



## BHUMI'S ENDORSEMENTS

Actor Bhumi Pednekar to endorse Dettol women's soap and promote importance of hygiene

LEISURE P2



## ARCTIC BLAST GRIPS US

A powerful arctic blast sweeps into the US Northeast, pushing temperatures to perilously low levels

INTERNATIONAL P10



## INDIA RELEGATED

Indian Davis Cup team were relegated to the World Group II after losing the play-off tie 2-3 to Denmark

SPORTS P12



**PRESERVING TRADITIONAL ART:** Students busy doing artworks on palm leaves at Toshali Crafts Mela being organised at Janata Maidan in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

## Two killed, 3 critical in Nayagarh pipeline blast

The pipeline from Paradip to Visakhapatnam was being cleaned with the help of a compressor when it exploded



Injured Ayub Karim Patel being treated at Nayagarh DHH

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Nayagarh, Feb 4:** In a tragic incident, two labourers were killed and three others sustained critical injuries in a compressor blast while laying a pipeline near Sunalati under Itamati police limits in Nayagarh district, Saturday evening.

The deceased were identified as Sonu Ganguly, 35, and Bijay Ganguly, 35.

The injured labourers were identified as Sunil Kumar, 43, of Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh, Ram Singh Uttam Singh More, 36, of Maharashtra and Ayub Karim Patel, 35.

The mishap occurred when the labourers were engaged in laying

of gas pipeline on behalf of Gas Authority of India Ltd (GAIL). The gas pipeline is being laid from Paradip to Visakhapatnam. On being informed, Itamati police reached the spot and launched an investigation. The bodies were sent for post-mortem.

The pipeline was being cleaned with water with the help of compressor when it suddenly exploded leaving five labourers critically injured.

Sonu and Bijay, who were inside the pipeline got pressed inside the pipeline and died with critical injuries. **Contd...P4**

## SHORT TAKES

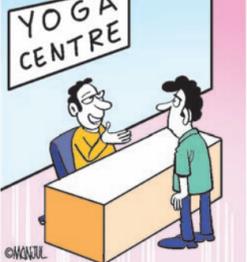
### Dharmendra appointed Karnataka poll in-charge

**New Delhi:** The BJP Saturday appointed Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan its in-charge for the upcoming Karnataka assembly polls, a party statement said. Tamil Nadu BJP unit president K Annamalai will be the co-in-charge for the high-stakes polls where both the ruling party and the opposition Congress have launched intensive public outreach for the elections likely to be held in April-May. Pradhan, a seasoned organisation man of the party, has been tasked with handling several elections in the past, including the last year Uttar Pradesh assembly polls in which the BJP retained power with a big margin. **P7**

### Dharmapada Award for Bansidhar Pratihar

**Bhubaneswar:** Eminent painter Bansidhar Pratihar, 94, has been chosen for the prestigious Dharmapada Award for 2022, Odisha Lalit Kala Akademi said, Saturday. Dharmapada Award, the highest award given by the state government to an individual for lifetime achievement and contribution to the enrichment of visual and sculpture art, carries a cash prize of ₹5 lakh, a citation and a shawl. Renowned sculptor and painter Brajabandhu Mishra, palm leaf artist Laxmidhar Subudhi, pattachitra artist Bhramarbari Nayak, painter Ramesh Behera and stone artist Keshab Chandra Moharana will be conferred special awards carrying a cash prize of ₹1 lakh, a citation, a copper plaque and a shawl each.

### IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Yoga helps unite self with the spirit of the universe. But, here we help you unite with the same religious group

WEATHER	
	BHUB CTK
TEMP MAX	32.8°C 30.6°C
TEMP MIN	14.4°C 14.8°C
Humidity	85% 83%
Rainfall	Nil Nil
Forecast	Mainly clear sky

## 15-yr-old govt vehicles to be scrapped by March

The certificate of registration of govt vehicles, if already renewed, will be treated as cancelled on completion of 15 years from the date of initial registration

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 4:** With a view to curbing air pollution, improve road and vehicular safety, the state government has decided to scrap its vehicles of more than 15 years.

Commerce and Transport Secretary Usha Padhee has written a letter to all additional chief secretaries, principal secretaries and secretaries to scrap all 15-year old government vehicles at Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility (RVSF) centres.

As per the amended Central Motor Vehicle Rules, the certificate of registration in respect of a motor vehicle owned by the state government, urban local bodies (ULBs) and state-owned public sector undertakings (PSUs) established, will expire after the lapse of 15 years from the date of initial registration of the vehicle.

Further, the certificate of registration of government vehicles, if already renewed, such certificate will be treated as cancelled on completion of 15 years from the date of initial registration of the vehicle, Padhee said in her letter.

In this regard, the Finance department has also issued an office memorandum.

Odisha Motor Vehicles (Registration and Functions of Vehicle Scrapping Facility) Policy, 2022 has been notified by the



**Commerce and Transport Secretary Usha Padhee writes to 15-year old govt vehicles at registered vehicle scrapping facility centres**

**Odisha Motor Vehicles (Registration and Functions of Vehicle Scrapping Facility) Policy, 2022 has been notified by the Transport department in order to facilitate scrapping of old vehicles**

Transport department in order to facilitate scrapping of old vehicles, said sources.

Under the policy guidelines, it has also been mandated that all gov-

ernment vehicles under different government departments, PSUs, organisations, autonomous councils and ULBs among others above 15 years of age are to be mandatorily scrapped through an RVSF.

"It is therefore requested that all the above categories of vehicles of your department, heads of departments, subordinate offices, PSUs, organisations, autonomous councils, ULBs etc. under your administrative control may be scrapped on or before March 31, 2023 in the RVSF centres established in the state," read the letter. After scrapping, the departments/offices will have to inform the regional transport officer (RTO) concerned for cancellation of registration of those vehicles. **Contd... P4**

## IT tech employees lost jobs in Jan

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Feb 4:** In what could be touted as the worst month ever for tech workers, close to 1 lakh of them lost jobs in January globally, dominated by companies like Amazon, Microsoft, Google, Salesforce and others.

It means that more than 3,300 tech employees lost jobs daily on an average by more than 288 companies worldwide.

Barring Apple, every other Big Tech firm has slashed jobs, led by Amazon with 18,000 job cuts, followed by Google with 12,000 and Microsoft 10,000 job cuts in January.

Salesforce (7,000), IBM (3,900) and SAP (3,000) were other tech companies that announced layoffs last month.

**Companies cite reasons like over-hiring, uncertain global macroeconomic conditions, strong tailwinds from Covid-19 pandemic for the layoffs**

In 2022, over 1,000 companies laid off 1,54,336 workers, as per the data by layoffs tracking site Layoffs.fyi.

So in total, more than 2.5 lakh tech employees have lost jobs in 2022 and now.

As more and more Big Tech companies continue to sack employees, they listed various reasons behind the move -- over-hiring, uncertain global macroeconomic

conditions, strong tailwinds from the Covid-19 pandemic and more.

After laying off 11,000 employees, Meta Founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg now wants 2023 to be the "year of efficiency".

Joining the mass layoff season, online marketplace OLX Group slashed 15 per cent of its workforce, or more than 1,500 employees, globally including in India as part of restructuring amid the global meltdown and recession fears.

Edtech major BYJU's has laid off further 15 per cent of its employees from its engineering teams.

According to sources, the company in a fresh round of layoffs asked more than 1,000 workers (or 15 per cent) to go, mostly from its engineering teams.

## WITH 5 NEW JUDGES, SC STRENGTH REACHES 32

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Feb 4:** Five judges were appointed to the Supreme Court Saturday with the Centre clearing the names recommended by the Collegium December 13 last year.

Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju tweeted to announce the appointment of Justice Pankaj Mithal, Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court; Justice Sanjay Karol, Chief Justice of Patna High Court; Justice PV Sanjay Kumar, Chief Justice of Manipur High Court; Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah of Patna High Court;

and Justice Manoj Misra of Allahabad High Court as apex court judges.

Once they take oath February 6, the strength of the apex court will go up to 32 judges.

At present, the top court is functioning with 27 judges, including the Chief Justice of India. Its sanctioned strength, including the CJI, is 34.

Their appointments come amidst strong observations by a Supreme Court bench questioning the delay on part of the government in appointing and transferring judges based on the recommendations of the SC Collegium.



The appointments come amidst strong observations by the SC questioning the delay by the Centre in appointing and transferring judges

## 'Megha Barasila' fame Vani Jayaram dies at 77



PNN & AGENCIES

**Chennai, Feb 4:** Iconic singer Vani Jayaram, who will be remembered for Odia several classics including 'Megha Barasila' in film 'Sesa Srabana', died here Saturday. She was 77.

Vani Jayaram, who has crooned over 10,000 songs in 19 languages, including the very popular Hindi number 'Bole re papihara', was living alone at a downtown apartment, where she was found dead, police said.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled her demise.

Jayaram had lent her voice to scores of popular tracks like 'Pirati Chori Chori' in 'Jai Maa Mangala', 'Paichi E Jeevane' in 'Gouri', 'Megha Barasila' in 'Sesa Srabana' and 'Dukha Ete Dei' in 'Jai Maa Mangala'. Her husband predeceased her and she had no children, the singer's domestic help said. The singer's maid said she turned up as usual for work Saturday. However, she did not get any response despite repeatedly pressing the calling bell, she told reporters here. Immediately, she said, she alerted the singer's relatives who informed police. **Contd...P4**

## Jupiter's moon count jumps to 92, most in solar system

The new moons were discovered using telescopes in Hawaii and Chile in 2021 and 2022, and their orbits were confirmed with follow-up observations

AGENCIES

**Cape Canaveral, Feb 4:** Astronomers have discovered 12 new moons around Jupiter, putting the total count at a record-breaking 92.

That's more than any other planet in our solar system. Saturn, the one-time leader, comes in a close second with 83 confirmed moons.

The Jupiter moons were added re-

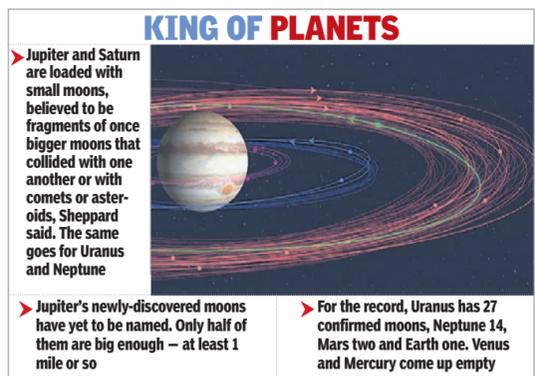
cently to a list kept by the International Astronomical Union's Minor Planet Centre, said Scott Sheppard of the Carnegie Institution, who was part of the team.

They were discovered using telescopes in Hawaii and Chile in 2021 and 2022, and their orbits were confirmed with follow-up observations.

These newest moons range in size from 0.6 miles to 2 miles (1 km to 3 km), according to Sheppard.

"I hope we can image one of these outer moons close-up in the near future to better determine their origins," he said in an email Friday.

In April, the European Space Agency is sending a spacecraft to Jupiter to study the planet and some of its biggest, icy moons.



**Jupiter and Saturn are loaded with small moons, believed to be fragments of once bigger moons that collided with one another or with comets or asteroids, Sheppard said. The same goes for Uranus and Neptune**

**Jupiter's newly-discovered moons have yet to be named. Only half of them are big enough -- at least 1 mile or so**

**For the record, Uranus has 27 confirmed moons, Neptune 14, Mars two and Earth one. Venus and Mercury come up empty**

And next year, NASA will launch the Europa Clipper to explore Jupiter's moon of the same name, which could harbor an ocean beneath its frozen crust.

Sheppard -- who discovered a

slew of moons around Saturn a few years ago and has taken part in 70 moon discoveries so far around Jupiter -- expects to keep adding to the lunar tally of both gas giants.

Jupiter and Saturn are loaded with small moons, believed to be fragments of once bigger moons that collided with one another or with comets or asteroids, Sheppard said. The same goes for Uranus and Neptune, but they're so distant that it makes moon-spotting even harder.

For the record, Uranus has 27 confirmed moons, Neptune 14, Mars two and Earth one. Venus and Mercury come up empty.

Jupiter's newly-discovered moons have yet to be named. Sheppard said only half of them are big enough -- at least 1 mile (1.5 km) or so -- to warrant a name.

# leisure

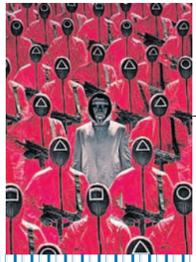


## RIHANNA GEARS UP FOR TOUR COMEBACK AND NEW MUSIC

Rihanna is making her comeback with a huge tour after she takes to the stage at the 'Super Bowl'. The 'Diamonds' hit maker will headline the half-time show next Saturday marking the kick-off of her new tour and plans to make new music. The singer is said to be "working overtime" as she prepares for the tour.

## SQUID GAME CONTESTANTS SLAM 'INHUMANE' CONDITIONS

The reality show *Squid Game* is proving to be an ordeal for the contestants. Some 228 contestants, who were immediately eliminated from *Squid Game: The Challenge* on January 23 provided a memorable story for tabloids. The story described how contestants on the reality show had been left freezing in a cavernous aeroplane hanger in Bedford.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**AQUARIUS**  
You will be able to strike a balance between the emotional and rational side of your personality. You will find pleasure in your work and may successfully mix your personal life into your professional life. Financially, there are no major issues, but negligible matters may keep your mind occupied, feels Ganesh.

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

## Bhumi to promote hygiene

**Mumbai:** Actor Bhumi Pednekar has now been signed on by the legacy brand Dettol to be the face of their women's soap to promote the importance of hygiene. The *Toilet: Ek Prem Katha* actress is now the face of 10 brands including the likes of global cosmetic and women's hygiene companies. A trade source reveals, "Bhumi has become one of the most trusted faces in India today, given her powerful performance in credible movies as well as her selfless work towards educating people about climate change. She is the most woke celebrity of our times and this is why brands, that are wanting to speak to today's generation with campaigns that resonate with the youth of today, have all flocked to Bhumi". As a brand ambassador, Bhumi aligns with brands that have a reduced carbon footprint that has been the tool of people's voice in India or with brands that have effectively contributed to society. Dettol has now signed her for two years!



## We live art in India: Lisa

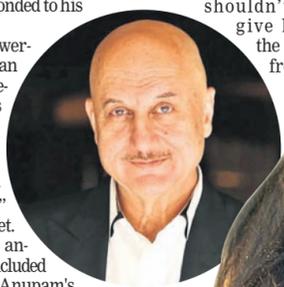
**Mumbai:** Actress Lisa Ray has come up with a new platform, 'TheUpsideSpace'. It aims at empowering the artiste community through NFTs (Non-Fungible Token) to keep up with the rapidly changing times in the world of the Internet and to tie the ends of art and technology. Art has always been a catalyst for evolution. From cave paintings of prehistoric times to the classical art of Michelangelo, the Surrealism of Salvador Dali and to the avant-garde art of Pablo Picasso, art has always enhanced the advancement of mankind through ideas and expression. And when art meets technology, it creates wonders: a case in point is the music of A. R. Rahman which revolutionised how music is made in India. This initiative will put the spotlight on the artistes from Southeast Asia, South Asia, and the Middle East. Lisa has been deeply connected with art since her childhood. In her opinion, "Art is not optional in our world. Especially in India, we live art." "I've been collecting contemporary Indian art since the 1990s and I can't ignore how much my art collection has risen in value." This affinity towards collection of art has translated in 'TheUpsideSpace' as art rises in value and is now an option for a wide audience due to NFTs and blockchain technology.



## Anupam goes all praise for Kangana

**New Delhi:** Actor Anupam Kher recently called Kangana one of the best directors he has worked with and Kangana responded to his words in the kind. "People talk about woman empowerment till they find an empowered woman and their egos want to crush her but a really strong and secure man will always protect a woman no matter how fierce/empowered she is. @AnupamKher ji thank you I always feel loved and appreciated around you," Kangana wrote in a tweet. She was replying to another tweet which included an excerpt from Anupam's recent interview about Kangana. Praising Kangana, Anupam he said, "I think Kangana is a brave girl. If we applaud woman empowerment, we should defiantly celebrate the success of

Kangana. Like everybody has freedom of speech, why shouldn't we give her the free- dom of speech? I think she's one of the finest directors, I have worked with, and I say this after doing 534 films". AGENCIES



## National Theatre Festival Purva Ranga 2023 concludes

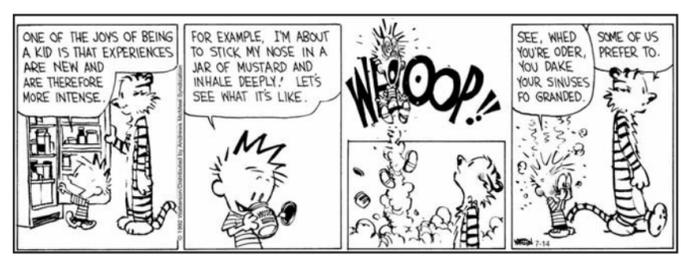


**CURTAINS DOWN:** A scene from the Bengali play *Medea* staged at Rabindra Mandap, Saturday, on the fourth day of Purva Ranga 2023. Written by Shankar Shesh and directed by Tapanjyoti Das, the drama was presented by Rangapat theatre troupe of Kolkata. The play was a retelling of Greek mythological story reflecting how history being vocal about the stereotypical patriarchy, silencing the female gender. Manotosh Mukherjee, Siddharth Barman, Sukriti Lahori Sinha and Chhandabani Dutta played key roles. The event was organised by Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi(OSNA) in collaboration with Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Kolkata and Odisha Natya Sangh(ONS). The dignitaries present on the occasion included Culture director Ranjan Das, dramatists Dhira Mallick, Prasanna Mishra, OSNA president Aruna Mohanty and secretary Prabodh Rath.

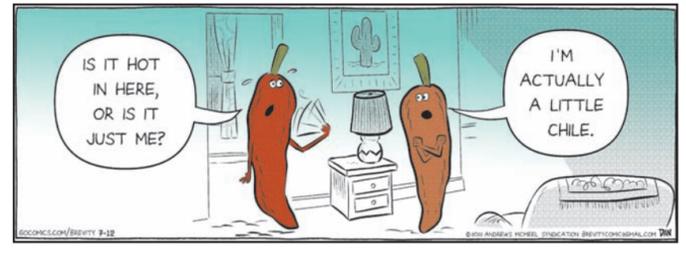
### PEANUTS



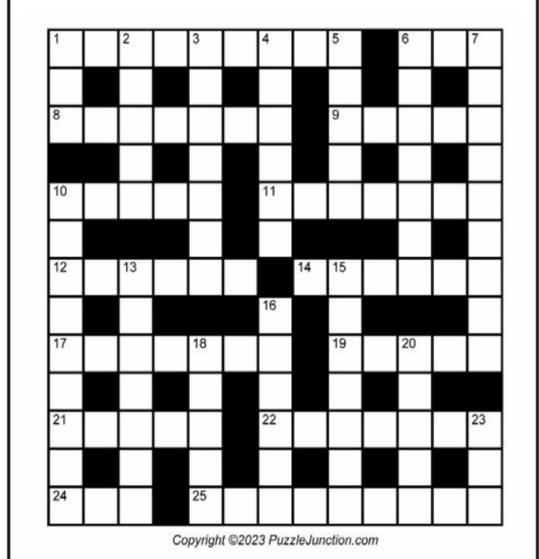
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



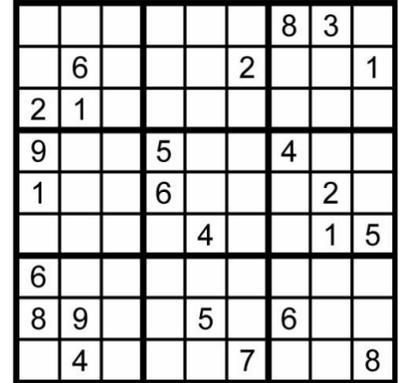
### FUN post CROSSWORD



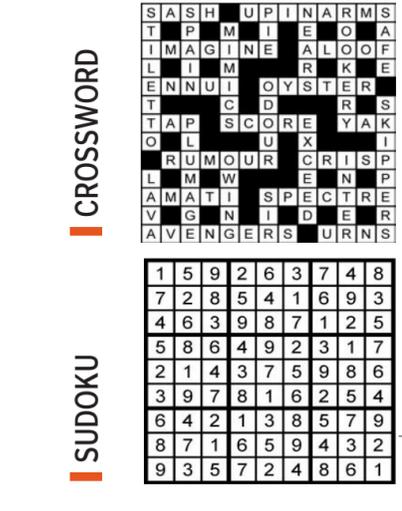
- Across**
- 1 Bring up to date
  - 6 Litter member
  - 8 Bandits
  - 9 Evil spirit
  - 10 Thespian
  - 11 Frankness
  - 12 Concealed
  - 14 Orb
  - 17 Assuage
  - 19 Home ornamentation
  - 21 Senior citizen
  - 22 Toad's resting place, at times (4,3)
  - 24 Poetic contraction
  - 25 Art of animal stuffing
  - Down**
  - 1 Encountered
  - 2 Float
  - 3 Daydream
  - 4 Earwig, for one
  - 5 Goad (3,2)
  - 6 Inflammation
  - 7 Arctic denizen (5,4)
  - 10 Repulsive
  - 13 Deceives
  - 15 Rowed a boat
  - 16 Automatic reaction
  - 18 Snowy heron
  - 20 Capriote
  - 23 Calendar item

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS

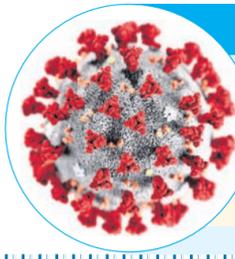


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



**RICH TRIBUTE**

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik pays tribute to Utkal Gourav Madhusudan Das on his death anniversary in Bhubaneswar, Saturday



**COVID-19 TRACKER**

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	67,61,01,245	64,84,28,772	67,70,476
India	4,46,83,250	4,41,50,713	5,30,745
Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204

**CB takes killer cop on 4-day remand**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 4: The state Crime Branch (CB), which is groping in the dark to establish the motive behind now dismissed police ASI Gopal Krushna Das assassinating the minister in Jharsuguda January 29, got another four-day remand of the accused Saturday.

Meanwhile, CB ADG Arun Bothra met justice JP Das, a retired judge of Orissa High Court who has been appointed to monitor the high-profile case, at his Cuttack residence and briefed him about the status of investigation.

Justice Das said he was briefed about the status of investigation and it is going in the right direction. However, he is yet to see the documents. Das also informed that he will soon visit the crime spot at Brajarajnarjan in Jharsuguda.

On the other hand, Intelligence

**MUNDA DEMANDS PROBE BY INDEPENDENT AGENCY**

Senior BJP leader and Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda Saturday demanded investigation by an independent agency into the brutal murder of Odisha minister Naba Kishore Das January 29.

Speaking to media here, Munda said the murder of the minister is a major concern for the law and order situation of the state. "If such an incident happens to a minister, then what would be the condition of the common people in the state?" he asked.

"If such a situation arises in between police and a minister, whom will the common people trust?"

Munda further asked. Therefore, the case should be investigated by an independent agency so that truth can come out, he demanded.

The Tribal Affairs Minister also blamed the Odisha government for non-inclusion of 169 communities into Odisha ST List.

"It is not a political issue. It is a constitutional matter. It cannot be resolved by making political statements," he said. The state government has not submitted a concrete proposal for inclusion of the communities in the ST list, Munda said.

As per process, he said, proper anthropological research is needed to be done about the communities.

director Sanjeeb Panda and DIG Anup Sahu met DGP Sunil Kumar Bansal in the afternoon. Earlier in

the day, ADG (law and order) RK Sharma also held discussions with the DGP.

**NABA DAS MURDER**



**ENSURING ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** Orissa High Court Chief Justice S Muralidhar inaugurates witness deposition centre-cum-virtual court room in Puri, Saturday

**Redevelopment of Koraput Jagannath temple on cards**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 4: If things go well, the Jagannath temple in Narayanpatna block of Koraput district will be transformed into a mega tourism destination, with 5T Secretary VK Pandian Saturday asking the district administration to submit a masterplan for redevelopment of the shrine and its adjoining areas.

During his tour to Narayanpatna block of the tribal-dominated district, Pandian visited the Jagannath Temple. After offering prayer to the deities, the 5T Secretary spoke with the priests and locals.

Pandian asked the district administration to submit a masterplan for the renovation of the temple and adjoining areas after assuring the locals to take up the development of the shrine for tourism purposes.

The 5T Secretary later visited Jhantjhatwadi Dam site and spoke to



5T Secretary VK Pandian interacts with students

■ Pandian, along with officials including Sports Secretary Vineel Krishna and Koraput Collector Abdaal M Akhtar, visited SSD School at Dandabadi and Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya at Pachingi and interacted with students and teachers there

the officials of the Minor Irrigation present there. He asked the officials to expedite the tender process while advising the land acquisition officer to speed up the acquisition process.

The dam and the consequent irrigation programmes will have a life-changing impact on the people of Bandhugan and Narayanpatna.

The socio-economic landscape of the area will be transformed, he said.

Pandian, along with other officials including Sports Secretary Vineel Krishna and district Collector Abdaal M Akhtar, later visited SSD School at Dandabadi and Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya (OAV) at Pachingi and interacted

with students and teachers there. He inquired about facilities available for them, while also inspecting 5T works at the OAV. He assured the students of full support from the government.

Pandian then visited the Deomali peak in Pottangi block. He interacted with members of the self-help groups (SHGs) operating cafes and advised them to ensure quality and hygiene. He also oversaw the ongoing work for an eco resort by the Forest department and asked them to ensure timely completion.

He also asked the district administration to work on developing adventure sports and renewable energy sources on the mountain.

The 5T secretary also visited several places in the Borigungma and Laxmipur blocks, meeting there several Mission Shakti SHGs working in the fields of food processing, poultry, slipper manufacturing and fly ash bricks.

**NHRC for ₹5L aid to minor rape victim of Kendrapara**

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Feb 4: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has directed the District Magistrate-cum-Collector of Kendrapara to grant ₹5 lakh compensation to a minor rape victim as applicable under the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) scheme.

The NHRC passed the order February 2 while hearing a petition filed by rights activist Sagar Jena of Endor village under Kendrapara Sadar police limits.

Jena informed the commission that a Class VI student of a Pattamundai-based ashram school was found four-month pregnant.

"As schools were shut during the pandemic, the 13-year-old had gone to her home in Jajpur. However, after a few days of returning to



school, the minor was found four-month pregnant," Jena said.

Soon, school authorities informed her parents and approached the Pattamundai police station which registered a case (697/21) and nabbed a 14-year-old body for sexually abusing the girl and subsequently impregnating her, Jena informed the apex rights body.

The boy was later produced before the Juvenile Justice authorities in Kendrapara.

Jena sought action against the accused and provide compensation to the minor victim.

The commission had issued notice to the District Collector and SP of Kendrapara calling for a report in regard.

The commission received a report April 27, 2022 from Kendrapada ADM stating that an FIR has been registered and the accused has been taken into custody and a chargesheet has been submitted in this regard.

The commission had called for comments of the complainant on the reports within four weeks. But, no comment was sent to the NHRC.

The commission, in its order February 2, directed the DM of Kendrapara to grant compensation of ₹5 lakh to the victim as applicable under the NLSA scheme.



**AT LORD'S ABODE:** Arun Govil, who played Lord Ram in the Ramanand Sagar-produced Ramayan, after paying obeisance to the Srimandir deities in Puri, Saturday

**78,000 availed BSKY facilities in Ganjam by Jan**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 4: As many as 78,500 patients have availed cashless benefits at 35 private speciality and superspeciality hospitals in Ganjam district under the state's ambitious Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) by January end this year with the Odisha government spending over ₹163.62 crore for this purpose.

This was revealed following a recent review of district-level implementation of the scheme by Odisha State Health Assurance Society additional director Bishnu Prasad Mohapatra.

ODISHA STATE HEALTH ASSURANCE SOCIETY ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR BISHNU PRASAD MOHAPATRA TOOK STOCK OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE, EQUIPMENT AND BSKY COUNTERS AT 35 PRIVATE HEALTHCARE FACILITIES EMPANELLED UNDER THE HEALTH ASSURANCE SCHEME

During his visit to Ganjam, Mohapatra took stock of the infrastructure, equipment and BSKY counters at 35 private speciality and superspeciality hospitals empanelled under the health assurance scheme.

Besides holding discussions with the chief district medical officer (CDMO), doctors of the empanelled hospitals, BSKY district coordinator and 'Swasthya Mitras', Mohapatra also met a few patients and inquired about the availability of free-of-cost healthcare services at the empanelled facilities.

"Most of the BSKY cardholders seemed happy with the services offered at the empanelled hospitals. They thanked Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for the ambitious initiative," Mohapatra said.

**AI identifies genes crucial to spread of cancer**

Researchers have leveraged artificial intelligence (AI) technology to identify genes critical to a cancer cell's survival, and could help deliver personalised cancer patient treatments, according to a new study.

They analysed different types of cancer cells to understand different gene dependencies for identifying the genes, the study said.

Researchers at the University of Sussex, UK, have done this by developing a prediction algorithm that works out which genes are essential in the cell, by analysing the genetic changes in the tumour. This can be used to identify actionable targets that in time could guide oncologists to personalise cancer patient treatments, the study said.

"Our vision is to take advantage of the decreasing cost of DNA sequencing and to harness the power of AI to



understand cancer cell differences and what they mean for the individual patient's treatment.

"Through our research, we were able to identify cell-specific gene dependencies using only the DNA sequence and RNA levels in that cell, which are easily and cheaply obtainable from tumour biopsy samples," said Dr Frances Pearl, Senior Lecturer in Bioinformatics at the University of Sussex. "This is an incredibly exciting step in our research which means that we can now work to improve the technology so that it can be offered to on-

cologists and help in the treatment pathways for their patients," said Pearl. Cancer treatments are primarily prescribed on the basis of the location and type of cancer.

Genetic differences in tumours can make standard cancer treatments ineffective. Using a personalised approach to guide treatment could improve life expectancy, quality of life and reduce unnecessary side effects of cancer patients, the study said.

In each cell, there are around 20,000 genes that contain the information needed to make proteins.

Around 1,000 of those genes are essential, meaning they are required for the cell to survive. When normal cells become cancer cells, oncogenes, or genes with the potential to cause cancer, become activated and tumour suppressor genes become inactivated, causing a rewiring of the cell.

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# Consultation to strengthen child protection mechanism



**Twin city Police Commissioner said that though we are successful in reducing child offence cases, there has been a surge in girl child migration post-Covid period**

also need social transition for the betterment of children protection," said Kar. She also asked the present officials to share the district wise data of the rescued children for better tracking and rehabilitation.

Open house session was conducted in the second half where various inputs from civil society organizations, district stakeholders and child leaders were acknowledged for strengthening child protection mechanism at transit points (railway stations and bus stations) and at the source points. These recommendations and action plans will be submitted to the state and district stakeholders for further actions.

Reportedly, HBT and RCI have been working at Bhubaneswar Railway Station since 2018 in rescuing children at risk.

the event. The discussion introduced the changing trends of child migration especially in the case of girl children.

Dharitri Patnaik, Founder cum Chairperson of HBT appealed for collaboration from government stakeholders and civil society organisations to strengthen child protection mechanism at the source districts. Speaking on this occasion, Priyadarshi said, "Though, we are successful in reducing child offence cases, there has been a surge in girl child migration post-Covid period and in most of the cases, children eloping has happened due to the social media Influence, as per the sources."

"Apart from the enhancement of government mechanism, we



**RAZING DOWN:** An excavator engaged by BDA demolishing an illegally constructed house at Gadakana in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

OP PHOTO

# MAN LOSES LIMB IN BOMB ATTACK

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 4:** Miscreants on bike Saturday hurled hand bombs at a businessman over land dispute in Jatni area on the outskirts of the City here. Three persons, Ramesh Patshani, Srinivas patshani and Kuna Patshani, were detained by the Jatni police in this regard till the last report came in.

Police have launched a manhunt to nab other absconding accused involved in the matter by registering a case (45/23) on the basis of the complaint lodged by Ajit Kumar Samantray. The accused detained by police will be produced before the court Sunday.

According to sources, the victim and the accused persons' family have been engaged in a legal fight



over a plot in village Kantia under Jatni police limits for the last several years. The victim, Rachita Ranjan Samntray along with his other siblings has running a poultry farm at the disputed plot which is in their possession.

Locals claimed the both the families used to engage in verbal fights over the plot in the past too.

Similarly, the accused and victim siblings were engaged in a heated argument which soon turned violent and the accused Patshani broth-

ers later threw handmade bombs at Rachita and his brother Bhalu Samantray.

Rachita who was severely injured in the attack while Bhalu luckily escaped unhurt.

Later, the accused went inside their house fearing angry retaliation from other villagers over the bombing. Informed, a team of Jatni police reached the spot immediately. The accused allegedly threatened to hurl bombs at the cops too.

However, the accused persons surrendered themselves when additional armed cops reached the spot and warned them of opening fire.

One of the accused was earlier arrested for assaulting a former cop few years back.

**Continued from P1**

## 15-yr old govt...

Padhee also asked the departments to submit the final status of scrapping of vehicles to the Transport department by March 31, 2023. Sanjaya Kumar Biswal, joint commissioner transport has been appointed as the nodal officer in this regard.

Meanwhile, in order to encourage vehicle owners to scrap their vehicles, the state government has exempted arrears tax and penalties thereof, for a period of one year in respect of vehicles older than 15 years, wherein the owners are willing to scrap the same at RVSF centre in the state.

## Two killed, 3 critical...

The rest three got flung in air before crashing on the ground. The injured were immediately rushed to Nayagarh District Headquarters Hospital where two of them were declared dead-on-arrival, sources informed.

All the five labourers were rescued and rushed to Nayagarh headquarters hospital where the doctors declared two of them brought dead and admitted the other three for treatment. Their condition is stated to be stable.

Locals alleged that the labourers were working without wearing any safety gears and demanded a proper probe into the mishap.

Meanwhile, Itamati police has launched an investigation into the matter. However, no case has been registered yet while a probe is underway. Itamati IIC Biswajit Rout said.

## 'Megha Barasila' fame Vani Jayaram...

In the presence of Vani Jayaram's relatives, police broke open the door and found her dead, she said.

Malarkodi, who has been working for the past 10 years as a maid in the singer's house said police found an injury on Vani Jayaram's forehead. Police said further investigation is on under CrPc Section 174 (circumstances raising suspicion over death). Asked if she had any health issues, the worker said she was perfectly alright.

"She was busy receiving guests and well-wishers who visited her to greet her for getting the Padma Bhushan award. Phone was endlessly ringing and she answered all the calls and thanked everyone who greeted her. She lived alone," the woman said.

## BMC to hold filariasis mass drug admin drive

**Bhubaneswar:** The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), in an intra-departmental meeting, discussed strategies to expedite mass drug administration to eliminate filariasis, Saturday. The state government, organises mass drug administrative activity every year in the affected coastal belt and this year the activity will be held between February 10 and 19 in 67 wards. 2,500 medicine distributors got selected for this job and they will provide the anti-filariasis drugs along with anthelmintic tablet to individuals. Children below two years of age, pregnant women and persons having critical ailments will not be allowed to receive the dose. The distribution team will include Asha and Anganwadi workers. 250 supervisors will be appointed to coordinate the 22 health care centers identified for drug administration.



**OPPOSING BUDGET:** Members of District Youth Congress burning effigy of the Prime Minister and Finance Minister to register their protest against the recent Union Budget at Master Canteen in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

OP PHOTO

## Awareness 'walkathon' by Apollo Hospitals

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 4:** An awareness marathon, referred as 'Walkathon' was organised by Apollo Hospitals in the City on the occasion of World Cancer Day, Saturday. Officials of the hospital stated that, they aim to save millions from preventable deaths' each year by raising awareness on cancer.

To mark the day, Apollo Hospitals' COO (central region) Alok Srivastava flagged off the event from the department of Oncology. Health workers of the hospital as well as common folks were clad in pink t-shirts to participate in the walk.

The ongoing theme of the 'World Cancer Day' this year marks the second year of the campaign 'close the care gap', which is about understanding the inequities in cancer care and taking actions to make the



Utkal Hospital organised a rally on World Cancer Day from Rupali Square in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

OP PHOTO

necessary progress to address them.

"Phobia of cancer has gone deep into our minds. If the society inculcates the practice of encouraging individuals to get diagnosed even after the mildest symptom shows up and leaves the rest to the doctor, there will be a significant

decline in the impact of Cancer. Delayed diagnosis of the disease is one of the main reasons accounting for large number of deaths worldwide. This 'walkathon' aims to provide awareness about the symptoms and the necessity of immediate cancer care," said Alok Srivastava.

# Account for volcanic emissions to model climate more accurately

Volcanoes leak a surprisingly large amount of their atmosphere- and climate-changing gases in their quiet phases, according to a new study, which is asking scientists to account for these leaks into their climate models to make them more accurate.

Volcanoes draw plenty of attention when they erupt.

But the research, led by the University of Washington (UW), US, analysed a Greenland ice core to show that volcanoes quietly release at least three times as much sulphur into the Arctic atmosphere than estimated by current climate models.

The study has implications for a better understanding of the Earth's atmosphere and its relationship with climate and air quality. It is published in the journal Geophysical Research Letters.

"We found that on longer timescales the amount of sulphate aerosols released during passive degassing is much higher than during eruptions," said first author Ursula Jongbloed, a UW doctoral student.

"Passive degassing releases at least 10 times more sulphur into the atmosphere, on decadal timescales, than eruptions, and it could be as much as 30 times more," said Jongbloed. According to the international study, the team analyzed layers of an ice core from central Greenland to calculate levels of sulphate aerosols between the years 1200 and 1850.

The authors wanted to look at the sulphur emitted by marine phytoplankton, which were previously believed to be the biggest source of atmospheric sulphate in pre-industrial times.

"We don't know what the natural, pristine atmosphere looks like, in terms of aerosols," said senior author Becky Alexander, a UW professor. "Knowing that is a first step to better understanding how humans have influenced our atmosphere," said Alexander.

The team deliberately avoided any major volcanic eruptions and focused on the pre-industrial period, when it's easier to distinguish the volcanic and marine sources, the



study said.

"We were planning to calculate the amount of sulphate coming out of volcanoes, subtract it and move on to study marine phytoplankton," said Jongbloed.

"But when I first calculated the amount from volcanoes, we decided that we needed to stop and address that," said Jongbloed.

The location of the ice core at the centre of the Greenland Ice Sheet records emissions from sources over a wide swath of North America, Europe and surrounding oceans, the study said.

While this result applies only to geologic sources within that area, including volcanoes in Iceland, the authors expect it would apply

elsewhere, the study said. "Our results suggest that volcanoes, even in the absence of major eruptions, are twice as important as marine phytoplankton," Jongbloed said.

The discovery that non-erupting volcanoes leak sulphur at up to three times the rate previously believed is important for efforts to model past, present and future climate, the study said.

Aerosol particles, whether from volcanoes, vehicle tailpipes or factory chimneys, block some solar energy. If the natural levels of aerosols are higher, that means the rise and fall of human emissions - peaking with the acid rain of the 1970s and then dropping with the Clean Air Act and increasingly strict air quality standards - have had less of an effect on temperature than previously believed, the study said.

"There's sort of a 'diminishing returns' effect of sulphate aerosols, the more that you have, the less the effect of additional sulphates," said Jongbloed. "When we increase volcanic emissions, which increases the baseline of sulphate

aerosols, we decrease the effect that the human-made aerosols have on the climate by up to a factor of two," said Jongbloed.

That means Arctic warming in recent decades is showing more the full effects of rising heat-trapping greenhouse gases, which is by far the main control on Earth's average temperature, the study said.

"It's not good news or bad news for climate," said Jongbloed of the result. "But if we want to understand how much the climate will warm in the future, it helps to have better estimates for aerosols," said Jongbloed.

Better estimates for aerosols can improve global climate models. "We think that the missing emissions from volcanoes are from hydrogen sulphide," said Alexander, referring to the gas that smells like rotten eggs.

"We think that the best ways to improve these estimates of volcanic emissions is to really think about the hydrogen sulphide emissions," said Alexander.

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**ATTACK ON BALASORE SUB-COLLECTOR**

**11 including 3 women arrested**



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Balasure, Feb 4:** Sahadevkhunta Model Police here Saturday arrested 11 persons including three women in connection with the brutal assault on Balasure Sub-Collector and his driver during a raid on illegal sand mining and smuggling in Mandarpur and Dahapada areas under Remuna block in this district, the previous day.

Sub-Collector Kunal Sitaram Chouhan sustained minor injuries in the attack while the driver of his official vehicle Gagan Bihari Sahu was critically hurt and has been admitted to the district headquarters hospital for treatment. Sahadevkhunta Model Police registered a case over a complaint

filed by Sahu and arrested 11 persons including three women for the attack. This was stated by SP Sagarika Nath at a press meet held here, Saturday.

Earlier, the Sub-Collector had raided the place Wednesday and seized two dumpers, one tractor and one earth mover as well as 500 trips of sand. He had also raided the house of brick kiln owners and tried to arrest him. The miscreants hit back when he again raided the place, Friday.

Police found that the attack was carried out by the owner of a brick kiln Manoranjan Behera, Chittaranjan Behera and their sons and sons-in-law. The accused were identified as Rajesh Das, 41, Bibek Kumar Pradhan, 18, Ramesh

Pradhan, 40, Himanshu Sekhar Das, 26, Mithun Das, 28, Rabinarayan Das, 54, Dipu Das, 25, Sagar Dehuri, 20, Gitani Pradhan, 34, Basanti Biswal, 45, and Jayanti Pradhan, 55.

Police have arrested only 11 while 30 persons were involved in the attack. Police also failed to arrest the mastermind, who is now absconding. All the accused were produced in the court and remanded to judicial custody after their bail pleas were rejected.

The incident occurred when the Sub-Collector was returning from Rupsa when he was tipped off about a tractor illegally lifting soil from government land near the Budhabalanga river bridge. He seized a tractor and was trying to bring it to the police station when over 20-30 villagers from Kantabania village rushed to the spot and snatched away the tractor. Later, they obstructed and pelted stones at him and the officials accompanying him. The stone pelting damaged the vehicle and both of them sustained injuries.

On being informed, police reached the spot and rescued both of them and admitted them to the district headquarters hospital.



**MATTER OF FAITH:** The annual Magha Mela got to a kick-start Saturday as saints lighted lamps at Mahima Gadi, the shrine of Mahima cult at Joranda of Dhenkanal district. The two-day-long festival is expected to see a huge rush of visitors and devotees as it is being held after a Covid-induced gap of two years

**Forest officials hint at RBT presence in Keonjhar forest**

**50 TRAP CAMERAS TO BE INSTALLED TO TRACK THE MOVEMENT OF WILD ANIMALS**



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar/Patana, Feb 4:** Days after the recovery of a wild boar carcass near a stream as well as discovery of six paw prints nearby in Atei reserve forest under Patana range in Keonjhar district, forest officials have hinted towards presence of a Royal Bengal Tiger in the jungle.

The wild boar carcass was recovered near the stream Thursday and some paw prints were also spotted near the carcass. Later, several paw prints of a wild animal were again traced near the stream, Saturday.

This was stated here by a wildlife expert Nimain Palei from Bhubaneswar who visited the spot and conducted an examination. He said the paw prints are over 14 cm in length and availability of paw prints is indicative about the presence of a Royal Bengal Tiger in Atei reserve Sal forest.

The development has sparked panic among the residents in the area as the villagers were seen travelling on the road carrying sharp-edged weapons like axes and billhooks.

**The development has sparked panic in the area as villagers were seen travelling on the road carrying sharp-edged weapons**

Demanding security measures and protection, residents of Rohiniduma village gheraoed the ACF Saturday. They urged the administration to install solar street lights on the road connecting Rohiniduma with Dumuria village. Villagers claimed that the death of villager Anant Majhi is due to tiger attack. The Forest department has rejected the claim while the SDPO, Ghatagon claimed the death to have occurred due to tiger attack.

Panicked, the students of these areas have stopped visiting the schools for the last four days. Villagers Rukmani Naik, Ledi Mohanta, Yudhishthir Mohanta, Golap Mohanta demanded launch of free bus service to Dumuria.

The discovery of the paw prints prompted the forest officials to undertake more examinations. A special team led by ACF Ghanashyam Mohanta rushed to the spot and conducted investigations into the discovery from various aspects. The team comprised six officials, a wildlife expert from Bhubaneswar, Nimain Palei, a veterinarian Dr Brajaraj Singh from Wildlife Trust of India, OUAT student Ashis Nayak and satellite experts.

The team has decided to go to any length to find out the animal whose paw prints were found near the stream. It has also been decided to install 50 trap cameras to find out whose paw print it might be and track the movement of other wild animals, ACF Mohanta said.

The ACF said that the presence of wild animals in the forest is nothing new as they also used to live there 30 years back. He urged the people not to panic and remain cautious and not to step out of their homes at night in light of the development. He said in this situation, they are concerned about the security and protection of wild animals as they might fall prey to uncalled poaching.

Meanwhile, a 25-member team of forest officials comprising Patana ranger Ghashinath Patra, Saharpada forester Bhupati Sethi, his Patana counterpart Chittaranjan Parida, special forester Peon Nayak, forest guard Prajukta Jena, para staff and fire staff reached the spot and installed 10 trap cameras in the jungle, Friday while 40 more trap cameras will be installed in phases.

When contacted, Keonjhar DFO HD Dhanraj said the probe is being conducted on the basis of the guideline by National Tiger Conservation Authority.

**Fmr Cong MLA Arjun Das dies in road accident**

**Jajpur:** Former Congress MLA Arjun Das died in a road accident in Jajpur district Saturday. Das died when a sand-laden truck hit the motorcycle he was riding on Kharasrota bridge near Barunha. He was 65. Son of former Jajpur Lok Sabha MP Anadi Das, Arjun Das was elected to the state Assembly on a Congress ticket and represented the Binjharpu constituency from 1995 to 2000. Born November 16, 1957, at Kapasi under Binjharpu block, Das started his political career during his student days as a left leader and joined Congress in 1989. Recently he joined the Bharat Rashtira Samithi founded by Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao.

**Scientists split seawater to produce green hydrogen**



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Melbourne, Feb 4:** Researchers have successfully split seawater without pre-treatment to produce green hydrogen.

According to the international study, the researchers split natural seawater into oxygen and hydrogen with nearly 100 per cent efficiency, to produce green hydrogen by electrolysis.

They used a non-precious and cheap catalyst in a commercial electrolyser, the study said. A typical non-precious catalyst is cobalt oxide with chromium oxide on its surface. "We used seawater as a feedstock without the need for any pre-treatment processes like reverse osmosis desalination, purification, or alkalisation," said Yao Zheng, lead researcher from University of Adelaide, Australia.

"The performance of a commercial electrolyser with our catalysts running in seawater is close to the performance of platinum-iridium catalysts running in a feedstock of highly purified deionised water," said

Seawater electrolysis is still in early development compared with pure water electrolysis

Current electrolysers are operated with highly purified water electrolyte, but the researchers provide a solution to directly utilise seawater

Zheng. The team published their research in the Journal Nature Energy.

Current electrolysers are operated with highly purified water electrolyte. Increased demand for hydrogen to partially or totally replace energy generated by fossil fuels will significantly increase scarcity of increasingly limited freshwater resources, said Zheng. Seawater is an almost infinite resource and is considered a natural feedstock electrolyte. This is more practical for regions with long coastlines and abundant sunlight, the study said.

However, it is not practical for regions where seawater is scarce, the study said.

Seawater electrolysis is still in early development compared with pure water electrolysis because of electrode side reactions, and corrosion arising from the complexities of using seawater. It is always necessary to treat impure water to a level of water purity for conventional electrolysers including desalination and deionisation, which increases the operation and maintenance cost of the processes, said Zheng.

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Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice calling upon the Borrower/Guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the following Borrower/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described here-in-below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rules. The Borrower/Guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank for an amount mentioned herein below with interest & other expenses thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

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<b>2) Mr. Fahim Uddin, S/o.: Mr. Taj Mohammad, At: House No.: 123, Main Road, PO./PS.: Rourkela, Dist.: Sundergarh, PIN- 769001</b>	<b>Guarantor: Mr. Mohammad Rasid, S/o.: Mr. Taj Mohammad, At: House No.: 123, Main Road, PO./PS.: Rourkela, Dist.: Sundergarh, PIN- 769001</b>		

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Whereas, the Authorized Officer of Indian Bank has taken possession of the following property/ies pursuant to the notice issued under Sec 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 in the following loan accounts with right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS", "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WITHOUT ANY RECOURSE BASIS" for realization of Bank's dues plus interest as detailed hereunder and whereas consequent upon failure to repay the dues, the undersigned in exercise of power conferred under section 13(4) of the said Act proposes to realize the Bank's dues by sale of the said property/ies. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>.

Sl. No.	BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagors	Description of the Immovable Properties	Date of Demand Notice/ Date of Possession / Outstanding dues (As per 13(2) notice)	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment Amount	Date & Time of E-Auction
1.	<b>ANGUL BRANCH-2/ Borrower:</b> 1) M/s. Samay Fancy Store, Prop.: Samay Kumar Sahoo, S/o.: Sanatan Sahoo, At: Kandasar, Nalco Nagar, PO.: Angul, PS.: Angul No.: 69, Dist.: Angul, PIN - 759145/ <b>Guarantor/Mortgagor:</b> 2) Sanatan Sahoo & Kanhu Charan Sahoo, At: Kandasar, Nalco Nagar, PO.: Angul, Dist.: Angul, PIN - 759145	All the part and parcel of Land & Building measuring an Area: Ac.0.070 Dec. (3049.20 Sq.Ft.) together situated at Plot No.: 6289/ 8174/9496 & 7705/9497, Khata No.: 890/375, Mouza: Kandasar, Nalco Nagar, PS.: Angul No.: 69, Tahasil: Banarpal, Dist.: Angul in the name of Sri Sanatan Sahoo & Kanhu Charan Sahoo, Bounded By East: Milu Sahoo, West: Srinibas Samal, North: Bhaskar Mohapatra, South: Sanatan Sahoo & others	13.10.2020 / 24.08.2021 / ₹ 34,08,000/- as on 13.10.2020 + further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon	₹15,56,000/- / ₹1,56,000/- / ₹10,000/-	28.02.2023 between 11.00 AM to 05.00 PM
2.	<b>ANGUL BRANCH - 1/ Borrower/Mortgagor:</b> Mr. Prakash Kumar Samal, S/o.: Manmohan Samal, At: Iswarpal, Thana: Rasol, Dist.: Dhenkanal, Odisha - 759021	All that piece and parcel of property recorded in the name of Mr. Prakash Kumar Samal, at Khata No.: 872, Plot No.: 79, Area: Ac.0.930 Dec., Mouza: Iswarpal, PS.: Rasol, Tahasil: Hindol, Dist.: Dhenkanal, Bounded by North: Self, South: Forest	31.08.2021/ 21.12.2022 / ₹ 5,74,608.75 as on 31.08.2021 + further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon	₹7,86,000/- / ₹78,600/- / ₹10,000/-	09.03.2023 between 11.00 AM to 05.00 PM
3.	<b>CHATUANKA BRANCH/ Borrower/Mortgagor:</b> Sri Mohan Jued, Prop.: Sri Mohan Jued, S/o.: Sri Nityananda Jued, At/PO.: Salandi, PS.: Belpada, Dist.: Bolangir - 767026/ <b>Guarantor:</b> Smt. Sushama Jued, W/o.: Sri Mohan Jued, At/PO.: Salandi, PS.: Belpada, Dist.: Balasore - 767026	All the part and parcel of Land and Building situated at Mouza: Salandi, Tahasil: Belpada, Dist.: Bolangir, Khata No.: 183/170, Plot No.: 548, Area: Ac.0.06 Dec. and Plot No.: 519/2550, Area: Ac.0.02 Dec., KISSAM: Gharabari in the name of Sri Mohan Jued, Bounded by North: Kamala Kharsel, South: Jagabandhu Kharsel, East: Bhaskar Jued, West: Bhanumati Behera	05.11.2019 / 23.01.2020 / ₹ 6,76,000/- as on 31.07.2019 + further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon	₹1,44,000/- / ₹14,500/- / ₹10,000/-	09.03.2023 between 11.00 AM to 05.00 PM
4.	<b>MANMUNDA BRANCH/ Borrower:</b> Late Ranjan Kumar Hota, Prop.: Late Ranjan Kumar Hota, S/o.: Tirtha Charan Hota/ Legal Heirs of Late Ranjan Kumar Hota: 1) Smt. Satrupa Mishra, W/o.: Late Ranjan Kumar Hota, 2) Sri Rudra Pratap Hota (Minor), M/G.: Smt. Satrupa Mishra, W/o.: Late Ranjan Kumar Hota, 3) Smt. Shobhagini Hota, W/o.: Tirtha Charan Hota, All are At/PO.: Manmunda, Dist.: Boudh - 762016/ <b>Mortgagor:</b> Tirtha Charan Hota, S/o.: Anirudha Hota, At/PO.: Manmunda, Dist.: Boudh - 762016	All the part and parcel of Land and Building situated at Mouza: Manmunda, Khata No.: 208/07, Plot No.: 351/455/491, KISSAM: Gharabari, Area: Ac.0.030 Dec., PS.: Manmunda No. 113, Tahasil: Kantamal, Dist.: Boudh in the name of Tirtha Charan Hota, Bounded by North: land of Guru Bastia, South: Land of Rohit Hota, East: Land of Ranjan Kumar Hota, West: Land of Sarat Bastia	18.11.2021 / 11.05.2022 / ₹ 13,93,957.67 as on 18.11.2021 + further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon	₹15,83,000/- / ₹1,60,000/- / ₹10,000/-	09.03.2023 between 11.00 AM to 05.00 PM

**DATE AND TIME OF E-AUCTION: FOR SL. NO. 1 - 28.02.2023 & FOR SL. NO. 2 - 4 - 09.03.2023 from 11.00 AM to 05.00 PM with unlimited extension of 10 Minutes duration**

**LAST DATE AND TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF EMD AND DOCUMENTS ON OR BEFORE FOR SL. NO. 1 - 27.02.2023 & FOR SL. NO. 2 - 4 - 09.03.2023 upto 05.30 PM by online**

**Date & Time of Inspection of Properties: For Sl. No. 1 - 24.02.2023 & For Sl. No. 2 - 4 - 06.03.2023 between 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM (with prior appointment from bank) at their own expenses**

**TERMS & CONDITIONS:** 1) For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer to the link: <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp> and <https://ibapi.in>. prospective bidders may also contact the Authorised Officers / Branch no. as mentioned in above list. 2) For Sl. No. 1 this is a statutory 15 days sale notice to the above mentioned borrowers/guarantors under Rule 9(1) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 & For Sl. No. 2 to 4 this is a statutory 30 days sale notice to the above mentioned borrowers/guarantors under Rule 8(6) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002. 3) This is a 15/30 days' notice to the Borrower / Guarantor / Mortgagor of the above said loan about holding of this sale on the above mentioned date. 4) All expenses relating the stamp duty and registration of Sale Certificate/conveyance, if any, shall be borne by the successful bidder. 5) The Authorized Officer will not be held responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrance, property tax or any other dues to the Government or anybody in respect of the property under sale. 5) The Authorized Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject any bid or adjourn/postpone/cancel the sale without assigning any reason thereof. It may be noted that nothing in this notice constitute or deemed to constitute any commitment or representation on the part of the bank to sell the property. **STATUTORY 15/30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 9(1) / 8(6) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002.** Borrower/Mortgagor are hereby notified to pay the total dues along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of E-Auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/ sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest & cost.

Place: Sambalpur, Date: 04.02.2023  
Sd/-Authorised Officer, Indian Bank



Trust the divine power, and she will free the godlike elements in you and shape all into an expression of divine nature.

SRI AUROBINDO



## Detached From Reality

In 2018, the government of India published a report under Niti Aayog titled India@75. In it the government set itself targets that it would achieve by the year 2022.

The hefty 230 page document (one wonders how many people have read it) opens with a note from the Prime Minister. He writes: "The Union Government is an active partner in the people's quest for building a New India by 2022. In the spirit of 'Team India, let us now combine our energies to achieve the targets outlined in the Strategy." A strategy is defined as a general plan or set of plans intended to achieve something, especially over a long period. So that is what this document will give us.

After him the then Chairman of Niti Aayog wrote that "Change has been in the making over the last four years. The economy is finally moving out of the negative legacies of the past, specially the reckless credit expansion."

These past four years (2014-2018) had produced results which would accelerate over time. And the results would show in some areas where the government set itself targets.

The first was to improve the rate of GDP growth. The document says it will do this by "raising the rate of investment (gross fixed capital formation as a share of GDP) from about 29 per cent in 2017-18 to about 36 per cent of GDP by 2022-23" and to do this "a slew of measures will be required to boost both private and public investment."

Presumably these measures were taken, so what is the result? The latest figure the World Bank has is for 2021 and that is 29 per cent meaning no change. It was 30 per cent in 2014 so it has fallen.

GDP growth overall began to collapse starting in 2018 and for nine consecutive quarters ending with March 2020 and the onset of COVID, growth fell. Of course the writers of this document did not know this at the time.

Next they say that India's tax-GDP ratio of around 17 per cent is half the average of OECD countries (35 per cent) and is low even when compared to other emerging economies like Brazil (34 per cent), South Africa (27 per cent) and China (22 per cent). "To enhance public investment, India should aim to increase its tax-GDP ratio to at least 22 per cent of GDP by 2022."

What was the result? Gross tax to GDP ratio was 17 per cent last year meaning no change. One reason for this is the fact that in 2019 corporate tax rates were cut.

As another component of this growth strategy the government sought to fix the crisis in employment. The results have been written about often including by me but briefly it is worth repeating that unemployment reached a record 6 per cent in 2018, according to a government survey and has remained above that. From 2017 onwards, every year, the share of people coming back to agriculture has increased.

The document then turns to manufacturing and says the Modi government intends to "Double the current growth rate of the manufacturing sector by 2022." Manufacturing was 16 per cent in 2018 and it is today 14 per cent. Not only has it not grown it has shrunk.

After this we have doubling farmers income and not much time be spent on that given that the farmers expressed their opinions quite clearly with their successful protest.

Financial inclusion, meaning opening bank accounts, linking Jan Dhan accounts to Aadhar and mobile and so on has made fine progress and one can accept that.

Elsewhere the document says that it will "Increase India's share in global international tourist arrivals from 1.18 per cent to 3 per cent." This did not happen. It would "Increase the number of foreign tourist arrivals from 88 lakh to 1.2 crore." This did not happen either and we can lay most of the blame on COVID.

The document goes on, making promises that are detached from reality. Now that 2022 has come and gone we can see the results. Have you heard anyone talk about this document recently? Remember that it was flagged off by the PM himself. At a literature festival in Kerala someone asked me, after I made a presentation of some data since 2014, why it was that such things were not better known. But they are known. Much of this is information and data coming from the government itself. The Periodic Labour Force Survey agrees that more people have gone back to farming instead of entering the modern economy. Investment rates and tourism arrivals and GDP growth rates and tax to GDP ratios come from the Union government itself.

If we wonder why the government is not being held to account for what it promises and does not deliver we must not blame the government. It has no idea how to fix India's difficult problems and, if we consider the Niti Aayog 'Strategy' and what came of it, the fact is that it may not even have a plan.

Further, it does not seem to be under any pressure to be accountable for its failures. We can debate about the role of the opposition and the role of the media but we have done that often. The reality is that it is hard to hold this government to account because it will just move on and ignore what it has said in the past. Hard even when its ineptness is as vividly documented as it is by this report.



Aakar Patel

If we wonder why the government is not being held to account for what it promises and does not deliver we must not blame the government



Slavoj Žižek

AS WE WATCH IDEOLOGICAL MADNESS PLAY OUT IN RUSSIA, WE MUST BE MINDFUL OF ITS ROOTS IN RUSSIAN ORTHODOXY

Rumours are flying about veiled jockeying within Russia over who will replace President Vladimir Putin, now that his war of aggression in Ukraine has gone so disastrously wrong. Such a struggle cannot fail to expose the morbid pathologies of Russian politics. The key players are not organised political parties but rather gangs of oligarchs who preside over various informal nodes of power.

This explains why Russia's most effective military force on the front line in Ukraine, the mercenary Wagner Group, is not even a part of the Russian army. Russia is now a land of warlords, something one generally associates with rogue and failed states. Its current and aspiring leaders are trafficking in fever dreams of battlefield glory. Implicit in this martial culture is a Hobbesian view of life as solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short – and increasingly cheap.

The rise of private armies in and around Russia has led to some genuinely funny developments. For example, last year, former members of the US and other Western armed forces organised a voluntary military unit to fight on the Ukrainian side. With pitch-perfect irony, they call themselves the Mozart Group – a direct riposte to the Wagner mercenaries (both names being of a German composer). One can only hope they will bomb Russian army positions with weapons more powerful than chocolate Mozartkugeln.

But the humour ends there. Russia's apparent reversion to warriorism has been abetted by a strain of Russian religious fundamentalism that openly celebrates death. Some Russian clergy have been telling their congregations that they can "become themselves" only through the act of killing. The "special military operation" in Ukraine, they are told, is a struggle for "all of God's creation." As one of Putin's chief propagandists, Vladimir Solovyov,



Russia is now a land of warlords, something one generally associates with rogue and failed states. Its current and aspiring leaders are trafficking in fever dreams of battlefield glory. Implicit in this martial culture is a Hobbesian view of life as solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short – and increasingly cheap

said in a New Year's message on Russian television: "Life is highly overrated. Why fear what is inevitable? Especially when we're going to heaven. Death is the end of one earthly path and the beginning of another. Don't let fear of death influence decisions. It's only worth living for something you can die for; that's the way it should be... We are fighting against satanists. This is a holy war, and we have to win."

Likewise, Magomed Khitanaev, a Chechen theologian and Russian army commander, portrays Ukraine as a latter-day Sodom and Gomorrah: "We're asking: Oh, Ukrainians, why did you permit gay parades in Kyiv, Kharkiv, and Odessa? Why did you permit it? Why didn't you come out against them, against your government that was overtaken by fascists? Without shame before God, people, they are openly, manifestly spreading their filth."

To understand contemporary Russian ideologists like Solovyov and Putin's so-called "court philo-

pher," Aleksandr Dugin, one must examine the tradition of Russian "cosmism," a philosophical movement that began with the nineteenth-century educator Nikolai Fedorov. As Jules Evans, a philosopher at Queen Mary University of London, writes, Fedorov "was nicknamed the 'Socrates of Moscow,' because of his ascetic habits and his radical philosophy. He had one all-encompassing goal: the achievement of immortality and the resurrection of the dead."

Among Fedorov's twentieth-century followers was the Soviet rocket scientist Konstantin Tsiolkovsky (who theorised about space travel), the science-fiction writer Alexander Bogdanov (who believed that one could prolong one's life through blood transfusions), and – in a fitting coincidence – the religious thinker Vladimir Solovyov.

According to Evans, this earlier Vladimir Solovyov called for "a universal theocracy under a Russian czar, to hasten humanity's long and difficult passage

from beast-kind to God-kind." Once accomplished, adherents to the faith would "become immortal spiritual beings – only Christ has reached this stage so far, but all humanity will soon follow." While Solovyov believed that this evolution could be advanced with magic, Fedorov himself advocated scientific means. But both ultimately "agreed that humanity would be saved by Russian theocracy."

Denys Sultanhaliev of the University of Tartu has explored the links between the two Solovyovs and established a clear lineage from Russian cosmism, in both its mystical and scientific forms. There is a direct through line from the cosmism that prevailed in the first decade of the Soviet Union to the nihilism and nuclear brinkmanship on display today under Putin.

A belief in resurrection and eternal life is key. But cosmism could emerge only within the Russian Orthodox version of Christianity, whose basic formula is "God became man so that man will become God." That is how cosmists interpret the appearance of the God-man Christ: as a model for what all of humanity should pursue. By contrast, Martin Luther saw man as an excrement of God – as something that fell out of God's anus.

As we watch ideological madness play out in Russia, we must be mindful of its roots in Russian Orthodoxy. Many in the West now view that tradition as an antidote to the liberal decadence that Western Protestantism supposedly unleashed. In a perverse way, they are right: death solves all problems.

The writer, Professor of Philosophy at the European Graduate School, is International Director of the Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities at the University of London.

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## SPECTRUM UNION BUDGET

# Neglect of farm sector continues



Bhala Chandra Shadangi

AN EXAMPLE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S CALLOUSNESS TOWARDS THE RURAL POOR IS THE DRASTIC CUT IN MGNREGA ALLOCATION

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has described the budget 2023-24, as the budget of 'Amritkal'. But in real sense, it could not bring any 'Amrit' for the common people. The budget has given many lucrative assurances to farmers, but failed to announce any concrete measures to alleviate their woes. There is no announcement in the budget either to increase the income of farmers or to reduce their production cost. It is also silent on ensuring the minimum support price (MSP) to farmers as per the recommendation of the MS Swaminathan Commission.

The Modi government had come to power promising to double farmers' income. Even the budget speeches from 2015 onwards had promised to fulfill it by 2022. Surprisingly, there was no mention of doubling farm income in this year's budget speech. Agriculture and other sectors related to rural development, on which a majority of India's population still depend were completely neglected in the budget. Last year, the budgetary allocation for agriculture and rural development was 3.84% and 5.81% of GDP respectively. But in this year, it was decreased to 3.20% and

5.29% respectively. While ₹1,10,256 crore was allocated to agriculture in 2022-23, ₹1,15,531 crore was allocated this time. However, looking at the vast needs of the sector, this increase is meagre and goes against the expectations of the rural population.

In view of the growing countrywide agricultural crisis and farmers' distress, the government launched the PM-Kisan just before the 2019 elections. It was meant to provide income support to farmers. As the annual assistance of ₹6000 was insufficient and there was no increase in this amount for the last four years, it was assumed that FM would increase the amount to at least ₹8000 per annum. Unfortunately, the FM did not increase even a single rupee in the assistance amount. Rather the budgetary allocation for this scheme was reduced to ₹60,000 crore from ₹68,000 crore.

The government also reduced the fertilizer subsidy from last year's ₹2,25,000 crore to ₹1,75,000 crore this year. That means the prices of different fertilizers which are already become costly will be increased more. Similarly, the allocation for the PM Fasal Bima Yojana has been reduced to ₹13,625

crore from last year's ₹15,500 crore.

Another example of the government's callousness towards the rural poor is the drastic cut in MGNREGA allocation. The budget allocated only ₹60,000 crore for the scheme for 2023-24, 18% lower than the ₹73,000 crore budget estimates for the current year, and 33% lower than the ₹89,000 crore revised estimates for the scheme. This is the only government scheme that provides employment to the rural poor.

Many of the agriculture and related announcements in the budget are meant to mislead the public. A number of old schemes were discontinued and some new plans have been repackaged. For example, the government has on one hand announced a scheme to reduce dependence on chemical fertilizers. On the other hand, few weeks ago it has allowed the commercial production of GM crops which are completely dependent on chemical fertilizers.

Similarly, the government has announced to increase the limit of agricultural loans to ₹20 lakh crore. But one should know that the budget has nothing to do with agricultural credit. It is purely dependent on the banks. More

than 80% of our farmers are deprived of agricultural loans provided by banks. Farmers have been demanding loan waiver, the absence of which has been the main cause of farmer suicides. But the budget is silent on loan waiver.

PM Modi came to power by promising farmers to ensure crop price at 1.5 times the cost of production. Even the BJP has promised in its election manifesto to ensure MSP for crops as per the recommendation of the MS Swaminathan Commission. Farmers' organisations throughout the country have been repeatedly demanding a legal status for MSP. But the budget is completely silent on it.

The income of farmers and agricultural workers, who form a major chunk of the country's population, is constantly decreasing. The Modi government has so far failed to address this problem. Even from the current budget, the insensitivity of this government towards agriculture and farmers is clearly visible.

The writer is an Odisha-based columnist who writes on contemporary issues. Views are personal.

## WISDOM CORNER

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude. MAYA ANGELOU

The more you praise and celebrate your life, the more there is in life to celebrate. OPRAH WINFREY

## WORDSWORTH

### ■ Fofaraw

Fofaraw is common enough in North America, though it has never become widely known elsewhere. The earliest senses were of something vain, fussy, tawdry or gaudy – baubles, bangles or beads. In time, the sense shifted to mean frivolous accoutrements or trappings, then the word became a dismissive adjective with the sense of being vain or stuck-up and later it took on the idea of ostentation. The most common sense nowadays came last of all, of a fuss or brouhaha, a minor altercation one might call a storm in a teacup (though, it being American, perhaps tempest in a teapot would be more appropriate). What qualifies it for inclusion in this section is partly its odd look and partly its curious origin. Dictionaries mostly play safe and say "origin unknown", while noting that it began to be used in the 1930s. The Oxford English Dictionary has recently compiled an entry, based in part on the one that's in the Dictionary of American Regional English, which takes the story back much further. There are a lot of examples from the late 1840s onwards, variously spelled as fofaraw, fofarrow, frufraw, fofooraw, among others. It isn't well recorded in its early days and there are big gaps in its history, but etymologists are sure it's the same word. The earliest example, in Blackwood's Magazine for June 1848, is in an article written by an adventurous Englishman named George Frederick Augustus Ruxton, who travelled in the Rocky Mountains and who wrote a book, Life in the Far West, that was published in 1849.

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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

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

### Regulatory intervention must

Sir, This refers to "Adani row rocks Parliament again," Orissa POST, Feb 4. Hit by the Hindenburg report, the Adani group companies have lost more than \$118 billion in market value. In this backdrop, India's regulators and politicians have swung into action. The Parliament had to be adjourned over the issue. Now, Indian conglomerates have both business and financial links with overseas markets. Adani group firms have also raised debt overseas. Reports suggest some of the Adani group debt securities are no longer accepted as collateral for trading. There's also the risk that negative perceptions may impact other Indian firms that have raised debt abroad. One of the lessons of the 2008 global financial crisis is that these links can show up in unexpected ways far from the epicentre of the crisis. Conglomerates act as a link between different financial jurisdictions. Therefore, it's unwise to assume that problems with Adani group's overseas bonds won't spill over to India. Indian regulators need to get on top of the Adani situation before election season politicking leads to unintended consequences. Panic undermines financial stability. The longer this plays out at a political level, the greater the risk of ill-conceived interventions to neutralise the fallout. The situation is as much a test of regulatory ability as it is of the future of the Adani group. However, as the saying goes, "behind every great fortune, there is a crime."

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

### Loss for music lovers

Sir, The news on the passing away of veteran playback singer Vani Jayaram comes as a big shock to music lovers. It is all the more grieving that her death has happened just after a week of her getting the prestigious Padma Bhushan. The renowned singer had a brilliant vocal range and easy adaptability to different emotions of songs. Vani Jayaram collaborated with some of the biggest composers and delivered evergreen chartbusters in all South Indian languages, and in Hindi, Urdu, Marathi, Bengali, etc. In a career that spanned over five decades, Vani Jayaram has sung over 10,000 songs in 19 languages. Among her many classical melodies, the songs, "bole re papi hara" from the film "Guddi" and "en kalyana vaibogam unnoduthan" from the Tamil movie "Azhage Unnai Arathikiren" easily stand out as the best and touch our heartstrings.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

# national

## of the day quote

The number of cases pending for more than 20 years in the Supreme Court of India, as per the data retrieved from the Integrated Case Management Information System (ICMIS) as on January 27, 2023, is 208 cases

KIREN RIJU | MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

Half of the tourism infrastructure required for the future is ready with the opening of the parallel Zuari Bridge and Atal Setu and commissioning of the Mopa airport. The challenge now is to build second step infrastructure and create human resource. This can be achieved through public private partnership

PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CM

Scheduled Caste employees working for the state government will get reservation in promotions

MANOHAAR LAL KHATTAR | HARYANA CM



**Nationalist Congress Party president Sharad Pawar and some others in the party had forewarned then-Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray about a possible rebellion in his outfit Shiv Sena, but the latter was confident his MLAs will not take any extreme step**

AJIT PAWAR | NCP LEADER

### UPGRADING KNOWLEDGE

Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann flagged off the first batch of 36 government school principals visiting Singapore for upgrading their professional knowledge and expertise in the field of education



A woman carries her child in the land-subsidence affected Nai Basti area, in Doda district, Jammu & Kashmir

PTI PHOTO

## AAP to contest all seats in MP polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhopal, Feb 4:** The AAP will contest all 230 seats in Madhya Pradesh Assembly polls, due later this year, a party office-bearer said Saturday indicating the Arvind Kejriwal-led party will pitch the Delhi model of governance to target the BJP and opposition Congress and accused them of playing "destructive politics".

AAP organisational general secretary Sandeep Pathak cited the performance of the party in recent local bodies polls in MP and said it will form the next government. "We will field candidates in all the Assembly constituencies and with all our might fight elections," Pathak said here.

The 2018 Assembly elections in

Madhya Pradesh led to a hung assembly, with the Congress emerging as the largest party with 114 seats in the 230-member House, but failing to win a majority. The BJP had won 109 seats.

The Congress later formed a coalition government under Kamal Nath.

However, the dispensation collapsed in March 2020 after several MLAs of Congress defected to BJP, paving the way for the saffron party to return to power.

Asked whether the time was too short for the AAP to brace up and spread its footprint in MP given the Kejriwal-led party currently doesn't have an executive committee after it was dissolved recently, he said the committee will be formed soon.

## SHORT TAKES

### 4 die in stampede

**Chennai:** Four women died in a stampede at Vaniyambadi in Tamil Nadu where a private organisation was distributing free sarees as part of the Thai-poyam festival celebrations. Police said that around 1,000 women reached the place where the sarees were being distributed. A stampede ensued leading to many women getting injured. Several women were admitted to a hospital in Vaniyambadi Taluk and four of them, who were serious, died in the hospital.

### Bizman rescued

**New Delhi:** A 40-year-old Kashmiri businessman, who was abducted by his two business partners from Delhi's Kashmiri Gate area, was rescued from Punjab, an official said Saturday. After six hours, Delhi Police along with its counterpart Punjab Police managed to rescue the victim and nabbed the kidnapers from Phagwara in Punjab.

### Robbery foiled

**New Delhi:** An ATM robbery bid in Delhi's Burari area was foiled after a 24-year-old robber, who fled seeing police while committing the crime and jumped into storm water drain, was chased and nabbed by the Station House Officer of the area along with his team, said an official Saturday.

### Man arrested

**Patna:** Jehanabad Police arrested a man, absconding for the last eight months, under POCSO Act on Saturday. The accused, identified as Sanjay Kumar Verma, is husband of Manju Kumari Verma, former JD-U district president. Poonam Chaudhary, the SHO of woman police station, confirmed the development.

## DELHI EXCISE SCAM BJP seeks Kejri's scalp



Police stop BJP workers who were staging a protest outside the AAP office over ED chargesheet against top AAP leaders, in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Feb 4:** Delhi BJP leaders and workers Saturday staged a protest at the AAP office here demanding the resignation of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal after the Enforcement Directorate named him in a chargesheet in the excise scam case.

Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, said the BJP has been saying that the liquor scam was done under the protection of Kejriwal and it has now been proven by the ED chargesheet

The Enforcement Directorate has named Kejriwal in its charge sheet related to the liquor scam and he should resign from the post of Chief Minister of Delhi," state BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said.

No immediate reaction was available from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) to the allegations. Several BJP workers were detained by police while trying to cross a barricade erected near the AAP office at DDU Marg.

The BJP will keep on exposing the "corruption" of the Kejriwal government which is weakening Delhi like a "termite", Sachdeva said

Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, said the BJP has been saying that the liquor scam was done under the protection of Kejriwal and it has now been proven by the ED chargesheet

The Enforcement Directorate has named Kejriwal in its chargesheet related to the liquor scam of the Aam Aadmi Party government and he should resign from the post of Chief Minister of Delhi, state BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said

during the protest. The ED has claimed in its supplementary charge sheet filed in the court that a part of the alleged Rs 100 crore "kickbacks" generated in the scrapped Delhi excise policy was used in the AAP's 2022 Goa assembly election campaign.

It has also claimed that a close aide of the Delhi chief minister arranged a video call through FaceTime (a video calling facility on iPhone) on his phone for one of the accused Sameer Mahandru. In the call, Kejriwal told Mahandru that the aide is "his boy" and he should trust him and carry on with him, the ED has claimed.

## Crackdown on child marriage to continue, says Himanta

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Guwahati, Feb 4:** Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma Saturday asserted that the drive against child marriage, launched by the state police from the previous day, will continue till the next assembly elections in 2026.

More than 2,250 people have been arrested in the state till Saturday in the crackdown on child marriage, according to an official statement.

Altogether 2,258 people have been arrested so far based on 4,074 FIRs registered against child marriages across the state, it said.

At least 139 people have so far

been apprehended in Biswanath, followed by 128 in Barpeta and 127 in Dhubri, the police statement said. Sarma said parents involved in the underage marriage are currently being let off with notice and not being arrested.

"Our drive will continue till 2026 when the next assembly elections will be due. We are hopeful that by then, there will be no case of child marriage in the state," the chief minister said.

In over 4,000 cases of child marriage, there were more than 8,000 accused. "If we leave the parents out, the number of accused, who will face arrests, comes to around 3,500," he said.

## NIA DETAINS 8 PFI MEMBERS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Patna, Feb 4:** The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has conducted a raid in Bihar's East Champaran district following which it detained eight operatives of the banned group Popular Front of India (PFI), an official said Saturday.

The searches were carried out in Kuawan village on Friday night. Among the detainees, Riyaz Maroof is considered as the main operative of the PFI. They were facing charges of hatching a conspiracy to carry out an explosion at the under-construction Ram temple in Uttar Pradesh's Ayodhya.

According to sources, the NIA had intercepted a message wherein an "explosion at the temple" was mentioned. The operatives were also planning to hold a meeting to discuss their plan of action.



## PANCHAYAT SAMITI ANGUL INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) IDENTIFICATION No. AGLB-02/2022-23

E-mail address: ori-bangul@nic.in

The Block Development Officer, Angul on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate composite bid in single cover system for the works "Construction of P.H.C.(N) and Sub-Center Building", from the class B, C & D contractors, registered with the State Government and contractors of equivalent grade / class registered with Central Government / MES / Railway, to be eventually drawn up in PWD P-1 form, for execution of Building (Civil Work). The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the bid. If successful, the bidder who has not registered under State Government has to register under the State PWD in appropriate class of eligibility before signing the agreement. Bidders may submit bids for any or all the 11 (Eleven) Nos. of P.H.C. (N) and Sub-Center Building. The details of the eligibility criteria, EMD, enclosures etc. along with the list of project and date & time of sale, receipt and opening of bid document can be viewed & downloaded from the District website i.e. [www.angul.nic.in](http://www.angul.nic.in).

Sd./-  
Block Development Officer  
Angul

## Dharmendra appointed K'taka poll in-charge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Feb 4:** The BJP Saturday appointed Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan as its in-charge for the upcoming Karnataka Assembly polls, a party statement said.

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and Tamil Nadu BJP unit president K Annamalai will be the party's co-in-charges for the high-stakes polls, where both the ruling party and the opposition Congress have launched an intensive public outreach for the elections likely to be held in April-May.

Pradhan, a seasoned organisation man of the party, had been tasked with handling several elections in the past, including the Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls last year where the BJP retained power with a big margin.

Mandaviya has also been an experi-



enced organisation man in Gujarat, his home state. A former party general secretary, Pradhan has been involved in assembly polls in Bihar, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand and also in Karnataka in 2013.

He was also in-charge of the Assam and Madhya Pradesh assembly polls in 2015 and 2018, respectively. A skilful politi-

cian, he will be expected to mobilise the party organisation in Karnataka while sorting out internal issues in the local unit to maximise the party's efforts to retain power in the important southern state. Karnataka is the only southern state where the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has ever run a government.

The party had opted for a leadership transition in the state by easing out the then chief minister B S Yediyurappa and bringing in Basavaraj Bommai, a Lingayat like the veteran leader, in his place in July 2018.

Despite his loss of power, Yediyurappa's stature vis-a-vis his successor's low-key style has meant that the former's shadow continues to loom large. He was recently appointed a member of the party's Parliamentary Board, its apex organisational body, with the central leadership working to keep him in good humour.

**Bank of India**  
Zonal Office : Star House, 1/1D, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015

**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
(Rule-8(1)) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules-2002

Whereas, the undersigned being the **Authorised Officer** of the **Bank of India, Ranihat Branch** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices calling upon the Borrower in the loan account given below to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest & expenses thereon within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **possession** of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the **Bank of India, Ranihat Branch** for an amount mentioned below with interest & expenses thereon. **The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.**

RANIHAT BRANCH/ Name & Address of Borrower	Liabilities due as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice/ Date of Possession	Description of the Movable/Immovable Properties
<b>Borrower: M/s. Lucky Kisan Seva Kendra, Prop.: Mrs. Pritibala Choudhury, W/o.: Mr. Arun Kumar Lenka, At: Champapur, PO.: Chhatia, PS.: Badachana, Thana No.: 1068, Tahasil: Darpan No.: 18, SRO: Badachana, DSRO: Jaipur, Dist.: Jaipur, standing in the name of Mrs. Pritibala Choudhury, Bounded by North: Road, South: Part of this Plot, East: Arun Kumar Lenka, West: Prahallad Moharana</b>	<b>₹22,92,926.67</b> + interest & expenses thereon	<b>24.11.2022</b> / <b>30.01.2023</b>	All that part and parcel of Land situated over Khata No.: 574/8, Plot No.: 750/1269, Area: Ac.0.39 Dec., Kissam: Gharabari, under Mouza: Champapur, Thana: Badachana, District: Jaipur.
<b>Borrower: M/s. Lucky Bricks, Prop.: Mrs. Pritibala Choudhury, W/o.: Mr. Arun Kumar Lenka, Address-1: At: Magura, PO.: Rudrapur, Dist.: Cuttack - 754023, Address - 2: At: Champapur, PO.: Chhatia, PS.: Badachana, Dist.: Jaipur</b>	<b>₹58,38,944.55</b> + interest & expenses thereon	<b>24.11.2022</b> / <b>30.01.2023</b>	Hypothecation of Stock of Clay, Coal Raw Bricks and finished K B Bricks and Book Debts upto 90 days.

**Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 05.02.2023**

**Authorised Officer, Bank of India**



## of the day quote

The first meeting of Youth20, a platform to take India's G20 presidency to youngsters across the country, will be held from February 6 to 8 in Guwahati

Earlier our country was in the tenth place in the world in terms of economic progress, whereas under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, it has now jumped to the fifth place and I am hopeful that India will soon be at the first position

I met Amit Shah and requested him that the poor people should not be evicted from their houses. The J&K LG has also given a statement that the poor will be spared. So, we have decided to postpone our agitation on their assurances

ANURAG THAKUR | INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, AND YOUTH AFFAIRS MINISTER

GHULAM NABI AZAD | DEMOCRATIC AZAD PARTY CHIEF

## SHORT TAKES

### Student found dead in hostel

**Raichur (Karnataka):** A 17-year-old student was found dead under mysterious circumstances inside her hostel room in Lingasagar town of Karnataka's Raichur district, police said. The parents of the victim studying at the Sir M. Visvesvaraya Pre-University College, have alleged that the Principal had sexually harassed her, killed her and later tried to stage her murder as suicide. The deceased has been identified as Ishwarya, a class 11 science student. She was found dead on Friday night. The victim's parents and relatives tried to enter the college premises on Saturday while alleging that the principal, Ramesh, is responsible for her death.

### CRPF official ends life

**New Delhi:** An Assistant Sub-Inspector of Central Reserve Police Force allegedly shot himself with his service gun in the national Capital, an official said Saturday. The incident took place on Friday around 4 p.m. and the victim has been identified as 53-year-old Rajbir Singh. "He was deployed at Intelligence Bureau Director's residence," the official said. "No suicide note has been recovered and the post-mortem will be conducted today, following which his body will be handed over to the family members," the official added.

### Man arrested

**Kolkata:** A man was arrested at the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport in Kolkata for carrying four bullets in his hand baggage. The arrest took place late Friday night during routine checking while the man, identified as Mohammad Ghalib, was attempting to board a Bengaluru-bound Air Asia flight, airport sources said on Saturday. The sources said that the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel responsible for hand luggage checking and frisking of the passengers before boarding noticed that Ghalib was quite restless while awaiting his turn in the queue.

### Soldier injured

**Jammu:** An army soldier was injured on Saturday in a landmine explosion along the line of control (LoC) in J&K's Poonch district. Official sources said that the explosion took place in Kerri sector of Poonch district Saturday. "The explosion apparently occurred accidentally around 11.15 a.m., today. The injured soldier was airlifted to the command hospital in Udhampur town," sources said.



At a time when the Kashmiri Pandits are pleading for their safety and families' concerns, and expecting sympathy and affection from the government, use of words like 'beggars' by the Lt. Governor for them is irresponsible. Prime Minister, you may not be familiar with this insensitive style of functioning of the administration

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

## QUAKE HITS UKHRUL

An earthquake of magnitude 4.0 on the Richter scale hit Manipur's Ukhrul district Saturday morning, the National Centre of Seismology said



Sportspersons perform yoga during the 'Kare Yog-Rahe Nirog' programme, in Gominagar area of Lucknow

PTI PHOTO

## After torching mother, son threatens father

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bangalore, Feb 4:** In an incident resembling Hollywood movie 'Orphan', an adopted son set ablaze his mother and gave life threats to his father in Bengaluru, police said on Saturday. He has been arrested. The accused has been identified as Uttam Kumar. According to police, Manjunath and his wife did not have children and adopted the accused. However, Uttam Kumar disrespected his parents and developed hatred towards them. The police stated that he torched his adoptive mother in 2018. He was jailed after the incident and after being released, he gave life threats to his father. Father Manjunath owns five houses and the accused wanted his father to allow him to take the rent money. When Manjunath refused, he resorted to life threats. The police also stated that the accused went to the tenant and threatened him with a weapon so that he pays the rent only to him. When police went to arrest him, a high-tension drama ensued. Sadashivanagar police have arrested him and further investigation is underway.

## Tripura heads for triangular contest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Agartala, Feb 4:** Newly formed political party Tipra Motha is likely to emerge as the kingmaker after the Tripura assembly polls, in which it will fight a triangular contest with the BJP-IPFT and Congress-Left Front alliances. Tipra Motha, headed by erstwhile royal scion Pradyot Manikya Debbarma, refused to stitch an alliance with either the BJP or foes-turned-friends Congress and Left Front but has not shunned the possibility of a post-poll coalition with any party that supports its demand for a separate state of Greater Tripaland. Banking on its stupendous performance in the 2021 Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) polls, in which it bagged 18 of the 30 seats in the body, Tipra Motha has decided to go solo and hopes to sweep the 20 tribal-dominated seats that hold the key to power in the northeastern state that has a 60-member assembly. The BJP, on the other hand, is not leaving anything to chance, and has decided to contest 55 seats, leaving only five seats for alliance



partner Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT), which has ceded much ground to Tipra Motha in the tribal areas as the newly formed outfit raised the demand for Greater Tripaland statehood. The alliance partners will witness a friendly fight in Ampinagar assembly seat in Gomati district as IPFT will contest a total of six constituencies in the February 16 polls. In the 2018 assembly polls, in which the BJP-IPFT combine ended the 25-year-long rule of the Left Front, the saffron party had bagged 36 seats, including 10 ST reserved constituencies, while its alliance partner had bagged eight seats. However, the IPFT began losing

state, and instead agreeing to a common minimum programme of the BJP under which the Centre constituted a panel for socio-economic and linguistic development of the tribals, political observers said. The IPFT, which once played a key role in eroding the Left Front's traditional tribal vote bank, over the last two-and-half-years suffered loss of support base as Tipra Motha began harping on the demand for Greater Tripaland, a separate state carving out tribal areas of Tripura. Political observers believe that Tipra Motha's popularity rose not only because it raised the separate statehood demand but also because tribals still revere the erstwhile royal family and they refer to Pradyot Debbarma as 'Bubagra' or king. Seeing Tipra Motha's rise in the tribal area, CPI(M) and Congress, rivals that joined hands, and even the BJP sought an electoral adjustment with the regional party but failed due to Debbarma's uncompromising attitude towards the Greater Tripaland demand, the political observers said.

## DIGVIJAYA GETS BAIL IN DEFAMATION CASE

AGENCIES

**Bhopal, Feb 4:** A special court Saturday granted bail to Congress Rajya Sabha member Digvijaya Singh in a defamation case filed by a BJP leader whom he had accused of being involved in the Vyapam scam that rocked Madhya Pradesh in 2013. The court dealing with cases against MPs and MLAs granted relief to the Congress leader in the defamation case filed in 2014, said Singh's lawyer Ajay Gupta told PTI. Singh had been asked to appear in the court. The Vyapam scam relates to alleged manipulation in the selection process for government colleges and jobs conducted by the then Madhya Pradesh Vyavsayik Pariksha Mandal (Vyapam), a professional exam board. It involved the alleged impersonation of candidates, rampant copying and other malpractices. Talking to reporters later, an undeterred Singh said he faces cases in four states. "The court has granted bail to me. I have written all these letters (demanding papers) in 2014-15... Our demand for a CBI investigation (in Vyapam scam) was accepted. The Shivraj

Singh Chouhan government of MP has so far not taken any action against the (Vyapam) accused. They are still living in government accommodations," he said. Singh accused the present BJP government headed by Chouhan of indulging in corruption through "middlemen". BJP's current state president V D Sharma had filed a defamation case in 2014 after Singh accused him of being involved in the Vyapam scam. Sharma on Saturday said that in his defamation case, the court in December 2022 had ordered the registration of a criminal case (under IPC section 500) against Singh. Sharma expressed surprise that Singh was boasting that he faces cases in four states.



## Sharjeel discharged in Jamia violence case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Feb 4:** A court here Saturday discharged 11 people, including student activists Sharjeel Imam and Asif Iqbal Tanha, in the Jamia Nagar violence case, saying as the Delhi Police was unable to apprehend the actual perpetrators, it booked the accused as "scapegoats". The court, however, ordered framing of charges against one of the accused, Mohammad Ilyas. "Marshalling the facts as brought forth from a perusal of the chargesheet and three supplementary chargesheets, this court cannot but arrive at the conclusion that the police were unable to apprehend the actual perpetrators behind the commission of the offence, but surely managed to rope the persons herein as scapegoats," Additional Sessions Judge Arul Varma said.



An FIR was lodged in connection with the violence that erupted after a clash between police and people protesting against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) in the Jamia Nagar area here December 2019. The judge said there were admittedly scores of protesters at the site and some anti-social elements within the crowd could have created an environment of disruption and havoc. "However, the moot question remains - whether the accused persons herein were even prima facie complicit in taking part in that mayhem? The answer is an unequivocal no," he added. The court said the legal proceedings against the 11 accused

were initiated in a "perfunctory and cavalier fashion" and "allowing them to undergo the rigmarole of a long-drawn trial does not augur well for the criminal justice system of the country". "Furthermore, such police action is detrimental to the liberty of citizens who choose to exercise their fundamental right to peacefully assemble and protest. The liberty of the protesting citizens should not have been lightly interfered with," it said. The court said dissent is an extension of the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression, subject to reasonable restrictions. Referring to a 2012 verdict of the Supreme Court, the judge said the court is duty-bound to lean towards an interpretation that protects the rights of the accused, given the ubiquitous power disparity between them and the state machinery.

## Army to hold online exam for Agniveer recruitment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Feb 4:** The army has announced a change in the Agniveer recruitment process and candidates wanting to join the force will now have to first appear for an online common entrance examination (CEE), followed by physical fitness and medical tests. While advertisements regarding the change in the process have been put out by the army in various newspapers, sources on Saturday said, the notification for this is expected to be issued around mid-February. The first online CEE is slated to be held in April at nearly 200 locations across the country and for it all preparations have been finalised, a source said. "The changed methodology will ensure increased focus on cognitive aspect during se-

lection. It will have wider outreach across the country and also reduce the large crowds seen during recruitment rallies to make them more manageable and easier to conduct," the source said. An advertisement published in a leading newspaper with the title -- "Transformational Changes in Recruitment in Indian Army" -- on Friday, lists the new three-step methodology for the recruitment process.

## WHO calls for strengthening health systems for prevention of cancer

IN 2020, CANCER OF THE LUNGS, BREAST AND CERVIX ACCOUNTED FOR 4, 00,000 DEATHS. ALMOST TWO-THIRDS OF PEOPLE DIAGNOSED WITH CANCER SUCCUMBED TO THE DISEASE WHICH HIGHLIGHTS THE URGENT NEED FOR IMPROVED EARLY DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Feb 4:** On World Cancer Day, WHO called for intensified action across the South-East Asia Region to strengthen health systems in prevention and early detection of cancer. It also stressed on providing prompt treatment referrals, enhancing access to palliative care and closing the gap in access to quality cancer care services. Cancer is the second leading cause of death globally, accounting for an estimated 9.9 million deaths in 2020, said Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh, the WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia. Between 2010 and 2019, global

cancer incidences increased by 26 per cent, alongside a 21 per cent increase in cancer deaths, she said. An estimated one-third of cancer deaths globally are due to tobacco use, high body mass index, alcohol use, low fruit and vegetable intake, and lack of physical activity. "In the WHO South-East Asia Region, an estimated 2.3 million people developed cancer in 2020 and 1.4 million died of the disease. "Cancer is estimated to account for more than 20 pc of premature mortality from noncommunicable diseases in the region, which stand at around 4.7 million deaths every year," Singh said. In 2020, cancer of the lungs, breast and cervix accounted for 4,



00,000 deaths. Almost two-thirds of people diagnosed with cancer succumbed to the disease which highlights the urgent need for improved early diagnosis and treatment, she said. Since 2014, the region has accelerated action to prevent, detect, treat and control cancer with an increased focus on eliminating cer-

vical cancer as a public health problem, the WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia said. To accelerate progress and close the care gap, she stressed the need for introducing and expanding HPV vaccination in routine immunization programmes, covering at least 90 per cent of adolescent girls. At the same time, the region must continue to facilitate healthy lifestyles, including by not just legislating but enforcing key tobacco control measures such as health warnings and bans on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship, as well as by raising taxes on tobacco products, Singh said. She also emphasised increasing capacity at the primary health-

care level to detect cancers early, with a focus on intensified health workforce training, improved infrastructure and resources, and streamlined referral pathways. Primary healthcare physicians and nurses must be equipped to provide palliative and end-of-life care close to patients' homes and families, Singh said. "Rapidly and systematically advancing the capacity of tertiary care facilities to provide comprehensive diagnostic and treatment services, which is critical to reducing cancer mortality. Interventions should be aimed at high-burden cancers with a high potential for cure. They must be accessible to all," she stated.

# international

## of the day quote

There is a need for unity across the political spectrum. This act of terrorism managed to breach the security check post and reach the mosque. We should not feel hesitant in admitting the facts

SHEHBAZ SHARIF | PM, PAKISTAN

Brazil was doing very well. I cannot understand the reasons why (the election) decided to go to the left

JAIR BOLSONARO | FORMER PRESIDENT, BRAZIL

India is always a dependable partner and a reliable friend of Sri Lanka

V MURALEEDHARAN | MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, SRI LANKA

## SHORT TAKES

### \$21K to enter US

Washington: Criminal transnational organisations called cartels on an average charge \$21,000 from Indians to help them illegally cross over the American border, an Arizona Sheriff has told lawmakers here. The minimum being charged by a cartel for a foreign national to illegally come into the United States is \$7,000, Sheriff Mark Dannels of Cochise County, Arizona, told members of the House Judiciary Committee here this week. Informing the lawmakers that the border along Mexico is not secure, Dannels said criminal transnational organisations called cartels control the south of the US border.

### Boat capsizes kills 52

Peshawar: The death toll in the boat capsizing tragedy in a lake in northwestern Pakistan Saturday rose to 52 after rescue officials recovered the body of one more student from a madrassa, a week after the incident, police officials said. A team of divers from the Pakistan Army has recovered all 52 bodies of the people who drowned in Tanda Dam Lake in Kohat district of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province after their boat capsized on January 29, police said. According to officials, the divers on Monday rescued four students from the lake.

### Chile fires claim 7

Santiago: At least seven people have died as a result of the more than 150 wildfires burning across Chile that have destroyed homes and thousands of acres of forest while the South American country is in the midst of a scorching heat wave. Four of the deaths took place in the Biobio region, around 560 kilometers (348 miles) south of the capital of Santiago. Four of the deaths occurred in two separate vehicles. "In one case they were burned because they were hit by the fire," Interior Minister Carolina Tohá said. In the other case, she said, the victims died in a crash, "probably trying to escape the fire."

### 50-car train derailed

East Palestine: A train derailed and resulting large fire prompted an evacuation order in an Ohio village near the Pennsylvania state line Friday night, covering the area in billows of smoke lit orange by the flames below. About 50 cars derailed in East Palestine as a train was carrying a variety of freight from Madison, Illinois, to Conway, Pennsylvania, rail operator Norfolk Southern said in a statement Saturday. There was no immediate information about what caused the derailment. No injuries were reported. Firefighters have been pulled from the immediate area and unmanned stream devices are being used for evacuations.



Let us ask ourselves what it means for us to be ministers of God in a land scarred by war, hatred, violence, and poverty  
POPE FRANCIS | CATHOLIC CHURCH LEADER

## SL'S 75TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

Sri Lanka needs to rectify its "errors and failures" and review its strengths and gains as a nation, President Ranil Wickremesinghe said Saturday, as the country marked its 75th anniversary of independence at a critical time when it is reeling under an unprecedented economic crisis



# China-US hope for diplomatic thaw deflates

THE BALLOON OVER THE US, SEEN AS ONE OF CHINA'S BOLD BUT CLUMSY ESPIONAGE TACTICS, WILL FURTHER TEST BOTH COUNTRIES' DIPLOMATIC RELATION WHICH IS STRUGGLING ON MANY LOOSE ENDS

REUTERS

Washington, Feb 4: The political uproar over a suspected Chinese spy balloon drifting over the United States did not just derail a planned visit to Beijing by the top US diplomat, it also threatens to upset attempts by both countries to steady an increasingly rocky relationship.

The reaction in the United States to what appears to be an ill-timed spying mission will have lingering consequences for efforts to stabilize ties - already near historic lows. Some US lawmakers are demanding that President Joe Biden, a Democrat, hold China to account for what officials are calling an unacceptable violation of US sovereignty.

Daniel Russel, the top US diplomat for Asia under then-President Barack Obama, said China's "laughable alibi" that the aircraft was an errant weather balloon, didn't help.

"This incident has soured the atmosphere and hardened positions and there's no guarantee the two sides can successfully resurrect the 'Bali' momentum," Russel said, referring to the November meeting between Biden and Chinese leader Xi Jinping in Indonesia where they agreed to increase communications.

### SPY BALLOON INCIDENT

IT'S A VIOLATION OF OUR SOVEREIGNTY; IT'S A VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

ANTONY BLINKEN | SECRETARY OF STATE, US

## BLINKEN'S TRIP TO CHINA POSTPONED

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who postponed a trip that was to begin Friday, said he would be prepared to visit Beijing "when conditions allow," but the administration could be hard pressed to quickly revive the trip short of China offering up serious gestures of goodwill, policy analysts said. Expectations for Blinken's trip had been low, but he had intended to raise by name the cases of American citizens the United States says are wrongfully detained in China, and push Beijing to cooperate on stemming the flow of fentanyl, both areas where any progress would have built momentum that could carry into other discussions. China, too, wants a stable US relationship so it can focus on its economy, battered by the now abandoned zero-Covid policy. Blinken's visit - what would have been the first by a secretary of state to China since 2018 - was seen largely as an effort to develop ways to navigate future crises. With a trip to Taiwan by new House Speaker Kevin McCarthy likely this year, the next crisis might not be far off.

## ANOTHER BALLOON SEEN

A second Chinese spy balloon has been spotted, this time in the skies over Latin America, the Pentagon has said, a day after another one of the size of three buses and carrying a "large" payload was seen in US skies. "We are seeing reports of a balloon transiting Latin America. We now assess it as another Chinese surveillance balloon. We have no further information to provide at this time," Pentagon Press Secretary Brig Gen Pat Ryder said Friday. It is unclear exactly which country in the region the balloon is hovering over but it does not appear as if it is headed towards the United States, according to CNN.

# UKRAINE, RUSSIA SWAP PRISONERS

The war which is set to complete its first anniversary February 24 has witnessed thousands of deaths on both ends

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyiv, Feb 4: Dozens of Russian and Ukrainian prisoners of war have returned home following a prisoner swap, officials on both sides said Saturday.

Top Ukrainian presidential aide Andriy Yermak said in a Telegram post that 116 Ukrainians were freed.

He said the released POWs include troops who held out in Mariupol during Moscow's months long siege that reduced the southern port city to ruins, as well as guerrilla fighters from the Kherson region and snipers captured during the ongoing fierce battles for the eastern city of Bakhmut.

Russian defence officials, meanwhile, announced that 63 Russian troops had returned from Ukraine following the swap, including some "special category" prisoners whose release was secured following mediation by the United Arab Emirates.

A statement issued Saturday by the Russian Defence Ministry did not provide details about these "special category" captives.



At least three civilians have been killed in Ukraine over the past 24 hours as Russian forces struck nine regions in the country's south, north and east, according to reports on Ukrainian TV by regional governors Saturday morning.

Two people were killed and 14 others wounded in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region by Russian shelling and missile strikes, local Gov Pavlo Kyrylenko said in a Telegram update Saturday morning.

The casualty toll included a man who was killed and seven others who were wounded Friday after Russian missiles slammed into Toretsk, a town in the Donetsk region. Kyrylenko said that 34 houses, two kindergartens, an outpatient clinic, a library, a cultural centre and other buildings were damaged in the strike.

Seven teenagers received shrapnel wounds after an anti-personnel mine exploded late Friday in the northeastern city of Izium, local Gov Oleh Syniehubov said on Telegram. He said they were all hospitalised but their lives were not in danger.



Tires burn as Palestinians clash with Israeli forces in Aqbat Jabr camp, southwest of the city of Jericho Saturday, during a search for the Palestinian suspects behind a shooting attack at a restaurant in a nearby settlement last week

# Pak blocks Wikipedia over blasphemous content

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Feb 4: Pakistan has blocked Wikipedia after the website refused to remove offensive or blasphemous material, according to a media report Saturday.

The blacklisting of Wikipedia comes days after the Pakistan Telecom Authority (PTA) degraded Wikipedia services for 48 hours, threatening to block it if the content deemed 'blasphemous' was not deleted. The News newspaper reported.

When a PTA spokesperson was



contacted late Friday night and inquired about the blocking of Wikipedia, the official confirmed that "yes" it had been blocked, it reported. On the instruction of the high court, the PTA degraded - disrupting and slowing access to the encyclopedia - website for 48 hours because there was blasphemous

content on it.

An opportunity for a hearing was also provided; however, the platform neither complied by removing the blasphemous content nor appeared before the authority.

The restoration of Wikipedia's services will be reconsidered if the reported unlawful content is blocked/removed, he said.

Social media giants Facebook and YouTube have been blocked in the past over content deemed blasphemous. Blasphemy is a sensitive issue in Muslim-majority Pakistan.

# Spanish HC backs man's right to walk naked in the street

REUTERS

Madrid, Feb 4: A Spanish high court has ruled in favour of a man who was fined for walking naked through the streets of a town in the region of Valencia and later tried to attend a court hearing in the nude.

In a statement, the region's high court said it had struck down an appeal against a lower court decision to annul fines handed out to the man for being naked in the streets of Aldaia, a town on the outskirts of the regional capital.

The court, however, acknowledged a "legal vacuum" in Spanish law regarding public nudity.

Alejandro Colomar, 29, was filmed arriving at court wearing just a pair of hiking boots before being ordered to put more clothes on to enter the building. At his trial, he argued that the fines infringed on his right to ideological freedom.

Public nudity has been legal in Spain since 1988. Anyone can walk naked down a street without being arrested, but some regions such as Valladolid and Barcelona have introduced their own laws to regulate nudism, especially away from the beach. The court noted that Aldaia has no law prohibiting nudism.



# Arctic blast bringing frostbite-threatening temperatures

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HAS WARNED THAT THE BLAST IS SHAPING UP TO BE A "ONCE-IN-A-GENERATION" COLD FRONT

REUTERS

Worcester, Feb 4: A powerful arctic blast swept into the US Northeast Friday, pushing temperatures to perilously low levels across the region, including New Hampshire's Mount Washington, where the wind chill dropped to 105 degrees below zero Fahrenheit (-79 Celsius), forecasters said.

Wind-chill warnings were posted for most of New York state and all six New England states - Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine - a region home to some 16 million people.

The National Weather Service (NWS) said the deep freeze would

be relatively short-lived, but the combination of numbing cold and biting winds gripping the Northeast would pose life-threatening conditions well into Saturday.

The bitter cold forced a rare closing of a floating museum that presents a daily re-enactment of the 1773 Boston Tea Party, when a band of colonists disguised as Native Americans tossed crates of tea taxed by the king into Boston Harbor in protest.

Early Friday, the arctic surge flowing into the United States from eastern Canada was centered over the US Plains, weather service forecaster Bob Oravec said. Kabetogawa, Minnesota, near the Ontario border, was America's



coldest spot at 1 pm EST, with a temperature of minus 39 F (-39.5 C). In Mount Washington State Park,

atop the Northeast's highest peak, temperatures fell to minus 45 F (-46 C) Friday evening, with sustained winds

of 90 miles per hour driving wind chill to 105 below zero F (-76 C).

By comparison, air temperatures in Eureka, Canada's northernmost Arctic weather station, were hovering at 41 F (-41 C) Friday.

Boston was at 8 degrees F (-13 C) Friday evening, while in Worcester, Massachusetts, 40 miles (64 km) to the west, the mercury hit 3 F (-16 C), with temperatures expected to fall even lower; Hurley said.

Record cold was expected in both cities Saturday. Forecasts called for a low of -6 F in Boston, exceeding an 1896 record -2 for the date. Worcester was headed for a low of -11 Saturday, which would break its previous 1934 record of -4 for the date.

# business

## of the day quote

Today, scrap usage is only 15 per cent in primary steel production. We will push the steel industry to increase this to 25 per cent in the next five years, and by 2047, this should double to 50 per cent

**JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA** | UNION MINISTER

India is all set for leading the change and usher in green growth which is aptly visible in the green credits to green energy to green mobility to green farming, which has found its place in the budget this year

**SANDIP PATEL** | MD, IBM INDIA/SOUTH ASIA

Our sales bookings rose 77 per cent year-on-year to ₹8,181 crore in the April-December period on strong housing demand, and will cross the target of ₹10,000 crore for the full fiscal

**PIROJSHA GODREJ** | EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN, GODREJ PROPERTIES

## SHORT TAKES

### Paytm witnesses surprise profit

**Bangalore:** Fintech company Paytm reported a 41.6% rise in third-quarter revenue Friday, helped by soaring loan growth, and said it achieved operating profitability three quarters ahead of guidance. Paytm's parent, One 97 Communications Ltd, said revenue rose to ₹20.62 billion in the October-December quarter from ₹14.56 billion a year earlier. The company posted its first-ever core profit before cost of employee stock-owning plans, or operating profit, of ₹310 million compared with a core loss of ₹3.93 billion a year earlier. However, it continued to post a consolidated net loss that nearly halved to ₹3.92 billion from a loss of ₹7.78 billion a year earlier, the company said in an exchange filing.

### Next e-auction of FCI wheat Feb 15

**New Delhi:** The next e-auction for the sale of FCI wheat to bulk consumers like flour millers under the open market sale scheme (OMSS) will be held February 15, the Food Ministry said Saturday. State-run Food Corporation of India (FCI) has been mandated to sell 25 lakh tonne of wheat from its buffer stock to bulk consumers under the OMSS in order to contain rising prices of wheat and wheat products in the country. The first sale of wheat through e-auction was held February 1-2. About 9.2 lakh tonne of wheat was sold from FCI depots in 23 states. The plan was to hold a weekly e-auction every Wednesday.

### Pak oil firms on verge of collapse

**Islamabad:** Oil companies in cash-strapped Pakistan have warned that the industry is on the "brink of collapse" as the dollar liquidity crisis persists and their cost of doing business balloons due to the rupee's devaluation. The government removed the dollar cap to meet the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) demand which resulted in the Pakistani rupee falling to a historic low of ₹276.58 in the interbank market, according to a Geo News report. In a letter to the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) and Energy Ministry, the Oil Companies Advisory Council (OCAC) said that the "sudden depreciation" of the rupee has caused losses worth billions of rupees to the industry as their letters of credit (LCs) are expected to be settled on the new rates, "whereas the related product has already been sold", it said.



**“If we get into this club (global bond indices), it will be with our dhoti and saree. We will not change our domestic policies to suit foreign investors”**

**TV SOMANATHAN** | FINANCE SECRETARY

## MUSK WINS TESLA TWEETS CASE

A jury Friday decided Elon Musk didn't defraud investors with his 2018 tweets about electric automaker Tesla in a proposed deal that quickly unravelled and raised questions about whether the billionaire had misled investors



## ADANI CRISIS

# Committed to ensuring market integrity: Sebi

*India's market regulator moved to calm investor concerns, saying that its financial markets remain stable and continue to function in a transparent and efficient manner, despite recent dramatic stock falls in Adani Group companies*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Feb 4:** Amid a raging controversy over a meltdown in Adani group stocks, regulator Sebi Saturday said it is committed to ensuring the stock market's integrity and all necessary surveillance measures are in place to address any excessive volatility in individual shares.

Without naming Adani group specifically, the capital markets watchdog said in a statement that unusual price movement in the stocks of a business conglomerate has been observed in the past week. Officials confirmed that the statement has been issued in the wake of the Adani matter only.

Adani group stocks have taken a beating on the bourses after US-based activist short-seller Hindenburg Research made a litany of allegations, including fraudulent transactions and share price manipulation at the Gautam Adani-led group. The Adani group has dismissed the charges as lies, saying it complies with all laws and disclosure requirements.

"As part of its mandate, Sebi seeks to maintain orderly and efficient functioning of the market and has put in place a set of well-defined, publicly available surveillance measures (including the ASM framework) to address excessive volatility in specific stocks.

## THE GREAT ROUT



10 LISTED ADANI GROUP FIRMS FACED A COMBINED EROSION OF OVER ₹8.5L-CR IN SIX DAYS

SHARES IN ADANI GROUP FIRMS, HAVE DROPPED BY \$100 BILLION, OR HALF THEIR MARKET VALUE

SHARES OF THE GROUP'S FLAGSHIP COMPANY STABILISED SOMEWHAT FRIDAY AND CLOSED 1.4% HIGHER, AFTER EARLIER SLUMPING 35% TO HIT THEIR LOWEST LEVEL SINCE MARCH 2021. THAT LOW TOOK ITS LOSSES TO NEARLY \$33.6 BILLION SINCE LAST WEEK, A 70% FALL

This mechanism gets automatically triggered under certain conditions of price volatility in any stock," the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said.

Stock exchanges BSE and NSE have put three Adani group companies - Adani Enterprises, Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone and Ambuja Cements - under their short-term additional surveillance measure (ASM), which basically means that intra-day trading would require a 100 per cent upfront margin and is aimed at curbing speculation and short-selling in these stocks.

Sebi further said that in all specific entity-related matters, if any information comes to its notice, then, as per extant policies, the same is examined and after due examination, appropriate action is taken.

"Sebi has consistently followed this approach on entity-level issues and would continue to do so in the future as well," it added.

The regulator, however, stopped short of clearly mentioning whether it is conducting any probe in the matter or not.

Sebi further said the Indian financial market, as represented by Sensex and Nifty, has demonstrated ongoing stability and is continuing

### Adani Ent shelve \$122mn bond plan

Adani Enterprises Ltd has shelved a plan to raise as much as ₹10 billion, Bloomberg News reported Saturday. The flagship firm of Indian billionaire Gautam Adani's empire had planned the public note issuance for January, working with Edelweiss Financial Services Ltd, AK Capital, JM Financial, and Trust Capital, but activity has now stopped, the report said, citing people familiar with the matter. Adani Enterprises called off its \$2.5 billion share sale in a dramatic reversal Wednesday this week, after a rout sparked by a US short-seller's criticisms wiped billions more off the value of the Indian tycoon's stocks.

to function in a transparent, fair and efficient manner:

"On a longer-term basis also, Indian markets have been viewed positively by investors. A cross-country comparison of dollar-adjusted market returns with both peer and developed countries, during the past three years till date, places the Indian market as a positive outlier," it noted.

### Exposure to Adani at 0.94%: Axis Bank

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Feb 4:** Private sector lender Axis Bank Saturday said its exposure to crisis-ridden Adani Group stands at 0.94 per cent of its net advances.

We extend credit, basis comfort on cash flow, security, and repayment capability of obligors as per the Bank's credit assessment framework. We remain comfortable with our exposure to Adani Group basis the same, the bank said in a regulatory filing.



The exposure to Adani Group is primarily to the operating companies in sectors like ports, transmission, power, gas distribution, roads and airports, it said.

Fund-based outstanding as percentage of net advances is 0.29 per cent, while that of non-fund based outstanding is 0.58 per cent, it said. Investments as percentage of net advances of the bank is 0.07 per cent as of December 31, 2022, it added.

In addition, the bank's fund based and non-fund based outstanding towards the group's JVs (with an MNC in the FMCG segment and with a PSU in City Gas Distribution segment) is at 0.02 per cent and 0.25 per cent, respectively, of the net advances.

Further, it said the bank has a resilient balance sheet with standard asset coverage of 1.53 per cent as of December 31, 2022.

Three leading public sector banks have already disclosed their exposure to the Adani Group. The country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) has an exposure of ₹27,000 crore, while that of the second biggest Punjab National Bank (PNB) is at ₹7,000 crore.

Another state-owned lender Bank of Baroda has total exposure of ₹7,000 crore, which is also fully secured.

Government-owned life insurance behemoth Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has disclosed holdings of ₹36,474.78 crore in Adani group's debt and equity.

# India refiners paying in dirhams for Russian oil

## THE MOVE IS AIMED TO TACKLE DOLLARS' DOMINANCE IN THE GLOBAL MARKET

REUTERS

**New Delhi, Feb 4:** Indian refiners have begun paying for most of their Russian oil purchased via Dubai-based traders in United Arab Emirates dirhams instead of US dollars, four sources with knowledge of the matter said.

While Western sanctions against Moscow are not recognised by India, and purchases of Russian oil may in any case not violate them, banks and financial institutions are cautious about clearing payments so as not to unwittingly fall foul of the many measures imposed against Russia following its invasion of Ukraine.

Indian refiners and traders are concerned they may not be able to continue to settle trades in dollars, especially if the price of Russian crude rises above a cap imposed by the Group of Seven nations and Australia in December.

That has led traders to seek alternative methods of payment, which could also aid Russia's efforts to de-dollarise its economy in response to the Western sanctions.

Previous attempts by Indian refiners to pay traders for Russian crude in dirhams through Dubai banks failed, forcing them to switch back to the US currency.

But India's top bank, the State Bank of India (SBI), is now clearing these dirham payments, the sources told Reuters, providing details of transactions that have not previously been reported.

The SBI, which has overseas branches including in the United States, did not respond to requests for comment.

The G7 price cap prohibits any Western company, such as the insurance and shipping service providers that underpin much of global trade, from involvement in trading Russian crude if the purchase price is above \$60 a barrel at the loading point in Russia.



### Europe reaches deal for price cap on Russian diesel

European Union governments tentatively agreed Friday to set a \$100-per-barrel price cap on sales of Russian diesel to coincide with an EU embargo on the fuel - steps aimed at ending the bloc's energy dependence on Russia and limiting the money Moscow makes to fund its war in Ukraine. Diplomats representing the 27 EU governments set the cap on Russian diesel fuel, jet fuel and gasoline ahead of a ban taking effect Sunday. It aims to reduce Russia's income while keeping its diesel flowing to non-Western countries to avoid a global shortage that would send prices and inflation higher. The \$100-per-barrel cap applies to Russian diesel and other fuels that sell for more than the crude oil used to make them. Officials agreed on a \$45-per-barrel limit on Russian oil products that sell for less than the price of crude.

That remains the case even if the oil is bound for countries such as China and India which do not recognise the cap.

The shift to dirham payments was also triggered by the SBI asking refiners looking to make dollar payments for Russian crude to provide a breakdown of the costs of the oil, freight and insurance, allowing it to vet trade and avoid violating the cap.

# FPIs in India to pay higher tariff on debt securities

REUTERS

**New Delhi, Feb 4:** Foreign portfolio investors will lose a preferential tax rate on interest from Indian government securities and corporate and foreign currency bonds, a senior tax official said Saturday.

Foreign portfolio investors have been enjoying a lower 5% tax on interest earned on bonds since 2013, making investments in the country more attractive. Ending this treatment would require them to pay a 20% tax on interest income from July 1.

"It has not been extended," Central Board of Direct Taxes chairman Nitin Gupta told Reuters. "Our view point is that it was a revenue foregone by the government."

"We have certain tax treaty with any jurisdiction which permits the Indian government to deduct

tax at a certain rate. We had foregone that right. It was helping the other government, and the other jurisdictions," he said.

The exemption does not benefit any Indian company, he said.

Gupta said regular registration by charitable trusts will help India in gathering data of beneficial owners, and comply with standards from the Financial Action Task Force, a global money laundering and terrorism watchdog.

The task force, reviewing India this year, is "much concerned about trusts because it becomes a route... for illegal activities, money laundering," he said.

India's \$550 billion budget, unveiled on Wednesday, proposes a series of changes for charitable trusts that include regular registration to access tax benefits.

### Tatwa Technologies completes 21 years

**Bhubaneswar:** Tatwa Technologies, a leading IT company of Odisha has celebrated its 21st foundation day at Lemon Tree Hotel, Bhubaneswar Saturday where company unveiled its vision for next decade Tatwa 2.0, making a billion dollar enterprises from Odisha. Tatwa Impact Statement 2022 was also unveiled. Startup Odisha Executive Chairman Omkar Rai, Ziaad Ferzly, Israel, Nachiket, USA and Sunil Sabat, USA also graced the occasion as guest. Adorned with a resource base of 3000 young and skilled professionals, Tatwa has grown from strength to strength over the last 21 years. It is established today as a national brand with delivery centres across Bhubaneswar, Kolkata, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Mumbai and NOIDA. It also has its presence overseas serving global customers from USA, Singapore, Middle East and Africa. With technology in its DNA, TATWA has been engineering digital transformation for the industry.



### Elina's Dream Diamond Tour of Odisha at Reliance Jewels

**Bhubaneswar:** Reliance Jewels, India's leading jewellery brand, announced 'Elina's Dream Diamond Tour of Odisha' as it continues to enthral patrons with its design excellence over last 15 years. The lucky winners from the state will get an exclusive meet & greet experience with actress Elina Samantaryay and be a part of many engaging activities like walk the ramp with Elina, discuss Elina's dream diamond looks and have a conversation over coffee. The tour will be conducted across 5 key cities, where Elina will be visiting 5 Reliance Jewels stores at Bhubaneswar, Chandrasekharpur, Cuttack, Angul, Brahmapur & Rourkela on 3rd, 4th, 5th, 10th and 12th February 2023 respectively.



### PPL conferred with Greentech Foundation International Safety Award

**Bhubaneswar:** Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL) was once again recognised for its overall effort in maintaining best industrial safety practices. In yet another milestone, the company was conferred with Greentech Foundation International ESH Award for the year 2023. Nihar Kanti Rout, Jt General Manager (Fire & Safety) of PPL received the award from Yashpal Singh, IPS, Director General of Police, Goa. Kamleshwar Saran, Chairman & CEO, Greentech foundation & Ved Prakash Mahawar, Former Director ONGC & OMPL were also present. This award will inspire PPL to scale new milestones in field of environment, health and safety.



# Big Tech earnings face more heat as cloud cover fades

**THE POOR RESULTS REFLECT A SHIFT TO POST-PANDEMIC FRUGALITY BY CORPORATE CUSTOMERS WHOSE BUDGETS HAVE BEEN SQUEEZED IN THE PAST YEAR BY HIGH INFLATION AND RISING INTEREST RATES**

REUTERS

**Washington, Feb 4:** Big Tech results reinforced concerns a boom in cloud services is easing, limiting a lucrative source of profit when a slowing economy has hit the companies' other businesses and prompting a bet on artificial intelligence as the next growth driver.

Earnings from Amazon.com Inc and Microsoft Corp - which together dominate the cloud market - showed growth in the business was at its lowest since they started breaking out the metric in 2015 and was on track to slow further.

Alphabet Inc, which has the smallest cloud business among the three, said Google Cloud grew 32%, the slowest rise since the company began reporting the measure in 2019.

"Once thought as the most defensive revenue stream in tech, we

are seeing investors questioning the cyclicality for the (cloud) business," analysts at Bernstein said.

Cloud services had long been a reliable source of earnings for Microsoft and Amazon.

The Windows maker posted growth of around 50% in its Azure cloud-computing business for each quarter of calendar 2020, when the pandemic forced people to work and study at home.

Meanwhile, market leader Amazon Web Services (AWS) reported sales jump of about 30% during the same period.

Growth at AWS slowed to a record low of 20% in the last three months of 2022 to \$21.4 billion, slightly missing analysts' estimates of \$22.03 billion, according to Refinitiv data.

Microsoft's revenue in its so-called intelligent cloud business that includes Azure rose 18% to



beat expectations for October to December. But its current-quarter forecast of \$21.7 billion to \$22 billion was below estimates of

\$22.14 billion. "The deceleration in AWS was even worse than expected and means Amazon can't rely on that

**“You've just come off two years of rapid movement of workloads to the cloud, there's probably a lot of inefficiency in cloud spending and now there is a shifting focus to greater efficiency”**

**JAMES CORDWELL** | ANALYST, ATLANTIC EQUITIES

business units' operating profits as much in coming quarters," said Andrew Lipsman, principal analyst at Insider Intelligence.

Amazon finance chief Brian Olsavsky said Thursday that the company expects slower cloud growth rates for the next few quarters. That echoed Microsoft, which said last week that growth in its Azure cloud-computing business would slow by 4-5 basis points in the March quarter.

### AI SILVER LINING

A potential boom in AI after the viral success of OpenAI's ChatGPT

could boost demand for cloud services again though, analysts said. AI applications require massive computing power, a boon for companies whose services help run the technology.

As an investor and partner of OpenAI, Microsoft looks well poised, analysts said, but any gains may take time to translate into profits.

"Those (AI) advancements and demand for related cloud services will take time to materialize. They're not likely to offset current headwinds in the enterprise market over the next few quarters," Lipsman said.

# DIPA OPENS UP ON SUSPENSION

body. So it is not only hurtful but also the toughest mental battle that I have ever fought," the gymnast from Tripura told PTL.

"I had two surgeries in 2017 and 2019 and when I returned to the field, I mean, I faced one setback

for myself and my career. My suspension has been re-

duced by three months and back dated by 2.5 months. Can't wait to get back on the floor: "It has been distressful to not know how the substances entered the body; however, more so to be in a position where my ethics have been questioned.

"Never in my career has the thought of consuming a banned substance crossed my mind. Gymnastics is all I have and I would never do anything which would

in Germany, but nothing was found," Nandi said.

Karmakar also quashed speculation that her suspension was for not following the whereabouts clause. "Multiple media reports have speculated that I was under a 2-year suspension for failing to inform WADA of my whereabouts through the Anti-Doping Administration Management System (ADAMS).

"However, I would

# Debates on over IND-AUS pitches

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Feb 4:** Fully aware of the current Indian batting lineup's issues of tackling spinners on rank turners, the team management will do well to ask for sporting tracks against Australia in the upcoming four-match Test series, one which offers turn from third day, feels former selectors and experts.

Once known as master players of spin, the Indian teams in recent years have looked more at home against express pace and steep bounce while struggling against slow bowling. Only noteworthy innings in the last two to three years on a rank turner would be current skipper Rohit Sharma's technically perfect knock of 161 on a wretched Chepauk track where the other top order batters had struggled.

Even an attack comprising Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Shakib Al Hasan and Taijul Islam made life difficult for India in the second away Test in Mirpur last December before R Ashwin and Shreyas Iyer bailed them out.

"Playing spinners on flat deck isn't the problem. We must admit that our batters have struggled against quality spin bowling on tracks that have offered turn. I don't know what kind of tracks will be in the offing but rank turners could backfire," former Test spinner and noted commentator Murali Kartik told PTL during an interaction.

Kartik explained that even at the domestic level, there aren't too many players, who are actual masters against spinners. "When I was in my teens and playing competitive league cricket in Chennai, as 15-16 year old, I was bowling to Vikram Rathour, S Sharath, Senthilnathan, some of the finest domestic batters of those times.

"Then I graduated to first-class cricket and I was bowling to Ajay Sharma and late Raman Lamba, two doyens of Ranji Trophy. By the time, I played international cricket, it gave me a lot of confidence," said Kartik, one of the best left-arm spinners of his generation.

Asked who among Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel should be the third spinner for India, Kartik said that it would all depend on the track.

"If it is flatter deck, then Kuldeep could be a good choice as he has the skills to take pitch out of equation. If it starts turning from second day onwards, Axar could come in. But if you ask me, invariably the third spinner will be under-bowled

as you expect your two main guys to do the job," Kartik said.

## BACKING FOR AXAR

Recently Sunil Joshi, who was a part of last selection panel told ESPNcricinfo that if India want to win the series, they would need Kuldeep in the playing XI. It was against Australia at Dharamsala five years back that Kuldeep made his Test debut with a four-wicket haul.

But injuries and team combination meant that he could play only seven more Tests with 34 wickets in his kitty. Axar, in the meantime, has played the same number of Tests in the last two years and has 47 wickets.

"For me, there is no debate that Axar should be India's third spinner with Ashwin and Jadeja. The form in which he has been and on wickets that will be on offer, Axar is a straightforward choice," former national selector Jatin Paranjape said.

He also felt that India won't prepare "snake pits" but he would expect the tracks to offer turn from second day onwards. "I have full confidence in Rohit, Cheteshwar Pujara and Virat (Kohli) that they would handle Nathan Lyon admirably," Paranjape said.

His former colleague Devang Gandhi concurred on choice of Axar as the third spinner. "Look, if you have track that starts breaking right away, then Axar is a better choice than Kuldeep. Kuldeep will release the ball from the back of his hand and hence flight more," said Gandhi.

"On tracks where the ball starts turning square, he will have a propensity to get hit. Also, when he tries bowling flatter, he tends to go a little shorter. In case of Axar, on turners, he hits the immaculate length. Also being a left-hander, he will add variety in the lower middle-order," he added.

## PRASAD'S TAKE

Former chairman of selectors MSK Prasad feels that Shubman Gill's new found confidence should be used to fullest effect and he should bat in the opening slot and not go down the order.

"I would not mind seeing KL Rahul at No.5 in Tests. I don't think Gill should be asked to come down the order. Rahul has played well in 50-over cricket and I see no reason why he shouldn't come down the order," Prasad, a former India stumper, said.

In case of wicketkeeper, Prasad wants to see KS Bharat make his Test debut. Prasad had played a role in the rise of Bharat.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Feb 4:** Handed a 21-month ban for failing a dope test, Indian gymnastics ace Dipa Karmakar Saturday said she accepted provisional suspension after returning positive for a banned drug to swiftly resolve her case with the international federation.

Karmakar, however, claimed that she "unknowingly ingested" the prohibited substance Higenamine - S3 Beta-2 Agonists as per WADA prohibited list - which was found in her dope sample.

"I unknowingly ingested and could not determine the source of (the banned substance). I decided to take a provisional suspension with the hope of a swift resolution with the international federation," Karmakar wrote on her Twitter handle, indicating that she had admitted to the doping rule violation.

The 29-year-old Karmakar, who shot to fame after finishing fourth in the 2016 Rio Olympics in the vault event, has been struggling with injuries ever since she underwent a surgery to treat an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injury in 2017. Her last FIG event was the 2019 World Cup in Baku.

Her ban period will, however, end July 10 this year as it was counted from the day (October 11, 2021) the sample was collected. Her results have been disqualified from October 11, 2021 onwards.

Karmakar said mentally her doping case has been the "toughest" battle she has fought in her life. "I didn't even know how it (the banned drug) entered my body and that for any sports person...It would have broken any-

after another. I just want to get back strongly on the field."

According to the ITA, the case was resolved under a case resolution agreement pursuant to article 10.8.2 of the FIG Anti-Doping Rules, which is applicable when "the Athlete or other Person admits an anti-doping rule violation after being confronted with the anti-doping rule violation by FIG and agrees to Consequences acceptable to FIG and WADA, at their sole discretion."

Karmakar is happy that the matter has been resolved amicably and she is looking forward to return to gymnastics in July this year. "Today marks the end of one of the longest battles I have fought

bring myself or my country into disrepute."

The Switzerland based ITA is a non-profit organisation which works under the supervision of WADA and International Olympic Committee to implement anti-doping programmes for various international federations.

Karmakar's coach Bishweshwar Nandi claimed that she had sent her samples to a WADA-sanctioned laboratory in Germany for further examination but no banned substance was found.

"If she would have taken performance-enhancing drugs then she would have been banned for four years. She didn't know how it entered her body and WADA also understands it.

"We wanted to find out how it entered the body and so we wrote to WADA and then all the medicines and products were examined

Dipa's dope sample was collected out-of-competition by the International Testing Agency (ITA), an independent organisation that manages the anti-doping programme of the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG), October 11, 2021

According to US Anti-Doping Agency, Higenamine, which was found in Dipa's dope sample, is found in several herbs used for traditional medicine and is used in supplements without sometimes naming it. It was added to the WADA prohibited list in 2017. The drug is prohibited at all times, both in and out-of-competition

# Aditi holds 5-shot lead at Kenya golf tourney

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Nairobi, Feb 4:** Indian golfer Aditi Ashok produced a second round of 70 (-3) to hold a five-shot lead heading into the weekend at the Kenya Ladies Open.

The Indian star followed up her first round of 67 (-6) with another consistent day at Vipingo Ridge to sit at the top of the leader board on nine-under-par after 36 holes at Vipingo Ridge.

The 2022 Women's Indian Open runner-up Amandeep Drall made the cut as she shot 74-74 and saw 2-over through 36 holes and is tied 21st. Indian amateur Avani Prashanth also made the cut despite shooting 75 in the second round, the same as the first day. She was tied 33rd. Diksha Dagar, Vani Kapoor and Seher Atwal missed the cut.

Three-time LET winner Ashok only dropped one shot during the second day and rolled in four birdies on the Baobab Course.

Thailand's April Angurasarane sits in second place on four-under-par after carding a second consecutive round of 71 (-2) in Kenya. Last year's runner-up Marta Sanz Barrio sits in third place on three-under-par after shooting a round of 72 (-1) on day two.

Three players sit in a share of fourth place with English duo Alice Hewson and Cara Gainer alongside Belgium's Manon De Roey on two-under-par. It was a bogey-free round of 69 (-4) for De Roey who rolled in birdies on holes two, six, 11 and 13 to move up the leader board.

## SHARMA TOP INDIAN

Shubhankar Sharma was the top Indian and one of the four to make the halfway cut at the USD 5 million Saudi International golf tournament. Besides Sharma (67-69), the other Indians who survived the 36-hole cut, which fell at even par; were



Shiv Kapur (67-71), Rashid Khan (70-70) and Anirban Lahiri (71-69). Ajeetesh Sandhu (74-70), Gaganjeet Bhullar (73-73) and Veer Ahlawat (76-72) missed the cut. Some of the big names and Major winners, including Cameron Smith (73-69), missed the cut. The others missing the cut were Bubba Watson (76-66), Phil Mickelson (70-71), Bryson DeChambeau (72-75), Dustin Johnson had earlier pulled out of the event.

Mexico's Abraham Ancer added a four-under-par 66 to his first round 63 to stay in the lead. He is now 11-under par at Royal Greens Golf & Country Club. He is one shot ahead of American Cameron Young, who shot 65.

Australian Marc Leishman (64), Thailand's Sadom Kaewkanjana (66) and Louis Oosthuizen (67) from South Africa are tied for third, three behind the leader.

## ATWAL STRUGGLES

Arjun Atwal struggled in windy conditions as he shot 3-over 75 in the second round at Spyglass Hill Golf Course in the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am. With rounds of 73-75, Atwal is now 4-over and way down at 130th place on the leader board at the halfway stage of the PGA Tour event.

Kurt Kitayama moved into sole lead after opening with 10 straight pars before having three birdies against one bogey for a 2-under 70 at Pebble Beach. Kitayama was at 9-under 134 and led by one over Keith Mitchell, Brandon Wu, Joseph Bramlett and Hank Lebioda.

The weather forecast on the Monterey Peninsula looks like it's going to be tough for the next two days also. Players play three different courses on the first three days playing Pebble Beach, Spyglass Hill and Monterey before coming back to Pebble Beach Links for the final round.

# Cummins content with spin options



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bangalore, Feb 4:** Australia captain Pat Cummins Saturday said his team is not fretting over its spin combination as it has enough options to support veteran off-spinner Nathan Lyon in the high-profile four-match Test series against India beginning in Nagpur Thursday.

The touring Australians have named Mitchell Swainson along with finger spinner Ashton Agar to team up with Lyon.

"We've got plenty of options

here (with finger spin, wrist spin, left arm (pace) when (Mitchell) Starc comes back," Cummins told reporters in his first media interaction after arriving in India.

"We'll obviously pick the bowlers that we think are going to take 20 wickets. But how we split that up, we're not 100 per cent sure yet."

Asked if it would be a two-pronged spin attack, he said: "I wouldn't say it's a given. Obviously it's very conditions dependent. Particularly in the first test, once we get to Nagpur we will see that."

The Australians are here for a training camp before heading to Nagpur Monday. "The good thing is someone like Agar was in our last team, Swepson played the last two overseas tour, so a bit of experience. Murphy played in the last tour. We feel that we got a lot of support in that department for Lyon."

The 29-year-old Cummins pointed out that middle-order batter Travis Head also offers off-spin option. "Travis Head also bowls really good offspin. We have to balance things. We have got a plenty of variety there to choose from. We have not locked in any bowling line-up so far."

While there is so much talk about spin bowling, Cummins said his side should not forget about their intimidating pace bowling attack.

## CHAPPELL BACKS AUSSIES

Batting great Greg Chappell believes Australia can win the upcoming high-profile four-match Test series as India are "vulnerable" this time with injuries to key players like Rishabh Pant and Jasprit Bumrah.

"Australia can win this series. India are more vulnerable at home than they have been for some time due to injuries to key players like Rishabh Pant, Ravindra Jadeja and Jasprit Bumrah. They will rely heavily on Virat Kohli," Chappell wrote in an opinion piece for 'Sydney Morning Herald'.

# Davis Cup: India relegated after losing play-off tie

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Hillerod (Denmark), Feb 4:** The Indian Davis Cup team were Saturday relegated to the World Group II for the first time since the new format was launched in 2019 after losing the play-off tie 2-3 to Denmark, who were single-handedly carried by Holger Rune as the World No.9 won three matches for the hosts.

The tie levelled at 1-1, India needed to win the doubles but the pair of Yuki Bhambri and Rohan Bopanna lost 2-6, 4-6 in just 65 minutes to the home team combo of Rune and Johannes Ingildsen.

The equation requiring India to win both the reverse singles to stay in World Group I, Nagal put a brave fight but lost 5-7, 3-6 in one hour and 37 minutes in the first reverse singles. That defeat gave Denmark an unassailable 1-3 lead and pushed India to World Group II.

Prajnesh Gunneswaran then



took court in the dead rubber against Elmer Moeller and won 6-4, 7-6(7-1) in one hour and 39 minutes.

Earlier Friday, Nagal had erased a one-set deficit to pip August Holmgren 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 in two hours and 27 minutes to make it 1-1 after Bhambri lost the opening singles 2-

6, 2-6 to the rising teen sensation Rune. Bhambri has quiet singles and now plays only doubles on tour.

The 25-year-old Nagal, ranked 506, dropped serve in the very first game of the match but once he got hold of his nerves, he was his usual fighting self. He got the break back

but squandered the chances when Holmgren offered them. The Danish player, ranked 484, eventually sealed the set. In the second set, it was Nagal who drew the first blood and went up 5-2. He served out the set in the ninth game to force a decider. Nagal had a chance to get the first

break when he made a deep return and Holmgren's forehand return sailed over the baseline at 30-all but the home player served well to save the chance. Nagal got another chance when Holmgren netted a forehand at deuce point in the third game but he himself made a forehand error on the breakpoint.

While Nagal preferred to hit from the baseline, Holmgren charged the net often to create chances for volley winners. Holmgren handed Nagal another break chance when he tried to pick a low volley but could not keep the ball in the court and followed that up with a double fault, allowing the Indian to take a mini 3-2 lead.

That lead stayed with Nagal and he came out serving for the match in the 10th game. Holmgren's forehand error gave the Indian three match points and converted the first one on home team player's unforced error.