the government's most effective strategy to combat the climate crisis. A significant portion of participants expressed a need for more comprehensive climate education to bridge the gap between awareness and actionable knowledge.

The survey was conducted in collaboration between Asar Social Impact Advisors, the Climate Educators Network (CEN), and CMSR Consultants. It surveyed 1,600 first-time voters from states including Maharashtra, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal. A total of 400 respondents from Mumbai and Pune participated in the survey.

The survey's findings underscore the urgency and importance of integrating climate education into our curricula, tailoring it to



meet local contexts and students' needs, thereby fostering a generation equipped to tackle the climate crisis proactively.

On the quality of environmental education in schools and colleges, responses varied across different regions. In Delhi, the prevailing sentiment among respondents (58 per cent) was that the quality of environmental education is 'average', with 25 per cent considering it 'poor'.

Conversely, in Maharashtra and West Bengal, a majority of respondents (47 per cent and 58 per cent respectively) rated environmental education as 'good'.

In Tamil Nadu, 39 per cent of the respondents perceived their environmental education positively as 'good', while another 25 per cent described it as 'average'. On coverage of climate change topics, across locations, topics like global warming, greenhouse gas emissions, renewable

energy, and biodiversity loss were commonly addressed in the school curriculum. However, the majority of the participants expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of depth and solution-oriented approach.

Despite some detailed discussions on specific aspects like greenhouse gases and mitigation strategies, there was a common sentiment of inadequate coverage or in-depth discussions about climate change and no practical solutions to address environmental challenges.

Participants also emphasized the need for practical solutions in climate education, and topics like sustainable development goals and waste segregation to be integrated into the curriculum. They called for climate education to be free from political bias and made it mandatory, suggesting adjustments to the credit scoring system to reflect its im-

portance.

There was a notable lack of awareness about climate change causes and consequences, highlighting the need for more knowledge dissemination. The need for comprehensive and in-depth coverage on topics like global warming, medical waste management, acid rain and ozone depletion was emphasized.

There were suggestions for a deeper exploration and analysis of the hazardous nature of industrial pollution and including detailed information on how climate change can be mitigated and reversed within the curriculum.

While a significant portion of respondents felt adequately informed about the causes and consequences of climate change through their education, qualitative findings revealed that many felt the knowledge imparted was insufficient.

In Maharashtra, West Bengal, and Tamil Nadu, a significant majority of respondents, comprising 93 per cent, 89 per cent and 82 per cent respectively, reported learning new and significant aspects of climate change in school. However, in Delhi, only 23 per cent of respondents stated the same.

Respondents also suggested various strategies for the government to effectively tackle the climate crisis. The top strategy mentioned by respondents of West Bengal (87 per cent), and Delhi (74 per cent), was enhancing sustainable transportation infrastructure. Likewise, 80 per cent and 72 per cent respondents from West Bengal and Delhi respectively suggested implementing stricter regulations on carbon emissions to tackle the climate crisis.

Maximum respondents from Tamil Nadu (55 per cent) and Maharashtra (52 per cent) believed that an effective strategy would be to conduct climate education and awareness programs. Prioritising the development and utilization of renewable energy sources was suggested by 80 per cent respondents from West Bengal followed by 70 per cent, 50 per cent and 45 per cent respondents from Delhi, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra respectively.

Participants also stressed the importance of political commitment to addressing climate change issues, indicating a growing awareness among voters regarding environmental sustainability and its influence on political decisions.

international



The Secretary-General is deeply disturbed by the video footage that reportedly shows four Palestinians walking, apparently unarmed, who were killed by an Israeli airstrike in Gaza

FARHAN HAQ | THE DEPUTY SPOKESMAN FOR GUTERRES

SLOVAKIA VOTES

Voters in Slovakia headed to the polls Saturday to elect a successor to Zuzana Caputová, the country's first female president and a staunch backer of neighboring Ukraine in its fight against Russia's full-scale invasion. Caputová isn't seeking a second term



of the day quote

I request all political parties that they should set aside all their political issues and work for the development and prosperity of the country

ASIF ALI ZARDARI | PAKISTAN PRESIDENT

Iran presents a constant threat to the United States — trying to murder Americans right here within our borders, conducting a cyber-attack on a children's hospital, supporting terrorists around the world, and more

CHRISTOPHER WRAY | DIRECTOR OF FBI

Military buildup, including nuclear and missile development, has been accelerating in areas surrounding Japan and attempts to unilaterally change the status quo by force are growing

FUMIO KISHIDA | JAPAN PM

SHORT TAKES

Imran's party to hold protest

Islamabad: Jailed former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan's party would hold a protest against the alleged rigging of the February 8 elections in Islamabad March 30, according to a media report Saturday. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party founded by a 71-year-old cricketer turned politician believed that the incumbent rulers stole their electoral mandate in the elections and the results were changed to benefit the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP).

Blinken's visit steps up ceasefire talks

Tel Aviv: US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken's visit to the Middle east and Israel Thursday and Friday respectively, has accelerated the indirect ceasefire talks between Israel and Hamas in Doha, Qatar. Mossad Chief, David Barnea, who is heading the Israeli delegation is back in Doha for the negotiations.

Heavy rains kill 7

Petropolis (Brazil): Heavy rains in Rio de Janeiro state have killed at least seven people, authorities said Saturday, while a 4-year-old girl was rescued after more than 16 hours under mud. The girl was pulled out alive in the city of Petropolis, 69 kilometers (43 miles) north of Rio. Rescue teams had to stop their work Friday night due to risks of new landslides in the region.

Moscow massacre claims 133

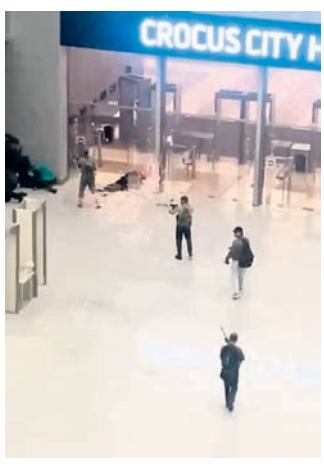
PM Modi ends 2-day state visit to Bhutan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The attack, which was the deadliest in Russia in years, came just days after Putin cemented his grip on power in a highly orchestrated electoral landslide and as the country's war in Ukraine dragged into a third year



Smoke from fire rises above the burning Crocus City Hall concert venue following the shooting incident



Gunmen open fire at Crocus City Hall, in this still image obtained from a video

WORLD REACTION

The United States, European and Arab powers and many former Soviet republics expressed shock and sent their condolences. The United Nations Security Council condemned what it called a "heinous and cowardly terrorist attack". Russia tightened security at airports, transport hubs and across the capital - a vast urban area of more than 21 million people - and big public events were cancelled across the country. However, some Russian politicians pointed the finger at Ukraine shortly after the attack — accusations that Ukraine has strongly denied.

Thimphu, March 23: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday concluded a fruitful two-day state visit to Bhutan during which he assured Thimphu of New Delhi's firm support in its quest for development and agreed to provide Rs 10,000 crore to the Himalayan nation over the next five years.

On Saturday morning, Modi along with his Bhutanese counterpart Tshering Tobgay inaugurated a modern hospital for women and children built with Indian assistance in Thimphu. In a special gesture, the King of Bhutan, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck as well as Prime Minister Tobgay were present at the Paro International Airport to see off Prime Minister Modi. "I am honoured by the special gesture by His Majesty the King of Bhutan, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck of coming to the airport as I leave for Delhi," Modi posted on X. "This has been a very special Bhutan visit. I had the opportunity to meet His Majesty the King, PM @tsheringtobgay and other distinguished people of Bhutan."



AGENCIES

Moscow, March 23: The death toll in the Moscow concert hall attack has risen to 133, Russia's top state investigative agency said Saturday.

The update from the Investigative Committee comes as authorities are combing the charred wreckage of the Crocus City Hall on Moscow's western edge for more victims. Officials previously put the death toll from Friday's raid at 115.

The attack also left many wounded. The Islamic State group's Afghanistan branch claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement posted on affiliated channels on social media. A US intelligence official told *The Associated Press* that US agencies had confirmed that the group was responsible for the attack.

In an address to the nation Saturday, Russian President said authorities had detained 11 people, including four who took

part in the attack. He also suggested they had been trying to cross the border into Ukraine which, he said, tried to create a "window" to help them escape. Ukraine has strongly denied any involvement and accused Moscow of using the attack to try to stoke fervour in its war effort.

The Islamic State group's Afghanistan branch claimed responsibility for Friday's attack in a statement posted on affiliated channels on social media.

A US intelligence official told

The Associated Press that US agencies had confirmed that the group was responsible for the attack.

PUTIN ADDRESS Putin cast the enemy as "international terrorism" and said that he was ready to work with any state that wanted to defeat it. "All the perpetrators, organisers and those who ordered this crime will be justly and inevitably punished. Whoever

The Islamic State group's Afghanistan branch claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement posted on affiliated channels on social media

EAM snubs China's claims on Arunachal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Singapore, March 23: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Saturday dismissed China's repeated claims on Arunachal Pradesh as "ludicrous" and asserted that the frontier state was a "natural part of India".

In probably his first public comments on China's frequent claims on Arunachal Pradesh and its Opposition to Indian leaders visiting the state, Jaishankar said it was not a new issue.

"This is not a new issue. I mean China has laid claim, it has expanded its claim. The claims are ludicrous to begin with and remain ludicrous today," he said in response to a question on the Arunachal issue after delivering a lecture at the prestigious Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS) of the National University of Singapore (NUS) here.

Jaishankar, who is here on a three-day visit, emphasised that Arunachal Pradesh was a "natural part of India."

"So, I think we've been very clear, very consistent on this. And I think you know that is something which will be part of the boundary discussions which

Terrorism in Pak at 'industry level'

Underlining that Pakistan is sponsoring terrorism almost at an "industry level", External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Saturday asserted that the mood in India now is not to overlook terrorists and it "will not skirt this problem anymore". "Every country wants a stable neighbourhood...If nothing else, you want at least a quiet neighbourhood," he said in response to a question on India's ties with Pakistan.

are taking place," he said.

Responding to another question, Jaishankar said the challenge for India today is how to find the sustainable equilibrium between two rising powers, who also happen to be neighbours, and who have a history and a population, which sets them apart from the rest of the world and who also have capabilities. "So this is a very, very complex challenge," he said.

Jaishankar said it came as a "great surprise" to India when the Chinese in 2020 "chose to do something on the border, which was completely violative of agreements we had reached".



SPACE RACE: The Soyuz rocket launches to the International Space Station with Expedition 71 NASA astronaut Tracy Dyson, Russia cosmonaut Oleg Novitskiy, and Belarus spaceflight participant Marina Vasilevskaia, onboard, at the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. The launch had been planned for Thursday but was halted by an automatic safety system about 20 seconds before the scheduled liftoff

Double cancer blow leaves royal family strained

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, March 23: King Charles III always wanted a slimmed-down monarchy. But not like this.

The Princess of Wales' disclosure that she has cancer has prompted an outpouring of goodwill for Kate and for a royal family that's now facing two serious health crises. Some of the social media frenzy that has swirled during the princess' absence from public view should now seep away.

But with the King also being treated for an undisclosed form of cancer, and Prince William taking time off to help care for Kate and their children over the Easter school break, the ranks of working royals have been depleted, leaving the monarchy's future suddenly fragile.

Prince Harry is in California, estranged from brother William. Prince Andrew is in disgrace over his friendship with Jeffrey Epstein. So it falls to Queen Camilla and a few others to be



the public face of a monarchy that now has increased public sympathy, but reduced visibility.

Partly in response to gripes that taxpayers were funding a small army of royals, Charles resolved to run a tighter ship when he took the throne in 2022, with a core group of senior family members carrying out most of the work. The nature of that work may not be apparent, especially to people outside the UK, but it is plentiful. The

monarch has no political power but plays a constitutional role that includes signing bills into law and meeting regularly with government ministers.

The King and his children are patrons of many charities, professional bodies and sporting organisations, as well as ceremonial colonels-in-chief of military regiments and dispensers of medals for valour and public achievements. The most visible royal is now 76-year-old Camilla,

who has kept working while her husband is treated for cancer. In recent days she has stood in for Charles on visits to the Isle of Man and Northern Ireland.

The King's sister, 73-year-old Princess Anne, has attended awards ceremonies, receptions and visits as patron of organisations including Save the Children. Prince Edward, at 60 the King's youngest brother, has been in Uganda on royal duties that stretch across the 56-nation Commonwealth of Britain's former colonies. The engagements help fulfil the maxim of the late Queen Elizabeth II that the royal family must be "seen to be believed".

"This is a historic monarchy that thrives on interacting with people," royal historian Robert Hardman told Sky News. "It has to be visible."

But striking a balance between visibility and privacy has always been tricky. During the late queen's 70-year reign, the British media evolved from deference to a hunger for scoops

that saw some tabloids resort to phone hacking and other illegal activity in search of stories.

Press behaviour changed to an extent after the death of Princess Diana in a 1997 car crash while being pursued by photographers. That curbed the use of paparazzi photos, but the relationship between monarchy and media remains an uneasy one. It's openly hostile in the case of Prince Harry, who is suing several newspaper publishers for invasion of privacy.

The palace initially stumbled in its attempt to sate the public desire for information about Kate while maintaining her privacy. A photo of Kate and her children George, Charlotte and Louis released March 10 to coincide with Mother's Day in the UK backfired when The Associated Press and other news agencies retracted the picture from publication because it appeared to have been manipulated. There was no suggestion the image was fake, but the slip-up set off even more conjecture.

TIDBITS

US Congress averts govt partial shutdown

Washington: The Senate passed a \$1.2 trillion package of spending bills in the early morning hours Saturday, a long overdue action nearly six months into the budget year that will push any threats of a government shutdown to the fall. The bill now goes to President Joe Biden to be signed into law. The vote was 74-24. It came after funding had expired for the agencies at midnight, but the White House sent out a notice shortly after the deadline announcing the Office of Management and Budget had ceased shutdown preparations because there was a high degree of confidence that Congress would pass the legislation and the president would sign it Saturday.

Pak's bid for non-permanent seat on UNSC

New York: Pakistan has formally launched its bid for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council for a two-year term from 2025 to 2026, a media report said Saturday with a promise to "contribute meaningfully" to the council's mandate for international peace and security. Pakistan's Permanent Representative to UN Ambassador Munir Akram formally announced the cash-strapped country's candidacy at a reception organised in connection with Pakistan Day celebrations at the UN Thursday, *The Express Tribune* newspaper reported.

Hong Kong security law comes into force

Hong Kong: A new national security law came into force in Hong Kong Saturday despite growing international criticism that it could erode freedoms in the China-ruled city and damage its international financial hub credentials. The law, also known as Article 23, took effect at midnight, opens new tab, days after Hong Kong's pro-Beijing lawmakers passed it unanimously, fast-tracking legislation to plug what authorities called national security loopholes.

CURRAN SPOILS PANT RETURN KKR edge past SRH in thriller



Sam Curran pulls one during his innings, while Rishabh Pant continues his movement behind the stumps, Saturday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, March 23: It was not the comeback Rishabh Pant had wished for as English all-rounder Sam Curran's counterattacking half century powered Punjab Kings to a four-wicket win over Delhi Capitals in their Indian Premier League (IPL) campaign-opener here Saturday.

Curran blazed away to a 47-ball 63 (6x4, 1x6) and got excellent support from compatriot Liam Livingstone (38 n o, 21b, 2x4, 3x6), as Punjab completed a chase of 175 with four balls to spare.

This was after the returning Pant failed to set the stage on fire as Punjab Kings rallied to stop

Delhi Capitals at 174/9. Batting at No.9, Abhishek Porel top-scored for DC with an unbeaten 32 off only 10 balls (4x4, 2x6), helping the side to a total that did not pose any problem for Punjab on a pitch with no demons.

Punjab Kings began their chase in earnest and raced to 34 in three overs when Shikhar Dhawan (22) charged down the wicket only to miss and see his middle stump getting disturbed by Ishant Sharma.

'Impact Sub' Prabhshimran Singh walked in at No.3 and Ishant squared him up with one that hit the perfect length and left the batter in two minds. Prabhshimran's riposte was a boundary through mid-off as the

batter showed aggressive intent. Having struck two fours in three balls, Jonny Bairstow was run out in an unfortunate fashion as Ishant managed to get his fingertips to a Prabhshimran drive before the ball went on to hit the stumps at the non-striker's end. Bairstow dived, but had backed up too far and couldn't win the race against the ball.

Prabhshimran (27) struck Khaleel Ahmed for two successive fours to relieve the pressure but, after having steered the ship, the batter fell to in-form wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav who snared him with a googly. Kuldeep also accounted for Jitesh Sharma to leave Punjab in a spot of bother at 100/4 in the 12th over.

Earlier, Punjab were put under pressure straightaway by the flamboyant Australian opening duo of David Warner (29) and Mitchell Marsh (20), who were dealing in fours and sixes.

The flurry of boundaries forced Punjab Kings skipper Shikhar Dhawan to effect a bowling change but Kagiso Rabada's introduction did little to stem the flow of runs as Marsh pulled a short ball over deep backward square for a big six.

Arshdeep Singh (2/28) came back and was whacked over long-off for another gigantic six by Marsh. However, the left-arm seamer had the last laugh as he had Marsh caught by an agile Rahul Chahar at cover point, after the batter played a booming drive in the air.

Unperturbed by the departure of his opening partner, Warner continued to play in his usual aggressive fashion, hitting Rabada for a four through mid-off and then sat down to use the scoop shot for an incredible maximum over shot fine.

Harpreet Brar checked the flow of runs by bowling a fine first over but Chahar started with a 14-run over with Shai Hope hitting the bowler for a six and a four. Harshal Patel (2/47) got the big wicket of Warner in his first over as comeback-man Pant (18) arrived at the crease to loud applause from the stands.

The weekend crowd acknowledged his tale of perseverance after surviving a horrific car accident in December 2022 with cheers of joy. Pant got himself a couple of boundaries before walking back to the dugout after a rather soft dismissal off Harshal. Meanwhile, Rabada accounted for Hope and Chahar got rid of Tristan Stubbs as Delhi slipped to 128/6 in the 16th over.

BRIEF SCORES
DC 174/9 (Shai Hope 33, Abhishek Porel 32 n o, David Warner 29, Arshdeep Singh 2/28, Harshal Patel 2/47) lost to PBKS 177/6 (Sam Curran 63, Liam Livingstone 38 n o; Kuldeep Yadav 2/20, Khaleel Ahmed 2/43) by 4 wickets.



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, March 23: Harshit Rana bowled a brilliant final over to stop a rampaging Heinrich Klassen (63, 29b, 8x6) as Kolkata Knight Riders snatched a narrow, thrilling four-run victory against Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL at the Eden Gardens here, Saturday.

It was a thrilling last-ball finish to remember as Klassen dragged SRH from the verge of defeat to almost over the line before Rana took it away from them. From 60 off 18 balls, Klassen and Shahbaz Ahmed hammered 21 and 26 runs in the next two overs to make it 13 off six balls. They blazed 81 runs off the last five overs and set the pulse racing with their brilliant strokeplay.

Klassen hammered Rana for a six off the first delivery and

with seven needed off five balls, conceded a single and sent back Ahmed to pull things back for KKR. But it was still SRH's match to lose as Marco Jansen took a single and gave Klassen the strike. Suyash Sharma pulled off a superb catch at short third to dismiss Klassen as KKR sealed a nerve-wracking victory.

SRH ended their 20 overs on 204/7 and fell short by four runs as they mounted a brilliant chase of KKR's 208/7 built on an unbeaten 25-ball 64 (3x4, 7x6) by Andre Russell and 54 (40b, 3x4, 3x6) by Phil Salt after Pat Cummins had won the toss and asked KKR to bat first on a pitch that looks full of runs.

Chasing a mammoth target, SRH made a good start with Mayank Agarwal (32, 21b, 4x4, 1x6) and Abhishek Sharma (32, 19b, 4x4, 2x6) raising 60 runs for the opening wicket partnership.

Rahul Tripathi (20), Aiden Markram (18) and Abdul Samad (15) also failed to convert their starts as SRH were reduced to 145/5 in the 17th over. But Klaassen and Ahmad launched an unlikely charge towards victory, but eventually fell short of the target.

Earlier, Russell unleashed his fury after Salt's solid fifty helping KKR overcome a sedate start to post an imposing 208/7.

Salt, who went unsold at the auction only to be named as a replacement for Jason Roy, got to his third IPL fifty before being dismissed by Mayank Markande (2/39). He had a superb partnership with Ramandeep Singh (35, 17b, 1x4, 4x6), but Salt's dismissal left KKR struggle at 119/6.

Russell, however, launched his onslaught in the company of Rinku Singh as the duo added 81 runs from 33 balls to help KKR post a massive total. Left-arm seamer T Natarajan (3/32) was the standout among the SRH bowlers.

BRIEF SCORES
KKR 208/7 (Andre Russell 64 n o, Phil Salt 54, Ramandeep Singh 35, Rinku Singh 23; T Natarajan 3/32, Mayank Markande 2/39) beat SRH 204/7 (Heinrich Klaassen 63, Abhishek Sharma 32, Mayank Agarwal 32; Harshit Rana 3/33, Andre Russell 2/25) by 4 runs.

Eyes on fit-again Rahul as Lucknow face Royals



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, March 23: The focus will be on KL Rahul's form and fitness when he returns from a quadriceps injury to lead the Lucknow Super Giants in their IPL opener against Rajasthan Royals here Sunday.

Rahul missed the last four Tests against England due to pain in his right quadriceps. He was out for four months last year after undergoing a thigh surgery. LSG captain will look to hit top gear not only as a batter but also as a leader, especially after guiding the team to successive playoffs in the first two seasons.

Rahul is likely to play purely as a batter, at least in the initial phase of IPL, but the additional burden of keeping strengthens his chances of making the T20 World Cup squad.

His opposite number Sunday, Sanju Samson, is also a candidate for the wicket-keepers' role in the India squad for the ICC event and he too will be keen to find his rhythm right from the start.

RR had come tantalisingly close to clinching a second title before Gujarat Titans broke their heart in the final in 2022. They looked good in the initial stages even last season but slipped to fifth place in the end. Both the teams will have some tough calls to make as they figure out their best XI.

RR have a solid batting line-up, boosting of the likes of in-form Yashasvi Jaiswal, Jos Buttler, besides skipper Samson. They

also have a finisher in Dhruv Jurel. But Samson may look to strengthen the middle-order by bringing in West Indies' Rovman Powell to go with countrymate Shimron Hetmyer.

LSG, on the other hand, would depend on Quinton de Kock, Marcus Stonis and Nicholas Pooran to do bulk of the scoring apart from skipper Rahul.

It is going to be an interesting battle as they will have to contend with spin wizards - Ravichandran Ashwin and Yuzvendra Chahal, who can run through any batting line-up on a given day.

Lucknow too have a shrewd customer in leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi, who would be itching to put up a good show to put himself in line for a place in the T20 World Cup squad. Also the 41-year-old veteran leg-break bowler Amit Mishra is always in the thick of things.

But their pace battery wears a dim look, especially after foreign recruits Mark Wood and David Willey were ruled out. It will also be interesting to see how Justin Langer goes about his business in his first IPL assignment as coach of LSG.

MATCHDAY
Indian Premier League
RR vs LSG
Time: 03:30 PM
GT vs MI
Time: 07:30 PM
Telecast: Star Sports Network
Stream: Jio Cinema

Hardik begins MI captaincy stint against GT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, March 23: Hardik Pandya will aim to build on the rich legacy of his predecessor Rohit Sharma when he begins his Mumbai Indians captaincy stint with a match against Gujarat Titans, a team that the star all-rounder himself marshalled over last two seasons, in the IPL here Sunday.

Such are the professional ways of IPL that Pandya, having led Titans to the title and runners-up finish in the previous two seasons, has gone to back to the Mumbai Indians where he made a name for himself.

The tournament also marks Pandya's comeback from a 'freak' ankle injury he picked up in the middle of the ODI World Cup in October.

The form of the injury-prone all-rounder with both bat and ball will be closely tracked in the tournament that precedes the T20 World Cup in the USA and Caribbean.

With Pandya moving on to the other side, Titans will be led by Shubman Gill, who assumes the responsibility with very little captaincy experience.



Mumbai have been grappling with fitness issues to their key players including star batter Suryakumar Yadav, who is yet to get fitness clearance from NCA. Left-arm pacers Jason Behrendorff and Dilshan Madushanka are already ruled out of the IPL while new recruit Gerald Coetzee, nursing a groin injury, might not be available for the first few games.

Having led Mumbai to as many as five IPL titles, India skipper Rohit will be turning up as a player this season and would be expected to hit top form ahead

of the ICC event in June.

Another player whose performance will be scrutinised is Ishan Kishan, who will have a point to prove after losing his BCCI central contract for defying the Board's diktat on domestic cricket.

The southpaw, who missed the entire Test series against England, preferred to train on his own for the IPL and did not turn for his state side Jharkhand in the Ranji Trophy. The fight for the wicket-keeper batter's slot in the World Cup squad will be intense and Kishan needs to be at

the top of his game over the next two months.

Besides Pandya, Mohammad Nabi and Romario Shepherd are the other quality all-round options Mumbai possess. Domestic players like Akash Madhwal and Nehal Wadhwa will be looking to build on their performances of the previous season.

On the Titans' front, Gill has been tasked to ensure that the team maintains the remarkable consistency it showed in its first two seasons. Gill could be one of the future leaders for India but for that to happen, he must prove himself on the IPL stage.

Titans are bound to miss the services of Mohammed Shami, who recently underwent a surgery to repair Achilles tendon and will be back only in the second half of the year.

The return of trump card Rashid Khan from a back surgery is a massive boost for Titans. The Afghanistan spinner made his comeback in the series against Ireland last week.

Among the new joiners, left-arm pacer Spencer Johnson and Azmatullah Omarzai, will be looking to make a mark in the world's biggest T20 league.

CHHETRI SET FOR 150TH INT'L CAP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 23: Nearly two decades after he made his senior debut against Pakistan, Indian talisman Sunil Chhetri is set for another milestone as he will appear in his 150th international match in the World Cup qualifier against Afghanistan in Guwahati Tuesday.

India played out a goalless draw against Afghanistan in their away leg contest as they climbed to second in Group A in the second round of the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifiers.

By achieving the feat, Chhetri will become the 40th player in the world to play 150 or more international matches in the list led by Cristiano Ronaldo (205).

Chhetri first donned the senior national jersey June 12, 2005, in a friendly match against Pakistan in Quetta. He was India's scorer in the 1-1 draw. Since then, he has made 149 appearances for the national team, netting a record 93 goals.

A prolific goal-getter, the 39-year-old holds the unique record of scoring at least one goal in his first, 25th, 50th, 75th, 100th and 125th match for the Blue Tigers.

SRIKANTH ENTERS FIRST SEMIS IN 16 MONTHS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Basel, March 23: Star shuttler Kidambi Srikanth emerged as the lone Indian survivor at the Swiss Open Super 300 badminton tournament when he progressed to the semifinals with a straight game win over Chinese Taipei's Chia Hao Lee here.

Playing his eighth tournament this season, Srikanth dished out a calm and composed performance on way to a 21-10, 21-14 win over World No.34 Lee in 35 minutes Friday night.

Guilty of throwing away matches from advantageous positions for too many times, Srikanth, who is now being coached by Parupalli Kashyap, finally seemed to have a hit a bit of form as he dished out a near flawless performance to outclass Lee.

With the win, Srikanth made



his first final four appearance in 16 months. He last played a semi-final at Hylo Open in November 2022. Srikanth will next face Chinese Taipei's World No.22 Lin Chun-Yi later Saturday.

While the 31-year-old from Guntur stayed on track for a first title in many years, it turned out to be a heartbreaking affair for Kiran George as his gallant fight ended with a 23-21, 17-21, 15-21 loss to Denmark's Rasmus Gemke in another quarterfinal.

Another upcoming Indian Priyanshu Rajawat also found Chou Tien Chen too hot to handle, going down 15-21, 19-21 in a 43 minute clash at the St Jakobshalle stadium.

Srikanth, who has often drowned in a pool of errors by over-hitting or spraying wide while going for his flamboyant smashes, cut his mistakes and looked to outwit his opponent at the net.