

# Execute projects pronto, Naveen tells Collectors

Inaugurating a 2-day conference of senior officers including Collectors, being organised after 3 years due to Covid, the CM says districts must compete with each other for the realisation of goals

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 14:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday asked district Collectors to implement developmental projects in the shortest possible time.

Inaugurating a two-day conference of senior officers, including collectors, being organised after a gap of three years due to Covid-19 pandemic, in the Capital city here, Patnaik said that districts must compete with one another for the realisation of goals.

"I would like to see all our developmental projects implemented in the shortest possible time and welfare initiatives reach the legitimate beneficiaries," Patnaik said. "There should be competition among districts for the realisation of goals, which will lead to the



setting of benchmarks," he added. The CM said Odisha has been at the forefront in sports, healthcare, women empowerment, crop production and Covid management. He claimed that the 5T and 'Mo Sarkar' initiatives have brought about transformative governance. Odisha is now a food surplus state contributing to the national public distribution system, and the agriculture and allied sectors

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

**HEALTH:** State to set up 4 new medical colleges and upgrade 147 hospitals under 'Ama Hospital' besides developing a cancer care institute

**WOMEN EMPOWERMENT:** Plans afoot to set up 50,000 Mission Shakti SMEs in the next 3 years, while 3 lakh SHGs to get ₹10,000 crore this year

provide maximum employment to people in rural areas, he pointed out. "We should focus more on farm mechanisation, crop diversification, horticulture and floriculture, dairy development and fisheries," he said.

Patnaik said efforts are underway to make Odisha one of the top three startup destinations in the country. **Contd...P4**  
**MORE P3**



**WONDERLAND:** Tourists walk on snow-covered terrain after fresh snowfall, in Gulmarg, Tuesday

PTI PHOTO

## Cuttack's Al-Qaeda operative gets 7 years in prison

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Feb 14:** A court here Tuesday awarded seven years and five months of imprisonment to Abdur Rehman, who was arrested from Cuttack December 16, 2015, and three other operatives of Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), a wing of Al-Qaeda, for conspiracy to commit terror activities across the country and recruiting members for the militant outfit.

Special Judge Sanjay Khanagwal awarded seven years and five months of imprisonment to Maulana Mohd Abdur Rehman Kasmi, Mohd Asif, Zafar Masood and Abdul Sami, their advocate Akram Khan said.



The counsel said the convicts have already spent around seven years and three months behind the bars and that period will be considered part of the punishment.

The offences proved by the prosecution carry a maximum punishment of life imprisonment.

Delhi Police, which arrested Abdur from Jagatpur in Cuttack December 16, 2015, alleged that the Cuttack resident ran a madrasa in Uttar Pradesh, where several students were enrolled and he was trying to radicalise them for terror activities.

## I-T 'SURVEY' AT BBC OFFICES

The action comes weeks after the London-headquartered broadcaster released a 2-part documentary – India: The Modi Question – pertaining to the 2002 Gujarat riots

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Feb 14:** The Income Tax (I-T) department Tuesday conducted 'survey operations' at the BBC's offices in Delhi and Mumbai as part of an investigation into alleged tax evasion, officials said.

The action, which led to a sharp political debate with the ruling BJP accusing the BBC of 'venomous reporting' and the opposition questioning the timing of the move, comes weeks after the broadcaster aired a two-part documentary, 'India: The Modi Question', on the prime minister and the 2002 Gujarat riots.

The 'survey' is being carried out to investigate issues related to

**Oppn slams govt, says 'height of dictatorship'; BJP defends, calls BBC 'most corrupt'**

international taxation and transfer pricing of BBC subsidiary companies, officials said. BBC had been served notices in the past but was 'defiant and non-compliant' and had significantly diverted its profits, they alleged. The department is looking at documents related to the business operations of the London-headquartered broadcaster and its Indian arms, they said.

The BBC said it is fully cooperating with tax authorities.

"The Income Tax authorities are currently at the offices in New Delhi and Mumbai and we are fully cooperating. We hope to have this situation resolved as soon as possible," the press office of the BBC said on Twitter.

The synchronised surprise action began at 11am with I-T officials reaching the BBC offices in Delhi and in Mumbai and went on for several hours till late evening.

BBC staffers were asked to keep their phones at a particular spot inside the premises and cooperate, officials said. Besides, some computers were seized and an unquantified number of mobile phones those in office were being cloned, officials said. **Contd...P4**

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Thank you so much for avenging our colonial past!

## SHORT TAKES

### AI to buy 470 aircraft from Airbus, Boeing

**New Delhi:** Tata Group-owned Air India (AI) Tuesday said it will buy a total of 470 wide-body and narrow-body planes from Airbus and Boeing, and the total deal value is estimated to be around ₹6.40 lakh crore. "The order comprises 40 Airbus A350s, 20 Boeing 787s and 10 Boeing 777-9s wide-body aircraft, as well as 210 Airbus A320/321 Neos and 190 Boeing 737 MAX single-aisle aircraft," the AI said. **P11**

### Killer cop shifted to Choudwar Circle Jail

**Bhubaneswar:** Dismissed ASI Gopal Das, who allegedly shot dead minister Naba Das, was Tuesday shifted to Choudwar Circle Jail in Cuttack from Jharsuguda sub-jail. Director General (Prison) Manoj Chhabra said that Gopal was shifted to the jail in Cuttack as he had made a request for the same, citing security concerns. He would stay in a special cell of the circle jail at Choudwar under CCTV surveillance. **P4**



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Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha

17th February 2023



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- Inclusive education to 70000 indigenous students (30000 in campus, 30000 Alumni and 10000 in satellite centres).
- Zero dropout rates among the children. ■ 60% of students are girl children.
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- Green campus with huge infrastructure facilities in Bhubaneswar.
- Nourished 5000 sports talents.

- Guinness World Records and Limca Book of Records.
- First exclusive tribal Deemed to be University status given by Ministry of HRD, Government of India.
- Recipient of UNESCO International Literacy prize 2022.
- Tied up with UN Agencies.
- KISS partner with FIFA for promotion of Football in schools.
- KISS partner with FIVB for promotion of Volleyball in schools.
- Its satellite campuses running in 5 districts and another in 10 districts are in pipeline.
- Recipient of President's Award for outstanding performance in Tribal Child development and Welfare 2017 Recipient of Energy Globe Award 2018.





## TYGA IS IN ALL PRAISE FOR INDIAN CROWD

Tyga, one of the star performers at the pre-Grammys held recently this year, is all set to perform at VH1 SuperSonic, a music and lifestyle festival from February 24 to 26 in Pune. The rapper, who lives for the love and vibe of the crowd, has praised the energetic Indian crowd.

## ZELENSKY TO SHOW UP AT BERLINALE

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is expected to make an appearance at the Berlinale, being the subject of one of the festival's most high-profile projects: Sean Penn and Aaron Kaufman's top-secret documentary *Superpower*. Zelenskyy is often seen making virtual appearances.



## FORTUNE FORECAST

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### ARIES

You are keenly interested in supernatural and occult phenomena, and today you will indulge in this hobby. You may buy a glossy hard-bound book on tantra or other paranormal things. However, Ganesha warns you to use the knowledge that you gain only for peaceful purposes.

### TAURUS

You will find yourself at the crossroads and each turn and twist will come with its share of pros and cons, says Ganesha. Your sentiments may have an ill-effect on your health. You may spend quality time with family members and friends, hoping to shed the burden thrust upon your soul.

### GEMINI

Your health interests will take precedence over career, says Ganesha. There are indications that you will spare more time working out at a gym. Those in the field of marketing and advertising will have a fabulous time. A good marketing strategy will bring maximum profits with minimum efforts.

### CANCER

Your way of talk today will be such that it can cause misunderstanding. In a fit of emotion, you will take a hasty decision. You will regret the same in future, but you will also get a chance to rectify the same. So, says Ganesha, do not take a any ad hoc or temporary decision but a firm decision.

### LEO

You will try to finish your tasks as per schedule and will also be able to earn well. You will benefit from the influence of high ranking officials. They will appreciate your dedication. A promotion may come your way. You will reap the rewards of your hard work, says Ganesha.

### VIRGO

Ganesha advises you to keep your distance from partnership ventures. You are much better off all alone and have the ability to quell the stampede. Left to yourself, you are the best manager of your sphere of work. Ganesha says today you will garner the support of people by uniting them under you for achieving greater success.

### LIBRA

Ganesha says today you will get the opportunity to lay bare your thoughts and feelings and exchange ideas with others. Your mind will be at ease and more relieved when you have opened up. Your business acumen will be praiseworthy today. Towards evening you will reap the benefits of all those good deeds that you may have done in the near past.

### SCORPIO

For you Scorpios, love and intense passion are like a way of life. Today will not be any different, for you will put these on top priority, as you mark today's planner. Well, there is no harm in it, till you know your boundaries. At work, take it easy, for if you fail to resist yourself from making a pass at someone attractive, you may land yourself in serious problems.

### SAGITTARIUS

You feel highly balanced today, says Ganesha. Being a family person, you dedicate your time equally at home and carry out responsibilities towards family. When it comes to work, you are at ease today. Enjoy the serenity of nature in the evening.

### CAPRICORN

If you are an engineer, you will consider about investing your money in your dream project or a business venture. For sports person, today will be a favourable day for health and wealth, foresees Ganesha. Make every step ahead wisely, otherwise you will have much to regret when something goes wrong. Socially, you will build a stronger reputation, says Ganesha.

### AQUARIUS

One way or the other, money matters will be the highlight of the day. Working environment at your office will be better than before. Be prepared to work harder as today your bosses may assign you some new projects, foresees Ganesha. Travelling is on the cards for you.

### PISCES

To get away from your daily tasks you will concentrate on entertainment, fun and rest today. You will feel like a free bird today. In all this also some important task will need your attention today. Ganesha says you feel nice as things around you change.

# Bhumi's intimate moment goes viral

**Mumbai:** Bhumi Pednekar made a glamorous appearance at Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani's wedding reception in a ravishing gold drape paired with a risqué blouse and a pearl choker. However, a video of Bhumi kissing a mystery man shielded by his bodyguards while exiting the reception, took the internet by storm. The netizens are turning into sleuths to learn more about the man. A source close to the development believes it is Yash Kataria, a builder.

The *Badhai Do* actress had so far managed to keep her relationship with Yash under the wraps. But apparently, love and excitement were so

much in the air that the duo could not hold themselves back.

Buzz is, Bhumi and Yash were constantly together at the party. Clearly, Bhumi's close associates from the industry were either in the know or leant about it in the party.

The kiss that happened was when Yash escorted Bhumi to her car. As Bhumi sat down, Yash leaned inside the car and their lips met.

On the workfront, Bhumi Pednekar has six films releasing this year, including Ajay Bahl's *The Ladykiller* co-starring Arjun Kapoor; Anubhav Sinha's *Bheed* co-starring Rajkumar Rao, *Meri Patni Ka RENAME* and *Bhakshak*.  
AGENCIES



# Aahana Kumra on side effects of being tall

**Mumbai:** Being one of the tallest actresses in the Hindi film industry, Aahana Kumra says it has been both a boon and a bane. Talking about the pros, Aahana says, "I enjoy wearing pantsuits. I am a tall girl, and I should take full advantage of the fact that I can wear pantsuits that other short people cannot wear."

She also adds, "I like smart dressing. I am a person who has nice broad shoulders,

so I love anything that has to do with pantsuits, long pants, or bootcuts."

While as a tall person she enjoys being a fashionista, Aahana complains about the cons she faces as an actor in her profession. She shares, "The biggest disadvantage is that you don't find tall co-actors, and the DOP (Director of Photography) will call for a stool for the actor to stand on it and match the height."

Talking about the extremities, she said, "Worse is that I have lost a lot of roles because of my height where people have told me, 'because you are tall, we couldn't cast you as the actor is shorter than you'. And I wondered how that is my fault! If the actor is short replace him than replacing me!"  
AGENCIES

# A man in Anu's life too

**Mumbai:** Many people were quite shocked when Anu Aggarwal during her heydays said that she had been in a live-in relationship. Post that, it was never heard of Anu dating anybody. Well, on Valentine's Day, she made a confession on current dating status. She told a news portal Tuesday morning, "Currently, I have a man in my life."

And who is the guy? To this, guarding the identity of the person, Anu said, "Well, we were in a live-in before *Aashiqui*." Seems, he's the same guy from yesteryears.

The veteran actress said that they have been on-and-off but now it is far more stronger. "We have a fantastic bond," she added happily.

The guy, she told the portal, is neither from the film industry nor stays in India. "But we often meet. India is not the only place to meet," she chuckled.  
AGENCIES



# I'm Sharon's biggest fan: SRK

**Mumbai:** On the occasion of Valentine's Day 'King of Romance' Shah Rukh Khan engaged with his fans on social media and shared that he is a big fan of Hollywood star Sharon Stone. A fan Tuesday shared a video of Sharon coming up to SRK and doing namaste to him. As the user asked him about the moment, SRK replied: "Sharon may not know but I am her biggest fan. She is the most gorgeous and intelligent woman!!!"

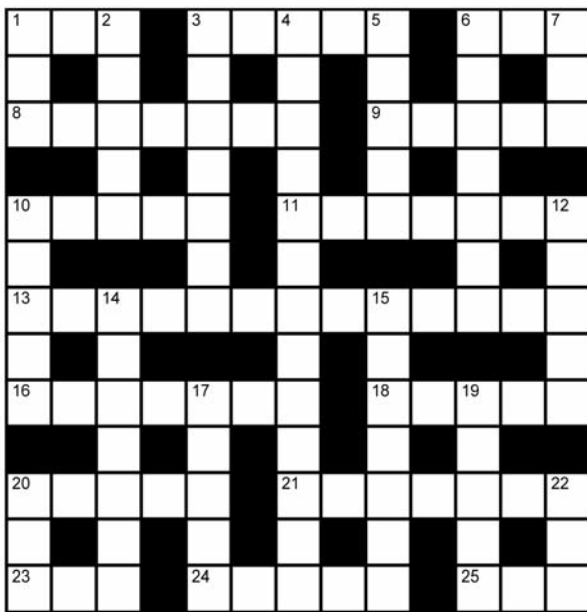
About working with Rajkumar Hirani for *Dunki*, SRK replied: "Raju Sir is a dream comes true to work with. Learnt so much from him and his film making. I am truly fortunate and he is too much fun." The Dilwale star called Amitabh Bachchan 'The only legend'. He also shared that he is waiting to watch Hrithik Roshan's upcoming film *Fighter*.

A fan asked about the first Valentine's Day gift to his wife Gauri? The actor replied, "If I remember correctly it's been 34 years now. A pair of pink plastic earrings I think."  
IANS



## FUN post

### CROSSWORD



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#### Across

- 1 Geologic time
- 3 Aspect
- 6 Cleft
- 8 Between the wrist and elbow
- 9 Banish
- 10 Necklace
- 11 Look at
- 13 Two-timer (6-7)
- 16 Soft Italian cheese
- 18 Intoxicated

- 20 White goods
- 21 Create mentally
- 23 Stick the nose where it doesn't belong
- 24 Woody perennial grasses
- 25 High rocky hill

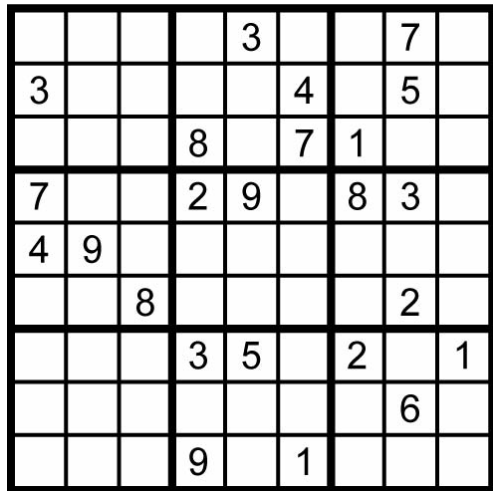
#### Down

- 1 Gremlin
- 2 Blood carrier
- 3 Nightgown material

- 4 Exploit for financial gain
- 5 Motif
- 6 Banjo relatives
- 7 Pastry item
- 10 Apple juice
- 12 Horse-drawn wagon
- 14 Strange or mysterious
- 15 Road agents
- 17 Singing voice
- 19 Sharp end, as on a pencil
- 20 Race circuit
- 22 Stray

### SUDOKU

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

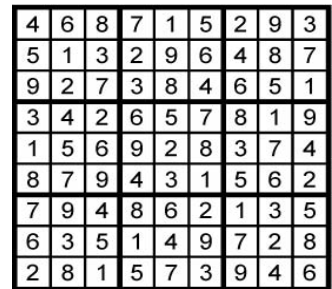


### SOLUTIONS



### CROSSWORD

### SUDOKU



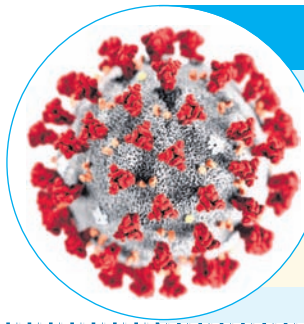
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW





SCINTILLATING SHOW

Artistes of cultural outfit 'Nupur' performed during Odissi Nrutya Utsav at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	67,78,19,965	65,03,68,340	67,83,722
India	4,46,84,274	4,41,51,703	5,30,753
Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204

# 4 new medical colleges on cards

After OAS officers' conference, the state government holds a two-day IAS officers' conference ahead of the Budget Session of the Assembly

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 14:** The state government has decided to set up four new medical colleges and upgrade 147 hospitals under 'Ama Hospital' programme. This was stated by Health and Family Welfare secretary Shalini Pandit while speaking at the two-day Collectors' conference which commenced here Tuesday.

On the first day of the annual meet of district Collectors held at Lokseva Bhawan after the pandemic pause, senior officials of the state administration discussed emerging issues and transformative initiatives adopted by the state government. Issues, including strengthening the delivery mechanism of key welfare programmes and government schemes, quality healthcare, Mission Shakti and small-scale industries, crop diversification and skill development were discussed.

**Health dept sets target to complete major projects within 14 months**

Healthcare session at the Senior Officers' Conference was held at State Convention Centre and the theme of this session was "Quality healthcare for all - Ama Hospital and BSKY". The session was led by H&FW Commissioner-cum-Secretary Shalini Pandit along with Collectors of Ganjam, Bolangir and Deogarh.

The government will set up four new medical colleges and upgrade 147 hospitals under 'Ama Hospital' programme. This was stated by Health and Family Welfare secretary Shalini Pandit while speaking at the two-day Collectors' conference which commenced here Tuesday. The new medical colleges are proposed to come up in Kalahandi, Talcher, Jajpur and Kandhamal, Pandit said, adding that the state government has sanctioned Rs 750 crore under 'Ama Hospital' programme. Establishment of Odisha University of Health Sciences is in progress. Affordable healthcare projects for setting up of hospitals providing specialist care have been planned in four locations - Angul, Barbil, Jharsuguda and Bhadrak



Health Minister Niranjan Pujari and department secretary Shalini Pandit during a session at Lokseva Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

- in PPP mode. Also, 22 major health projects would be completed within 14 months, said officials.

It was revealed during the meeting that Odisha's model in fighting malaria has been acknowledged by World Health Organisation (WHO). The state stood second in the country in 2021 for its efforts towards the elimination of tuberculosis.

The state has secured first rank in full immunization against Covid-19 with 90.5 per cent coverage. Moreover, Odisha is the first state in the country to provide Air Health Service by flying specialists to interior areas of the state under 'Mukhya Mantri Bayu Swasthya Seba', said the secretary.

Further the government is in the process of establishing dedicated cancer and cardiac care hospitals in Jharsuguda in PPP mode.

**₹50K cr loans to SHGs in next 5 yrs**

The Mission Shakti department's session was led by Minister Basanti Hembram, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Mission Shakti Sujata Kartikeyan and others. During the discussions, it was revealed that this year Rs 10,000 crore will be disbursed to more than three lakh self-help groups (SHGs). Further, interest subvention to the tune of Rs 200 crore is being disbursed directly to SHG accounts. A target has been set to disburse Rs 50,000 crore loan to SHGs during the next five years while Rs 1,200 crore has been provisioned for interest subven-

tion benefits to these groups. Mission Shakti Bazaar, the exclusive chain of retail stores for SHG products, will be set up in 500 locations across the state.

To nurture entrepreneurship among women, the department has announced Revolving Fund of Rs 1 crore for all district level federations, revolving fund of Rs 50 lakh for all block level federations, office building with market complex for all GPLFs and establishment of micro and mini industrial parks in all the districts. The overall vision is to set up at least 50,000 SMEs in the next three years.

**H&UD dept: Slum dwellers integral part of City fabric**

In the Housing and Urban Development department session, Principal Secretary G Mathi Vathanan along with Jajpur Collector Chakravarti Singh Rathore and BMC Commissioner Vijay Kulange made a presentation on 'Effective delivery of Urban Services through Technology and Community Partnerships for the citizens of all 115 ULBs.

In 2021, Odisha was awarded the PMAY-U award for 'Best Policy Initiatives by State' and in 2023, the state was honoured for the record second time with the prestigious 'World Habitat Bronze Award' by UN-Habitat. The government's belief that slum dwellers are integral part of the city fabric has been acknowledged and rewarded globally. It was also indicated

**IN A NUTSHELL**

» Odisha is the first state in the country to provide Air Health Service by flying specialists to interior areas of the state under 'Mukhya Mantri Bayu Swasthya Seba'

» The govt is in the process of establishing dedicated cancer and cardiac care hospitals in Jharsuguda in PPP mode

» This year, ₹10,000 crore will be disbursed to more than 3 lakh self-help groups

» In 2021, Odisha was awarded the PMAY-U award for 'Best Policy Initiatives by State'

» Agri dept aims to make Odisha a surplus state in all commodities apart from oilseeds in next 5-7 years

that initiatives in the pipeline such as MUKTA app for quickening the release of payment under MUKTA and Digital door and street numbering for the cities are going to revolutionise the urban governance in the coming days.

**Thrust on crop diversification**

A technical presentation on "Crop diversification: Taking to the next level" was made by a team comprising Principal Secretary to Agriculture & Farmers Empowerment department Arabinda K Padhee, Kalahandi Collector Anvesha Reddy and Balasore Collector Dattatreya Shinde.

Recently, the Cabinet has approved a new scheme 'Crop Diversification Programme' to promote non-paddy and other cash crops in all the districts especially in the area of mega lift irrigation projects (MLIPs). The Cabinet has already approved allocation of

## 2 held for attacking school bus driver



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 14:** The Commissionerate Police Tuesday arrested two youths for allegedly attacking a school bus and its driver near BDA Park in Saheed Nagar area here Monday afternoon. The accused were identified as Lipun Biswal of Nuagaon in Nayagarh and Rocky Behera of Tikabali in Kandhamal.

Both the accused are currently staying at Santipalli Basti under Saheed Nagar police limits in Capital city.

Police said the accused persons who used to share videos on social media platforms were shooting a video at the park Monday afternoon when the school bus reached there to drop some students. Some children inside the bus allegedly made some comments which enraged the accused and their friends.

Subsequently, Behera and Biswal along with their associates who were under the influence of alcohol threw stones at the bus and attacked the bus driver, Madhusudan Puspakal.

Based on the complaint lodged by Puspakal, Saheed nagar police registered a case (66/23) and arrested Behera and Biswal while other accused are still at large.

The accused duo was Tuesday produced before the court that sent them to judicial custody.

MARKET WATCH		
INDEX		VARIATION
SENSEX	61032.26	↓ 600.42
NIFTY	17929.85	↓ 158.95
DOLLAR	82.75	↑ ₹0.03
EURO	89.08	↑ ₹0.53
GOLD	₹56,905	↑ ₹408
SILVER	₹66,354	↑ ₹210

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	32.4°C	30.5°C
TEMP MIN	15.6°C	15.5°C
Humidity	73%	62%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Mainly clear sky	

## Dana Majhi rerun: NHRC seeks report from govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 14:** The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought an action-taken report (ATR) from the Odisha Chief Secretary on a Koraput-based migrant labourer walking miles with his wife's body on his shoulder.

The NHRC also asked the Chief Secretary to submit the ATR within four weeks of receiving the notice. The commission issued the notice on a petition of activist-cum-advocate Radhakanta Tripathy.

Tripathy in his petition has highlighted the plight of migrant workers.

It is alleged that February 8, 2023, a poor migrant worker Samula Pangi from Koraput district walked for several kilometres with



his wife's body on his shoulder after she died in an auto-rickshaw while returning from a hospital in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, the commission report said.

## SC miffed over affidavits delay

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Feb 14:** The Supreme Court Tuesday expressed displeasure over some states not filing counter affidavits on time on a petition seeking directions for enacting well-defined laws/rules to ensure adherence to the fundamental duties as enshrined in the Constitution, and said getting the pleadings completed is a "herculean task".

A bench headed by Justice SK Kaul observed that affidavits are being filed just a day before the scheduled hearing in the matter.

"Getting the pleadings completed is a herculean task," the bench, also comprising Justices Manoj Misra and Aravind Kumar, said while asking why cannot the affidavits be filed on time in advance.

The bench was informed that as per the office report of the apex court in the matter, some states have not filed their counter affidavits.

The top court referred to the office report and noted it showed there are some states that have not filed the counter affidavit or filed it belatedly.

While posting the matter for further



**The court was hearing a plea seeking issuance of directives to ensure adherence to the mandates in Part IV-A of the Constitution**

hearing March 28, the bench said secretary of the ministry of concerned of states that are yet to file the counter affidavit, will have to remain present before it through virtual mode.

While hearing the matter in November last year, the SC had given one last op-

portunity to the states to file their affidavits within four weeks.

"The failure to file an affidavit within the specified time (whether filed or not) will result in costs of Rs 25,000 each," the bench had said in its order.

Earlier in July last year, the apex court had granted two more months to the Centre to file its response to the plea.

The top court was hearing a plea filed by an advocate seeking issuance of directives to ensure adherence to the mandates as postulated under Part IV-A of the Constitution.

The plea has said the fundamental duties are intended to serve as a constant reminder to every citizen that while the Constitution conferred on them certain fundamental rights specifically, it also requires citizens to observe certain basic norms of democratic conduct and behaviour because rights and duties are correlative.

The plea said it aims to address the issue of national importance and to promote commitment amongst citizens towards each other and towards the nation as these contribute to the development and progress of the nation.

OPENING CEREMONY OF

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**Shri Ranendra Pratap Swain**  
Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment, Fisheries & Animal Resources Development

and

... Guests of Honour ...

**Shri Tusharkanti Behera**  
Hon'ble Minister of State (Home)  
Electronics & Information Technology, Sports & Youth Services (Independent Charge)

**Shri Pranab Prakash Das**  
Hon'ble MLA & President, Odisha Cricket Association

**Shri Pragyan Ojha**  
Former International Cricketer & IPL Governing Council Member

**Shri Asirbad Behera**  
Secretary, Football Association of Odisha & Odisha Athletic Association

and

**Shri Sanjay Behera**  
Secretary, Odisha Cricket Association

**15<sup>th</sup> February 2023, 2.30 P.M.**  
Kapursingh, Gurudijhatia, Cuttack-754295

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BOI's noble gesture to City AIIMS



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 14:** Bank of India, Bhubaneswar Zone handed over 20 mobile charging stations to AIIMS, Bhubaneswar under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative. The charging units were handed over by Zonal Manager, S Malayadas, Bhubaneswar Zone to Dillip Parida, Medical Superintendent, AIIMS, Bhubaneswar Tuesday. These charging units will be installed inside the campus for the benefit of both patients and their relatives visiting AIIMS for treatment. Parida expressed his gratitude to Bank of India (BOI) for their commitment to the noble cause.

NABA MUDER

Gopal moved to Choudwar jail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 14:** Dismissed assistant sub-inspector Gopal Das, who allegedly shot dead Odisha minister Naba Kishore Das, was Tuesday shifted to Choudwar circle jail in Cuttack from Jharsuguda sub-jail amid tight security, a top prison official said.

Director General (Prison) Manoj Chhabra said that Gopal Das was shifted to the jail in Cuttack as he had made a request for the same, citing security concerns.



Das, who was immediately arrested after he allegedly opened fire at the ex-minister, was sent to jail in Jharsuguda after completion of 13 days of remand with the crime branch of police, which is probing into the high-profile case. The former ASI was recently taken to Gandhinagar in Gujarat for Polygraph and Narco Analysis Test, and his statement under section 164 of CrPc was subsequently recorded before the judicial magistrate, first class.

Earlier, the police had said that Das has confessed to his crime.

A senior prison official said that Das would stay in a special cell of the circle jail at Choudwar under CCTV surveillance. He will be treated as a sensitive undertrial prisoner in the wake of his alleged involvement in the killing of a minister.

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

By an affidavit before Notary Public, Bhubaneswar, I have changed my name from VIJAYA KRISHNA TATAVARTHI TO VIJAYAKRISHNA TATAVARTHI for all purposes.

LOST

Notice is hereby given that my registered "Sale Deed" vide No.-2466/1991, vide Khata No. 56 was lost on the way of Kesinga Tahasil on dated 1.02.2023 and not traceable yet. I have sworn an affidavit before the Notary Public, Kesinga and also lodged FIR with Kesinga PS vide gd No. 009 on dated 8.02.2023. If found inform me please. Mr. Bishal Kumar Jain, S/o Mr. Anil Kumar Jain, Vill/p.o. Utkela, p.s.- Kesinga, Kalahandi, M.- 8984996699.

BJD, BJP protests choke City; traffic thrown out of gear

WHILE THE BJP BLAMED THE NAVEEN GOVERNMENT FOR STATE'S DETERIORATING LAW AND ORDER SITUATION, THE RULING BJD TOOK UP THE ANTI-FARMER AND ANTI-POOR POLICY OF THE CENTRE

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 14:** Demonstrations over various issues by the ruling BJD and the main opposition BJP choked the streets of Odisha capital Bhubaneswar for two hours Tuesday, causing inconvenience to hundreds of people.

The ruling BJD, during the day, launched a three-day agitation against the BJP-led Centre over its decisions to discontinue free rice disbursement under Pradhan

Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), and reduce rice procurement by 14 MT.

The saffron party took out a rally, highlighting Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's "failure to maintain law and order in the state and seeking his ouster from the home department", in the wake of a cabinet minister's murder in Jharsuguda district, allegedly by a policeman.

BJD leaders, including ministers and MLAs, staged an agitation near Raj Bhavan, raising slogans against the Centre, while the saffron brigade, comprising MPs, legislators and senior leaders, held a two-hour 'hartal' at five different places in Bhubaneswar - AG Chhak, Jaydev Vihar, Khandagiri, Samantrapur and Palasuni.

Traffic was thrown out of gear between 11am to 1pm as the BJP activists squatted on the thoroughfares, blocking traffic movement, a senior police officer said.

Hundreds of interstate trucks stood in queues on the highways as the protesters burned tyres at Khandagiri and Palasuni, the officer said. Coming down heavily on the BJP, the ruling BJD claimed that the Centre's move to stop doling out 5 kg free rice shows that it has



BJD workers in a sit-in protest against Centre's anti-farmer policy before Raj Bhavan in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

no regard for the poor in Odisha.

The regional party also protested against the Union government's decision to reduce fund allocation in the annual budget for food grain procurement, besides trimming down rice procurement in Odisha - from 18 lakh MT to 4 lakh MT.

"The BJD protest is for poor man's rights. It is the Centre's responsibility to ensure food security. The pandemic has ended, but its impacts are still prevalent. The Centre should continue allotting free rice

for the poor for another two years under PMGKAY," said MLA Debi Prasad Mishra.

In another part of the state capital, Bhubaneswar BJP president Babu Singh alleged that the there was no rule of law in the state, and "rape and murder have become the order of the day".

"We demand Patnaik's resignation from the home department in view of the recent cases of crime, including the minister's murder," said opposition chief



BJP workers staged roadblocks in City against poor law and order situation in state

whip Mohan Charan Majhi.

Echoing him, BJP MP Basant Panda said, "Minister Naba Kisore Das was allegedly killed by an assistant sub-inspector (ASI). Under such circumstances, people do not feel safe in this state."

Bhubanewar police commissioner Soumendra Priyadarsi, when contacted, said no untoward incident was reported during protests by the two political parties.

The BJP has decided to stage dharna in front of collectors' offices

across the state February 15. On the next day (February 16), the party will stage a demonstration in front of Raj Bhawan and submit a memorandum to the President through the Governor.

Similarly, the BJD will also stage dharna at panchayat offices across the state February 15. On the next day (February 16), the ruling party will stage demonstrations at block offices and submit a memorandum to the Prime Minister through the district Collectors.

CONTINUED FROM P1

Execute projects pronto, Naveen tells Collectors

"Startups play a vital role in the economic development of the state and a lot in this regard has been done by the government. The O-Hub is in operation as one of the big incubation centres for the startups," Patnaik said.

On women empowerment, he said the state government is providing interest-free loans of up to ₹5 lakh to SHGs under Mission Shakti.

The CM said the state government will provide ₹50,000 crore as loans to SHGs under the scheme over the next five years and Collectors need to provide support for the realisation of this objective. Appreciating the Mission Shakti Industrial Park conceived and implemented by the Koraput administration, the Chief Minister said that the initiative will be adopted by the entire state.

Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra said the conference will deliberate on 17 subjects and transformative initiatives of the government and suggestions will be used to prepare a roadmap for the future.

Apart from the CM and three ministers, the Collectors of all the 30 districts, project directors, and other officials responsible for implementing different schemes participated in the event, he said, adding the second day of the conference will be held in Konark.

I-T 'survey' at BBC offices

According to I-T rules, transfer pricing 'generally refers to prices of transactions between associated enterprises which may take place under conditions differing from those taking place between independent enterprises. It refers to the value attached to transfers of goods, services and technology between related entities'.

It also refers to the value attached to transfers between unrelated parties which are controlled by a common entity.

As news spread, curious onlookers and media crews gathered outside the BBC office at central Delhi's Kasturba Gandhi Marg. In Mumbai, the office is in the up-scale Bandra Kurla Complex.

As part of a survey, the I-T department only covers the business premises of a company and does not raid residences and other locations of its promoters or directors.

The Supreme Court last week dismissed a plea seeking to impose a complete ban on the BBC in India in the wake of the controversial documentary, terming the petition 'entirely misconceived' and 'absolutely meritless'.

On January 21, the government issued directions to block multiple YouTube videos and Twitter posts sharing links to the documentary.

The Editors Guild of India said it was deeply concerned about the I-T surveys and termed it continuation of a trend of using government agencies to intimidate and harass media outlets critical of the ruling establishment.

The BJP, in its reaction, accused the BBC of unleashing venomous reporting against India, and alleged that its propaganda and the Congress' agenda go together.

SC reserves judgement in Panigrahi corruption case

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, Feb 14:** The Supreme Court Tuesday reserved its judgment in a special leave petition filed by Odisha Lokayukta against the order of Orissa High court in a corruption case against MLA Pradeep Panigrahi.

A two-judge bench of Justices Ajay Rastogi and Bela M Trivedi also asked the counsels to file written submissions in the matter before Monday.

Earlier, Lokayukta had submitted in the apex court that investigation in the case against Panigrahi has been completed. The Lokayukta had also told the apex court that "huge" incriminating material was established during the preliminary enquiry against MLA Pradeep Panigrahi in corruption case. Significantly, Odisha Lokayukta had filed a special leave petition in the Supreme Court challenging the order of the Orissa High Court which ruled that the



The SC had April 23, 2021, stayed the Orissa HC order restraining the Vigilance department from conducting enquiry against Pradeep Panigrahi in a corruption case

Lokayukta cannot order preliminary enquiry against Pradeep Panigrahi from Vigilance department of the state as the department is the complainant in the matter.

The Supreme Court had April 23, 2021 stayed the Orissa HC order restraining the Vigilance department from conducting enquiry against Pradeep Panigrahi in a corruption case and had issued notice.

It is to be mentioned here that Lokayukta in December 2021 had directed the state Vigilance to probe

into the corruption charges made against arrested Gopalpur MLA Pradeep Kumar Panigrahi. The Lokayukta had also asked the Vigilance Directorate to conduct a preliminary inquiry against Panigrahi and submit a report within two months.

The anti-corruption ombudsman issued the direction after accepting the recommendation of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik who had referred the case of corruption charges leveled against the lawmaker December 7, 2020.

Outfit observes Feb 14 as 'black day' in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 14:** When the world was celebrating Valentine's Day February 14, several members of a youth outfit 'Insaniyat' congregated at Master Canteen Square here Tuesday to pay homage to the CRPF jawans killed during 2019 Pulwama attack and observed this day as black day.



Biswa Ranjan Biswal, a member of the group, said, "At least 40

soldiers had lost their lives on this day three years ago when a Jaish-e-Mohammad suicide bomber rammed a vehicle full of explosives into a convoy of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). Soldiers fought with militants on the border and lost their lives so that we stay safe. So, it is essential that we remember their sacrifice. We observe this sad day as black day."

Both, smokers and vapers, suffer similar DNA damage

Scientists have found that vapers and smokers have similar levels of DNA damage, which is more than twice the amount found in non-users, according to a new study.

According to the study, DNA damage was higher among those who vaped or smoked more frequently. It was also higher in vapers who used vape pods and mods, as well as sweet-, fruit- or mint-flavoured vapes, it said.

A group of researchers from the Keck School of Medicine of University of Southern California (USC), US, analysed epithelial cells taken from the mouths of vapers, smokers, and people who had never vaped or smoked, the study said.

E-cigarettes, used regularly by more than 10 per cent of US teens and more than 3 per cent of adults, were once pitched as a healthy alternative to tobacco cigarettes.

But research increasingly links the use of e-cigarettes, or vaping,

to many of the same life-threatening diseases that plague smokers, the study published in the journal Nicotine & Tobacco Research said.

"For the first time, we showed that the more vapers used e-cigarettes, and the longer they used them, the more DNA damage occurred in their oral cells," said Ahmad Besaratinia, professor at the Keck School of Medicine and the study's senior author.

"The same pattern held up in smokers," said Besaratinia.

The study showed similar levels of DNA damage between vapers and smokers: 2.6 times and 2.2 times that of non-users, respectively, it said.

In terms of devices, vapers who used pods had the highest levels of DNA damage, followed by those who used mods. In terms of flavours, sweet-flavoured vapes were linked to the highest levels of DNA damage, followed by



mint/menthol- and fruit-flavoured vapes, the study said.

The most popular products, including flavoured vapes, used by about 85 per cent of teens who vape, also appear to be the most harmful, in terms of producing DNA damage, the study said.

DNA damage to oral epithelial cells, which line the mouth, is an early change that is associated with an increased risk for many types of chronic disease, including cancer and inflammatory diseases, the study said.

The study is the first to clearly dis-

tinguish between the DNA damage that occurs in exclusive vapers versus smokers and to provide details about the risks vapers face based on how often they vape and what devices and flavours they use, it said. Vapers are difficult to study because they typically have a history of cigarette smoking or are dual users, who both vape and smoke tobacco cigarettes, the study said.

"We designed our study to tease out the effects of vaping in e-cigarette users who were neither cigarette smokers nor dual users at any point in their lives," said Besaratinia.

"The devices and flavours that are most popular and highly consumed by youth vapers, as well as adults, are the ones that are associated with the most DNA damage," said Besaratinia.

According to the study, the researchers recruited 72 healthy adults and split them into three groups, matched for age, race and

gender: current vapers (who had never smoked), current smokers (who had never vaped) and people with no history of smoking or vaping. They verified the history of each participant using detailed questionnaires, interviews and biochemical tests to ensure that any observed effects could be directly linked to either vaping or smoking, the study said.

Besaratinia and his team also collected data on how often, and for how long, participants had smoked or vaped, and in the case of vaping, what devices and flavours they used, the study said.

Then, they collected a sample of epithelial cells from each participant's mouth and tested for damage to specific genes known to indicate assault to the genome, the study said.

"Clearly these results have significant implications, both for public health and regulatory agencies," said Besaratinia.

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# Mercury set to soar in Subarnapur dist

HUGE AMOUNT OF GREEN COVER FACES DESTRUCTION DUE TO EXPANSION OF ROADS

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sonepur, Feb 14:** Subarnapur district is all set to become hotter in the coming days as plans are afoot to cut 3,158 trees for expansion of the Arjunpur-Binka-Rampur-Dunguripali major district road (MDR). This road incidentally is the lifeline of the residents in the district.

The Odisha government has floated tenders of ₹145 crore in two phases for expansion of the Arjunpur-Dunguripali road which is approximately 54km in length. The double-laning of the road is underway and that is the main reason why more than 3,000 trees will be cut. With such a huge destruction of green cover, temperatures are bound to rise in the surrounding areas. The trees that are to be cut off have been identified and the Odisha Forest Development Corporation (OFDC) has started felling of those.

Only after the trees have been cut, expansion of the road will start. The fact however, is that these trees provided shade over a vast area and kept temperatures cool. Once the trees are cut, a large amount of area will be exposed to the sun and in the



**Residents have demanded relocation of trees as they feel destruction of those will diminish green cover leading to rise in temperatures**

process temperatures will rise and humidity will increase. People will miss the shade, the trees used to offer.

The development has sparked

concern among the local residents and environmentalists. With the onset of summer they are apprehending lengthy periods of acute heat. They have demanded that instead of completely cutting down the trees, they should be relocated at other places so that green cover in the area is still available.

Sources said that approximately 906 trees from Arjunpur to Anga river bridge under Sonepur forest range and 2,252 trees on both sides of the road from Anga river bridge till Dunguripali under Binka forest

range will be brought down.

Heat waves are very common in Subarnapur district and it is among the hottest places in Odisha. Last year, Sonepur town was declared the hottest in India. The district has only 428.75 square kilometres of forest cover, which is 18.34 per cent of the total area of Subarnapur. It is very small indeed considering the size of the district.

In the last few years, efforts have been made to increase the green cover in the district through protection of old jungles and creation of new ones. Programmes like the *Green Mahanadi Mission* have been launched. But none have met with the desired results. Green cover continues to be minimal in Subarnapur. Forest fires have also contributed to the destruction of greenery in the district.

Now with the decision to cut down more than 3,000 trees, residents of the districts are a worried lot. They feel that the rise in temperatures will be unbearable and affect people health-wise. So they have asked the Forest department to have a rethink on the decision to cut down such a large number of trees.



**HOMEWARD JOURNEY:** With the sun about to set, fishermen row back home Tuesday on the Mahanadi river after finishing their day's catch

OP PHOTO

# Parade ground closure hits sports in Rourkela

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, Feb 14:** The abrupt closure of the Parade ground in Uditnagar locality here after Republic Day celebrations has deprived educational institutions in the city from conducting sports events. Also sportspersons and morning walkers have been affected, sources said Tuesday.

The closure of the ground has sparked resentment among sports lovers. Various beautification works were undertaken at the Parade ground before the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup. A number of sports events were also held at the ground to commemorate the World Cup. However, after the Republic



Day celebrations, the ground was closed for the public and has remained so ever since.

As a result training of national-level sportspersons has been affected. Also people who used to visit the ground for fitness regimen are not being able to do so, locals pointed out. Students of the Uditnagar Government High School who used to visit the ground regularly for various recreational activities, cannot do so now.

Headmistress Shakuntala Barik of the school said Tuesday that the playground of the institution which has student strength of approximately 1,500, is very small. So the Parade ground is the main destination for various sports activities. However now, due to the closure all physical activities of the students have stopped.

Physical education teacher (PET) Satyanarayan Rout of Municipal College said that every year the

annual sports used to be held at the Parade ground. "This year the Rourkela Municipal Corporation has denied us permission. So we may have to abandon plans of conducting our annual sports," Rout informed.

Senior sports enthusiast Susant Behera said that promising sportspersons are not being able to train properly and their future is at stake.

When contacted, deputy municipal commissioner Sudhanshu Bhoi said that the Rourkela Smart City authority is yet to handover the ground to the civic body. Talks are on and very soon the Parade ground will be reopened for sportspersons and enthusiasts, he added.

# Women guard Keonjhar jungle to prevent fires

*Failure of the Forest department has prompted the women to take matters into their own hands*

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Patana, Feb 14:** Women in Nihuan village under this block in Keonjhar district have taken the responsibility to guard a reserve forest in their locality from fires, officials said Monday. They have formed teams and are guarding the forest on a rotation basis since a fire broke out a few days back. Fires have been reported from various areas under the Patana range in Keonjhar district. The fires are not only destroying green cover, but also endangering the lives of wild animals, villagers said.

Sources said that it was expected that the Forest department would take steps to combat the fires. However, with no action coming from their end, the women have come out to save the jungle which is spread over 240km.



A part of the forest which is in the vicinity of the village had caught fire few days back following which hundreds of trees were reduced to ashes. Later, it came to light that some miscreants had ignited the fire under the influence of alcohol.

This revelation sparked anger and resentment among the villagers and they decided to take stringent measures to prevent repetitions of such incidents. Villagers have now put up posters that warn people from consuming liquor in and around the jungle. Anyone found violating the rule will have to pay a fine of ₹2,000, the villagers said. They added that since the posters were put up anti-social activities

have decreased to a great extent.

However, Triveni Singh, a resident of Nihuan village, said that such activities usually occur in the jungles close to the roadside. She said patrolling of these areas on a regular basis can curb such activities.

"The forest gives us wood, roots, leaves, mohua flowers, medicines and all the natural resources we need. "We can only survive if the forests are protected," said Nirupama Singh, another resident of the same village. Village head Subhash Chandra Singh said that since the women started guarding the forest, anti-social activities have reduced drastically.

Keonjhar DFO HD Dhanraj praised the efforts of the villagers.

# Demand to link Gobari, Brahmani rivers increases

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kendrapara, Feb 14:** Agriculture is the main source of income of people in Kendrapara district. However, despite repeated pleas, the Odisha government is yet to launch an effort to link the Brahmani and Gobari rivers. Farmers in Kendrapara district are of the opinion that if the two rivers are linked, irrigation problems will be solved. They pointed out 5,000 hectares of farmland can be irrigated easily.

Sources said that farmers were cultivating three types of crops on the farmlands. However, they cannot do so now after a small waterbody linking these two rivers dried up.

Aggrieved over the pestering problem, the locals filed a case against the state Water Resources department at the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), February 14, 2021. The NALSA directed the district legal services authority (DLSA) to hear the case and pass its order.

The DLSA heard the matter and gave orders to the Water Resources department directing it to resolve the problem. However, nothing has been done till now to alleviate the sufferings of the farmers.

The waterbody connecting the two rivers was closed 60 years back for the construction of the Cuttack-Chandbali road. Since then the plight of the farmers have increased. Residents have drawn the attention of department officials towards the problem. They have even staged demonstrations in front of the district collectorate, but so far nothing has been done.

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



# Just-married couple killed in road mishap

PNN & AGENCIES

**Berhampur, Feb 14:** A newly-married couple has died after their two-wheeler dashed against a tractor in Ganjam district, police informed Tuesday. The accident took place Monday near Golanthara on National Highway-16, when the couple, who got married February 11, was on their way to this town, a senior police officer said.

The deceased were identified as G Benu (27) of Ichchapuram in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh and his wife Ch Pranita (22) who belongs to this town.


"According to marriage rituals, they were going to the woman's residence at Berhampur when the accident occurred," the officer said. "It is indeed tragic that they met with such a cruel fate within a few days of their marriage," he added.

The couple was taken to MKCG Medical College and Hospital here, where they succumbed to their injuries, Golanthara police station IIC Bibekanand Mahant informed. He added that the driver of the tractor has been detained and the bodies of the deceased have been handed over to their respective families after post-mortem.

Eye-witnesses however, informed



that the tractor was stationary when the accident occurred and the man was driving the two-wheeler on the wrong side of the road at high speed.

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**R-5139**

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA  
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MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, MAYURBHANJ**  
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1. Name of Works : Civil Construction works as mentioned in the website  
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3. Estimated Cost : 35.26 to 37.76 Lakh (Detail list of work Annexed)  
4. Class of Contractor : As mentioned against work  
5. Period of Completion : As mentioned against work  
6. Date & Time of availability : 14.02.2023 at 10.00 AM to 23.02.2023 upto 5.00 PM of Bid document in the portal  
7. Last date/time for receipt of : 23.02.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.  
Bids in the Portal  
8. Date/Time of Opening : 24.02.2023 at 11.00 A.M.  
of Bid  
9. Name and Address of the : Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division,  
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The Borrower and Co-Borrower having failed to repay the amount within the statutory period, the Authorised Officer in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act in accordance with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, had taken the actual possession of the property described herein below.

Public are hereby informed that the property more fully described in the table hereunder will be sold under Rule 8 & 9 of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 in "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS" CONDITION, by inviting sealed tenders from the public up to 16.00 hrs on **17-03-2023**. Those who want to participate in the auction sale can forward their bids only by RPAD in sealed covers to the undersigned on or before 16.00 Hrs. on **17-03-2023**. Tenders received after 16.00 Hrs. on **17-03-2023**, and thereafter will be rejected. The sealed tenders received by RPAD up to 16.00 Hrs. on **17-03-2023**, will be opened on **17-03-2023** at 16.30 hrs. at the place mentioned hereunder. The successful bidder has to pay the balance amount within 15 days from the date of receipt of intimation. The sale shall be completed only on deposit of the Balance amount as stated above.

Name and Address of the Borrower & Co-Borrower	Secured Debt (Rs.)	Reserve Price fixed for the Property	Place for Title Verification
<b>Babita Pradhan (Borrower)</b> , Swasti Nagar, Saraswatipur, Po-Kuruda, Orissa, 756056. <b>Also at:</b> Babita Pradhan Truck Transporting, Swasti Nagar, Saraswatipur, Orissa, 756056. <b>Also at:</b> Plot No-707 2068, Khata No. 291 1051, Swasti Nagar, Orissa, 756056.	<b>Rs. 64,50,041/-</b> (Rupees Sixty Four Lakhs Fifty Thousand and Forty One Only) as of 15.02.2023 +Future Interest + Statutory Expenditure + Legal Expenses + Incidental Charges.	<b>Rs. 50,00,000/-</b> (Rupees Fifty Lakhs Only)	<b>Sundaram Home Finance Limited, A/108, 2nd Floor,Banadev Bhawan, Saheed Nagar, Khurda Dist, Bhubaneswar-751 007.</b>
<b>Susanta Kumar Behera (Co-Borrower)</b> , Swasti Nagar, Saraswatipur, Po-Kuruda, Orissa, 756056.		<b>Earnest Money Deposit</b> 25% of the Tender Amount	<b>Place for Opening of Tender</b> <b>M/s. Sundaram Home Finance Limited, 23, Cathedral Garden Road, 2nd Floor, Nungambakkam, Chennai – 600034.</b>
			<b>Date of opening the Tender</b> <b>17.03.2023 @ 16:30</b>

**DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:** All that the piece and parcel of the property P.S. No.147, Mouza-Saraswatipur, Khata No. 139, Plot No. 707, sold measuring Area A0.10.5 decs Situated at Dist-Balasore, Tahasil-Balasore under the Jurisdiction of District Sub-Registration Balasore. **Bounded by:** North by: Plot No. 710, South: Road and Debendra Mohanty, East by: Manoranjan Behera and others, West by: Plot No. 708. With in the Registration and Sub Registration District of Balasore, which is morefully and particularly described in the Sale Deed No. 2532/2010.

**Note:** The intending purchasers are requested to verify the documents and participate in the auction after satisfying about the title to property. Refund will not be given after sale confirmation in case if there arises any dispute regarding the title or nature of the property.

For detailed terms and conditions of the Sale of Property of Mr. Babita Pradhan, Loan Account No. 66200107, please refer to [www.sundaramhome.in/uploads/files/sale\\_notice/66200107.pdf](http://www.sundaramhome.in/uploads/files/sale_notice/66200107.pdf)

**Date: 15-02-2023**


for SUNDARAM HOME FINANCE LTD.,  
AUTHORISED OFFICER



“

Evolution of consciousness is the central motive of terrestrial existence.

SRI AUROBINDO



# Putin & India

It may appear intriguing that Russian President Vladimir Putin put aside protocol and found time to meet India's National Security Adviser Ajit Doval in Moscow. More so at a time when Europe is planning to arm Ukraine further and impose fresh sanctions on Russia for the invasion of Ukraine which had commenced about a year ago. It is an exceptional case that the Russian President chose to meet a government official, instead of top ministers, that too when Doval was among several other regional security advisers who gathered in Moscow for a conference recently. The unscheduled meeting assumed importance also because Doval had been in Washington and London before visiting Russia. What transpired between the two is seemingly put under wraps with both sides keeping mum.

The question is whether Putin needed an assurance from India, which will be playing an important role this year - hosting the G-20 and SCO summits - that it will not extend support to Europe's plan to bolster Ukraine's war efforts further. Russia is reportedly getting ready to launch an intensified Spring offensive. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy had travelled to London, Paris and Brussels scouting for arms assistance at a time when the war waged by Russia against his country is entering a new critical phase.

Defence officials in Kyiv are apprehensive about the launch of a new Russian offensive in eastern Ukraine on the first anniversary of the invasion on February 24. Reports suggest fresh troops are concentrating on the Russian side, facing Ukrainian forces. In such a situation it is of paramount importance for President Zelenskyy to get more military aid from Western countries. The urgency is such that Zelenskyy said in Brussels that he did not want to go home "empty-handed."

Of course, he did not get what he specifically asked for, namely fighter jets, though arms aid is not announced publicly during war time. But, he got closer to the European Union family and returned with the sense that the more Putin intensifies his assault on Ukraine, the more Europe's solidarity becomes uncompromising. Russia's invasion began as an existential threat to Ukraine but its continuance for a year now poses a threat to the whole of Western Europe as well. The danger that Europe surely smells is that if Russia is allowed to win the war it has launched, its appetite for more European territories could only grow insatiable. The consequences will be to expose its neighbours to similar attacks and destroy the existing European order.

That such an eventuality is no mere speculation is clear from the statement French President Emmanuel Macron made alongside Zelenskyy and the German Chancellor Olaf Scholz. He said, "Russia cannot, must not prevail." This is a new position that the French President took. Earlier, he had been humming the tune of "not humiliating Russia" or finding "security guarantees" for Russia.

The huge costs of the war and the chain effects are being felt across the globe. That could be prompting many countries to make the Russian President agree to return to the negotiating table for a peaceful solution to the conflict. India could hope to play the peacemaker's role as host of G-20 summit.

It is not known what note Putin sounded during his meeting with Doval. He may also have made it clear to the latter that he would not brook India playing footsie with the West as India needs Russia for countering China's hostilities towards it.

The Putin-Doval meeting can best be described as a surprise development in the midst of fresh war preparations in Ukraine. It may have opened a window of opportunity to broker peace, greatly needed by the world as it is in the grip of a cost of living crisis and needs peace to get the economies back on keel.

## WISDOM CORNER

- “

There is no end to education. It is not that you read a book, pass an examination, and finish with education. The whole of life, from the moment you are born to the moment you die, is a process of learning.

JIDDU KRISHNAMURTI
- “

Always be yourself, express yourself, have faith in yourself, do not go out and look for a successful personality and duplicate it.

BRUCE LEE
- “

What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals.

ZIG ZIGLAR

## WORDSWORTH

### Funambulist

A funambulist is a tight-rope walker or rope dancer. The word comes from the Latin funambulus with the same meaning (yes, the Romans had tight-rope walkers, too: it was a popular public spectacle). It's a compound of funis, "rope" (the source also of our funicular, a cable railway) and ambulare, "to walk". The Latin word evolved into the standard term for the concept in the Romance languages, for example in the Italian funambolo and French funambule. Here's an example of its use in English from the Daily News in 1896: "A Funambulist is a gentleman who ... on a rope ... turns somersaults, leaps thro' a ring, and plays on a fiddle while whirling like a Catharine wheel". The Oxford English Dictionary lists a number of compounds and derivatives, several of them marked as obsolete: funambule, funambulant and funambulator, all meaning "a tight-rope walker", the verb funambulate, the noun funambulation, "the action of walking on a rope", and adjectives funambulatory and funambulic. The word can also be used in a figurative sense to mean somebody who is mentally agile. And the original Latin word also turns up in Funambulus, the name of a genus of (presumably acrobatic) Indian palm squirrels.

### Funk

Let's start with "smell", which is the oldest sense of funk, dating from the early seventeenth century. It's suggested it may come from the French dialect verb funkier, to blow smoke on a person or annoy them with smoke, a word that's probably based on Latin fumus, smoke. Instances usually refer to air thick with tobacco smoke. Though it was known in Britain, early examples came from America, and it stayed active there long after it had gone out of use over here. The sense of abject fear or cowardice is about a century less old, first being recorded in 1743. It may have appeared first as Oxford University slang. It is usually said that it is a distinct word to the earlier sense, deriving instead from an obsolete Flemish word fonck, fear. Whatever its source, that sense stands alone and isn't connected with any of the others, though blue funk is directly linked. However, the modern sense of a musical genre and the Black English term funky for something excellent both derive from the surviving American sense of funk for a bad smell. The word funky was around in the 1920s to refer to an obnoxious smell, especially to refer to a person who smelled bad, say of sweat. However, it is certainly older than that. Several subscribers pointed out that the blues song Funky Butt, which is associated with Buddy Bolden, is known from around the beginning of the twentieth century. Anne Hegerty wrote "At least a hundred years ago there was a dance hall in New Orleans whose official name was Kinney's Hall or McKenna's Hall (sources differ) but which was known to local jazz and ragtime musicians and dancers as Funky Butt Hall (ie Smelly Bottom Hall). Buddy Bolden used to play there, and his career ended in 1906". Whatever its origins, funky was later transferred in Black English to refer to somebody or something objectionable or worthless. By a process common in Black English, by the end of the 1930s funky was being applied to things that were satisfying, impressive, or generally approved of (think of wicked and bad, two other examples of this kind of deliberate inversion). The music sense — unpretentious, down to earth, rooted in the blues — turns up in the early 1950s as a further evolution of meaning that could consciously hark back to the Buddy Bolden song.

FOCUS SOCIETY

QUITTING WHILE ON TOP



Peter Singer

GETTING TO THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF A WORTHWHILE ACTIVITY IS AN EXCITING CHALLENGE, AND OVERCOMING CHALLENGES CAN BE ENJOYABLE; BUT STAYING AT THE TOP AS LONG AS ONE CAN IS A DIFFERENT MATTER



Social norms are changing our ideas about a good life. We are paying more attention to work-life balance than we used to do, and rightly so. We are far more open than we used to be about mental health – footballers now acknowledge facing mental-health issues, something that previously would have been considered humiliating. More people are recognising that career success is not to be equated with living a good life

know what this job takes," she added, "and I know that I no longer have enough in the tank to do it justice. It's that simple."

Getting to the highest level of a worthwhile activity is an exciting challenge, and overcoming challenges can be enjoyable; but staying at the top as long as one can is a different matter. As Borg said, there are other things in life than tennis, and that is true of life in politics as well.

The Harvard Study of Adult Development has tracked the lives of some of its research subjects for more than 80 years, seeking answers to what makes them happy and healthy. Some of its results

have just been released in The Good Life, by Robert Waldinger and Marc Schulz. Although any one-word answer to such questions is bound to be an oversimplification, the authors nevertheless are prepared to say that the key to both health and happiness is good relationships.

Almost everyone who retires says that they want to spend more time with their family. Sometimes, of course, that is just a cover for less honourable reasons for quitting; but in the case of Ardern and Barty, it was probably an important factor. Ardern was just the second Prime Minister – after Pakistan's

## IN JEST THIS

# A plant-based diet may make you healthier



Melvin Durai

A LOT OF PEOPLE IN INDIA ARE POLLOTARIANS, WHICH EXPLAINS THE IMMENSE POPULARITY OF CHICKEN BIRYANI

There are many isms in the world, such as communism, socialism and imperialism. I went to a farm recently and asked the animals what their favourite ism is. The cows, pigs and chickens all agreed that the best ism in the world is vegetarianism.

But the female cat on the farm disagreed. Her favourite ism is skepticism. She was particularly skeptical about vegetarianism.

As for me, my favourite is optimism. And I'm fairly optimistic that I will one day adopt vegetarianism, either in this life or the next.

For now, I'm trying my best to be a semi-vegetarian (not to be confused with pseudo-vegetarian). A semi-vegetarian diet, according to Wikipedia, is one that is "centered on plant foods, with limited inclusion of meat." To follow this diet, I put all plant foods in the centre of my plate, in a large enough pile to hide any meat under it.

There are three types of semi-vegetarianism, and I follow the first type: flexitarianism. A flexi-

tarian is willing to go without meat for one or more days a week. I can do without meat for an entire week, as long as I have milk and eggs, and don't drive past McDonald's. This makes me a semi-ovo-lacto-burger-vegetarian.

The second type of semi-vegetarianism is pollotarianism. A pollotarian does not eat any meat other than poultry (chicken, turkey and other fowl). A lot of people in India are pollotarians, which explains the immense popularity of chicken biryani.

The third type of semi-vegetarianism is pescetarianism. A pescetarian is mostly a vegetarian except for the consumption of seafood. My father-in-law is a pescetarian, as are many Indians who live in coastal areas. He enjoys fish once a week, but if I said, "You are a pescetarian!" to him, he'd probably have some bad words for me.

My wife grew up in a mostly vegetarian household, but became quite inclusive in her eating habits. She eats a variety of meat and

seafood, but also recognises the benefits of eating plant-based foods and has greatly influenced my eating habits. Some of her vegetarian dishes are so tasty, I do not miss having any meat with them. It would be easy for me to go a week or two without meat, but as much as my wife loves vegetables, she also cooks meat more often than I expect, not that I complain.

If I became a vegetarian, I'd probably be a lacto-ovo-vegetarian, incorporating dairy products and eggs into my diet. I might also become a lacto-vegetarian, but not an ovo-vegetarian. Giving up dairy products would be almost impossible for me. There are some substitutes for cow's milk, such as soy milk, that I might consider drinking. But I don't know if I could eat a pizza made with a soy cheese alternative.

Being a strict vegetarian or vegan would be even harder for me. That would mean saying 'no' to all animal-based products, including eggs and milk. I'd be depriving myself of so many foods

I enjoy. But on the plus side, I'd probably live to be 100.

In general, a vegetarian diet is healthier than a non-vegetarian diet, and it's extremely beneficial to limit the amount of meat we consume. But it's also important to realise that plant-based diets can often be unhealthy. There's a big difference between a healthy plant-based diet and an unhealthy one.

Various studies have shown that your risk of chronic disease is lower if your plant-based diet includes plenty of whole grains, fruits, vegetables, nuts, legumes, vegetable oils and beverages such as tea and coffee. But your risk of chronic disease is higher if your plant-based diet includes large amounts of refined grains, potatoes, sweets/desserts and beverages such as fruit juices and sugar-sweetened drinks.

If you've adopted vegetarianism, but make poor choices, you may find yourself facing another ism from your loved ones: criticism.

Benazir Bhutto – to give birth while in office. She has occasionally shared moments with her child on social media, but she will now be able to spend more time with her daughter, and her partner, who has been a stay-at-home dad. For Barty, the desire to become a mother may have played a role, for she is now pregnant with her first child.

Social norms are changing our ideas about a good life. We are paying more attention to work-life balance than we used to do, and rightly so. We are far more open than we used to be about mental health – footballers now acknowledge facing mental-health issues, something that previously would have been considered humiliating. More people are recognising that career success is not to be equated with living a good life. We should also ask what our career is doing for the world. Perhaps there are better things we could be doing. The website 80,000 hours has some suggestions.

Not everyone can choose to change the course of their life. Some face limited employment opportunities, with few options if they are to continue to feed and house themselves and their dependents. Political leaders may be reluctant to leave office because they believe they can do more good than those who will replace them.

When that belief is well-founded, rather than a form of self-deception fuelled by the addictive nature of power, as it often is, staying in office may be what they should do. The rest of us, however, have choices, and we should frequently be asking ourselves if we are living the best life we can – both for ourselves and others.

*The writer, Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University, is Founder of the charity The Life You Can Save. His books include Animal Liberation, Practical Ethics, The Life You Can Save, The Most Good You Can Do, and Ethics in the Real World.*  
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## 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](mailto:edit@orissapost.com)

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

### Scrutinise budget

Sir, This refers to "Rajya Sabha goes into month-long recess," **Orissa Post**, Feb 14. A fractious first half of the Parliament's Budget Session came to an end Monday. Both Houses will reconvene next month which gives MPs time to carefully scrutinise the budget. Though the budget was well-received by many non-political stakeholders, it didn't get enough play in the Parliament. The last fortnight was overwhelmed by events surrounding the Adani group of companies. Hopefully, next month will witness some quality debates on the budget. While other stakeholders bring different perspectives to assessing a budget, the views of elected representatives are crucial as they serve as a channel to amplify the voices from the ground. A budget is more than a statement of accounts. In India, there's no other matching platform, either at the level of states or Centre, to articulate a government's priorities and vision. In Parliament, the budget package has also become an occasion to introduce critical legislation as a money bill. Therefore, the budget session provides both political parties and citizens an opportunity to understand a government's programme and the alternatives available. Given its potential, the budget session could have been put to better use. There's enough blame to go around as one budget discussion in the Lok Sabha had to be adjourned as the MPs present fell short of the quorum.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

### Improve infrastructure

Sir, It has been noticed that in the last couple of years the state government has converted autonomous colleges into universities under the broader umbrella of the Mo University Scheme. The recent ones are the Vikram Dev University in the southern part of Odisha and the Dharanidhar University in the eastern part of the state. While it is a welcome step to enhance the accessibility of higher education in the different pockets of the state, the apprehension regarding the quality in teaching, research and infrastructure looms large. Moreover, it is needless to say about the faulty crunch already existing in the state universities. So as to produce capable human resources which can suit our contemporary times; the state has a challenge ahead to make sure that expansion of universities is met with quality of teaching faculty and optimal infrastructure for the newly established universities.

Aswino Gomango, GUNUPUR



## of the day quote

Investment proposals have been made for all 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh in the Global Investors Summit, unlike earlier when investment in the state, meant only in the areas falling in the National Capital Region

YOGI ADITYANATH | UP CM

The BJP is the friend of the rich and is working to put the burden of its corruption on the common people

AKHILESH YADAV | SP PRESIDENT

Punjab's law and order situation has seen a huge improvement under the leadership of Bhagwant Mann

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CM

## SHORT TAKES

### Medical student steals jewellery

**Muzaffarnagar (UP):** A 22-year-old student pursuing MBBS from Russia has been arrested along with his friend for allegedly stealing jewellery worth lakhs of rupees from a neighbour's house. According to SP (city) Arpit Vijay Vargiya, the student Rohan Kumar came back home a month ago from Russia after completing the first year of his medical course. His family had given him Rs 15 lakh for tuition and living expenses which he lost while gambling online.

### Over 100 shanties gutted in Gurugram

**Gurugram:** A major fire broke out at Ghasola village in Sector-49 Gurugram here Tuesday afternoon. The fire engulfed several huts of which more than 100 shanties were completely gutted. The cause of the fire is suspected to be blast in small cylinders or an electric short-circuit. Fire personnel evacuated people from the huts and it took them several hours to control the fire.

### Eleven injured

**Patna:** Eleven persons, who were part of a convoy of former MP and Jan Adhikar Party (JAP) chief Pappu Yadav, met with an accident in Bhojpur district in the wee hours on Tuesday. The accident took place at 12.30 a.m. when Pappu Yadav along with his supporters were returning to Patna after meeting with the victims of the Mubarakpur violence that happened in Saran district last week. Pappu Yadav escaped unhurt as he was travelling in another SUV. When they reached Brahampur village on Koilwar-Buxar four lane highway, a speeding truck crashed into the divider and overturned on the convoy of Pappu Yadav.

### Boy ends life

**Gautam Buddha Nagar (UP):** A 15-year-old boy allegedly ended his life by suicide when his after his parents stopped him from playing games on mobile phone. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Greater Noida) Saad Miya Khan said that the body of the boy was found hanging from the ceiling fan with a 'dupatta' at his house.

### Headmaster held

**Kolkata:** The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of West Bengal Police on Tuesday arrested the headmaster of a state-run school for illegally appointing his son as a teacher in the same school by forging the latter's documents. The arrested person has been identified as Ashish Tiwari, who is the headmaster of the Gotha AR High School at Suti in Murshidabad district.



**The need of the hour is to bail farmers out of the ongoing agrarian crisis. Due to ever escalating input costs and diminishing returns agriculture is no longer a profitable venture. Due to this the farmers of the state are on crossroads**

BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB CM

## GOODWILL GESTURE

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu Tuesday directed authorities to airlift a patient from snow-marooned Killar, headquarters of the Pangti subdivision in Chamba district, in his official chopper, cancelling his scheduled tour



## RAHUL'S PLANE NOT ALLOWED TO LAND IN UP, ALLEGES CONG

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Varanasi, Feb 14:** A Congress leader has claimed that Rahul Gandhi's plane was denied permission to land at the airport here late Monday night, a charge denied by the airport authorities.

Senior Congress leader Ajay Rai on Tuesday alleged that Rahul Gandhi's plane was scheduled to land at the Babat airport here on his return from Wayanad in Kerala.

Rai said he and other party leaders were at the airport to receive their leader but his plane was not allowed to land "at the last minute." Rahul Gandhi then returned to the national capital.

However, Varanasi airport director Aryama Sanyal denied the allegation that they had refused permission for Rahul Gandhi's plane to land. The air traffic controller was told that the plan to land at the airport has been cancelled, Sanyal said.

"The flight was cancelled by M/S AR Airways by sending an email



**Varanasi airport director denied the allegation that they had refused permission for Rahul Gandhi's plane to land**

to AAI Varanasi Airport at 2116 hrs on 13th Feb. Please correct your statement as the flight was cancelled by the operator", a tweet from Varanasi Airport said. The former Congress chief was scheduled to visit Prayagraj for a function at the Kamla Nehru Memorial Hospital on Tuesday, Rai said.



Static display of fighter aircraft during the second day of Aero India 2023, at Yelahanka air base in Bangalore

PTI PHOTO

## BJP got ₹614 crore as donation, Cong ₹95 cr in 2021-22, reveals ADR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Feb 14:** The BJP received Rs 614 crore as donation in 2021-22, while the Congress got Rs 95 crore, according to poll reform body ADR.

According to a report by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), the total donations (above Rs 20, 000) declared by the national parties for 2021-22 was Rs 780.774 crore from 7,141 donations. "A total of Rs 614.63 crore from 4,957 donations was declared by the BJP, followed by Rs 95.46 crore from 1,255 donations declared by Congress. The donations declared by the BJP are more than three times the aggregate declared by the Congress, NCP, CPI, CPI(M), NPEP and AITC for the same period," the ADR said.

The total donations of the national parties during 2021-22 rose by Rs 187.03 crore, an increase of 31.50 per cent from 2020-21. The Congress' donations increased from Rs 74.52 crore during FY 2020-21 to Rs 95.46 crore during FY 2021-22 (28.09 per cent increase). While Congress donations had decreased by 46.39 per cent between FY 2019-20 and FY 2020-21.

In comparison to the previous financial year, the decrease in donations declared by CPI(M) was 22.06 per cent (Rs 2.85 crore), and by the National People's Party was 40.50 per cent (Rs 24.10 lakhs). The segregation of donations according to state was made by ADR based on the addresses provided by the parties in their donations report to the Election Commission.

A total of Rs 395.85 crore was



donated to the national parties from Delhi, followed by Rs 105.3523 crore from Maharashtra and Rs 44.96 crore from Gujarat. A total of Rs 12.26 crore (1.57 per cent of total donations received by the national parties, FY 2021-22) could not be attributed to any state/Union Territory due to incomplete/un-declared information provided by the parties.

A total of 2,551 donations to the national parties were made by corporate/business sectors amounting to Rs 625.88 crore (80.16 per cent of total donations), while 4,506 individuals donated Rs 153.33 crore (19.64 per cent of total donations) to the parties during FY 2021-22, the ADR said.

A total of 2,068 donations from corporate/business sectors were made to the BJP (Rs 548.81 crore) while 2,876 individuals donated Rs 65.77 crore to the party during 2021-22, it said.

The Congress received a total of Rs 54.57 crore via 170 donations from corporate/business sectors and Rs 40.89 crore via 1085 individual donors during FY 2021-22, the ADR said.

The BJP (Rs 548.81 crore) received more than seven times the total amount (Rs 77.08 crore) of corporate donations declared by all other National parties for the FY 2021-22, it said.

The segregation of donations according to state was made by ADR based on the addresses provided by the parties in their donations report to the Election Commission

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Agartala, Feb 14:** The high-voltage campaign for the Tripura assembly elections ended on Tuesday, a top poll official said.

Polling will take place in 3,328 polling booths, out of which 1,100 are sensitive and 28 are categorised as critical, he said. During the month-long campaign, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP president J P Nadda and a dozen central ministers canvassed in favour of candidates of the saffron party.

The BJP organised 'Vijay Sankalp Yatra, rallies and roadshows to woo the electors. CPI(M)



Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha flashes the victory sign as he arrives to address an election campaign rally in Agartala

PTI PHOTO

Congress leaders Adhir Chowdhury, Dipa Dasmunshi and AICC general secretary Ajay Kumar campaigned for the grand old party, but neither Rahul Gandhi nor Priyanka Gandhi Vadra visited the state for campaigning

general secretary Sitaram Yechury, and senior leaders Prakash Karat, Brinda Karat and Mohammad Salim, along with former CM Manik Sarkar and party state secretary

During the month-long campaign, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP president J P Nadda and a dozen central ministers canvassed in favour of candidates of the saffron party

Jitendra Choudhury campaigned in favour of the party.

Congress leaders Adhir Chowdhury, Dipa Dasmunshi and AICC general secretary Ajay Kumar

## Punjab tussle intensifies



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chandigarh, Feb 14:** Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann Tuesday questioned the "criteria" adopted by the Centre for appointing governors and the state's ruling Aam Aadmi Party demanded that Governor Banwarilal

**CM Bhagwant Mann raises doubts on Governor's 'qualifications', AAP wants him shunted out**

complaints of "malpractices."

The chief minister accused the Governor of interfering in the state government's affairs and, replying to Purohit's letter made public Monday, indirectly questioned his credentials for the post. "You asked me about the basis of the selection of principals for sending them to Singapore for training. The people of Punjab want to know on what basis the central government appoints governors to various states in the absence of any clear qualifications (for the post) in India's Constitution," he wrote.

Purohit should be immediately shifted out, as the row between the two escalated.

Mann hit back at Purohit a day after the Governor questioned him on the process of selecting 36 government school principals for a training seminar held recently in Singapore, saying he has received

## NDRF canines beat machines in detecting quake victims

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Feb 14:** Six canines of the NDRF deployed in earthquake-hit Turkey have proved to be "very very effective" in rescuing survivors from under the debris even as teams from other countries have also utilised their services, officials said Tuesday.

The federal contingency force of India is also in the process of shifting its two teams from Gaziantep to Hatay on the Mediterranean coast of the country as the possibility of finding survivors in the former city is "almost negligible now". The third NDRF team is already in Hatay.

The force has rescued two young girls - six years and eight years old, apart from 63 bodies since they began their search and rescue (SAR) operation in that country on February 7 after the Union government sent three of its teams



to assist international rescue operations in Turkey.

The massive 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Turkey and neighbouring Syria on

February 6 has claimed more than 35,000 lives and rescuers fear the toll may climb further even as hope for lives is fading rapidly, notwithstanding miracles.

"Our canine rescuers have proved to be very effective during the Turkey operation. There are three ways to rescue someone from a collapsed structure- physical or through human means, technical search through equipment and canines. "We found that technical equipment, heavy machinery, life detectors and seismic sensors have not been that good in finding life during this situation where multiple buildings have been flattened due to the quake and there is chaos all around," NDRF commanding officer Gurminder Singh said from Nurdagi in Gaziantep province of Turkey.

Our dogs are quite easy to handle and they are not aggressive. They have proven their training during this operation and helped our rescue teams in looking for specific areas where lives can be found, he said. Another senior officer said the NDRF dogs and their

handlers were also provided to the Turkey fire department rescue team who, they are told, retrieved "one or two live victims" with the help of NDRF dogs.

The force has taken six Labradors Romeo, Julie, Rambo, Honey, Bob and Roxy for assisting the rescuers while they search for lives. Officials said while Romeo and Julie were instrumental in sensing and alerting the NDRF men in rescuing the six-year-old girl in Gaziantep last week, the other dogs have been "very vital" during the crucial hours just after the quake when rescuers were frantically looking for people who were alive under debris.

Commandant Singh said the five women personnel of the force, who are on their first international rescue operation, are working shoulder-to-shoulder with their male counterparts and have assisted affected women in few places.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Hajipur (Bihar), Feb 14:** Police Tuesday arrested a young man, who had threatened to kill Union minister and senior BJP leader from Bihar Nityanand Rai in a video that has gone viral on social media.

According to Kumar Manish, the Superintendent of Police, Vaishali, the accused Madhav Jha (25) was arrested from Town police station area early in the morning. Rai, the Minister of State for Home, is scheduled to take part in a procession here on the occasion of Mahashivratri later this week and Jha, in the video, had spoken of "firing two bullets" on the leader on the occasion.

"The accused claims he had dreams of killing the minister and he disclosed the same in the video. Further investigation is underway," the SP said.

Rai had represented the Hajipur assembly seat, named after the eponymous town where Vaishali is headquartered, many times. He is now serving his second term in the Lok Sabha from Ujiyarpur, a part of which falls under Vaishali district.





# Cold wave leaves Rajasthan freezing yet again

AGENCIES

**Jaipur, Feb 14:** A cold wave has yet again left Rajasthan freezing Monday with the minimum temperature touching single digits in many cities in the last 24 hours.

Fatehpur had the lowest temperature of 0.5 degrees Celsius, while Bhilwara recorded 5.2 degree minimum temperature, Vanasthali 7.2 degrees, Chittorgarh 6.6, Jodhpur 7.5, Bikaner 4.6, Churu 3.7, and Karauli 4.3 degrees.

Cold winds in many cities including Fatehpur, Sikar, Jhunjhunu, Bikaner, Ganganagar, Hanumangarh, Jaipur, Alwar since late Sunday evening have led to a

Minimum temperature dropped by 4 to 6 degree Celsius in some places in Rajasthan due to the influence of northern winds

Most places in the state recorded the minimum temperature below 10 degrees Celsius and the maximum temperature below 28 degrees Celsius

dip in the temperature.

The temperature has fallen in cities like Jalore, Tonk, Bikaner, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Barmer, Chittorgarh by 4 to 5 degree Celsius. Weather experts said that the effect of heavy snowfall in many parts of north India is leading to dip in



Representational image

temperature. Due to this, not only the night temperature but also the day temperature has dropped. The maximum temperature in Alwar;

Sikar, Hanumangarh, and Sirohi went below 25 degree Celsius. According to the Meteorological Center Jaipur, the effect of cold

winds in Rajasthan will remain till February 14, and they will stop with a new Western Disturbance being active in north India from February 15. After this, the temperature will start rising again in Rajasthan.

According to weather experts, February 15, the new weather system will be active in Jammu-Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan area. This will stop the coming of cold air from the north to the plains. Then, the temperature will start increasing in Rajasthan, Delhi, Haryana, and western Uttar Pradesh. In these states, the temperature may increase by 4-5 degree Celsius from February 15 onwards.

# Raj cops' unique way to curb cybercrimes



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jaipur, Feb 14:** From quoting iconic *Bollywood* songs and dialogues to sharing memes, the Rajasthan Police is using popular culture as a tool to raise awareness among youngsters about online luring and fake social media profiles during the Valentine's week.

The creative messages, with a twist of humour, are being shared by the state police force on its official Facebook account and Twitter handle to grab the attention of youngsters who might easily fall prey to scammers.

The social media posts are also being used to desist the youth from following gangsters on social media.

A tweet shared on 'Chocolate Day' (February 9) was the iconic poster from the blockbuster film *3 Idiots*. Captioned *jahapanah tussi great ho, chocolate kubool karo*, a

famed dialogue from the film, it alerted people to stay away from "digital chocolate" and adopt cyber safety to ensure "all is well" - a catchphrase of one of the lead protagonists as well as a hit song from the 2009 movie.

**Additional Director General (Technical Services) Sunil Dutt said the plans of cyber criminals can be thwarted if there is awareness among the masses**

A caption at the bottom of the image read, *roz tum jo sanam aisa karoge, paise lut jayenge to aahen bharoge (If you keep on doing this, you will lose all your money)* - a parody of a song from the 1996 *Bollywood* blockbuster *Saajan Chale Sasural*.

And for girls, police came up with a creative message to caution them about how fake profiles on social media can harm them. "*Kal aaj aur kal, kabhi bhi aa sakta hai fake proposal*", the post read.

Though it is a long-term campaign of Rajasthan Police to make people aware about cyber crimes, we picked Valentine's week to reach out to youngsters, Dutt said.

## STRIKE BY WATER TANKERS' BODY

# Water supply to infra projects, hotels and clubs in Mumbai hit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Feb 14:** The ongoing indefinite strike by water tankers in Mumbai in protest against the implementation of Central guidelines for bulk water supply has affected water supply for major infrastructure projects, hotels, malls and clubs, an association member claimed Tuesday.

Ankur Sharma, the spokesperson for Mumbai Water Tankers Association (MWTa), told PTI that Mumbai (suburban) guardian minister Mangalprabhat Lodha has convened a meeting later in the day to resolve the stand-off which will be attended by officials of the Mumbai civic body and the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA).

Sharma said 2,500 tankers that supply potable and non-potable water across Mumbai have been on strike since February 8 and it's a do-or-die situation for them. He said tanker operators will not call off the protest without a written assurance.

"We don't have any demands. We were forced to shut down our



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

businesses due to the implementation of CGWA measures, and (action) by Mumbai Police and the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation" Sharma said. He said the implementation of guidelines issued by the CGWA, responsible to regulate and control the development and management of groundwater resources in the country, is not feasible.

The directives are being implemented by collectors of Mumbai and Mumbai (suburban) districts and the state water supply and sanitation department. Police are authorised

to file FIRs against tanker owners not following the guidelines.

"Tanker owners are being slapped with notices for the last few months by various departments of the BMC. Earlier this month, the BMC wrote to the Mumbai police commissioner asking to file FIRs against tanker operators violating the guidelines," Sharma said. He said tanker operators are ready to apply for the license and pay revenue as mandated by CGWA, but they can't fulfil other guidelines which state that private tanker owners must

have a land parcel of 2,000 sqft for drawing underground water. The guidelines also say that tanker owners and suppliers will have to pay Rs 6,50,000 to the local administration as a security deposit and that not more than five tankers can draw water from a specific point. According to MWTa, nearly 2,500 tankers supply water in Mumbai and 550 families of tanker owners are dependent on this business, apart from the staff employed by them.

"We have been in this business for more than 60 years and supply potable and non-potable water to major infrastructure projects, railways, hotels, malls, clubs, eateries, and housing societies," Sharma said. He said tanker operators charge Rs 800 per 10,000 litres of water, but it is not possible to follow CGWA guidelines as their implementation is not feasible.

"If we start following the guidelines, projects in Mumbai will get affected. A case in point is BMC's mega coastal road project which needs 700 water tankers per day while the Railways need 300 tankers," Sharma added.

## Raj govt transfers 75 IPS officers

AGENCIES

**Jaipur, Feb 14:** As part of a late night reshuffle Monday, the Rajasthan government has transferred 75 IPS officers. The Personnel Department issued orders in which 19 district SPs have been changed.

For the first time, new positions of DG, IG and SP have been created to check cybercrime in the state.

Additional Director General (ACB) ADG Dinesh MN has been transferred and posted as ADG Crime. His transfer from ACB in the election year remains a matter of discussion, although he has been an ACB for a long time.



Ravi Prakash Mehra and Janga Srinivasa Rao have been promoted from ADG to DG and sent to new places. Mehra has been posted as DG cyber crime and civil rights and Janga Srinivasa Rao as DG Training. Eight ADGs, five IGs and 22 district SPs have been transferred.

## 846 schools to be developed under 'PM SHRI' scheme

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Mumbai, Feb 14:** In an important decision, 846 schools in Maharashtra shall be comprehensively developed under the 'Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India' scheme launched last September; Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said here Tuesday.

The state has signed an MoU with the Centre for the purpose under which the National Education Policy-2020 will be implemented here.

In the first phase, over 15,000 schools in India - including 846 from Maharashtra - shall be developed into foremost institutions providing high quality education for students.

Under the PM SHRI, the Central government will provide Rs 1.88 crore and the state will allocate Rs 75 lakh for each school for five years in a 60:40 partnership with the state. For the 846 schools, the Centre will provide an amount of almost Rs 956 crore while the state will give its share of Rs 634.50 lakh for implementing the scheme.



In the second phase of the PM SHRI, schools from 408 groups, 28 municipal corporations and 383 from other civic bodies shall be selected for development.

Shinde said that students shall be imparted experiential learning through these schools, and will be assessed on the basis of their conceptual understanding plus application of the knowledge in real-life situations. Even former students of the schools shall be involved with these schools to provide career guidance and educational support to the students, and in case of dropouts for any reasons, such students will be main-streamed by re-admission.



Kolhapur Naka Bridge being demolished as part of the six-lane work of Kagal-Satara stretch of Pune-Bangalore National Highway 48, in Karad, Maharashtra

# Country's first waste-to-hydrogen plant to be set up in Pune

The plant will be set up by sustainability solutions provider TheGreenBillions Ltd (TGBL), who has entered into a 30-year-long agreement with Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC)

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Guwahati, Feb 14:** The country's first solid waste-to-hydrogen plant will be set up in Pune at a cost of over Rs 430 crore, an official said Tuesday.

The plant will be set up by sustainability solutions provider TheGreenBillions Ltd (TGBL), who has entered into a 30-year-long agreement with Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC). It will treat 350 tonnes of solid

garbage every day by next year, TGBL chairman and founder Prateek Kanakia told PTI here. "Our plan is to produce 10 tonnes of hydrogen daily from 350 tonnes of solid waste. We are setting up the plant at Hadapsar Industrial Estate in Pune. This is the first attempt in India to extract hydrogen from waste," he added.

The company will invest Rs 350 crore in setting up the plant and an additional Rs 82 crore will be spent to construct the



Representational image

storage facility and logistics support, Kanakia said. The PMC will Rs 347 per tonne

to TGBL as tipping fee to treat the waste, he added. "The first 10 tonne reactor will be installed

by November 2023 and the target to complete the entire plant is November 2024," Kanakia said.

For the Pune plant PSU firm Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Ltd (BECIL) will provide the project management consulting and Variate Pune Waste to Energy Pvt Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of TGBL, will implement the project.

"The refuse derived fuel from the waste will be utilised to generate hydrogen using plasma gasification technology. We got technological support from the Bhabha Atomic Research Institute and the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru," Kanakia said.

The project aims to demonstrate the technological and financial feasibility of waste to hydrogen generation, he added.

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari recently said that hydrogen is the fuel of the future and can be got from municipal waste.

Kanakia said that TGBL is discussing with other state municipalities across the country to implement and set up similar plants in the future.

"We are looking at partnering with cash rich municipal corporations anywhere in India. In fact, we want to join hands with Guwahati Municipal Corporation under a public-private-partnership model," he added.



The LG has claimed that the said files have been held up by my department. It is deeply unfortunate that the LG is choosing to play politics over such a sensitive matter. The matter in question concerns giving clearance for demolition of several religious structures, including many big temples that have existed for decades in the city

**MANISH SISODIA** | DELHI DEPUTY CM

I met Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren and urged him to conduct a caste-based survey like in Bihar. The exercise will help determine actual status of people such as daily wagers, landless persons, sanitation workers and rickshaw pullers. Until there is some scientific data available, welfare schemes cannot be implemented properly. The Jharkhand CM gave us assurance that he will look into the matter

**TEJASHWY YADAV** | BIHAR DEPUTY CM

Tributes to the brave martyrs who lost their lives in the gruesome Pulwama attack in 2019

**MANOJ SINHA** | J-K LG

SHORT TAKES

IIT student found dead

**Chennai:** A Master of Science student at the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras was found hanging in his hostel room on Tuesday, officials said. The deceased was identified as A. Steven from Navi Mumbai. He was found hanging in his room in the Mahanadi hostel inside the campus. As Steven did not reach the class on Tuesday, his classmates informed the hostel warden who informed the police and opened the door to find him hanging.

90-year-old beaten to death

**New Delhi:** A nonagenarian woman was allegedly beaten to death by her 30-year-old grandson in Delhi's Rohini area, said an official Tuesday. The incident occurred on Sunday. The deceased has been identified as Raisa (90), a resident of Prem Nagar in Rohini, said the official, adding that her grandson, Shahrukh has been arrested by the police. According to a senior police official, on Sunday a police control room (PCR) call was received at Prem Nagar police station regarding a murder following which a police team was dispatched for the spot.

Man killed

**New Delhi:** A man on a bike was crushed to death by a truck in Delhi's Najafgarh area, said an official Tuesday. The incident occurred on Monday night. The deceased has been identified as Karamvir, a resident of New Gopalpur Nagar, here. According to police, information regarding the accident on Thana Road in Najafgarh was received around 11:29 pm, following which a police team rushed to the spot.

Woman raped

**Gurugram:** A 27-year-old woman was allegedly drugged and raped by a man in his car parked in the basement of Sahara mall in Haryana's Gurugram, police said. Police said on Tuesday the victim, who is an engineer told the police that the accused Tushar Sharma had called her for a job interview and then raped her after giving her sedated water. The woman stated to the police that she resided in the DLF area and was searching for an online job and got the number of a man, who introduced himself as Tuhar Sharma.



The CPI-M forged alliance with Congress means they conceded defeat to the BJP. The Left party realised that they could not defeat the BJP. During the Left government, hundreds of Congress workers were murdered. Despite this, the Congress forged an alliance with the Left

**AMIT SHAH** | UNION HOME MINISTER

JAMMU SHIVERS

At 3.6 degree Celsius as the minimum temperature, Jammu city recorded the coldest night of the season during last 11 years



Govt running away from JPC probe: Congress

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Feb 14:** The Centre is "running away" from a JPC probe into the Adani-Hindenburg issue, the Congress alleged on Tuesday and said the government should allow the investigation if it has nothing to hide.

The Congress' attack on the government came after Union Home Minister Amit Shah's reported remarks that there is nothing for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to hide or be afraid of in the matter. Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters here, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said he has written to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das and Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) chief Madhabi Puri Buch for an impartial probe into allegations against the Adani Group.

Reacting to Shah's reported remarks, Ramesh said, "If they do not have anything to hide, why are they running away from a Joint Parliamentary Committee (probe).""They do not even allow us to raise the demand of JPC in Parliament. When our leaders, including party president Mallikarjun Kharge ji, raised the demand for JPC, their remarks

If they do not have anything to hide, why are they running away from a Joint Parliamentary Committee (probe). They do not even allow us to raise the demand of JPC in Parliament. When our leaders, including party president Mallikarjun Kharge ji, raised the demand for JPC, their remarks were expunged

**JAIRAM RAMESH** | CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY

were expunged," Ramesh said.

If there is nothing to hide, the government should allow a JPC, he stressed. On Monday, the Centre agreed to the Supreme Court's proposal to set up a panel of experts to look into strengthening regulatory mechanisms for the stock market in the wake of the recent crash of Adani Group shares triggered by Hindenburg Research's fraud allegations.

Saying it has no objection to constituting the panel, the Centre also stressed that market regulator SEBI and other statutory bodies are "fully equipped" to deal with the situation, not only regime wise, but otherwise as well. According to Ramesh, it is important to look at the petition filed in the court.

Opposition parties are on the same page in demanding a JPC probe into the Adani issue. Rahul Gandhi, the Congress leader said, will not apologise for the remarks in Parliament and will continue to ask questions of the government.

Ramesh also posted on Twitter a set of three questions to the prime minister as part of the "Hum Adani ke Hain Kaun" series. In a statement addressed to the prime minister, Ramesh said the UPA government in its efforts to strengthen economic relations with neighbours had signed an MoU in 2010 for the state-owned National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) to set up a 1,320 MW thermal power plant in Bagerhat, Bangladesh.

After coming to power, the Modi government decided to help its "Double A" friends instead. During the prime minister's June 2015 visit to Dhaka, it was announced that Adani Power and Reliance Power would construct thermal power plants to supply electricity to Bangladesh, Ramesh alleged. "Is it true that you put pressure on your counterpart PM Sheikh Hasina to accept terms that were extremely favourable to Adani Power and unfavourable to Bangladesh," Ramesh asked.

PULWAMA ATTACK

15 of 19 terrorists either killed or held



In the attack by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists in the south Kashmir district on this day in 2019, 40 Central Reserve Police Force personnel were killed when an explosive-laden vehicle hit their convoy at Lethpora when they were heading from Jammu to Srinagar using the National Highway-44

In a retaliatory strike, the Indian Air Force had carried out an air raid in Pakistan's Balakot on February 26, 2019, targeting terrorist camps

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Pulwama/New Delhi, Feb 14:** Fifteen of the 19 militants involved in the 2019 Pulwama attack have been either been killed or arrested while the security situation in Kashmir has improved with greater synergy between agencies, officials said on Tuesday as the nation paid homage to the CRPF personnel killed in the terror strike.

In the attack by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists in the south Kashmir district on this day in 2019, 40 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel were killed when an explosive-laden vehicle hit their convoy at Lethpora when they were heading from Jammu to Srinagar using the National Highway-44.

In a retaliatory strike, the Indian Air Force had carried out an air raid in Pakistan's Balakot on February 26, 2019, targeting terrorist camps. Nineteen terrorists were involved in the Pulwama attack, eight have been neutralised (killed) while seven arrested. Four are still at large and of them, three are Pakistanis, including (Jaish-e-Mohammed chief) Masood azhar," Additional Director General of Police, Kashmir Zone, Vijay Kumar, said after paying tributes to the slain CRPF personnel at the Pulwama Martyrs' Memorial in Lethpora.

Kumar also said in the last three years, the Jaish-e-Mohammed has been "wiped out" in the Kashmir Valley. Only seven to eight terrorists are active now, he said. "The situation in Kashmir has improved post the Pulwama attack. Stone pelting incidents do not take place anymore while hartals have come to an end. Record tourists are arriving in Kashmir," CRPF Inspector General (Operations) M S Bhatia told reporters at the memorial,

around 21 kilometres from Srinagar. CRPF Special Director General Daljit Singh Chaudhry and General Officer Commanding of Army's 15 Corps Lt Gen A S Aujla also paid their tributes at the memorial. Bhatia said there is "excellent" synergy between security agencies in Kashmir and "we are proceeding to wipe out terrorism from the Kashmir Valley".

"We are working against the terror ecosystem and keeping an eye on OGWs (over-ground workers) who provide logistics and shelter to terrorists. We are trying to deny them space where they can execute any plans," he said.

Several events were organised across the country to mark the fourth anniversary of the attack with the CRPF holding a series of functions, including the one at the Pulwama Martyrs' Memorial in Kashmir's Lethpora.

Paying tribute to the CRPF personnel killed in the 2019 attack, Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted, "Remembering our valorous heroes who we lost on this day in Pulwama. We will never forget their supreme sacrifice. Their courage motivates us to build a strong and developed India."

"The nation can never forget their sacrifice. Their valour and indomitable courage will always remain an inspiration in the fight against terrorism," Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Twitter. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh paid homage to the CRPF personnel killed in the 2019 terror attack and said the entire nation stands firmly with their families.

Elaborating on measures taken post the Pulwama attack, CRPF IG Bhatia said modernisation of weaponry and gadgets have been done to ensure that terrorists are not able to carry out another such strike.



Vendors arrange roses at their stall for sale on the occasion of Valentine's Day, at Ghazipur flower market in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

CBSE prohibits use of ChatGPT in exams

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Feb 14:** The use of Artificial Intelligence-based ChatGPT has been prohibited in the upcoming class 10, 12 board exams by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), officials said Tuesday.

The class 10 and 12 board exams are set to begin on Wednesday. "Mobile, ChatGPT and other electronic items will not be allowed in examination hall," according to instructions issued by the board ahead of the papers.

The use of ChatGPT will amount to using unfair means in the exam, the board officials said.

"Students are not allowed to carry any electronic devices inside the exam centre. This includes using device to access ChatGPT so that unfair means is not used," a senior board official said.

HAL removes Hanuman pic on aircraft

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bangalore, Feb 14:** Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) removed the picture of Lord Hanuman from the HLFT-42 aircraft model displayed at the Aero India 2023 airshow following controversy.

The picture of Lord Hanuman was embossed on the tail of the HLFT-42 aircraft model. Union Minister for Mine, Coal, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi on Monday tweeted about the Lord Hanuman picture and expressed his happiness over it.

Taking a line of the prayer dedicated to Lord Hanuman, Joshi had shared the pictures of HLFT-42, a super jet model. "The picture of Bajrangbali (Lord Hanuman) is specially highlighted on the jet," he had said.

The pictures went viral on social media stirring a debate on printing the image of the Hindu God image over the fighter jet. Some critical voices said that the armed forces



The picture of Lord Hanuman was embossed on the tail of the HLFT-42 aircraft model

The pictures went viral on social media stirring a debate on printing the image of the Hindu God image over the fighter jet

should not have any religious representation as that would affect the morale of the soldiers. HAL after noticing the controversy removed the picture thereby putting an end to the debate in this regard.

HLFT-42, Hindustan Lead in Fighter Trainer is regarded as the 'Next Generation Supersonic Trainer'.

The HAL is displaying the model for the first time at the Aero India Show 2023. The jet is expected to play a critical role in modern combat aircraft training with state-of-the-art avionics like Active Electronically Scanned Array Electronic Warfare Suite, Infrared Search and Track with Fly by Wire Control system.

Unemployed man must find job to give alimony: K'taka HC

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bangalore, Feb 14:** In a major judgment, Karnataka High Court has ruled that an unemployed husband should find a job to provide alimony to the wife.

While delivering his verdict on Monday, a single-judge bench of Justice M. Nagaprasanna said, "It is the duty of the husband to provide alimony to his wife and children. So, if jobless, he should find a job, earn and provide it."

The bench quashed the man's petition of appeal questioning the verdict in this regard by a

Family court of Mysuru. The man's counsel had submitted that the petitioner suffered from a number of diseases, he doesn't have a steady job.

He also stated that, no matter how hard he toiled, his earnings would never exceed ₹15,000 per month and so he is not in a position to pay the alimony.

Brushing aside the argument, the high court stated that it is not acceptable that the husband is not in a position to give ₹10,000 monthly compensation to his wife. He is fit enough to work and must find one and pay the



THE MAN'S COUNSEL HAD SUBMITTED THAT THE PETITIONER SUFFERED FROM A NUMBER OF DISEASES, HE DOESN'T HAVE A STEADY JOB

BRUSHING ASIDE THE ARGUMENT, THE HIGH COURT STATED THAT IT IS NOT ACCEPTABLE THAT THE HUSBAND IS NOT IN A POSITION TO GIVE ₹10,000 MONTHLY COMPENSATION TO HIS WIFE

compensation, the bench reiterated.

The local family court had ordered compensation of ₹6,000 to the wife and ₹4,000 for the child. The bench further pointed out that ₹10,000 is not a big amount. The man's argument that he is not in a position to provide the amount is just an excuse.

Since the petitioner had not provided any valid document to prove that he is suffering from liver-related ailments and hence must pay the compensation, the bench asserted.



# international

## of the day quote

Nepal-India relations are timeless and multifaceted, which cannot be defined by the modern terms of diplomacy as the relations existed since time immemorial

KP SHARMA OLI | NEPAL'S FORMER PM

On my return from Russia visit (a year ago being premier), Gen Bajwa asked me to condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine. I told him that India, which is a strategic ally of the US, is staying neutral. So, Pakistan should stay neutral

IMRAN KHAN | PAK'S OUSTED PM

If General (ret'd) Bajwa was the super king at that time, what were you (Imran Khan): his servant?

MARYAM NAWAZ | PML-N SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

## SHORT TAKES

### Turkey-Syria quake death toll tops 37K

**Ankara/Damascus:** The death toll from a massive earthquake that hit Turkey and Syria February 6 mounted to over 37,000, the media reported. The devastating 7.8 magnitude quake toppled thousands of buildings and killed more than 37,000, Turkish and Syrian officials were quoted as saying by ABC news. Relief Aids continue to pour in the affected countries from various quarters. According to Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD), 99 countries have offered assistance so far and seven more countries are expected to send rescue teams, Anadolu News Agency reported.

### SA: 20 killed in vehicle collision

**Johannesburg:** A crash between a passenger bus and a van armoured to carry cash in the northern province of Limpopo, South Africa has killed at least 20 people and injured 68, officials have reported. The two vehicles collided head-on along the N1 freeway in the Makhado area Monday evening, according to paramedics who responded to the crash. The bus reportedly rolled down a slope to a river and some passengers were found trapped underneath. Three people by the highway were confirmed dead while 16 other bodies were found by the river where the bus had rolled, according to ER24 paramedics spokesman Ross Campbell.

### 4 terrorists killed in Pak

**Islamabad:** Four terrorists were killed in a terror attack on security forces in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of police said Tuesday. According to the CTD statement, the terrorists late Monday night attacked a security forces vehicle, which was transporting accused terrorists at Mir Ali bypass area of the district. *Xinhua News Agency* reported.

### Missing Shivaji statue found

**New York:** A statue of Maratha ruler Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj that went missing from a park in San Jose, California, last month has been found. The statue at the Guadalupe River Park, depicting the leader on horseback clutching a sword, was a gift from Pune, San Jose's sister city. The 440-pound sculpture of the 17th century ruler was found last week next to a soda machine in the lobby of Tung Tai Group, a San Jose metal scrapyard north of downtown.

## 3 fatally shot, five hurt at Michigan State University

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**East Lansing (US), Feb 14:** A gunman opened fire Monday night at Michigan State University, killing three people and wounding five more, and police urged frightened students and others to shelter in place as they searched for the suspect.

Hundreds of officers were scouring the East Lansing campus, about 90 miles (145 kilometers) northwest of Detroit, for the suspect, who police described as a short Black man with red shoes, a jean jacket and ball cap.

"There are three confirmed fatalities. This is in addition to the five victims who have been transported to the hospital," campus police said on Twitter.

The shootings began shortly before 8:30 p.m. At Berkey Hall, an academic building, and also occurred nearby at the student union, a popular gathering spot, said Chris Rozman, interim deputy chief of the campus police department.

Students were ordered to shelter in place for hours. Rozman urged parents to stay away. "I can only

imagine the emotion that's involved right now. ... We are doing everything we can to ensure the safety of our campus and all of our students," he said.

The five victims were taken to Sparrow Hospital, said hospital spokesperson John Foren, who had no information on their conditions. mBy 10:15 p.m., police said Berkey, as well as nearby residence halls, were secured.

Separately, police on Twitter reported a shooting at IM East, a recreational center for students. But Rozman didn't mention it during a news briefing and said there had been false reports of additional shootings.

Aedan Kelley, a junior who lives a half-mile (less than a kilometer) east of campus, said he locked his doors and covered his windows "just in case." Sirens were constant, he said, and a helicopter hovered overhead.

"It's all very frightening," Kelley said. "And then I have all these people texting me wondering if I'm OK, which is overwhelming."

Michigan State has about 50,000 students.

## Nikki Haley announces Prez bid against Trump

NIKKI HALEY BECAME TRUMP'S FIRST DIRECT CHALLENGER IN A REPUBLICAN FIELD EXPECTED TO GROW IN COMING WEEKS AND MONTHS

AGENCIES

**Washington, Feb 14:** Prominent Indian-American politician Nikki Haley launched her Presidential campaign Tuesday, becoming the first Republican to challenge former US President Donald Trump in his 2024 bid for the White House.

Haley, 51, is the two-term Governor of South Carolina and the former US Ambassador to the United Nations. "I'm Nikki Haley, and I'm running for President," she announced in a video message.

"It's time for a new generation of leadership – to rediscover fiscal responsibility, secure our border, and strengthen our country, our pride and our purpose. Some people look at America and see vulnerability. The socialist left sees an opportunity to rewrite history," she said.

Identifying herself as proud daughter of Indian immigrants, Haley talks about growing up in Bamberg, South Carolina and how it shaped her belief in a strong and proud America. "We turned away from fear toward God and the values that still make our country the freest and greatest in the world. We must turn in that direction again," she said.

Casting herself as a younger, fresher alternative to Trump, Haley had been hinting at a White House bid for weeks. Her formal declaration means she will be the first contender to join the contest against her former 76-year-old boss Trump, who announced his third bid for the White House late last year.

"Republicans have lost the popular vote in seven out of the last eight presidential elections that have to change. Joe Biden's record is abysmal, but that shouldn't come as a surprise. The Washington establishment has failed us over and over and over again. It's time for a



China supports Iran in safeguarding national sovereignty and resisting unilateralism and bullying

XI JINPING | PRESIDENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

### SAY NO TO PLASTIC

Sri Lanka will ban several plastic products from June, a spokesman said. The production, importation, selling and use of single-use plastic straws, drink stirrers, plates, cups (excluding yoghurt cups), knives, spoons (including yoghurt spoons), forks, plastic flower garlands, and string hopper trays will not be allowed in Sri Lanka from June



A figure depicting a corona virus is presented during a press preview for the Mainz carnival in Mainz, Germany

PTI PHOTO

## Ukraine seeks warplanes

*Zelenskyy pushed hard for combat planes last week when he visited London, Paris and Brussels on just his second foreign trip since Russia invaded February 24, 2022. That plea came days after Western allies pledged to provide Kyiv with tanks*

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Brussels, Feb 14:** Ukraine Tuesday renewed its appeal to Western countries for fighter jets to help frustrate Moscow's invasion, but the United States and its NATO allies and partners are more concerned about Kyiv's needs for large amounts of ammunition as the war with Russia is set to enter its second year.

Ahead of the meeting of the Ukraine contact group at NATO headquarters, Ukraine made its requirements clear.

Defence Minister Oleksiy Reznikov, when asked what military aid his country is seeking now, showed reporters an image of a fighter jet.

Questioned about where he hoped they might come from, Reznikov said only: "From the sky."

What NATO allies have on their mind, though, is how to keep up a steady supply of ammunition to Ukraine without depleting their own stockpiles. According to some estimates, Ukraine is firing up to 6,000-7,000 artillery shells each day, around a third of the daily amount that Russia is using. Moscow's forces have been pressing in the east of Ukraine while bolstering their defensive lines in the south. The war has been largely static during the

winter months, though both sides are expected to launch offensives when the weather improves.

The Russians appear short on resources for any major offensive at the moment, the UK Ministry of Defence said Tuesday.

"Overall, the current operational picture suggests that Russian forces are being given orders to advance in most sectors, but that they have not massed sufficient offensive combat power on any one axis to achieve a decisive effect," it tweeted.

German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius said that finding ammunition and air defences is "much more important at the moment than the discussion about fighter jets". Pistorius told reporters that getting pilots up to speed on new aircraft and "training just to fly them takes several months, never mind teaching the abilities needed to deploy the weapons systems".

He said Ukraine's partners "should focus on what is now at center stage, particularly in view of a Russian offensive that is apparently taking place".

He said Germany has signed a deal to produce ammunition for self-propelled, anti-aircraft guns it provided to Ukraine, after Kyiv ran into problems finding munitions elsewhere.



NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, United States Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, Ukraine's Defense Minister Kyrylo Budanov and Ukraine's Lieutenant General Yevhen Moisiuk, from left to right, are seen during the North Atlantic Council round table meeting of NATO defense ministers at NATO headquarters in Brussels

PTI PHOTO

## Camilla chooses crown without Kohinoor for coronation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**London, Feb 14:** Britain's Queen Consort, Camilla, has chosen a crown without the controversial colonial era Kohinoor diamond for her coronation ceremony with husband King Charles III at Westminster Abbey in May, Buckingham Palace said Tuesday.

While the current version of Queen Mary's crown has a front cross set with a detachable rock crystal replica of the Kohinoor diamond, it isn't known yet if that would be retained after the changes are made for the coronation.

"The choice of Queen Mary's Crown by Her Majesty is the first time in recent history that an existing crown will be used for the

Coronation of a Consort instead of a new commission being made, in the interests of sustainability and efficiency," Buckingham Palace said.

There had been speculation over the crown to be chosen by Camilla, with reports suggesting that the one worn by Charles' grandmother, the Queen Mother, which bears the Kohinoor was a likely choice.

However, it is believed that diplomatic sensitivity may have been considered in the final choice, even though the Queen Mary Crown also has a history of once being adorned with the controversial diamond.

Kohinoor, which means mountain of light in Persian, came into Queen Victoria's possession from



the treasury of Maharaja Ranjit Singh a few years before she was to be crowned Empress of India, and

has played a starring role in British coronations of the past. "Some minor changes and ad-

ditions will be undertaken by the Crown Jeweller; in keeping with the longstanding tradition that the insertion of jewels is unique to the occasion, and reflects the Consort's individual style. These changes will in particular pay tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, as the crown will be reset with the Cullinan III, IV and V diamonds," the palace said.

The Cullinan diamonds were part of Queen Elizabeth II's personal jewellery collection for many years and were often worn as brooches by the late monarch, who passed away aged 96 in September last year.

The diamonds have been set into Queen Mary's Crown on previous occasions as well, when Cullinan

III and IV were set temporarily in the crown for the 1911 Coronation, and the Cullinan V was inserted when the crown was worn as a regal circlet at King George VI's coronation in 1937, the palace said.

In addition, four of the Queen Mary Crown's eight detachable arches will be removed to create a "different impression" to when it was worn by Queen Mary at the 1911 coronation.

Meanwhile, the palace also confirmed that St. Edward's Crown, which will be used for the Coronation of King Charles, has now returned to public display at the Tower of London, following the completion of its modification work for the grand Westminster Abbey ceremony.



of the day quote

I want to share that we have set up 1,75,000 MW of renewable capacity from 2014 onwards. We have added more than 17,000 ckm of transmission lines to strengthen distribution systems...

RK SINGH | UNION POWER MINISTER

We've seen a much quicker acceleration towards battery electric vehicles than we ever thought (in Australia). It has taken us by surprise. I think that could well happen here (in India) because we're not a mass manufacturer, we have the luxury of being able to differentiate ourselves from the market

NICK CONNOR | VOLVO CARS HEAD OF COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS

We are proud of the high performance, culture-driven organisation that we are creating, and will continue to look for high quality talent which wants to commit to a growth mindset, and extraterrestrial performance

DEEPIKAR GOYAL | ZOMATO FOUNDER AND CEO

SHORT TAKES

ONGC Q3 net jumps 26%

**New Delhi:** State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) reported a 26 per cent jump in its third quarter net profit on the back of a rise in oil and natural gas prices. Net profit of ₹11,044.73 crore, or ₹8.78 per share, in October-December compared with ₹8,763.72 crore, or ₹6.97 per share, in the same period a year back, according to a company's stock exchange filing. The profit was, however, lower than the ₹12,825.99 crore earnings in the immediately preceding quarter of July-September. The rise in profitability was helped by higher realisation on crude oil and gas the firm produces and sells. This offset the continuing decline in oil and gas production.

PhonePe raises another \$100mn

**New Delhi:** Fintech firm PhonePe has raised another USD 100 million (about ₹828 crore) in primary capital from new investors Ribbit Capital and TVS Capital Funds with participation from existing investor Tiger Global, at a pre-money valuation of USD 12 billion, the company said Tuesday. This follows a USD 350 million primary fundraise by the company January 19 from General Atlantic. "PhonePe started its latest fundraise with a target of raising up to USD 1 billion in capital, post its domicile shift to India. With this second tranche, it has already raised USD 450 million within six weeks from leading investors," it said in a statement.

ICICI Bank pact with BNP Paribas

**New Delhi:** ICICI Bank and BNP Paribas have signed an initial pact to cater to the banking requirements of European corporates operating in India and Indian companies in the EU. The MoU between the two entities establishes a framework of partnership between the two banks for providing financial services to corporate customers operating in the India - Europe corridor, ICICI Bank said in a statement. Anup Bagchi, Executive Director, ICICI Bank said as fifth largest economy and with a strong focus to become a regional manufacturing hub, India is at forefront of leading world growth in near future. Sanjay Singh, Head of Territory & CEO, BNP Paribas India said, "This alliance will further strengthen our commitment to supporting Indian corporates in their global journey and European corporate clients looking to expand their footprint in India."

AI to buy record 470 Airbus, Boeing jets

THE TOTAL VALUE OF THE DEAL, ONE OF THE LARGEST BY AN AIRLINE, IS ESTIMATED TO BE WORTH USD 80 BILLION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi/Washington/London, Feb 14:** In one of the largest aircraft orders by an airline, Tata Group-owned Air India Tuesday announced it will buy 470 narrow-body and wide-body planes from Airbus and Boeing, with the total deal value estimated to be worth USD 80 billion (over ₹6.40 lakh crore). Air India will buy 250 aircraft, including 40 wide-body A350 planes, from European aviation major Airbus, and 220 planes from US aircraft maker Boeing under separate deals. Prime Minister Narendra Modi described Air India-Airbus transaction as a 'landmark deal' that also reflects the deepening ties between India and France. The prime minister along with US President Joe Biden also welcomed the landmark agreement between Air India and Boeing as a shining example of mutually beneficial cooperation.



This is also the first time in more than 17 years that Air India, which was acquired from the government by Tata Group in January 2022, has ordered planes. The first A350 plane will be delivered to the airline by the end of this year. "The order comprises 40 Airbus A350s, 20 Boeing 787s and 10 Boeing 777-9s wide-body aircraft, as well as 210 Airbus A320/321 Neos and 190 Boeing 737 MAX single-aisle aircraft. The A350 aircraft will be powered by Rolls-Royce engines, and the B777/787s by engines from GE Aerospace. All single-aisle aircraft will be powered by engines from CFM International," Air India said in a statement. The airline has signed Letters of Intent with Airbus and Boeing.

In a message to Air India staff, CEO Campbell Wilson said that in addition to the 470 aircraft on firm order, the airline has secured a number of options and purchase rights. "The firm part of the order alone is not just the largest order ever made by an Indian airline, it is one of the largest single aircraft orders by any airline, anywhere, ever, and testifies to India's unique combination of extraordinary scale and growth opportunity," he said. The announcement of the aircraft purchase deal with Airbus was made at an online event that was attended by Modi, French President Emmanuel Macron, Union ministers Jyotiraditya Scindia and Piyush Goyal, Tata

'INFORM BORROWERS UPFRONT ABOUT RECOVERY AGENTS'

The RBI Tuesday directed digital lending entities to disclose upfront the names of their empanelled agents authorised to contact borrowers in case of default of loan, and also intimate the details to customers before initiating the recovery process.



WPI inflation at 2-yr low of 4.73 pc in Jan



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Feb 14:** The wholesale price-based inflation declined to 2-year low of 4.73 per cent in January on easing prices of manufactured items, fuel and power, even though food articles turned expensive.

This is the eighth straight month of decline in the rate of wholesale price-index (WPI) based inflation. It was 4.95 per cent in December 2022 and 13.68 per cent in January last year.

"Decline in the rate of inflation in January, 2023 is primarily contributed by mineral oils, chemicals & chemical products, textiles, crude petroleum & natural gas, textiles, and food products," the

Commerce and Industry Ministry said Tuesday. The decline in the rate of price rise was mainly due to a favourable base effect, economists said, adding that going forward, softening commodity prices would help ease WPI inflation further. Although inflation in manufactured items softened, in the case of food articles it rose to 2.38 per cent in January, from (-) 1.25 per cent in December, 2022. Inflation in pulses was 2.41 per cent, while in vegetables it was (-) 26.48 per cent. Inflation in oil seeds was (-) 4.22 per cent in January, 2023. Fuel and power basket inflation eased to 15.15 per cent, from 18.09 per cent in December. In manufactured products it was 2.99 per cent, against 3.37 per cent in December, 2022.

This is the eighth straight month of decline in the rate of wholesale price-index based inflation

JANUARY INFLATION SHOCKER

Another 25 bps rate hike in April likely

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Feb 14:** As retail inflation jumped to a three-month high of 6.52 per cent in January, analysts at two foreign brokerages said there is a clear case for the Reserve Bank of India to announce another 25-basis point hike in key interest rate in April. Domestic analysts have also increased their inflation forecast but without offering a view on the RBI's next bi-monthly policy review scheduled in April. In January, retail inflation breached the Reserve Bank's upper tolerance level of 6 per cent after two months of deceleration and touched a three-month high of 6.52 per cent, mainly due to higher prices in the food basket, including cereals and protein-rich items. Barring November and December 2022, retail inflation has remained above the 6 per cent level throughout 2022. The previous high was 6.77 per cent in October 2022. Deutsche Bank economists in a report Tuesday said the January inflation shocker justifies another 25 basis point (bps) hike in its next monetary policy scheduled in April. The analysts do not see rate hikes beyond April, but said clearly the risks have risen for rates to be



higher for longer. They also do not see the RBI changing the current monetary policy stance of withdrawal of accommodation anytime soon. They said the sharp spike in January inflation was led mainly by the cereals component, which was up 16.1 per cent on-year, making it the highest increase recorded in the current CPI (Consumer Price Index) series and thus reversing the entire improvement seen in the inflation trajectory since November 2022. Cereals have a weight of almost 10 per cent in the CPI basket. The January CPI print essentially neutralises all the improvement seen in the CPI trajectory

since the positive surprise in November when CPI inflation unexpectedly eased to 5.9 per cent, they said and projected that CPI inflation will average about 6.3 per cent in the March quarter, with February CPI likely around similar levels to January and March likely to fall slightly below 6 per cent. For FY24, they expect CPI inflation to average about 5.5 per cent, up from the earlier forecast of 5 per cent. Similarly, Tanvee Gupta Jain, UBS India economist, the surprise spike in the January inflation print largely came in from higher than expected food inflation and this was something the last monetary policy noted.

Demat accounts grow 31% to 11 crore in January

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Feb 14:** The number of demat accounts rose to 11 crore in January, a surge of 31 per cent on a yearly basis, amid attractive returns from the equity markets, ease of account opening process and increased financial savings. Also, the incremental additions of such accounts were higher in January than in the preceding four months. However, it was still below the financial year 2021-22 (FY22) average run-rate of 29 lakh. The incremental additions of such accounts stood at 22 lakh last month, compared to 21 lakh in December, 18 lakh each in October and November and 20 lakh in September, according to an analysis by Motilal Oswal Financial Services. As per the data, the number of demat accounts rose to 11 crore in January 2023 from 8.4 crore in January 2022, registering a growth of 31 per cent. Market experts believe that the addition in dematerialised (demat) accounts over the last one year was mainly due to attractive returns given by the equity markets and the ease of account opening process offered by brokers to their clients. Also, increased financial literacy and the growing popularity of trading amongst youth have been some other major factors contributing to the rise, they added. While the number of demat accounts continues to rise, the count of National Stock Exchange (NSE) active clients has been falling for seven consecutive months. The number of active accounts at the NSE dropped 2.9 per cent month-on-month to 3.4 crore in January, making it the seventh consecutive monthly decline. On a year-on-year basis, the number of such active users rose 2.7 per cent. The intensity of the fall was higher at 10.4 lakh accounts in January as compared to 7 lakh for the past three months. At present, the top five discount brokers - Zerodha, Angel One, Groww, ICICI Securities and IIFL Securities - account for 59.2 per cent of the overall NSE active clients during the period under review, down from 59.3 percent in December. Meanwhile, the capital market sentiment of India Inc was negative in January with the NSE's benchmark index Nifty declining 2.9 per cent month-on-month. However, the volatility increased toward the end of the month, in anticipation of the Union Budget announcement February 1.

Cryptoverse: A resurrection of NFTs

REUTERS

**New York, Feb 14:** It's alive! The NFT market is twitching out of its torpor, defying reports of its demise. Total NFT sales on the ethereum blockchain - which hosts most trading - jumped to \$780.2 million in January from \$546.9 million the month before, according to market tracker CryptoSlam. Digital art collectibles were among the big hits. "Bored Ape Yacht Club #5840" - a cartoon monkey shooting green lasers from its eyes - went for \$822,730, for example, while "CryptoPunks #7674" - a pixelated character smoking a pipe - fetched \$433,555. The average NFT sale price was a more modest \$372.38, according to CryptoSlam. The \$780 million of sales seen last month is a fraction of the roughly \$5 billion seen last January and \$2.7 billion in May, before the market took a non-fungible nosedive along with much of the crypto world. Nonetheless the market's been inching back since November after hitting a low of \$324 million the month before, according to CryptoSlam data, with some traders betting on a future for NFTs in gaming and branding.



"We will see another 2021-style run when we are able to really bring on board the next big wave of participants into the space," said Teng Yan, lead researcher at Delphi Digital, estimating that there are between 30,000 to 50,000 people who are actively trading NFTs right now.

**MYSTERY AND AIRDROPS** Despite the nascent bounce, the future of non-fungible tokens remains shrouded in mystery. Few crypto experts expect a repeat of the 2021 boom anytime soon. Some doubt the long-term appeal of pay-

**Total NFT sales on the ethereum blockchain - which hosts most trading - jumped to \$780.2 million in January from \$546.9 million the month before**

ing to be recorded on blockchain as the owner of a digital file that anyone can see online for free. Saro McKenna, CEO of an NFT

metaverse and blockchain game firm Alien Worlds, said NFTs had the potential to help companies and celebrities engage with customers and fans. "The most promising aspect of this technology will be when more and more of the Disneys and Dua Lipas of the world increasingly turn to NFTs," McKenna added. Some market players said the January rise in NFT sales volumes was also fueled by the entrance of a new online marketplace, Blur, which has drawn investor interest since it launched late last year and announced a series of free

coin "airdrops" and other rewards. NFT trading volumes on Blur's platform has totaled 101.2 million over the last seven days, slightly ahead of the \$100.4 million seen on dominant marketplace OpenSea, according to data from DappRadar. Over the past 30 days, though, OpenSea remains top with volumes of \$443.98 million, versus \$366 million for Blur. **BITCOIN JOINS NFT PARTY** In another non-fungible development, the novel use of the bitcoin blockchain for minting an NFT collection has caused a stir among crypto enthusiasts. Bitcoin Punks is a series of monkey-themed NFTs and a derivative of the wildly popular CryptoPunks collection. Some media reports have indicated Bitcoin Punk NFT being sold for as much as 9.5 bitcoin, worth in the region of \$205,000. "We are going through a little bit of a hype phase for this because it's just new, it's novel, and people are rushing to try and be the first few people to mint NFTs on bitcoin," said Teng Yan at Delphi Digital, noting there was no marketplace for bitcoin NFTs, with all transactions done over the counter. "The hype will die down over the next couple of weeks."



# WI test awaits India



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Cape Town, Feb 14:** Having got the better of Pakistan in the lung-opener, India would endeavour to put up an improved bowling show against West Indies in their second Women's T20 World Cup match here Wednesday.

The Indian batters, without vice-captain Smriti Mandhana, managed to complete their highest successful chase in the T20 World Cup in the win against Pakistan.

Mandhana missed the tie against Pakistan owing to a finger injury but the star opener is likely to be back in the team against the West Indies, who are coming off a big loss against England.

The Indian bowlers were guilty of taking their foot off the pedal in the back end of the innings, allowing Pakistan to score 91 runs in the second half of their innings.

They will be keen to give a better account of themselves. With tougher oppositions expected as the tournament progresses, the Indian bowlers couldn't have asked

## Jemimah, Richa move up in ICC T20I rankings

**DUBAI:** India's Jemimah Rodrigues and Richa Ghosh have moved to the 11th and 36th spots respectively among batters in the latest ICC Women's T20I Player Rankings released Tuesday. The duo progressed after guiding India to victory against Pakistan in the Women's T20 World Cup opener. While Rodrigues has moved from 13th to 11th after her unbeaten 52, Ghosh is up from 42nd to 36th following her 31 not out. Vice-captain Smriti Mandhana, who missed the opener due to a finger injury, remains the top-ranked India in third place. Mandhana's opening partner Shafali Verma too remained static at the 10th place. Alyssa Healy moved up two places to seventh while Sri Lanka's Chamari Athapaththu gained one spot to reach ninth position. In the bowling rankings, spinners Sophie Ecclestone of England and Nonkululeko Mlaba of South Africa have consolidated their positions as the top two. Meanwhile, Ashleigh Gardner remains the top all-rounder in the format while Hayley Matthews and New Zealand's Amelia Kerr have inched up a place each to third and fourth positions. England leg-spinner Sarah Glenn has moved up to third position.

for a better opponent than a familiar West Indies side, whom India beat twice in the recent tri-series.

If India want to win the title, the batting department too has to pull up its socks. It if wasn't for young Richa Ghosh's three boundaries on the trot in the 18th over, India would have been unable to cross the line.

The big-hitting Shafali Verma,

fresh from leading India to the inaugural U-19 World Cup title, didn't look her imperious best against Pakistan. She struggled to get the big shots.

Opening the innings in the absence of Mandhana, Yastika Bhatia struggled for rhythm while skipper Harmanpreet Kaur too perished without making an impact.

India will breathe a sigh of relief that Jemimah Rodrigues, a

proven match-winner, hit form after a underwhelming run as she anchored the innings but the middle-order batter will have to manage her strike rate better and go for the big shots.

The addition of Mandhana, a vital cog in this Indian team's scheme of things, will no doubt bolster the batting.

West Indies, on the other hand, will be eager to register their first win in the tournament having being thrashed by England in their opener. The Hayley Matthews-led side is enduring a wretched run, having lost 14 matches on the trot.

They will once again turn to skipper Matthews who has oodles of experience. The skipper is no stranger to delivering on the big stage. However, the skipper needs the others to step up, especially the experienced Stefanie Taylor, who has returned from a back injury.

It will be a crucial fixture for West Indies as a loss would knock the former champions out of the semi-final contention.

# Carey sweeps aside criticism



A disappointed Alex Carey looks at the stumps after being castled by R Ashwin in the first innings of the Nagpur Test

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Nagpur, Feb 14:** Wicketkeeper batter Alex Carey Tuesday said that Australia will continue playing Test matches the way they have been doing in the past 12-18 months, brushing aside former captain Allan Border's criticism that the visitors need to play hard and tough.

Australia lost the first Test by a colossal margin of an innings and 123 runs to trail the four-match series 0-1, which led to sharp criticism from Border who said the visitors were acting too nice and need to "play with a harder edge".

Border singled out Steve Smith for giving a 'thumb's up' gesture to Ravindra Jadeja after he was beaten by a delivery by the India all-rounder. Border called the act "ridiculous." "We highly respect Allan Border. I guess among the group, guys do it differently. We come up against these players a lot," Carey said.

"You're probably alluding to the Steve Smith comment more than any but, you know, he's mates with a lot of them. And that's the way

he (Smith) plays. He does it in all situations. He plays around with his hands and does all that stuff. And I think that's probably what gets him pretty focused."

Despite the heavy loss, Carey said the Australian camp is positive and they are backing themselves to bounce back in Delhi. "It is the first Test of four and we're still very positive amongst ourselves that we'll be able to bounce back in Delhi and get this series back on level (terms) and continue to believe in what we've done over the past 12 to 18 months," said Carey.

"I think we're a really strong Test team. We've got all bases covered. Unfortunately it didn't go to plan this first Test, but we're definitely reinforcing the messages we've had leading into the tour."

The 31-year said the atmosphere in the middle during the first Test was anything but friendly. "I don't think so, I think it's Test cricket, it's over in India and we know how tough it can be over here," he said.

"Proactive" has been a keyword for Australia in this tour of India

but Carey felt he got a little too proactive in the Nagpur Test. "You can fall into over-playing conditions and certain names. What you see before you go out to bat as well can change your method a bit," said Carey, who was out reverse-sweeping in both innings of the first Test.

"For myself today (at training) I went back to batting more than anything else and reacting to what's being bowled down at me and trusting that method. Maybe (I was) a little bit too keen to play a different style, but in my first Test over here that's not a bad learning to have."

Carey said the performance of the Indian spin duo of Jadeja and Axar Patel showed patience can be as effective as proactiveness.

"Hopefully I can find that balance — along with all our players as well. We obviously want to be proactive, but calm and patient (as well), and we had a pretty good look at that first-hand with a few of their players. At times it might be (required to bat) in fast-forward mode but Jadeja and Axar showed as well, you can be pretty patient."

# GREEN-TOP PITCH FOR RANJI SUMMIT CLASH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, Feb 14:** A green-top pitch will be on offer for Bengal-Saurashtra Ranji Trophy summit clash beginning here Thursday.

Pace bowling has been Bengal's main strength with the troika of Akash Deep (37), Ishan Porel (24) and Mukesh Kumar (18) accounting for the most number of wickets this season.

Two days ahead of the match, the Eden Gardens centre strip sported a green cover and Cricket Association of Bengal pitch curator Sujan Mukherjee said there would be no "further trimming".

"Our pace bowling is much better than Saurashtra and we will have a similar grass cover on the pitch, there is no further scope for trimming," Mukherjee told reporters.

Asked whether toss would be a factor, he said: "As always, the first and the last hour at Eden Gardens are crucial when wicket aids seam movement. It would be no different this time. Toss won't be a big advantage."

Luck has been with the Bengal side this season, and I hope they win the title this time."

Two-time champions Bengal are yet to win the Ranji Trophy since 1989-90. Since then, they have made the final four times, the last being in 2019-20 when they lost to Saurashtra.

Bengal's last Ranji triumph also had come at the Eden Gardens and they would look to end the prolonged drought, with a 'sweet revenge' against Saurashtra.

Captain of the 1989-90 triumph Sambaran Banerjee would ring the 'Eden Bell' to signal the start of the match on Thursday, president Snehasish Ganguly said. Snehasish was

also a member of that side along with his younger brother Sourav Ganguly who is currently in the UK. To make the occasion special, the CAB would throw open certain gates of Eden Gardens. "The lower tiers of B C blocks and KL blocks on either side of the clubhouse would be thrown open to the general public who want to come and cheer for their home side. We want people to come and support us in numbers."



**SHEER ENTERTAINMENT:** Players of Odisha (in sky-blue) and Punjab in action during their Santosh Trophy match at Capital Ground in Bhubaneswar Tuesday, where Odisha lost 1-2. Jang Bahadur Singh and Kamaldeep scored for Punjab before Anand Oram struck the consolation goal for the hosts. In the other match, Kerala came from 1-4 down to draw 4-4 against Maharashtra at the Kalinga Stadium. Earlier, Karnataka defeated Goa 2-0 at the Capital Ground.

## GAKPO GETS HIS FIRST GOAL FOR LIVERPOOL, WHILE KLOPP CELEBRATES HIS 250TH WIN AS THE MANAGER OF THE PREMIER LEAGUE GIANTS

# Reds beat Everton in Merseyside derby

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Liverpool, Feb 14:** With three fist pumps in front of the home fans, Jurgen Klopp celebrated his 250th win as Liverpool manager after beating Everton 2-0.

Victory in the Merseyside derby is always something to savor in these parts. But such have been Liverpool's troubles in recent weeks that a win of any description would have been gratefully received by the Anfield crowd.

Sitting ninth in the standings, this was a first victory in the Premier League in 2023 for Liverpool and only the second in eight games in all competitions.

While a Champions League-qualifying place in the top four is still nine points off, there were signs that the win in the 242nd Merseyside derby can provide a lift-off for manager Klopp's faltering team.

January signing Cody Gakpo scored for the first time for his new club and there was good news on the injury front as fit-again Diogo Jota and Roberto Firmino came off the bench in the second half. Virgil van Dijk, who has also been out with injury, was an unused substitute.

This season has been quite the come-down for a Liverpool team that challenged for an unprecedented quadruple last year.



**OFF THE MARK:** Cody Gakpo opens his goal account for Liverpool in their match against Everton, Monday

There have, however, been mitigating circumstances, with Klopp having to cope with injuries to key players, while also learning to live without forward Sadio Mane, who left for Bayern Munich last summer.

Still, the team's erratic form has been hard for fans to take, with the Champions League their only realistic hope of a trophy this season.

In the league, fourth place remains a distant target, with a humbling 0-3 loss to Wolverhampton

in Liverpool's previous match being a measure of its struggles. Hardly surprising then that Klopp celebrated so enthusiastically in front of the Kop

There was nothing for new Everton manager Sean Dyche to cheer as he was consigned to defeat in his first Merseyside derby and couldn't build on the morale-boosting win against league-leading Arsenal in his opening game in charge.

It might have been different for Everton if James Tarkowski's first-

half header had found the back of the net, rather than rebounding off the post.

Within moments it was the visitors who were behind as Liverpool immediately countered and Mo Salah opened the scoring in the 36th minute. Gakpo sealed the win when he tapped in from close range in the 49th.

Everton are in the relegation zone, one point behind 17th-placed Leeds. Liverpool will travel to fourth-placed Newcastle next.

## India rout Kazakhs in Asian team meet

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Dubai, Feb 14:** India registered a clean sweep against Kazakhstan 5-0 in their opening tie of Group B at the Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships Tuesday.

The mixed doubles team of Ishaan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Crasto got India off to a winning start. The duo trounced Makhmut Tadzhibullaev and Nargiza Rakhmetullayeva 21-5, 21-11.

HS Prannoy moved past Dmitriy Panarin 21-9, 21-11 in the men's singles match. PV Sindhu registered an easy 21-4, 21-12 win over Kamila Smagulova. In the men's doubles match, Krishna Prasad Garga and Vishnuvardhan Goud Panjala dispatched Khaitmurat Kulmatov and Artur Niyazov 21-10, 21-6.

The women's doubles pair, Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand ensured a clean sweep, beating Nargiza Rakhmetullayeva and Aisha Zhumabek by a 21-5, 21-7.

## MI TO FACE GUJARAT GIANTS IN WPL OPENER MARCH 4

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Feb 14:** Mumbai Indians (MI) and Gujarat Giants will clash in a blockbuster opening match of the Women's Premier League (WPL) March 4 while the final will be played March 26, the BCCI announced Tuesday.

Brabourne Stadium here and the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai will hold 11 matches each in the inaugural edition of the tournament which will have 22 games — 20 league matches, one eliminator and final — being played across 23 days.

The opening match and the eliminator March 24 will be played at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai while the final will be held at the Brabourne Stadium March 26.

"Sunday, 5th March 2023, the WPL will have its first double-

header day where Royal Challengers Bangalore will square off against Delhi Capitals at the Brabourne Stadium, CCI," the BCCI said in a release.

"UP Warriorz will play their first game of the league against Gujarat Giants at the DY Patil Stadium in the evening. The final game of the league stage will be played between UP Warriorz and Delhi Capitals on 21st March at the Brabourne Stadium, CCI.

"There will be 4 double headers with the first match starting at 3:30 PM IST. All evening matches will start at 7:30 PM IST," it said.

Five teams — Delhi Capitals, Gujarat Giants, Mumbai Indians, Royal Challengers Bangalore and UP Warriorz — Monday splurged their purse to acquire some of the best players in the international and domestic circuit.



in New Delhi ahead of the second Test of the Mastercard Australia tour of India for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy," said BCCI secretary Jay Shah in a statement.

Iyer had posted a few videos of his intense rehab programme at the NCA in Bangalore under trainer S Rajnikanth.

India have taken a 1-0 lead in the four-match Test series after registering an innings and 132-run win against the visitors in Nagpur.

India squad for 2nd Test: Rohit Sharma (C), KL Rahul (vc), Shubman Gill, Cheteshwar Pujara, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KS Bharat (wk), Ishan Kishan (wk), Ravichandran Ashwin, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Ravindra Jadeja, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Umesh Yadav, Suryakumar Yadav.