



DSPL - 733

## ନୂଆ-ଓ ଛାତ୍ରବୃତ୍ତି

ନବୀନ ଓଡ଼ିଶା  
ଯୁବାଙ୍କ ଓଡ଼ିଶା



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ସୂଚନା ଓ ଲୋକସମ୍ପର୍କ ବିଭାଗ

# international

## of the day quote

The path to peace requires us to keep all channels of diplomacy open. Hence, sincere and practical engagement amongst all stakeholders can help improve understanding and reduce the gap between divergent positions

RUCHIRA KAMBOJ | PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF INDIA TO THE UN

The government's plan to raise the medical school enrollment quota by 2,000 is a minimum necessary measure aimed at addressing a shortage of doctors with no room for negotiation or compromise

YOON SUK YEOL | SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT

Mexicans working in the US contribute over \$324 billion annually to the nation's economy in such essential sectors as agriculture, services and construction

ALICIA BARCENA | MEXICAN FOREIGN MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### Zelensky lands in Saudi Arabia

**Dubai:** Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky arrived in Saudi Arabia Tuesday with plans to visit the kingdom's powerful crown prince to push for a peace plan and the return of prisoners of war from Russia. Zelensky's trip comes as Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has sought to position himself as a potential mediator to end the war between Ukraine and Russia — even as Riyadh remains closely aligned with Russia on energy policies through the OPEC+ group of countries.

### PTI to protest on March 2

**Lahore:** Pakistan's jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan's party Tuesday announced a nationwide protest Saturday against the alleged rigging in the February 8 elections that has prevented the party from returning to power. Addressing a press conference after meeting Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan in Rawalpindi's high-security Adiala jail where he is currently incarcerated, the party's Secretary General and its candidate for the prime minister's slot, Omar Ayub reiterated "large scale" rigging in the polls. PTI would stage nationwide protests against the "rigging" in polls alongside other political parties, he was quoted as saying by Geo News.

### Fire at airport, flights delayed

**Astana:** A fire broke out at the international airport in Astana, capital of Kazakhstan, leading to delay of 18 flights, authorities said Tuesday. The fire, which broke out at 7:50 am local time, was controlled at 8:24 am, the press service of the airport said. Passengers at an airport terminal were evacuated to a safe place due to heavy smoke from the fire, according to a statement by the airport, Xinhua news agency reported.

### Man shot dead

**Sydney:** A man was shot dead Tuesday near Sydney's central business district after which a probe has been initiated. Emergency services were called to Stella Street in Fairfield Heights just after 8:30 am local time, New South Wales Police Force said in a statement. After reaching the spot, officers located a man unresponsive on the footpath, who was confirmed dead by paramedics, Xinhua news agency reported.



NATO allies are providing unprecedented support to Ukraine. We have done that since 2014 and stepped up after the full-scale invasion. But there are no plans for NATO combat troops on the ground in Ukraine

JENS STOLTENBERG | NATO SECRETARY-GENERAL

## LANKA TO HELP GAZA CHILDREN

The Sri Lankan government will contribute \$1 million to a fund set up by it to help children in war-torn Gaza who are affected by the Israel-Hamas conflict, it was announced Tuesday



# Biden signals imminent truce in Gaza

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Jerusalem, Feb 27:** US President Joe Biden signaled that a cease-fire in Gaza could be at hand, saying that Israel has agreed to pause its offensive during the upcoming Muslim holy month of Ramadan if a deal is reached to release some hostages held by Hamas.

But both Israel and Hamas downplayed Tuesday the idea that a breakthrough was imminent. The President's remarks came on the eve of the Michigan primary, where he faces pressure from the state's large Arab American population over his staunch support of Israel.

Biden said he had been briefed on the status of talks by his national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, but said his comments reflected his optimism for a deal, not that all the remaining hurdles had been overcome.

In the wake of Hamas' attack on southern Israel October 7, Israel's air, sea and ground campaign in Gaza has killed tens of thousands of people, obliterated large swaths of the urban landscape, displaced 80 per cent of the battered enclave's population and sparked concerns that a famine could be imminent, according to the United Nations. Now the prospect of an in-



sion of Rafah has prompted global alarm over the fate of civilians trapped there. Talks to pause the fighting gained momentum recently and were underway Tuesday. Negotiators from the United States, Egypt and Qatar have been working to broker a cease-fire that would see Hamas free some of the dozens of hostages it holds in exchange for the release of Palestinian prisoners, a six-week halt in fighting and an increase in aid deliveries to Gaza.

The start of Ramadan, which is expected to be around March 10, is seen as an unofficial dead-

line for a deal. The month is a time of heightened religious observance and dawn-to-dusk fasting for hundreds of millions of Muslims around the world. Israeli-Palestinian tensions have flared in the past during the holy month.

"Ramadan's coming up, and there has been an agreement by the Israelis that they would not engage in activities during Ramadan as well, in order to give us time to get all the hostages out," Biden said in an appearance on NBC's "Late Night With Seth Meyers" that was recorded Monday. In separate comments

■ The start of Ramadan, which is expected to be around March 10, is seen as an unofficial deadline for a deal

■ The month is a time of heightened religious observance and dawn-to-dusk fasting for hundreds of millions of Muslims around the world

the same day, Biden said that he hoped a cease-fire deal could take effect by next week.

At the same time, Biden did not call for an end to the war, which was triggered when Hamas militants killed 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducted roughly 250 people, according to Israeli authorities. Israeli officials said Biden's comments came as a surprise and were not made in coordination with the country's leadership. A Hamas official played down any sense of progress, saying the group wouldn't soften its demands.

The Israeli officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the sensitive talks with the media, said Israel wants a deal immediately, but that Hamas continues to push excessive demands. They also said that Israel is insisting that female soldiers be part of the first group of hostages released under any truce deal.

# Pak court indicts Imran, his wife in graft case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Islamabad, Feb 27:** An accountability court in Pakistan Tuesday indicted Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi in the 190 million pounds Al Qadir corruption case, in another blow to the beleaguered former Prime Minister who is currently in jail after being convicted in multiple cases.

Judge Nasir Javed Rana, who replaced Judge Mohammad Bashir as he is retiring in a few weeks, conducted the hearing at Rawalpindi's high-security Adiala jail where the 71-year-old Pakistan-Tehreek-Insaf founder is incarcerated in graft cases as well as the Cipher leak case.

The Al-Qadir Trust case pertains to the settlement of 190 million pounds, which the UK's National Crime Agency sent to Pakistan after recovering the amount from Pakistani property tycoon Malik Riaz Hussain.

Khan and his wife Bushra, who were brought before the court, pleaded not guilty after the judge read the chargesheet in their presence.

Khan was arrested in the same case from the premises



of the Islamabad High Court May 9, 2023. His arrest sparked violent protests across the country, with his protesters attacking military installations. Later, the Supreme Court declared his arrest May 9 as illegal.

In December, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) initiated an investigation against Khan, his wife, and others regarding the alleged acquisition of hundreds of canals of land under the name of Al Qadir University Trust, resulting in a reported loss of 190 million pounds to the exchequer. During the hearing Tuesday, the court said that statements of 58 witnesses will be recorded in the case, Geo News reported.

# Kremlin warns of conflict with NATO



REUTERS

**Kyiv, Feb 27:** A senior Ukrainian official Tuesday welcomed talk of European nations sending troops to Ukraine, but the Kremlin said a conflict between Russia and NATO would become inevitable if European members of the alliance sent in troops to fight.

French President Emmanuel Macron raised the possibility Monday of European nations sending troops to Ukraine, but cautioned that there was no consensus. "This shows, firstly, an absolute awareness of the risks posed to Europe by a militaristic, aggressive Russia," Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak said in a written comment on Macron's statement.

Some 20 European leaders gathered in Paris Monday to send Russian President Vladimir Putin a message of European resolve on Ukraine and counter the Kremlin's narrative that Russia is bound to win a war now in its third year.

"The opening of a discussion on the possibility of direct support of Ukraine by armed forces should be seen as a desire to set the right accents, to highlight the risks more clearly," Podolyak added. He said it was important

French President Emmanuel Macron raised the possibility Monday of European nations sending troops to Ukraine, but cautioned that there was no consensus

at this stage to accelerate the delivery of military equipment to Ukraine.

Asked about Macron's remarks, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said: "The very fact of discussing the possibility of sending certain contingents to Ukraine from NATO countries is a very important element."

Asked what the risks of a direct Russia-NATO conflict would be if NATO members sent their troops to fight in Ukraine, Peskov said: "In that case, we would need to talk not about the probability, but about the inevitability (of a direct conflict)."

A White House official said that the United States had no plans to send troops to fight in Ukraine and that there were also no plans to send NATO troops to fight in Ukraine.

# Oleg Orlov gets 30 months in jail

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Moscow, Feb 27:** A Moscow court Tuesday sentenced a veteran human rights advocate, who spoke out against the war in Ukraine, to two years and six months in prison.

Oleg Orlov, 70, was convicted of "repeatedly discrediting" the Russian army in an article he wrote denouncing the invasion of Ukraine. He has rejected the case against him as politically motivated, telling the court in his closing statement: "I don't regret anything and I don't repent anything."

Orlov was hand cuffed and taken directly into custody from the courtroom.

His verdict concluded a retrial in which Orlov was earlier ordered to pay a fine. Underscoring how little tolerance President Vladimir Putin's government has for criticism of its invasion of Ukraine, the prosecution had appealed, seeking a harsher punishment.

The prosecution claimed that Orlov, co-chairman of the Nobel Peace Prize-winning human rights group Memorial, published the article motivated by hostility "against traditional Russian spiritual, moral and patriotic values" and hatred of the Russian military, independent Russian news outlet Mediazona said Tuesday.

In a statement, Memorial called Orlov's sentence "an attempt to drown out the voice of the human rights movement in Russia and any criticism of the state."

It vowed to continue its work. Tuesday's verdict drew a crowd of dozens of supporters including 18 Western diplomats, Mediazona reported.



Polish farmers with national flags and angry slogans written on boards, protest against European Union green policies that trim their production and against cheap grain and other food imports from Ukraine, in Warsaw, Poland. Farmers have been protesting for weeks across the EU

PTI PHOTO

# Qin Gang resigns from Parliament

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Beijing, Feb 27:** In a surprise move, former Chinese foreign minister Qin Gang, who went missing after he was unceremoniously sacked last year, resigned from China's national legislature ahead of its key annual session next week.

The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), which concluded its session here on Tuesday, said in a statement that the Tianjin Municipal People's Congress accepted Qin's resignation as a delegate to the upcoming annual parliamentary session, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

The NPC regarded as China's rubber-stamp parliament for its routine approvals of the ruling



Communist Party's agenda is due to begin its annual session on March 5 to legislate on a host of new laws and discuss steps to revive the country's economy which is on a slowdown mode.

The NPC statement said Qin has not been dismissed or expelled from the NPC but resigned, according to a report by Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post. Qin, 57, regarded as a close confidant of President

Xi Jinping, was dismissed in July in a big political surprise just after seven months in office.

Later, the NPC passed a resolution sacking Qin and reappointing his predecessor Wang Yi who is also the Director of the ruling Communist Party's Foreign Affairs Commission. This is the first time Qin's name figured in the form of his resignation from the NPC, regarded as a technical requirement.

He was rumoured to have been sacked for an extramarital affair. The announcement of Qin's resignation also coincides with the removal of the sacked former Defence Minister Gen. Li Shangfu from the Central Military Commission (CMC) — the overall high command of the Chinese military headed by Xi Jinping, the Post reported.

# Abu Dhabi's first Hindu stone temple to open on March 1

THE GRAND TEMPLE WAS INAUGURATED BY PRIME MINISTER MODI FEBRUARY 14 DURING A DEDICATION CEREMONY ATTENDED BY OVER 5,000 INVITEES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Abu Dhabi, Feb 27:** The first Hindu stone temple in Abu Dhabi, which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier this month, will be opened to the public from March 1, according to the temple authorities.

The temple has been built by the Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS) Swaminarayan Sanstha on a 27-acre site in Abu Mureikah, near Al Rahba off the Dubai-Abu Dhabi Sheikh

Zayed Highway, at a cost of around Rs 700 crore.

The grand temple was inaugurated by Prime Minister Modi February 14 during a dedication ceremony attended by over 5,000 invitees. From February 15 to 29, overseas devotees who had registered in advance or VIP guests were allowed to visit the temple.

"The temple will be open to the public from March 1 from 9 am to 8 pm. The temple will remain closed for visitors every Monday," a temple spokesperson said. Constructed with 18 lakh bricks



and 1.8 lakh cubic metres of sandstone sourced directly from Rajasthan, the temple has been made in the Nagara style of architecture, just like the recently inaugurated Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

According to the temple authorities, the grand temple has

been built as per an ancient style of construction and creation mentioned in the Shilpa and Shpathayha Shastras, Hindu scriptures which describe the art for mandir design and construction.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has at least 3.5 million

Indians who are part of the Indian workforce in the Gulf. The land for the temple was donated by the UAE government. The BAPS Hindu Mandir is the largest in the entire Gulf region. The UAE has three other Hindu temples in Dubai.

Seven spires representing the seven Emirates of the UAE, carvings of camels, and national bird falcon, are part of the architecture of the stone temple, to give equal representation to the host country.

"The seven spires have idols of deities, including Lord Ram, Lord Shiv, Lord Jagannath, Lord Krishna, Lord Swaminarayan (considered a reincarnation of Lord Krishna), Tirupati Balaji and Lord Ayappa. The seven shikharas represent the seven Emirates of the UAE," Swami

Brahmaviharidas, head of international relations for BAPS, had said.

To give equal representation to the host country, along with animals like elephants, camels and lions that occupy an important place in Indian mythology, the UAE's national bird, the falcon, has also been included in the temple design.

Apart from 15 tales from India, including the Ramayana and Mahabharata, stories from Mayan, Aztec, Egyptian, Arabic, European, Chinese and African civilisations have also been depicted in the temple. While the outer walls of the temple are made using sandstone from India, the interior, made of white Italian marble, is adorned with intricately designed and carved columns and walls.



ନିଃଶୁଳ୍କ ଔଷଧ ସେବା ସୁନିଶ୍ଚିତ  
କରୁଛି 'ନିରାମୟ' ଯୋଜନା  
୫୦୦ରୁ ଅଧିକ ପ୍ରକାର ଔଷଧ ବିନା ମୂଲ୍ୟରେ



OIPR-15001/13/0498/2324



### CAA likely before MCC

New Delhi: The rules for the implementation of the contentious Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 (CAA) are likely to be issued before the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) for the Lok Sabha elections comes into effect, MHA sources said.

### IRREGULAR by MANJUL



The West is still struggling with driverless cars, while we have successfully tested a driverless train

## More power to 'Shakti'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 27: In yet another step towards women empowerment, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced interest-free loans of up to ₹10 lakh for Mission Shakti self-help group (SHG) members, Tuesday. While inaugurating the Mission Shakti Bazaar here, Patnaik said interest-free loans would encourage entrepreneurship among women, advancing the Mission Shakti movement in Odisha. Outlining plans to establish 5,000 Mission Shakti Bazaars over the next five years, the CM said the bazaar aims to facilitate marketing of SHG products across the state. On the occasion, Patnaik re-



leased ₹145 crore towards interest refunds and announced ₹730 crore for uniforms of 70 lakh Mission Shakti SHG members, and 1.5 lakh leaders. Patnaik highlighted that SHGs have received ₹15,000 crore in loans

this year and will receive ₹75,000 crore over the next five years. The CM reiterated the government's commitment towards women's development, considering them integral to the formation of a New Odisha. The Mission Shakti Bazaar will offer over 1,000 products including handicrafts, handlooms, food products, forest products, health and personal care items, traditional jewellery, and home and kitchen products, both online and offline. Mission Shakti Commissioner-cum-Secretary Sujata R Karthikeyan highlighted that interest-free loans for SHGs have bolstered women's economic power, enabling them to go on exposure trips to enhance their entrepreneurial skills.

### Cross-voting mars RS polls

AGENCIES

Bangalore/Lucknow, Feb 27: The Congress suffered a major upset in Himachal Pradesh at the hands of BJP in the Rajya Sabha elections Tuesday which were marred by cross-voting in all the three states, though it won three seats in Karnataka, while all eight BJP candidates emerged victorious in Uttar Pradesh. The Samajwadi Party (SP) suffered a jolt with one of its three nominees facing defeat due to cross-voting by some of its legislators. Polling was held for 10 seats in Uttar Pradesh, four in Karnataka and one seat in Himachal Pradesh. Himachal Pradesh saw cross voting that led to the victory of BJP candidate Harsh Mahajan over Abhishek Manu Singhvi.

The result made it clear that nine MLAs voted in favour of the BJP. At present, the Congress has 40 MLAs, BJP 25 while three are independents in the 68-member Himachal Pradesh Assembly. There was high drama in Uttar Pradesh where amid concerns over cross-voting, SP chief whip Manoj Pandey quit when polling was underway. Eight SP MLAs also did not attend a meeting called by Akhilesh Yadav, Monday. In Karnataka, five candidates were in the fray for the four seats, including D Kupendra Reddy JD(S). Those elected are Ajay Maken, G C Chandrasekhar and Syed Naseer Hussain (all Congress) and Narayansa K Bhandage of the BJP. The election was marred by cross-voting as BJP MLA ST Somashekar voted for Maken, while another party legislator A Shivaram Hebbur abstained from voting.

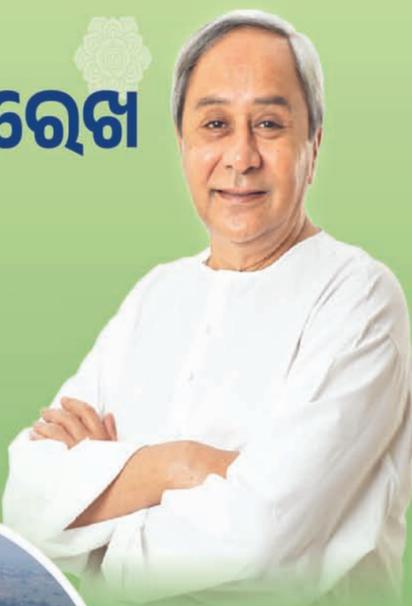
### Grace marks for CHSE students

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 27: The Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE) Tuesday admitted error in the questions of the Plus II Physics exam, while maintaining that grace marks will be awarded to students. CHSE clarified that after the preliminary examination, it has been observed that the questions were not 'out of the syllabus', rather there was 'choice deficit'. The choice deficit was for 19 marks, CHSE Exams Controller Ashok Nayak said. "There was choice deficit for 19 marks in the Physics paper: Not every student will get full grace marks, but marks will be awarded as per attempts made by students and suggestions of the Expert Committee according to the scheme of valuation," he said.



ବଦଳୁଛି ମନ୍ଦିର ଓ ମନ୍ଦିର ଚତୁଃପାର୍ଶ୍ୱର ରୂପରେଖ  
୧୦,୦୦୦ରୁ ଅଧିକ ମନ୍ଦିରର ପୁନରୁଦ୍ଧାର



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**କଳା ଓ ସଂସ୍କୃତିର ସୁରକ୍ଷା ପାଇଁ ମନ୍ଦିର ରୂପାନ୍ତରଣ**

- ଶାନ୍ତିପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଦର୍ଶନ ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା
- ମନ୍ଦିର ଓ ମନ୍ଦିର ପରିସରର ସୌନ୍ଦର୍ଯ୍ୟକରଣ
- ଭକ୍ତ ଓ ଶ୍ରଦ୍ଧାଳୁଙ୍କ ସୁବିଧାକୁ ପ୍ରାଥମିକତା

ସୂଚନା ଓ ଲୋକସମ୍ପର୍କ ବିଭାଗ

OIPR-15001/13/0494/2324

# Nua-O Scholarship in Khurda, Begunia



you achieve the dream of Nua Odisha," he said.

He said that the government's next major initiative will be to cover all the students through futuristic Nabin Odisha Magic Card, a points-system-based smart card which will enable the youths to pursue academic excellence, personality, skill development and employment.

Based on points earned through various activities and parameters, the cards will be upgraded to silver, gold and platinum levels.

"Cards will be allotted and upgraded based on the performance of students in terms of attendance, discipline, academic performance, participation in extracurricular activities, sports, online courses, personality development courses etc," he said.

The 5T Chairman said that the government will take inputs from students and teachers on activities that can also be included in this points system. "The card will be completely technology driven and will be a revolutionary concept towards youth engagement and empowerment," he said.

Notably, online registration portal for this card will be launched March 5. All the students of the UG and PG courses will be eligible for registration and distribution of the card will start August 15th.

During the interaction, the students expressed their excitement to 5T Chairman about receiving the sanction orders. Immediately after the launch of the programme, they reported receiving messages from the bank about transfer of the scholarship amount to their accounts.

students of state government universities, government colleges, and non-government-aided and unaided colleges will benefit.

The scholarship amount for general and OBC male and female students is Rs 9,000 and Rs 10,000 respectively whereas for SC/ST and Nirman Shramik male and female students it is Rs 10,000 and Rs 11,000 respectively.

On the occasion, Pandian said that 16,613 students from Khurda district will get the scholarship amount in their bank accounts by the end of the day. "With this, a total of Rs 16.13 crore has been sanctioned for 16,613 students," he said while distributing Nua-O Scholarship 'Sanction Orders' to the students.

The 5T Chairman conveyed to students message from the chief minister who had wished the students best for their future. "This initiative would help

5T and Nabin Odisha Chairman Kartik Pandian informed that a total of ₹16.13 crore has been sanctioned for 16,613 students

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 27:** As per direction of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, 5T and Nabin Odisha Chairman Kartik Pandian visited Khurda and Begunia Tuesday.

He attended the Nua-O Scholarship distribution programmes at both these places where he interacted with students from 30 colleges of Khurda district. During the interaction, he informed the students about the Nua-O Scholarship under which all eligible PG and UG



**UP IN ARMS:** Members of Odisha State Fishermen Federation stage a protest at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday, seeking fulfillment of their 6-point charter of demands

## Fishermen seek subsidy on diesel, welfare fund

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 27:** A large number of fishermen from the coastal areas of three districts of the state Tuesday staged a protest here, demanding fulfillment of their six-point charter of demands, including social security.

The members of the fishing community, under the banner of Odisha State Fishermen Federation, demanded subsidy in diesel, regular dredging in sea mouths, stopping of draining chemical effluents from industrial units into the sea, ending alleged misbehaviour of

forest department and coast guard officials, and formation of a fishermen welfare fund.

The protestors from Bhadrak, Jagatsinghpur and Kendrapara districts, wearing blue caps and waving blue flags, assembled at Lower PMG in City and alleged that the state government ignored their genuine demands.

"Our lives have become miserable as we have to buy diesel at Rs 94 a litre for operating the fishing boats," the president of the Odisha State Fishermen Federation, Srikant Parida, said.

"Fishing in rivers and the sea is our only source of living. Unfortunately, we have to leave

the waters and take to the streets because of the government's apathy," he said.

Demanding subsidies on diesel, the agitators claimed that at least seven coastal states are providing diesel subsidies to fishermen.

"There is no such provision in Odisha. We have written many times to the government. But nobody is concerned about our plight, another agitator said. So, we have been forced to come to Bhubaneswar to press for our demands," Parida said.

The agitators also demanded the inclusion of fishermen families in the Public Distribution

System (PDS) and other social security schemes during fishing bans.

The state government bans fishing near the coast for three months, April 15 to June 14 every year, to protect brood fish and provide an undisturbed breeding ground. The fishermen cannot work due to adverse calamities like cyclones and low-pressure areas. As many as 15 lakh families are victims of the state government's apathy, they alleged.

They also demanded dredging of river mouths. They said the fish catch has been dwindling due to the closure of river mouths.

## President on 4-day Odisha visit from today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 27:** President Droupadi Murmu will begin her four-day Odisha visit from Wednesday during which she will attend programme in six districts, officials said.

Murmu will first visit Kiching in Mayurbhanj district to offer prayers at Maa Kichakeswari Temple.

She will lay the foundation stone for the Central Government Holiday Home at Rairangpur. Also, she will virtually lay the foundation stones for various road projects and a Sports Complex as well as inaugurate Eklavya Model Residential School at Barsahi.

February 29, the President

### Murmu to attend UU convocation Feb 29



**Bhubaneswar:** President Droupadi Murmu will attend 53rd convocation of Utkal University as the chief guest February 29, informed university vice chancellor Sabita Acharya here Tuesday. The ceremony, which will be held at the

Dikhyant Bhawan on the university premises, will be attended by Governor Raghuraj Das, Higher Education and Cooperatives, Food Supply and Consumer Welfare Minister Atanu Sabayasachi Nayak. Recognising their contributions to society, the university will present honorary degrees to Pramod Kumar Mishra, principal secretary to the Prime Minister, Mrityunjay Mohapatra, director general of the Indian Meteorological Department, and Satish Pal, director of Hindalco Industries Limited. On this occasion, 166 PhD degrees and 95 gold medals to exceptional scholars will be conferred. Moreover, 106 individuals, including winners of various competitions, will be given prizes and cash awards for their achievements.

will interact with the members of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group of Kadalibadi vil-

lage at Gonasika, Keonjhar. She will inaugurate a national seminar on "Tribes of Keonjhar:

People, culture and heritage' and address the students of Dharanidhar University.

March 1, Murmu will grace the 25th convocation of Berhampur University at Bhanja Bihar. Later at Cuttack, she will attend the golden jubilee celebration of Brahma Kumaris, Odisha.

The next day, the President will visit various places related to Santha Kabi Bhima Bhoi in Sambalpur district of Odisha. She will also meet the followers of the Mahima Cult at Mini Stadium, Sambalpur.

Earlier, Chief Secretary P K Jena directed all the district collectors and superintendents of police to make arrangements for a smooth tour of the President.

### Guv inaugurates CHIASHMA-2024

**Bhubaneswar:** AIIMS Bhubaneswar played a pivotal role in fighting Covid in the state, said Governor Raghuraj Das while inaugurating CHIASHMA-2024, the student's festival of AIIMS Bhubaneswar here Tuesday. During his first visit to the institution, Das wished AIIMS Bhubaneswar to become the nation's top medical institution while expressing his happiness over inclusion of sports, culture and literature events in CHIASHMA. "Amalgamation of students from different institutions of the nation will certainly make this mega event a grand success fulfilling the true sense of unity in diversity," added Das. Executive director Ashutosh Biswas welcomed the Governor to the premiere health institute. Among others, dean PR Mohapatra, MS Dillip Kumar Parida, registrar Debapriya Bandyopadhyay, DDA Rasmi Ranjan Sethy and students union president Dibyajyoti Panda shared the dais with the Governor. The college fest, organised by students association of AIIMS, Bhubaneswar will continue till March 3.

### ₹718cr sanctioned for NH-59 expansion

**New Delhi:** Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari Tuesday said Rs 718.26 crore has been sanctioned for widening and strengthening of Daringbadi Ghat section on National Highway-59, spanning Kandhamal and Ganjam districts. The project cleared under the annual plan for financial year 2023-24 covers a total length of 26.96 km. The minister said the Daringbadi Ghat segment currently experiences challenges due to a narrow carriageway and suboptimal geometrics, causing long-route vehicles from western Odisha to bypass NH-59. As a prominent tourist destination, especially during winter, enhancing this stretch will elevate highway standards, bolster safety and ensure all weather-connectivity along NH-59, Gadkari added.

## Now, state to conduct tiger census every year

Forest department will procure more trap cameras to monitor movement of tigers in Similipal Tiger Reserve



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 27:** The state government has decided to conduct tiger census every year in order to keep a tab on the tiger population and prepare strategy accordingly, a senior Forest department officer said, Tuesday.

Odisha now has 30 tigers and eight cubs, according to the All Odisha Tiger Estimation 2023-24 conducted by the state government between October 15, 2023 and February 10, 2024 in 47 forest divisions.

The tiger population of the state was 20 in 2022.

"The survey report shows that tiger population rose in Odisha. The state government has already asked the Forest department and the wildlife wing to conduct a yearly census and to keep a tab on the tiger population so that we can manage our strategies," Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) Susanta Nanda told reporters.

The next census report will be released next year, Nanda

said.

The Forest department will procure more trap cameras to monitor movement of tigers in Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR).

Of the 30 tigers sighted, a total of 27 adult tigers - 14 females and 13 males - were camera-trapped in Odisha during the All Odisha Tiger Estimation exercise. The other three big cats were found in three other forest areas.

"Earlier, the tigers were moving within the core area of the STR. But now, they are roaming outside the core area. So, more trap cameras are needed to monitor their movement and behaviour even in the rainy season," he said.

In total, 13 adult tigers - seven females and six males - were found to be pseudo-melanistic in Similipal.

Pseudo-melanistic tigers appear black as the black stripes are far more prominent than other Royal Bengal Tigers.

No other wild habitat in the world has such pseudo-melanistic tigers.

### CLASSIFIED

#### ACCOMMODATION

Free accommodation for Senior Citizen & Mentally ill persons with all facilities. Contact: 9337160036, 7325991853.

#### AFFIDAVIT

I, Pradyumna Kumar Satpathy, Son of late Baidyanath Satpathy, Resident of VIM-01, Sailashree Vihar, Bhubaneswar -751021 declare by this affidavit No.- 65AA311357, dated 26 Feb. 2024 that now I shall be known as Pradyumna Satpathy, Resident of VI B 2/2, Unit -3, Kharabela Nagar, Bhubaneswar -751001, Odisha for all future purposes.

### POLITICKLE by MANJUL



## FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

## Bill Gates in City

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 27:** Microsoft co-founder and philanthropist Bill Gates arrived in the Odisha capital Tuesday night, and is scheduled to attend several programmes Wednesday, including one with focus on use of artificial intelligence (AI) for farmers.

Besides meeting Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Gates will attend other functions related to Jaga Mission (scheme for development of slums), MUKTA (localised employment opportunities for the urban poor) and Mission Shakti, officials said.

## MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	73095.22	↑ 305.09
NIFTY	22198.30	↑ 76.30
DOLLAR	82.89	↑ ₹0.01
EURO	89.93	↑ ₹0.01
GOLD	₹62,260	↑ ₹111
SILVER	₹ 68,985	↓ ₹445

## WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	32.9°C	32.0°C
TEMP MIN	18.8°C	18.5°C
Humidity	64%	63%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Light to moderate rain	



RESCUE OPS: Nepal's Armed Police Force personnel carry out a cable car rescue operation at Chandragiri Hills. PTI PHOTO

## PM likely to visit Odisha in March 1st week: Samal

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 27:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit Odisha during the first week of March, state BJP president Manmohan Samal said, Tuesday.

If the PM's visit takes place, it will be his second trip to the state within a month.

Stating that the date of Modi's visit is yet to be decided, Samal said the PM will hold a public meeting at Chandikhole in Jajpur district, considered a stronghold of the ruling BJD.

"I will share the exact date and itinerary once we get the details," he told reporters here.

## Boost to sports infra

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 27:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced redevelopment of the historic Barabati stadium in Cuttack and laid foundation stone for the redevelopment of VSS cricket stadium in Sambalpur, Tuesday.

He said the Barabati stadium will be redeveloped into a world-class sports complex with all the modern facilities in partnership with BCCI, OCA and corporates.

"Considering the legacy of the stadium, the iconic clock tower will be conserved as a heritage structure. The VSS stadium in Sambalpur will be expanded and developed with the best cricket facilities for the cricketers in the region," Patnaik said.

Integrated Sports Complex will be created at Sitalapalli in Berhampur which will include facilities for athletics, football, cricket and indoor stadium to cater to the needs of the sportspersons in the region.

The CM inaugurated the Ganjam Weightlifting Academy along with the 200-seat hostel making it the largest weightlifting training facility in the country. He said it is a tribute to the popularity of weightlifting in Ganjam, which produced so many weightlifters.

Several sports infrastructure in Jajpur like Kusuma Complex Swimming Pool, Hockey Training Centre, a multipurpose indoor stadium, athletic track and football ground were inaugurated.

On the occasion, Patnaik also laid the foundation stone for integrated sports complexes at Bargarh and Dhenkanal, which includes various facilities like athletic tracks, swimming pools, football grounds and cricket ground.

The program was conducted across 50 venues over video-conferencing and a large number of sportspersons participated in the program.

OCA members, including president Pranab Prakash Das, Sports and Youth Services Minister Tusharkanti Behera and a huge number of cricketers participated in the program at Barabati stadium.

## PM names 4 IAF pilots for Gaganyaan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Thiruvananthapuram/New Delhi, Feb 27:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday announced the names of the four astronauts—all IAF fighter pilots—for India's ambitious maiden human spaceflight mission Gaganyaan scheduled for next year.

Modi, who disclosed the names of the four astronaut-designates during his visit to the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) at Thumba, near



Thiruvananthapuram, also handed the 'astronaut wings' to the pilots of the Indian Air Force (IAF), who are currently undergoing rigorous training at various facilities in the country. They also underwent training for 13 months in Russia.

Addressing the audience at the space centre, the prime minister introduced to the nation Group Captains Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, Angad Pratap, Ajit Krishnan, and Wing Commander Shubhanshu Shukla. The IAF pilots aged between

39-48 years have a flying experience in the range of nearly 2,000-3,000 hours, according to IAF officials. Two of them are recipients of the prestigious 'Sword of Honour'.

Modi hailed the astronauts as "four forces" representing the aspirations of India's 140 crore people.

He also emphasised the significance of the country's first crewed space mission, noting that after four decades, an Indian is poised to venture into space.

DSPL-738

### Inauguration & Foundation stone laying of

# Science Centres and Planetariums

by

## Sj. Naveen Patnaik

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha

### 28th February 2024

SCIENCE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

- District Science Centre, Jeypore, Koraput
- Planetarium, Rayagada
- District Science Centre and Planetarium, Ghatgaon, Keonjhar
- District Science Centre and Planetarium, Baripada, Mayurbhanj
- Foundation stone laying for establishment of District Science Centres at Kalahandi, Gajapati, Boudh, Nuapada, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur and Jharsuguda.

Transforming the Science Landscape | Empowering Scientific Temper

Department of Science and Technology, Government of Odisha

OIPR-28001/13/0009/2324

FOCUS NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY

# AN INSPIRING LEGACY



The dismal performance in R&D sector can be attributed to the poor quality of research work in the country, pitiable market value for its products and the lengthy period of research by an individual and lack of patronage and support from the private sector to fund the research

predominant scattering of the blue wavelength of the sunlight by the water particles. It theoretically proved the Rayleigh explanation wrong and, hence, represented the unfolding of a revolutionary idea from the Eastern world breaking the monopoly of the scientific supremacy of the West. Thirdly, Raman quit the lucrative post of Assistant Accountant General in 1907 held in the Indian Financial Service in Kolkata to join as the Palit Professor of Physics in the University of Calcutta at nearly half of the salary just because of his sheer love for scientific research. Fourthly, although two contemporary Russian physicists namely GS Landsberg (1890-1957) and LI Mandelstam (1879-1944) were also working on the same field of scattering of light by liquid particles and almost have discovered the Effect, it was the wisdom of Raman who mailed the paper first to the British journal 'Nature' for publication to write his name among the Nobels. Finally, the fact that Raman discovered the Effect with the help of a spectrometer that cost hardly five hundred rupees at that time proved that path-breaking discoveries in science can also be achieved even by one's own ingenuity and original approach rather than the instrumentation superiority of a country.

For a developing country like India, research is not just a scientific pursuit, but a vehicle for economic awakening, societal transformation, inclusive growth and people's empowerment that leads to the ultimate goal of national development. Hence, pursuing a career in scientific research at individual level and establishing a right ecosystem for bolstering this base at government's level are worth delving into this field. Raman's rich legacy would continue to be a torch bearer for us in this field!

Education Officer, Regional Science Centre, Bhopal.

National Science Day marks the landmark discovery of the Raman Effect by our eminent physicist Sir CV Raman on 28 February, 1928 and his subsequent felicitation of the coveted Nobel Prize as the first Asian in Physics. This marked the beginning of a new culture of scientific research and innovation in the country with subsequent researchers like Homi J. Bhabha, Vikram Sarabhai and Meghnad Saha following up with many outstanding contributions in science and technology. However, it is lamenting to note that despite this rich legacy in scientific pursuit, Indian youth currently are more attracted to careers in technology rather than fundamental research in science. This is the reason why the country is now lagging far behind other emerging nations in the field of scientific research. It is also shocking to note that the country has not been able to produce a second Nobel Prize winner in science even 94 years after Raman.

The state of poor scientific research in India is evident from the fact that the country reportedly has only 140 researchers per 1,000,000 population as compared to 4,651 in the United States and that India ranks 34th in global spending on scientific research and development as India's Gross Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD) in science and technology stands around a meagre 0.7 per cent of its GDP. This is far lower compared to nations like Israel (4.6 per cent), South Korea (4.5 per cent), Japan (3.2 per cent), Germany (3.0 per cent), the United States (2.8 per cent), France (2.2 per cent), the United Kingdom (1.7 per cent), Canada (1.6 per cent), China (2.1 per cent), Brazil (1.3 per cent) and Russia (nearly 1 per cent). India also has fewer world class research institutes and universities to catalyze and support its research activities.

Indian research and manufacturing industries, both in the private and the public sectors, filed only 1428 international patent applications in 2014 as compared to 42,381 filed by Japan, 25,548 by China, and 13,117 by South Korea.

The dismal performance in our R & D sector can be attributed to the poor quality of research work in the country, pitiable market value for its products and the lengthy period of research by an individual and lack of patronage and support from the private sector to fund the research. It is also shocking to note that most Indian companies including those in the IT and infrastructure sectors spend only less than one per cent of their revenues on R & D.

The life of Raman has several important points that should be imbibed by our young generation today. Raman published

his first scientific paper entitled "Unsymmetrical diffraction bands due to a rectangular aperture" in the British journal "The Philosophical Magazine" in 1906 while he was an 18-year-old graduate student. This shows that inclination for path-breaking discoveries should be occupied in one's mind at the very early age. Second, he contradicted with Lord Rayleigh, an established British physicist of that time regarding the explanation for the blue colour of the sea which was believed to be due to the reflection of the blue sky. Rather than being dogmatic in accepting the prevailing view, Raman carried out a series of improvised experiments from the deck of a steamship named SS Narkunda amidst the Mediterranean Sea during his return voyage from Southampton to Bombay in 1921 to conclude that the blue colour of the sea was actually due to the



Nikunja Bihari Sahu

INDIA'S GROSS EXPENDITURE ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY STANDS AROUND A MEAGRE 0.7 PER CENT OF GDP

## Hate Eats Hater

India had to bear with on an average two anti-Moslem hate speech events per day in 2023 and not surprisingly three in every four of those events – or 75 per cent – occurred in states ruled by the BJP. More significantly, the flurry of these speech events peaked between August and November, 2023 when political campaigning and polling in four major states, including Karnataka and Rajasthan, were held. This is the sum and substance of a report released by India Hate Lab (IHL), a Washington, DC-based research group that has adopted this weird name.

As India is, once again, getting ready for elections to the Lok Sabha, the dates of which are to be announced shortly, the IHL in a first-of-its-kind report maps the spread of anti-Moslem hate speech across the country. The group documented a total of 668 hate speech events. The Indian government rendered the website of IHL inaccessible last month under the controversial Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000. The government also blocked the website of Hindutva Watch, an independent hate-crime tracker also run by IHL's founder.

The new report is a first ever attempt by a research group to have tracked hate speech events spread over a year across India, the agents provocateur and the reasons for their occurrence. These hate speeches, as examined by the group, took place across 18 states and three Union Territories. The top-ranking states for these events were Maharashtra accounting for 118 incidents, Uttar Pradesh with 104 incidents and Madhya Pradesh with 65 incidents. The three states have among the biggest voter bases and are currently ruled by the BJP.

While all these facts are undeniable and true, the global menace of Islamist radicalisation cannot be ignored. India has had, for a very long time, political parties in power, both at the Centre and in states which have pandered to the minority communities simply with the idea of cornering their votes. The vote bank drive went far enough that it eventually helped in creating an equally strong hate group which has successfully fascinated the Hindus in the past decade. A global look may disturb those who speak against Hindus. The manner in which Islamic radicalisation is acting out from Spain to the United Kingdom and from France to the Netherlands is a clear indication that history helped India make a course correction. This is not to be misconstrued as a support for hate speeches or any current violent political agendas that are spreading their tentacles across the nation. One needs to remember the constant killings, blasts and terror attacks of the 1990s and 2000s where the mischief mongers did not stay limited to North India alone but spread their wings to Bombay, Calcutta and Hyderabad and other parts of the country. The leaders of the minority communities did not think it necessary to condemn openly nor did they take actions to curb involvement of their youth in such activities at those times. The constant news of police going on Red Alert in different parts of the country had eventually become a soft joke on the Indian establishment. This also should not be misunderstood as if the Establishment has suddenly become more efficient and transparent. On the contrary, the Indian establishment seems to have gone into further slumber. Examples of this can be seen from Pulwama to Galwan. Such incidents, albeit being painted as nationalistic sacrifices also glaringly showcase the inefficiency and unpreparedness of the government machinery which no political party in power has yet been able to change or mend. Therefore, while the world, especially the West, is witnessing a surge of Islamist radicalisation and connected violence, India has been spared from that scourge internally. Whether this governmental attitude should be utilised for garnering votes is a matter of deep reflection because hate eventually destroys the hater.

### WISDOM CORNER

Nothing is more noble, nothing more venerable than fidelity. Faithfulness and truth are the most sacred excellences and endowments of the human mind.  
MARCUS TULLIUS CICERO

You cannot hope to build a better world without improving the individuals. To that end, each of us must work for his own improvement and, at the same time, share a general responsibility for all humanity, our particular duty being to aid those to whom we think we can be most useful.  
MARIE CURIE

Old friends pass away, new friends appear. It is just like the days. An old day passes, a new day arrives. The important thing is to make it meaningful: a meaningful friend - or a meaningful day.  
DALAI LAMA

### THIS DAY IN HISTORY

**1827:** The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad became the first steam-operated railway in the United States to be chartered as a common carrier of freight and passengers.

**1942:** During World War II, Japanese troops landed on the island of Java, which they occupied until 1945.

**1983:** The final episode of the immensely popular TV series M\*A\*S\*H aired and was watched by an estimated 106 million viewers.

**1986:** Olof Palme assassinated. Palme, the internationally prominent prime minister of Sweden (1969-76, 1982-86) whose strong pacifist beliefs included opposition to the Vietnam War, was assassinated this day in Stockholm in 1986. Even though over 130 people have confessed to the murder, the case has never been solved.

**1991:** The Persian Gulf War, an international conflict that was triggered by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, ended as Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein accepted a cease-fire agreement. The armed conflict had lasted a little over half a year and claimed over 100,000 civilian casualties.

**2013:** Pope Benedict XVI resigns. The pope whose birth name is Joseph Ratzinger was the first leader of the Catholic Church to resign since 1415.

### LOL Three men fishing

Three guys were fishing in a lake one day, when an angel appeared in the boat.

When the three astonished men had settled down enough to speak, the first guy asked the angel humbly, "I've suffered from back pain ever since I took shrapnel in the Vietnam War ... Could you help me?"

"Of course," the angel said, and when he touched the man's back, the man felt relief for the first time in years. The second guy who wore very thick glasses and had a hard time reading



and driving. He asked if the angel could do anything about his poor eyesight. The angel smiled, removed the man's glasses and tossed them into the lake. When they hit the water, the man's eyes cleared and he could see everything distinctly. When the angel turned to the third guy, the guy put his hands out defensively -- "Don't touch me!" he cried, "I'm on a disability pension."

### IN JEST THIS

## Why kangaroos are not spotted in India

Every now and then, a particular topic fascinates me. After learning some key facts, I try to answer a few of the burning questions that people have. This week, I've been thinking about marsupials. What sparked my interest was an article about a man in the US city of New Orleans who had his marsupial seized by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF).

The 50-year-old man, William Voiles, had raised his marsupial for an entire year, rescuing it as an infant and becoming quite attached to it. Named Saffron, it was part of a group of animals he owned, including a rabbit and two dogs. But on a recent day, the LDWF took Saffron away, leaving the poor man marsupial-less.

To be more specific, he was opossum-less. LDWF seized his opossum because it's considered a wild animal and he did not have a permit to keep it.

Opossums are the only native marsupial on the entire continent of North America. The Australian continent, on the other hand, is home to more than 200 marsupial species, including kangaroos, wallabies, wombats, koalas and Tasmanian devils.

What distinguishes marsupials from other mammals, as you probably know, is the pouch that a female has, allowing her premature infant, known as a joey, to continue developing there. It's similar to the wraps or slings that some human mothers use to carry their babies around, except only a few of these babies are called Joey. Perhaps the most famous Joey was Joey Tribbiani from the popular TV sitcom "Friends." Not many people remember this, but "Joey" was the name of a spinoff series starring Matt LeBlanc. It lasted two years, from 2004 until the fateful day in 2006 when the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries seized Joey.

**Now that I've given you a brief introduction to marsupials, let's get to your questions:**

**Question:** I've heard that kangaroos are occasionally spotted in India. Is this true?

**Answer:** No, kangaroos in India are never spotted. They're al-

ways the same colour throughout their bodies. Kangaroos are a fairly common sight in India, mostly because they have to travel to compete in cricket. But the cricket-playing Kangaroos are not the same as the wild kangaroos: they have pockets, not pouches, and they use more slang. Wild kangaroos can be found in a few Indian zoos, and smugglers sometimes bring them into the country illegally. That's why a few were found in West Bengal last year. If you happen to see a kangaroo, I have only one piece of advice: please do not call the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. They will take the kangaroo into custody and you will never see it again.

**Q:** If a marsupial is taken to Mars, will it be known as an earthupial?

**A:** No, it will be called a Muskupial, named after Elon Musk, the only human crazy enough to take a marsupial to Mars.

**Q:** If there are about 100 species of marsupials in South America,

why is there only one species found in North America?

**A:** Just ask any scientist and they will tell you that it is because of the strict border policies of Donald Trump. Actually, Joe Biden has been in power for the last three years and there has been no influx of marsupials. What's clear to me is that the marsupials of South America are quite happy there. They don't want to leave, like the kangaroos did. Yes, it may surprise you to learn that marsupials originated in South America. Millions of years ago, South America and Australia were both connected to Antarctica, allowing many marsupials to move to Australia. Kangaroos flourished in Australia. Today, Australia has many more kangaroos than people, despite immigration policies that greatly favour people over kangaroos.

**Q:** Is it true that a group of kangaroos is called a mob?

**A:** Yes, that's why celebrities like to travel to Australia. They are guaranteed to be mobbed.

### Science for humanity

Sir, February 28 marks National Science Day, commemorating CV Raman's pivotal discovery of the Raman Effect. It serves as a platform to recognise and celebrate India's profound history of scientific accomplishments. The 2024 theme, "Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat," revealed by Union Minister Jitendra Singh, underscores India's commitment to nurturing innovation and attaining self-reliance across diverse scientific disciplines. India's role in scientific progress, spanning AI, astronomy, renewable energy, biotechnology, and space research, is gaining significance. Achievements like the Chandrayaan landing and resilient vaccine development during the COVID-19 pandemic highlight India's global scientific prominence. This theme not only signifies a new era but also provides an opportunity for collaboration among the public and scientific community, both domestically and internationally. It emphasises working together to contribute to the well-being of India and humanity. The focus on making India self-reliant through science underscores the importance of addressing subjects crucial for humanity. National Science Day extends beyond acknowledging accomplishments, aiming to raise awareness of science and its practical applications. It underscores the importance of public appreciation for science, technology, and innovation, providing a platform for both domestic and international collaboration. This celebration promotes a collective endeavour to address global challenges using indigenous technologies. In 2024, National Science Day commemorates historical achievements while ushering in a new era of collaboration and innovation. It serves as a guide for scientists, policymakers, and the public, fostering improvements for India and humanity.  
Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

### Voters' right

Sir, It is encouraging to note that Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar has agreed to in principle the need for providing voters a legal right to know about the feasibility of fulfilling poll assurances made by political parties. No political party has any right to deceive the public by making false promises knowing full well that such promises shall never be fulfilled. In fact, the need of the hour is to make false promises punishable under law. Since the matter is sub-judice in the apex court we must wait in patience how this sensitive matter is addressed by the top court and adequate justice is done to voters.  
Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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

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



# AP'S 'POWER' GAME

## 1 killed, 5 injured as truck rams into auto-rickshaw

## Man kills father, sets body on fire

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Nandapur, Feb 27:** The ongoing border dispute between Odisha and Andhra Pradesh has reached another level as, this time, the neighbouring state is playing spoilsport in supplying electricity to Raipahad village under this block of Koraput district.



A transformer installed by Odisha government at Raipahad village OP PHOTO

According to sources, power discom Tata Power South Odisha Distribution Ltd (TPSODL) has completed all the ground works for electricity supply to the households of Raipahad and has installed transformer as well as utility poles. However, Andhra Pradesh electricity department was quick enough to install all the required infrastructure and supply power to the households of Raipahad spoiling Odisha's move. Now, the houses of Raipahad have been lit up with power supplied by Andhra. TPSODL has put up utility poles from Dumuriguda to Raipahad and even installed a transformer in the village. However, in a bid to strike a chord with Raipahad villagers, Andhra lost no time and connected the households with power supply before Odisha

could do it. This has left the district administration red-faced while the neighbouring state is drawing appreciation from some of the villagers.

On the other hand, the villagers and public representatives of Golor panchayat alleged that Raipahad village has been deprived of the benefits of the developmental initiatives as the district administration and block officials have remained silent. Sources said the non-descript Raipahad village in Golor panchayat under Nandapur block is situated on the border of the

neighbouring state. The neighbouring state is frequently straying into the village and trying to wear away the villagers from Odisha by implementing various developmental projects and doling out the benefits of welfare schemes.

This has created dispute between the two states for which the officials of both the states had twice held meetings to sort out the issues. However, Andhra had failed to give any proof on its claim over Raipahad village and agreed to withdraw from the village.

It also decided to stop all the developmental works it is implementing in the village and stopped power supply which it had started in the village. However, it went back on its promise and resumed power supply to the village much to the chagrin of the district administration and block officials.

TPSODL engineer Bikash Choudhury said two project executive engineers of the department visited Raipahad village and supervised the electrification works. They have informed that the power supplied by Andhra should be disconnected first before Odisha could connect the households with power.

The state government has awarded houses under Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana to all the households in the village. Some of the villagers have already started building their houses under the scheme.

Locals have demanded the district administration and block officials to visit their village and resume power supply to their village by disconnecting the supply from Andhra side.



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Digapahandi, Feb 27:** In a tragic incident, one person was killed and five others sustained serious injuries when the auto-rickshaw they were travelling in was hit by a speeding truck coming from opposite direction near Rajpur Chhak on Digapahandi-Aska main road under this police limits in Ganjam district, in the wee hours of Tuesday.

The deceased was identified as Ram Paraja, a resident of Katinikund village under Baipariguda police limits in Koraput district. The critically injured persons were identified as Ram Paraja, Phulamati Paraja and Kuni Paraja, residents of Katinikunda village, Purandar Sandha of Butapani village and auto driver Ramesh Chandra Sahu of Sahaspur village under

Patapur police limits.

According to sources, the ill-fated auto-rickshaw (OR-07 X-9093) was carrying five labourers on its way to a brick kiln near Patapur when the three-wheeler collided head-on with a plastic pipe laden truck (OD-05 BF-8929) leading to the death and injuries. The auto-rickshaw was badly damaged in the mishap, the source added.

Some locals rescued the injured and rushed them to Digapahandi community health centre (CHC) for treatment. Later, they were shifted to MKCG Medical College and Hospital (MKCGMCH) in Berhampur after their conditions deteriorated. While undergoing treatment, Ramnath Paraja died at the hospital. Digapahandi police reached the spot and began a probe.

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sambalpur, Feb 27:** Sadar police Tuesday arrested a man for allegedly killing his father over a feud and setting ablaze his body at Saharpada village late Monday night.

The deceased was identified as Lingaraj Kumara, 60, and the accused as Aditya Kumara of the village.

As per reports, Lingaraj and Aditya got into a heated argument late Monday night. In a fit of rage, Aditya lost his temper and hit his father on his head with a brick. When the latter collapsed on the ground, Aditya bludgeoned his father's head mercilessly with the brick. He then set Lingaraj's body on fire.

On being informed, Sadar police reached the spot, seized the body and sent it for post-mortem. Sadar Police registered a case (54/24) under Section 302 and forwarded Aditya to court Tuesday. Since Lingaraj's wife is already dead and they don't have any other family member to conduct the last rites, the body was handed over to 'Sambal', a leading voluntary organisation in Sambalpur, after post-mortem was conducted.

# Two die, one hurt at Damanjodi plant



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Damanjodi, Feb 27:** In a tragic incident at the construction site of Nalco's Damanjodi plant in Koraput district, two workers died and another sustained grievous injuries when a huge binding iron rod fell on them, Tuesday.

The deceased were identified as Sanat Kunai, 35, and Shama Rajbanshi, 44 of Jharkhand. The injured was identified as Md. Azad Ansari, 32, of Jharkhand. Sources said one contractual worker died on the spot while another succumbed to injuries while being taken to Nalco Hospital.

The injured worker is undergoing treatment at the hospital. The workers were engaged in binding of iron rod when the mishap took place

and the three workers were reportedly trapped under the rods which fell on them.

Damanjodi Police and CISF personnel reached the spot and started an investigation into the matter. The foundation work of new silo (chimney) was underway near the warehouse in Nalco expansion project area. A private firm Jet Works was awarded the tender while the work was being executed by Amulya Constructions, a local consultancy agency.

An effort to contact an official of Amulya Constructions was unsuccessful as his phone was found switched off.

When contacted, Pravat Kumar Das, general manager (security), Nalco admitted that the consultancy agency was executing the work without permit where the accident took place.

The agency had not received the permit from the department concerned. He, however, assured that the security department will tighten the safety measures in coming days.

## 2 held for murder of woman, son

**Berhampur:** Odisha Police have arrested two persons for allegedly killing one of their relatives and her seven-year-old son in Ganjam district, police said Tuesday. The police had February 19 recovered the bodies of D Neelabeni, 28, and her son D Rushi from their residence in Chudialanji village, and sent them for post-mortem. The woman's



husband was in Dubai when the mother-son duo was killed, Berhampur SP Saravana Vivek M said. "She and her son were strangled to death. The accused persons were arrested Monday from Berhampur," he said. The accused, including a woman, killed Neelabeni and Rushi because the deceased woman had come to know about their illicit relationship, the SP said. Neelabeni warned them to disclose their relationship before the husband of the accused woman, the SP said.

## 'Abha Shakti' empowers women

**Bhubaneswar:** Recognising the pivotal role women play in transforming societies, Tata Power Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL), a joint venture of Tata Power and state government, has been actively committed to enhancing the lives of women by engaging them in various theme-based activities. One such initiative is the engagement of women self-help groups (SHGs) known as 'Abha Shakti' for billing and collection activities, said a release issued by the discom. To celebrate and acknowledge the significant contributions of 'Abha Shakti' members, TPCODL organised the annual 'Abha Shakti' meet in Angul, Nayagarh and Balugaon electrical divisions. The events witnessed participation of over 525 'Abha Shakti' members where the best performers were honoured for their dedication and diligence.

# Mangala's move throws all off balance

RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

**Rourkela, Feb 27:** At a time when political weather is gradually getting hotter with elections drawing closer, Mangala Kissan, one of the political heavyweights of Sundargarh district and a former minister, has blown the election bugle, though odds are heavily pitted against him in Rajgangpur. His move has certainly thrown all off the balance.



**Political observers, his followers and adversaries alike feel that Mangala Kissan may not be the party nominee from the prestigious Rajgangpur constituency this time**

Political observers, his followers and adversaries alike feel that Mangala may not be the party nominee from the prestigious Rajgangpur constituency this time.

Mangala, an associate of late Biju Patnaik, is 76 and, his health is not on his side. These two reasons have made all to believe that BJD might think otherwise while deciding candidate for the Rajgangpur seat this time.

However, even his detractors admire Mangala's indomitable spirit. "He belongs to the Kissan tribe who are known for their fighting spirit. They don't give up easily," said one of Mangala's detractors.

Recently Mangala was given a royal welcome at the Biju Janata Dal (BJD)

workers' meet where a large number of party supporters from Kutra, Lathikata, Rajgangpur and party members of Rajgangpur urban local body were present. He, as usual, urged his followers to put up a strong fight for the seat and wrest it back from Congress. He also gave them the 'mantra' for the election and how to execute it.

What was more intriguing was the presence of Anil Kissan, his elder son. Everybody was astonished when Anil accompanied his father to the meeting. This was certainly interesting in the backdrop of the rising number of aspirants in the party, and factors against Mangala. One of his critics said, "Why should he be given the ticket when he lost

last time and his health is not supporting him."

However, Anil's presence was surprising as the discussions actually revolved around Mangala's younger son Sunil. This has certainly given an entirely new turn to the rumour mill. When asked, Anil said, "I came here after I got a call to attend the function. I will carry out with dedication whatever duty the party assigns me and also give it a proper conclusion." He ducked more questions.

Meanwhile, Mangala was more politically correct, when he asked whether Anil was his political heir apparent. "Whoever becomes the candidate by our high command Naveen Babu, we will accept him and ensure his victory," he said.



Tourists at a snow-covered area after snowfall in J&K's Bhadarwah



Employees of department of Water take part in a protest during the Uttarakhand State Budget 2024-25 in Dehradun



A climate activist demonstrates outside the high court in London, Britain

REUTERS



Worshippers toss burning joss paper and Chinese vegetarian dishes into the sea at the Jiao Festival in Po Toi Island

SCMP



French Army Chief General Pierre Schill inspects the Guard of Honour during his ceremonial welcome at the South Block in New Delhi

PTI



Demonstrators gather during a vigil outside the Israeli Embassy in Washington

AP



Workers eat food in the field during the construction of a road towards Mahil village in Khunti, Jharkhand

PTI



Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar seeks blessings of his teacher, during a visit to his school in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

PTI

# national

## of the day quote

The TMC were very vocal about violence in Manipur. The Union Home Minister himself went there and spoke to the people, and immediate action was taken

**NIRMALA SITHARAMAN** | UNION FINANCE MINISTER

There is a need to make the INDIA bloc strong so that the country is saved from the disaster the BJP has done in the last 10 years

**FAROOQ ABDULLAH** | NATIONAL CONFERENCE CHIEF

The Budget presented today is full of assurances keeping the elections in mind. The announcements made are big and alluring, actually, it (the budget) is for contractors

**UDDHAV THACKERAY** | SHIV SENA (UBT) LEADER

## SHORT TAKES

### CUET-UG application process begins

**New Delhi:** The Common University Entrance Test (CUET)-UG will be conducted in hybrid mode from May 15-31 in two or three shifts per day and the results will be announced on June 30, the National Testing Agency (NTA) announced Tuesday.

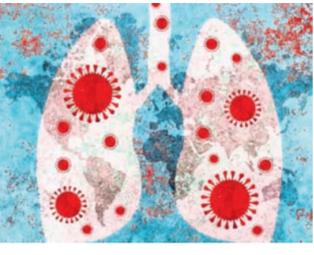
### Five of family killed as car plunges into gorge

**Itanagar:** Five members of a family were killed as their car plunged into a gorge in Arunachal Pradesh's Upper Subansiri district Tuesday, police said. A child was also injured in the accident that happened in the Bopi Godak circle near Daporijo town, they said. The car, which was being driven by one Jarki Paksok, skidded off the road and fell into the deep gorge, they added.

### 4 killed in landslide

**Dantewada:** Four workers were killed in a landslide in an iron ore mine area in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district on Tuesday, police said. The incident occurred around 3 pm in the area under Kirandul police station limits, allotted to the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) for mining, an official said. Two other workers were injured in the incident.

# Indians face high risk of lung damage after severe Covid-19



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Feb 27:** Indians suffer high rates of lung function damage after acute Covid with about half reporting shortness of breath, according to a recent study, a worrying finding that experts attribute to various reasons, including co-morbidities and pollution.

The study by the Christian Medical College, Vellore, is the largest from India to investigate the impact of COVID-19 on lung function. It examined 207 individuals, showcasing substantial impairment in lung function, exercise capacity, and quality of life among recovered individuals.

The study revealed a high prevalence of respiratory symptoms among Indians who recovered, even after a mean of over two months following acute illness, with shortness of breath reported in 49.3 per cent and cough in 27.1 per cent of the cohort. "It is clear from the study that lung

function is affected more in the Indian population compared to data from other countries across every category of disease severity," said study lead researcher D J Christopher, professor of pulmonary medicine at CMC Vellore.

"Although it is impossible to know the exact cause of worse impairment among Indians, co-morbidities may be a factor contributing to lung damage, as our population had much higher co-morbidities than the others," Christopher told PTL. The study, published recently in the journal PLOS Global Public Health, compared data from Europe and China. An Italy-based study, for instance, found dyspnoea or shortness of breath present in 43 per cent and cough in less than 20 per cent of the subjects. The corresponding figures from a Chinese study were also lower than those seen in the Indian study.

However, the CMC study did not cite any specific data from China or from European countries other than Italy.

In terms of co-morbidities, CMS Vellore researchers found 72.5 per cent of individuals reporting underlying health conditions such as diabetes mellitus, systemic hypertension, and chronic lung diseases.

Lung function tests revealed a concerning trend of impairment, particularly in diffusion capacity (DLCO), a sensitive test to assess the lungs' ability to transfer gas from inspired air to the bloodstream, the researchers said.



**We will wait till April 1 and if the Centre does not release the funds for the Awas Yojana, then our government will build the 11 lakh houses for the beneficiaries. There is no need to beg the Centre, remember we are not beggars. We are demanding our rights**

**MAMATA BANERJEE** | WEST BENGAL CM

# CAA rollout likely before poll code

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Feb 27:** The rules for the implementation of the contentious Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 (CAA) for fast-tracking citizenship to undocumented non-Muslim migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan are likely to be issued before the Model Code of Conduct for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections comes into effect.

The Model Code of Conduct (MCC) gets enforced immediately after election schedule is announced, which is likely in next fortnight.

The rules for the CAA are likely to be issued before the MCC comes into effect, sources privy to the development said.

When the rules for the CAA are issued, the Modi government will start granting Indian citizenship to persecuted non-Muslim migrants -- Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis and Christians -- from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan who had come to India till December 31, 2014.

The CAA was passed in December 2019 and it got president's assent subsequently. However, the law could not be implemented so far as rules are a must for its implementation.

There were massive protests in some parts of the country after the CAA was passed by



**THE MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT (MCC) GETS ENFORCED IMMEDIATELY AFTER ELECTION SCHEDULE IS ANNOUNCED, WHICH IS LIKELY IN NEXT FORTNIGHT**

Parliament. Over a hundred people lost their lives during the protests or police action.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has readied a portal for the convenience of the applicants as the entire process will be online.

The applicants will have to declare the year when they entered India without travel documents. No document will be sought from the applicants, an official said.

According to the law, the benefits under the CAA will be given to the undocumented minorities from the three neighbouring countries.

On December 27, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had said that no one can stop the implementation of the CAA as it is the law of the land and accused the

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of misleading people on the issue.

Addressing a party meeting in Kolkata, Shah said it is the BJP's commitment to implement the CAA.

The TMC, led by Mamata Banerjee, has been opposing the CAA since beginning.

The promise of implementing the controversial CAA was a major poll plank of the BJP in the last Lok Sabha and Assembly polls in West Bengal.

The saffron party's leaders consider it a plausible factor that led to the rise of the BJP in Bengal.

According to the Manual on Parliamentary Work, the rules for any legislation should have been framed within six months of presidential assent or seek extension from the Committees on Subordinate Legislation in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

# Govt extends ban on J&K Jamaat-e-Islami for 5 years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Feb 27:** The ban on the Jamaat-e-Islami, Jammu Kashmir (Jel), has been extended by another five years for continuing activities that pose a threat to the security of the nation, Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced Tuesday.

Shah said stringent actions will be taken against any individual who jeopardises the nation's security.

He underscored the government's decision to extend the ban on Jamaat-e-Islami, Jammu Kashmir was in alignment with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism and separatism.

The home minister cited the organisation's persistent engagement in activities deemed detrimental to the security, integrity, and sovereignty of the nation as the primary rationale behind the extension.

"Pursuing PM @narendramodi Ji's policy of zero tolerance against terrorism and separatism the government has extended the ban on Jamaat-e-Islami, Jammu Kashmir for five years," he wrote on X.

The home minister said the organisation is found continuing its activities against the security, integrity and sovereignty of the nation. The outfit was first declared an 'Unlawful Association' February 28, 2019.



In a notification, the Union home ministry said the Jamaat-e-Islami, Jammu and Kashmir, has been indulging in activities which are prejudicial to internal security and public order and have the potential to disrupt the unity and integrity of the country.

The home ministry has listed 47 cases registered against the Jel which includes an NIA case for collection of funds used to encourage violent and secessionist activities.

It said that the funds were also used by the active cadres and members of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, Lashkar-e-Taiba and other terrorist organisations through a well-established network of their cadres to organise violent protests, create public unrest and communal disharmony, thus creating a sense of fear and insecurity in Jammu and Kashmir and all over the country.

## SC comes down heavily on Patanjali

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Feb 27:** The entire country has been "taken for a ride", the Supreme Court said Tuesday while restraining till further orders Patanjali Ayurved, a company co-founded by guru Ramdev and dealing in herbal products, from advertising or branding products meant for treating diseases.

Issuing notices to Patanjali Ayurved and managing director Acharya Balkrishna, the SC asked why contempt proceedings should not be initiated against them for prima facie violating the firm's undertaking given in the court about advertising of its products and their medicinal efficacy.

A bench of justices Hima Kohli and Ahsanuddin Amanullah also cautioned the company and its officers against making any media statements, both in print and electronic, against any system of medicine in any form as stated in their undertaking November 21 last year.

## SNIPPETS

### AAP announces 5 LS poll candidates

**New Delhi:** The Aam Aadmi Party Tuesday announced four candidates from Delhi one from Haryana for the Lok Sabha polls, fielding senior leader Somnath Bharti from the New Delhi seat and former Rajya Sabha MP Sushil Gupta from Kurukshetra. The party announced the five names after a meeting of its Political Affairs Committee chaired by Delhi Chief Minister and the party's national convener Arvind Kejriwal.

### Praful Patel resigns from Rajya Sabha

**New Delhi:** NCP leader Praful Patel has resigned as a member of the Rajya Sabha after being re-elected to the Upper House of Parliament earlier this month. Patel, who had four years left in his fifth term, was fielded in the Rajya Sabha elections as he was facing a disqualification petition filed by the NCP's Sharad Pawar-led faction. "Shri Praful Patel, an elected Member of the Council of States (Rajya Sabha), representing the State of Maharashtra, resigned his seat in the Rajya Sabha and his resignation has been accepted by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha, wef the 27th of February, 2024," a Rajya Sabha bulletin said Tuesday.

### AM Khanwilkar appointed as Lokpal chief

**New Delhi:** Former Supreme Court judge A M Khanwilkar was Tuesday appointed as the chairperson of the anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal, nearly two years after the post fell vacant. President Droupadi Murmu also appointed former Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court Ritu Raj Awasthi, who is at present the chairperson of the Law Commission of India, former Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court Lingappa Narayana Swamy and former Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court Sanjay Yadav as the judicial members in the Lokpal. Former civil servants Sushil Chandra, Pankaj Kumar and Ajay Tirkey have been appointed as the non-judicial members in the Lokpal, according to a communique issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan Tuesday.

**बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा**  
**Bank of Baroda**

**Regional Office, Sambalpur,**  
1st Floor, At: Christianpada, G.M. College Chowk,  
Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha, PIN - 768001

**VEHICLE AUCTION**  
**SALE NOTICE**

Applications are invited from interested bidders for purchase of following vehicles, seized by the Bank on "As is where is basis" as per terms and conditions listed below. This public notice will be treated as a notice to the borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors of the loans. They are hereby advised to be present at the auction venue on the auction date and are free to liquidate their entire dues before the auction date, failing which the vehicles will be auctioned and balance dues, if any will be recovered from them with interest and cost.

Sl. No.	Branch/Contact Number	Name of Borrower	Vehicle No./Chassis No./Engine No.	Make & Model	Month / Year of Manufacturing	Reserve Price / EMD/Bid Increase Amount	EMD deposit A/c. No. / IFSC Code
1.	HOSPITAL ROAD SUNDERGARH BRANCH / 7682829024	Mr. Munna Kumar Sharma, AT/P.O: Sankara, Sundargarh, Odisha-770020	OD16E4636	MARUTI WAGON R VXI	06/2018	₹ 1,26,000/- / ₹ 12,600/- / ₹ 2,000/-	84090015181219 BARBOVJUGA
2.	HOSPITAL ROAD SUNDERGARH BRANCH / 7682829024	Mr. Manbodh Singh, AT/P.O: Katra, Sundargarh, Odisha-770002	OD16D7978	MARUTI SUPER CARRY DIESEL STD (PICK UP VAN)	06/2017	₹ 36,000/- / ₹ 3,600/- / ₹ 2,000/-	84090015181219 BARBOVJUGA
3.	HOSPITAL ROAD SUNDERGARH BRANCH / 7682829024	Mr. Alekha Patel AT: Damahal, P.O: Bilaigarh, Dist.: Sundargarh, Odisha-770011	E3332594 / T053298049AE	TRACTOR (POWERTRAC 434 V MODEL) ESCORT LTD.	03/2016	₹ 63,000/- / ₹ 6,300/- / ₹ 2,000/-	84090015181219 BARBOVJUGA

**Parking Yard : Patel Stock Yard, Amlipali, Sundargarh - 770020**

- Vehicles Inspection Date: 11.03.2024, Time: 1.00 PM
- Last date of submission of online EMD: 11.03.2024 latest by 2:30 PM
- The schedule date of auction to be held on 12.03.2024 from 11.00 AM to 1.00 PM ONLINE PORTAL
- Bid and declaration form along with self-attested Aadhar, PAN, EMD deposit with UTR number to be submitted to Authorised officer on or before 11.03.2024 for getting user ID & password from Auction tiger. (Help Desk No.: 9265562821/9265562819)

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS:**

- Applications accompanied by ID/address proof copy (originals to be verified) and EMD of 10% of Reserve price as applicable for each vehicle in shape of Banker's cheque/Draft drawn in favour of **Bank of Baroda, payable at Concerned Branch** should reach on or before 11.03.2024 upto 2.30 P.M. 2) However the bank reserves the right to accept/reject/cancel the auction process of any/all vehicles at its own discretion at any point of time without assigning any reason whatsoever. 3) Bid amount does not include any statutory tax pending and applicable RTA fees. All these cost are additional and must be borne by the successfully bidder. 4) Dispute pertaining to year of manufacture, documents, condition of vehicle/assets, etc. will not be consider after successful bid. 5) Entry to the event is strictly restricted to the registered bidder only. 6) The refund of EMD will be made within 7 days after the closure of the bidding process to the unsuccessful bidders. 7) Successful Highest bidder has to deposit a minimum amount of 25% of the bid amount inclusive EMD on the same day, failing which the bid taken will not be considered as EMD amount will be forfeited without further intimation. 8) The balance should be paid by the successful bidder within next 15 days from the date of auction. 9) Delayed interest @ 18% p.a. will be charged against any amount due and payable by the successful bidder beyond 15 days from the date of the event, subject to a maximum waiting period of 22 days from the date of auction. 10) Default in payment beyond the stipulated 22 days, will lead to deal cancellation and forfeiture of EMD paid and the vehicle/equipment/machinery will be resold without further information. Acceptance of payment on later date will be sole discretion of Bank. 11) Successful Bidders are fully responsible for taking delivery of all vehicles or equipment from Stockyard after full payment is made. 12) Successful bidders must remove the vehicles/equipments within 7 days from the date of release order along with RC Transfer in to their name.

**Place : Sambalpur, Date: 27.02.2024** **Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda**

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**

File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/23-24/ E-Tender/135, Dt. 21.02.2024

(1) Tender No. e-TENDER-BRIDGEKUR-428-23, Date: 13.02.2024

Description: PROVISION OF PATHWAY ON 23 NOS. MAJOR BRIDGES (PSC GIRDER BRIDGES) UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (BRIDGE)/ KENDUJHARGARH OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approx cost of the work: ₹824.70 lakh, EMD: ₹5,62,400/-

(2) Tender No. e-TENDER-BRIDGEKUR-429-23, Date: 13.02.2024

Description: PROVISION OF SIDE PATHWAY ON 4 NO. BRIDGES, INSPECTION PLATFORM ON 9 NO. BRIDGES & INSPECTION CRADLE ON 10 NOS. BRIDGES UNDER SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (BRIDGE)/NORTH OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approx cost of the work: ₹382.39 lakh, EMD: ₹3,41,200/-

(3) Tender No. e-tender-eastkur-432-2023, Date: 13.02.2024

Description: PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD WITH SIDE DRAIN FROM LEVEL CROSSING NO. CP-8 AT KM. 417/15-17 TO BRIDGE NO. 24 AT KM. 419/7-9 IN CUTTACK-PARADEEP SECTION UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER-II-CUTTACK OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approx cost of the work: ₹293.83 lakh, EMD: ₹2,96,900/-

Completion Period of the work: 18 (Eighteen) Months (for sl. no. 1), 12 (Twelve) Months (for sl. no. 2) and 04 (Four) Months (for sl. no. 3).

Date & time of Tender Closing: 06.03.2024, 1500 hrs.

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

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

Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 10 (ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigenda issued for this tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg./ PR-1125/O/23-24) Khurda Road

# leisure



## DOHERY TALKS ABOUT IMPACT OF CANCER ON HER LIBIDO

Charmed star Shannen Doherty recently talked about the effect cancer has had on her libido. Appearing on the *Let's Be Clear* podcast, she said: "When you're feeling not great about yourself, that's going to kill your libido. "When medicine makes things not as pleasant, sex doesn't feel as good," she said.

## WINSLET FOUND TITANIC FAME 'REALLY HARD'

British actress Kate Winslet has confessed to struggling with fame after the success of *Titanic*. Reflecting on her sudden rise to stardom, Kate told *Extra*: "There were moments that it was definitely really hard." However, the landscape has changed in a dramatic way since then, she added.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com  
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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

**ARIES**  
You will be quite circumspect throughout the day, predicts Ganesh. Your spirits will soar high as you will be invited to join parties and socialise a bit. You will find the correct balance between work and having fun.

**TAURUS**  
It is about time that you stopped running from your problems and stand up and face them, suggests Ganesh. Your loved ones will bask in your material generosity today. You will be magnanimous with the wallet to impress members of the opposite sex. Don't forget that time is also money, advises Ganesh.

**GEMINI**  
You will be afforded full cooperation by your relatives and friends. You will also be able to provide a solution to their problems by utilising your practical thinking. You will be influenced by your emotions while choosing between multiple alternatives. You need to carefully weigh the pros and cons of any decision you make today, says Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
You have always been quite prudent when it comes to spending your hard-earned moolah, yet today you may feel stingier. And, you will rightly be so, for there may be unnecessary burdens and demands made on you by your near and dear ones. Although you will be aware of this, you will still be able to keep them happy, affirms Ganesh.

**LEO**  
You will attempt to reschedule your daily routine to be able to make the most of your day. While it is easy to make plans, implementing them and sticking to them depends on your own discipline and determination. You will become more aware about health issues and pay closer attention to your diet.

**VIRGO**  
A heady mixture of work and partying is on the cards today. The parties may go on well into the night. You will make the right decisions today which will prove to be vital in putting you on the road to success. Ganesh says people will profit by engaging you in their work.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says the higher officials in your work place may be displeased with you and you will face issues with them. Due to this you will feel mentally depressed and down but towards the afternoon you will be able to please them with your impressive work ability.

**SCORPIO**  
Do not get carried away by sentiments and act like an emotional fool, tips Ganesh. Today, you will be in a dilemma as you have to choose between two best things. But, as they say, right choices are always tough to make. Be practical and take the right decision.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
A fresh and renewed you, today all your focus is on your kith and kins. This includes sneaking some time off for your beloved as well! Romantic conversations and intimacy will add some spark to the day. After family, friends too come to take their share. An exciting evening in store for you!

**CAPRICORN**  
It's time to prove your extraordinary skills as a professional, says Ganesh. You will go out of your way, and even double your efforts to accomplish set goals, and chances are that you might succeed. Family and friends will be glad that could take out time to spend some happy hours with them.

**AQUARIUS**  
You will aim for the bull's eye today. Whatever you'll do today, will be done with your focus set firmly on your target, says Ganesh. You will not waste your resource on something unfruitful, and such an attitude will make your journey smoother and faster.

**PISCES**  
You are likely to find yourself as part of a team involved in tackling a difficult project or task today. The role you will play in this Endeavour will be noteworthy. Your efforts will yield excellent results. Everything you touch will turn to gold today, says Ganesh. Make the most of it.



## Nora inks deal with WMG, goes global

**Mumbai:** Nora Fatehi, the singer, dancer, and actress, whose music has already attracted millions of fans and billions of views and streams, has signed a new deal with Warner Music Group (WGM) - her first agreement with a major global record company. The partnership is to promote Nora's global music career.

Nora said, "This deal is a significant step forward in my musical journey. My ambition is to be a global music star and performer, connecting with fans all over the world. I want to use my diverse cultural background to create music and dance that bring everyone together! I'm excited to work with Warner Music to leverage their experience and expertise to help me fulfil this goal."

Robert Kyncl, CEO, WMG, said, "Nora is an extraordinary talent, electric performer, and cross-cultural superstar whose music reflects the rich diversity of her background. Her passion and ambition are infectious and we're excited to help her reach new audiences, places, and heights across the globe."

WGM president Iñonso Perez-Soto, said, "I've been blown away by Nora's stardom. She has the creative ability and sheer stamina you need to become one of the world's biggest artists. We can't wait to put the global resources of Warner Music at her disposal as she starts the next chapter of her music career."

AGENCIES



## Priyamani on negative publicity of Article 370

**Mumbai:** Actress Priyamani is currently rocking the headlines for the recently released *Article 370*, which is based on the revocation of Article 370 and the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

In an interview with a news portal, the *Jawan* actress shared that a segment asserts it to be a propaganda movie. "But when we undertook this film, the primary motivation was to convey to people, 'Listen, there's a historical event like this, and not many are aware of it,'" she said.

Priyamani also mentioned that, before she came on board, she didn't know much about the mission. The actress admitted that it was very insensitive of her. She was not privy to such things earlier. She told herself that the Article was abrogated, but she didn't know the gravity of it. And now she does.

The actress further added that the film didn't take any cinematic liberty, which is a very common usage in cinema. Whatever has been shown is based on real incidents.

Directed by Aditya Suhas Jambhale, the film also features Yami Gautam, Arun Govil, and Kiran Karmakar.

AGENCIES

**Manushi defends her debut movie choice**

**Mumbai:** Back in 2017, Manushi Chhillar stormed into the hearts of every Indian when she won the coveted Miss World title. She later ventured into the world of movies, with back-to-back films. However, both *Samrat Prithviraj* with Akshay Kumar and *The Great Indian Family* with Vicky Kaushal, faced a lukewarm response at the box office.

But the actress, who will now be seen opposite Varun Tej in *Operation Valentine*, shares that, for her debut, she would not have had any other way, despite the movie's performance at the BO.

Talking about it, Manushi shared, "Prithviraj was a pivotal moment for me. So if I were to look back at the result of it, of course, it wasn't as favourable as we would have liked, but I got the best out of it," she added.

She also highlighted, "I don't think I could have asked for a better launch, if I were to look back and look at all the other films that were offered to me, which could have been my debut, I would still make this choice, knowing what the outcome of the film was."

AGENCIES

## John Cena's gratitude to Shah Rukh



**Mumbai:** Shah Rukh Khan and John Cena's recent exchange on X (formerly known as Twitter) has sent waves of excitement across social media platforms. The delightful banter between the wrestling icon and the Indian actor has left fans

ecstatic. It all began when John Cena, known for his love for Indian cinema, shared a video of himself singing Shah Rukh's song *Bholi Si Surat* from the film *Dil To Pagal Hai*. The clip quickly caught

the attention of Shah Rukh. In response to Cena's tribute, the Dunki actor expressed his gratitude, writing, "Thank u both.... Love it and love u @JohnCena, I'm gonna send u my latest songs and I want a duet from the two of u again!!! Ha ha."

In his latest reply, Cena reciprocated the warmth, acknowledging Shah Rukh's immense contribution to spreading happiness globally.

He wrote, "You have given so many in the world so much happiness, thank you for all you do."

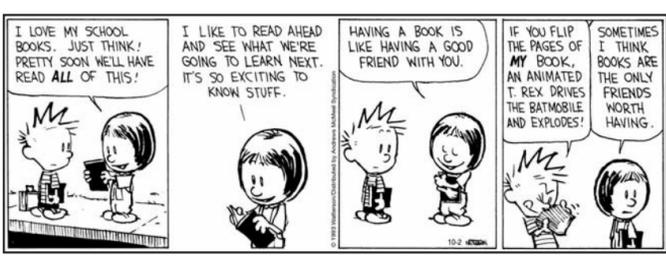
AGENCIES

### FUN post

#### PEANUTS



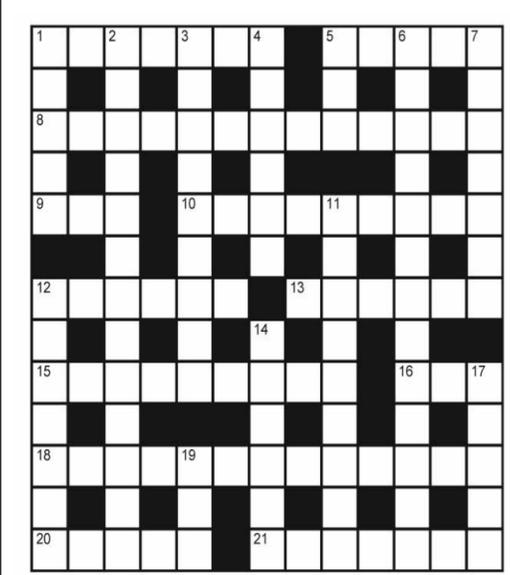
#### CALVIN AND HOBBS



#### BREVITY



#### CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Annoying
  - 5 Uneasy feeling
  - 8 Make a prediction
  - 9 \_\_\_ Aviv
  - 10 Someone worthy of imitation (4,5)
  - 12 Carpet layer's calculations
  - 13 Swindles
  - 15 Surprising occurrence (3,6)
  - 16 Curve
  - 18 Uzi, e.g. (10,3)
  - 20 Remote button
  - 21 Settle
  - 4 Certain tripods
  - 5 Cuckoo bird
  - 6 Heavenly protector (8,5)
  - 7 Espalier
  - 11 Female aristocrats
  - 12 Distress words (3,2,2)
  - 14 Vessel holder
  - 17 Small boat
  - 19 Gallery display
- Down**
- 1 Suggestions
  - 2 Well-educated
  - 3 Property right

#### SUDOKU

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

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

#### SOLUTIONS

**CROSSWORD**

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

**SUDOKU**

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# business



**I believe startups will be backbone of new India. This is our time under the sun, and the sun is rising**  
**PIYUSH GOYAL | UNION MINISTER**

## BITCOIN SCORCHES PAST \$57,000

Bitcoin hit a two-year high Tuesday, on track for its biggest two-day rally this year, as signs large players were buying the cryptocurrency, while smaller rival ether topped \$3,200 for the first time since 2022.



### of the day quote

You were with India during the freedom struggle, you built industry and capacity despite the colonial pressure...So Indian industry has always kept that spirit up and against terrible odds kept moving along on national interest

We are continually growing our capacity to respond quickly to the global markets. It is here that India plays crucial role. Europe is important as a core market, but our strategic focus is on growing a new international foundations so that we can stand on two strong legs

We are now looking beyond the metro cities in India. We have the bilateral rights for Patna and Calicut. We want to connect Madurai, Coimbatore and other Indian cities as well

### SHORT TAKES

#### Coal ministry for diversification

**New Delhi:** The Coal Ministry Tuesday said it is actively encouraging extensive diversification within central public sector units, including Coal India, in line with the country's commitment to varied energy mix. The ministry has two large CPSUs, Coal India Ltd and NLC India Ltd, under its administrative control. "In line with India's commitment to diversifying its energy mix, the Ministry of Coal is actively promoting extensive diversification within CPSEs, establishing pit-head TPPs, solar power plants, coal/lignite gasification plants, and critical mineral exploration," the coal ministry said in a statement.

#### Voda Idea plans to raise ₹45,000cr

**New Delhi:** Vodafone Idea board Tuesday approved a fund-raise of up to Rs 20,000 crore through a combination of equity and equity-linked instruments, the crisis-ridden telco said, adding promoters will also participate in the proposed equity raise. Overall, Vodafone Idea plans to raise around Rs 45,000 crore through a mix of equity and debt, the company said.

## Sebi asks small, mid-cap funds to disclose more about risks

*Small and mid-sized funds have seen high inflows, causing concern among authorities about how they would hold up in the event of a sharp market selloff*

REUTERS

**Mumbai, Feb 27:** India's market regulator has asked the country's asset managers to give investors more information about the risks associated with their small and mid-cap funds, according to a fund manager and two people with knowledge of the matter.

Small and mid-sized funds have seen high inflows, causing concern among authorities about how they would hold up in the event of a sharp market selloff. The Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has also been reviewing stress tests conducted by such funds, sources have previously said.

The funds are being asked to disclose how long it might take to accommodate large redemptions, what impact large outflows could have on the value of the portfolio and how much cash and liquid assets the fund holds to meet outflows, the people said. "Investment committees were always aware of liquidity challenges but investors were not. Once this information is available to them, they can compare each fund," said Harsha Upadhyaya, chief investment officer at Kotak Mutual Fund. The Association of Mutual



Funds in India (AMFI), which is working with SEBI, is proposing a standardised format for the disclosure of risks, he said, adding that the disclosures would be made on a regular basis.

SEBI and AMFI did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Heavy inflows have sent the Nifty small-cap 250 index surging 71% over the past 52 weeks and lifted the Nifty mid-cap 100 index 64%. That far exceeds the benchmark Nifty's 28% rise.

Funds are likely to begin making these disclosures from April, said one of the sources who was not authorised to speak to media and declined to be identified.

Mutual funds tend to keep between 1% and 5% of their assets as cash as a prudent measure to meet outflows, according to public documents. There is, however, no minimum regulatory requirement.

Funds need to invest at least 65% of their assets in small-cap stocks to be categorised as a small-cap fund and the remaining 35% can either be in cash or invested in large-cap stocks. The rule is similar for mid-cap funds.

"In some cases, the funds do not have enough cash. While in others, funds are fully invested in small/midcap stocks with no prudent investments in large-cap stocks," said the second source.

## Indices rebound on gains in heavyweights

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Feb 27:** Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded Tuesday following buying in index major Tata Consultancy Services, Tata Motors and Sun Pharma amid mostly firm global markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 305.09 points or 0.42 per cent to settle at 73,095.22. The index was hit by volatility in the first half of the session but gains in index heavyweights helped the barometer end two sessions of losses. During the day, the Sensex jumped 371.17 points or 0.50 per cent to a high of 73,161.30.

Snapping its two-day falling streak, the broader Nifty ended 76.30 points or 0.34 per cent up at 22,198.35.

Among the Sensex firms, Tata Motors, Tata Consultancy Services, IndusInd Bank, Power

Grid, Bharti Airtel, Sun Pharma, JSW Steel and Tata Steel were the major gainers.

On the other hand, Bajaj Finance, State Bank of India, Bajaj Finserv, Axis Bank and NTPC were among the laggards.

"Markets rebounded from 2-session losses as selective buying in frontline stocks aided recovery from early weakness. There is no major trigger and investors are taking cues from global markets. As we approach F&O expiry day on Thursday, volatility will begin to kick-in as traders will rollover their positions to next expiry day," said Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd.

"The hopes for a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war and the drop in crude oil prices supported the sentiment," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

In the broader market, the

BSE smallcap gauge declined 0.25 per cent and the midcap index dipped 0.10 per cent.

Among the indices, realty jumped 1.02 per cent, consumer durables climbed 1.01 per cent, teck (0.85 per cent), capital goods (0.79 per cent), IT (0.76 per cent) and consumer discretionary (0.45 per cent).

Commodities, financial services, telecommunication, utilities and oil & gas were the laggards.

In Asian markets, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled in the green while Seoul ended lower. European markets were traded largely in the green. The US markets ended marginally lower Monday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹285.15 crore Monday, according to exchange data.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.16 per cent to USD 82.66 a barrel.

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, BARGARH**  
Email: rd\_bgh@yahoo.co.in, Gmail: rwd.bgh@gmail.com  
No.O-2669:  
**e-Procurement Notice No.ONLINE-BGH-27 of 2023-24**

1	Name of the Work	Road works during 2023-24 in the district of Bargarh.			
2	EMD	@ 1% of the estimated cost put to tender			
3	Other details	As per DTCN			

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender Online for bidding		Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of tender
		From	To		
Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Bargarh	ONLINE- BGH-27 OF 2023-24	29.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M.	06.03.2024 upto 4.00 P.M.	06.03.2024 upto 3.00 P.M.	06.03.2024 at 5.00 P.M.

Further details can be seen from the website [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in).  
OIPR-25062/11/0026/2324 Sd./- Executive Engineer, R.W.Division, Bargarh

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF DISTRICT MEDICAL & PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER, SUNDARGARH**  
Notice No. 1002 Date: 23.02.2024  
**NOTICE**  
No. E-886: In pursuance to Advt. No. 4241/NHM/2023, Dated: 22.08.2023 for the Post of AYUSH Doctor Ayurvedic & Homoeopathic (Co-located & MHT-RBSK), list of provisionally shortlisted candidates from Panel List as per merit has been hoisted in the district website [www.sundargarh.nic.in](http://www.sundargarh.nic.in). For certificate verification candidates are requested to appear on Dt.04.03.2024 at Conference Hall of CDM & PHO, Sundargarh at 10.00 A.M. with all original documents. The candidates fail to appear for certificate verification as per the schedule fixed shall not be entertained later.  
Sd./- CDM & PHO-cum-DMD, Sundargarh  
OIPR-10100/11/0045/2324

**OFFICE OF THE ROURKELA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION: ROURKELA**  
**INVITATION FOR BID**  
No.2835 Dated 27.2.2024  
**Bid Identification No.: MC/RMC/11/2024**  
No.C-3250:The Municipal Commissioner, Rourkela Municipal Corporation on behalf of Rourkela Municipal Corporation invites bids for works on percentage rate basis in single cover on online Mode. Bid Identification No.MC/RMC/11/2024 for 07 Nos. Civil Work with value of Rs.51.75 Lakh to Rs.64.67 Lakh.  
1. Bid documents will be available in website [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in) from 27.02.2024.  
2. Bids must be submitted on "Online" on or before 13.03.2024 by 17.00 Hours.  
3. Bids shall be opened at 11.00 hours on 14.03.2024 in the office of the undersigned in the presence of the bidders or their authorised agents.  
4. Other details will be available in the website [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in).  
Sd./- Municipal Commissioner Rourkela Municipal Corporation  
OIPR-13131/11/0112/2324

**OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, BELPAHAR**  
No.C-3238: **e-Procurement Notice**  
BID REFERENCE NO. EO/BPHM/09/23-24  
BID IDENTIFICATION NO.2024 ORULB\_101761  
TENDER CALL NOTICE NO.561, DT.23.02.2024  
Ph:06645-356292, Fax:06645-250236  
Email:municipalitybelpahar@gmail.com

Bid documents consisting of specification, the schedule of quantities and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in the Govt. website i.e. [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in).

Name of the Work	Individual Civil Construction works
No. of Works	50 Nos.
Bid Value	As per DTCN
Period of Completion	As per DTCN
Date & Time of availability of the bid documents in the portal	From dt.26.02.2024 at 10.00 A.M. to dt.06.03.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.
Bids received online shall be opened on	11.00 AM on dt.07.03.2024
Name & Address of the Officer Inviting Bid	Executive Officer, Belpahar Municipality

Further the details can be seen from the procurement portal: [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in). If any addendum/ corrigendum/ cancellation of tender shall be publish in the above website only.  
Sd./- Executive Officer Belpahar Municipality  
OIPR-13024/11/0021/2324

**OFFICE OF THE PATTAMUNDAI MUNICIPALITY, PATTAMUNDAI**  
**e-Procurement Notice**  
Pattamundai Municipality, Pattamundai, Kendrapara  
Tender Call Notice No. : No.684/ Dt.23.02.2024  
Tender Reference No. : PM\_04/2023-24  
Nature of Works : Civil Works  
Number of Works : 76 Nos.  
Tender Value : 2.95 Lakhs - 19.97 Lakhs  
Available Period : Dt.24.02.2024 from 17.00 hours to Dt.05.03.2024 by 12.00 hours  
Tender Opening Date : Dt.06.03.2024 at 11.00 AM hours  
Bidders are requested read the NIT & DTCN and Participate with their Class-I/II Class III DSC before closing date at [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in).  
Sd./- Executive Officer Pattamundai Municipality  
OIPR-13220/11/0018/2324

## Byju's investors allege \$533mn siphoned off

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bangalore, Feb 27:** Investors in Byju's Tuesday alleged that the edtech giant siphoned off \$533 million in an obscure hedge fund in the US and sought a stay on a USD 200 million rights issue, calling it illegal and contrary to law.

The company law court asked Byju's to submit a written response to the investors' plea within three days, and reserved its order.

The rights issue through which promoters of Byju's are seeking to infuse funds into the startup, is to close Wednesday and the two sides cited technicalities if the rights issue could go ahead.

While Byju's did not comment on the charges levelled by four of its shareholders in proceedings before the Bangalore-bench of the National Company Law Tribunal, sources close to the firm said in absence of a stay by NCLT, the rights issue can proceed as planned and would close Wednesday.

However, investors, who are buying for the blood of founders for mismanagement and eroding value of the company through misdemeanours, argued that a rights issue can happen only if the authorised share capital of the company is increased and existing shareholders apply and get the new shares.

This hasn't happened yet and it can be done only through an extraordinary general meeting of shareholders where at least 51 per cent vote for such an increase.

During the hearing before the NCLT, sources said the investors alleged that the company's move to call for rights issue is illegal and contrary to law and sought a stay of it. The company management on the other hand argued that the investors were creating obstructions to the company.

Investors, in their plea, stated that Byju's in 2022 transferred \$533 million to Camshaft Capital Fund, which was founded by a 23-year-old and whose principal place of business once was a pancake restaurant in Miami.

The founder of the investment firm, who apparently lacked formal training in investing, had luxury cars - a 2023 Ferrari Roma, a 2020 Lamborghini Huracán EVO, and a 2014 Rolls-Royce Wraith - registered in his name since the transfer occurred.

While Byju's did not comment on the allegations made in NCLT Tuesday, the firm had when the allegations first surfaced in September last year stated that "an offshore subsidiary remains the beneficiary of the money invested in high security fixed income instruments invested with a multi-hundred billion dollar fund in the US." It had denied insinuation that it was no longer a beneficiary owner of the funds.

## India's 'insourcing' boom does not spell doom for outsourcing

REUTERS

**Mumbai, Feb 27:** Global companies are setting up more offices in India and expanding in-house teams but that does not mean the end of the road for Indian IT firms, which rely heavily on outsourcing deals, executives said at a Nasscom event last week. Companies opened 118 global capability centers (GCCs) in India over the past two years in a boost to 'insourcing' efforts, taking their total count to over 1,620, February data from the industry body showed.

IT firms are helping GCCs scale up, innovate and do much more, said Ananth Chandramouli, the India managing director of French IT firm Capgemini.

"We are also helping their platforms and solutions to go to market. Now GCCs are (being) made a revenue center from a cost center, and it is net new revenue for both of us.



It will not cannibalize our revenues," he said. Other industry insiders agreed. Satish HC, executive vice president and co-head of delivery at India's No.2 software services exporter Infosys, said its strategy was to work with GCCs, no matter which route they took to drive innovation.

"If somebody wants to scale up their captive (offshore unit), we will co-exist and work with them. If somebody wants to create a captive and ask us for a BOT (build-operate-transfer) deal, we will be glad to do a BOT deal," he said, adding that it was important to "be collaborative and not be prescriptive."

The comments come as some industry watchers are cautioning that India's rise as a GCC powerhouse could dent the revenue of IT firms, which have made a fortune by helping address overseas clients' tech needs. "Overall revenue growth can be impacted for companies with high exposure to heavily insourcing clients," Kotak Institutional Equities said in a December note, referring to the banking, financial services and insurance sectors in particular.

"While insourcing has been on the rise, it has not reached alarming levels yet."

Attendees at the Nasscom event sang a different tune, saying that the two models could co-exist. "MNCs are not taking outsourced spend and rechanneling it to GCCs, most of the GCC ramp-up is driven by migration of existing insourced spend," said Anuj Kadyan, senior partner at consulting firm McKinsey.

**OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, BELPAHAR**  
Ph: 06645-356292; Fax: 06645-250236; Email: municipalitybelpahar@gmail.com  
**"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE**  
BID REFERENCE NO. EO/BPHM/10/23-24  
BID IDENTIFICATION NO. 2024 ORULB\_101825  
TENDER CALL NOTICE NO. 579 DT.26.02.2024  
No.C-3251:- Bid documents consisting of specification, the schedule of quantities and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in the Govt. website i.e. [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in).

Name of the Work	Individual Civil Construction works.
No of Works	03 Nos.
Bid Value	As per DTCN
Period of Completion	As per DTCN
Date & Time of availability of the bid documents in the portal	From dt.27.02.2024 at 10.00 A.M. to dt.11.03.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.
Bids received online shall be opened on	11.00 A.M. on dt.12.03.2024
Name and address of the officer inviting Bid	Executive Officer, Belpahar Municipality

Further details can be seen from the procurement portal: [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in). If any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender shall be publish in the above website only.  
Sd./- Executive Officer, Belpahar Municipality  
OIPR-13024/11/0022/2324

**COLLECTORATE, JHARSUGUDA**  
(Social Security Section)  
Advt. Letter No. 499 Date: 26.02.2024  
**Request For Proposal (RFP) for "Selection of Agency for Operation and Management of 4 Nos. of Shelter Home (Mission Ashra - I & II for Female and Mission Ashalok - I & II for Male) for Homeless People/ Destitute with Mentally Illness (HPMI), under District Mineral Foundation Jharsuguda"**  
No. gg-22: A Request for Proposal (RFP) is invited from the reputed and experienced Agencies/Organizations/Firms for "Operation and Management of 4 Nos. of Shelter Home (Mission Ashra - I & II for Female and Mission Ashalok - I & II for Male) for Homeless People/ Destitute with Mentally Illness (HPMI), under District Mineral Foundation Jharsuguda". The eligibility criteria and detailed requirements for said RFP and the formats for submission of proposal are set forth in the RFP document which can be downloaded from the district NIC Website i.e. [www.jharsuguda.nic.in](http://www.jharsuguda.nic.in). Interested bidders fulfilling the eligibility criteria may submit their proposal & documents as set forth in this RFP and submit to the undersigned in sealed envelope(s) clearly super scribing.  
**Request For Proposal (RFP) for "Selection of Agency for Operation and Management of 4 Nos. of Shelter Home (Mission Ashra - I & II for Female and Mission Ashalok - I & II for Male) for Homeless People/ Destitute with Mentally Illness (HPMI), under District Mineral Foundation Jharsuguda"**  
Proposal complete in all respect should reach the Office of the District Social Security Officer, Collectorate Jharsuguda, Jharsuguda - 768204 by Speed Post/Regd. Post/Courier only on or before Date:10.04.2024 before 05.00 P.M. (time). The proposal(s) shall be opened on Date: 11.04.2024 at 11.00 A.M. (time) in DMF Conference Hall, Collectorate Jharsuguda. Incomplete applications received in an open envelope/ applications received after the due date will be summarily rejected. The authority reserves the right to cancel or reject the any of the RFP without assigning any of the reasons thereof. No personal query shall be entertained. The decision of the committees shall be treated as final.  
Sd./- District Social Security Officer, Jharsuguda  
OIPR-24398/11/0003/2324

# STOKES PROUD OF TEAMMATES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Ranchi, Feb 27:** Skipper Ben Stokes expressed pride in how England have fought toe to toe with India despite not having "a chance in hell of competing" with the hosts in the ongoing series.

"3-1 doesn't look great, but the way in which we've come at India is what I'm most proud of," Stokes told British media. "We didn't have a chance in hell of even competing with India. But even today (Monday), that wasn't an easy win for India, and I think they would admit that," he added.

In the fourth Test, England tried to fashion a fight-back before India crossed the line on the fourth day in Ranchi. Chasing 192, India slipped to 120/5, before Shubman Gill and Dhruv Jurel stitched a 72-run unbroken partnership.

"This young, inexperienced team have been successful over the past two years, but coming to India is a completely different beast, something that this team have not been exposed to. The way in which we have reacted to everything, even being on the wrong end of three results, is something I'm incredibly proud of."

The visitors had started off with a thrilling win in the opener but the hosts have come back strongly taking the next three fixtures in an emphatic manner. "I'm very proud of the way every player has thrown everything at India. No one has

ever taken a backward step," Stokes said.

England have let slip several promising opportunities in the series. Their batters have displayed poor judgement, giving away the advantage to the hosts. Opting to bat first, England had a first-innings lead of 46 but weren't able to capitalise on it as they were bowled out for just 145 in their second essay.

Stokes conceded that the Indian spinners' skill in those conditions made it "nigh-on impossible" to play with their attacking game. "Looking back at when we had our chance to bat yesterday, cricket is always skill against skill. R Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja and Kuldeep Yadav and the conditions we found ourselves in against them was very, very challenging.

"When India have a sniff in conditions like that, any team is going to find it hard to not only keep the scoreboard ticking but rotate the strike. You've got to give them a lot of credit for the way in which they bowled in very favourable conditions. On this occasion, their skill was better than ours yesterday (Monday).

"When you've got three world-class spinners operating in conditions like that, you know you're going to be up against it. That period yesterday (Monday) after lunch was the game. Nothing is impossible, I wouldn't say that. But it was nigh on impossible to operate how we wanted to," he added.

McCullum backs Bairstow

England head coach Brendon McCullum has backed the out-of-form Jonny Bairstow to make an impact in Dharamsala, where he will play his 100th game. Bairstow is the only English batter yet to play a significant knock in the Test series against India. The rubber is already out of England's reach but runs from Bairstow's bat will be more than welcome. His highest score in eight innings thus far is 38, which came in the first innings of the Ranchi Test.

"It'll be really emotional for him," said McCullum in an interaction with the UK media in reference to Bairstow's landmark game. "Everyone knows Jonny's story. He is quite an emotional character at times and big milestones like that do mean a lot to him. (In this match) he walked taller, looked stronger, had that presence and that real Jonny Bairstow swagger to him. When he has that you kind of feel he's never too far away."

India have handed England their first series loss in the Bazball era but the head coach remains optimistic about the future. "There's times in games where we haven't quite screwed down our method just yet. We've lost here, didn't win the Ashes (2-2), but we're a better team than 18 months ago and we've got an opportunity in the next 18 months to do some special shit. We'll keep chiselling away at those rough edges. It's not a bad time to be coach of the England team," he said.

# Shami undergoes ankle surgery, set to miss IPL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Feb 27:** Senior India pacer Mohammed Shami has undergone a surgery on his left achilles tendon, which rules him out of next month's Indian Premier League and possibly the T20 World Cup in June.

The 33-year-old, who last played for India in the ODI World Cup final against Australia November 19, went under the knife in London Monday. Shami, who is eager to "get back on my feet soon" stares at a recovery time of a minimum of three months.

He will thus miss the IPL slated to be played from March 22 to May 26, as reported by PTI last week. Shami is also a doubtful starter for the T20 World Cup in the Caribbean and USA.

"Just had a successful heel operation on my achilles tendon! Recovery is going to take some time, but looking forward to getting back on my feet," Shami tweeted, along with several pictures of him in the hospital, on 'X' on Monday.

Shami, who was one of the architects of India's stupendous ODI World Cup campaign with 24 wickets, had played through pain as he had problems with his landing but didn't let it affect his performance.

He had flown to London in

January to take special ankle injections. However, the medication didn't work and the fast bowler had to opt for surgery.

The absence of Shami is a major blow for Gujarat Titans, who have also traded all-rounder Hardik Pandya to Mumbai Indians in an all-cash deal. Shami was the side's highest wicket-taker during their runner-up finish in the IPL last year.

Shami, who was recently conferred with the Arjuna Award has 229 Test, 195 ODI and 24 T20 wickets in his decade-long career.

The development raises a question mark about the injury rehabilitation management programme planned by the National Cricket Academy (NCA) for Shami.

It is also highly unlikely that the pacer would be able to make a comeback before India's Test matches at home against Bangladesh and New Zealand (October-November). His target could be the marquee away series against Australia later this year.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi wished Shami quick recovery on 'X', saying, "Wishing you a speedy recovery and good health, @MdShami11! I'm confident you'll overcome this injury with the courage that is so integral to you."



# Disciplined bowlers set up RCB win against GG

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bangalore, Feb 27:** Captain Smriti Mandhana's blitz and a disciplined effort by bowlers powered Royal Challengers Bangalore to a comprehensive eight-wicket win over sloppy Gujarat Giants in their Women's Premier League (WPL) match here Tuesday.

Mandhana (43, 27b, 8x4, 1x6) and Sabbhineni Meghana (36, 28b, 5x4, 1x6), who added 40 runs for the second wicket, made light work of a 108-run target. RCB finished their towelling of the Giants in a mere 12.3 overs for their second win on the bounce in this WPL.

just had to build on the strong foundation laid by the RCB bowlers, who restricted Giants to 107/7. Pacer Renuka Singh (2/14) and left-arm spinner Sophie Molineux (3/25) did the star turn for the home side after it opted to bowl.

The RCB chase began with a bang as Mandhana slammed two fours in the first two balls off pacer Lea Tahuhu. The graceful left-hander added another four through a pull a ball later as RCB amassed 13 runs in the first over.

With boundaries raining, the Bangalore outfit marched to 32 for no loss in the third over but lost Sophie Devine to Ashleigh Gardner in the fourth over. But her dismissal did not slow down the scoring as Mandhana kept the momentum going. A fifty was there for taking, but a tame push off left-arm spinner Tanuja Kanwar cut short her entertaining stint.



Sophie Molineux (C) was surrounded by her teammates as they celebrate a Gujarat Giants wicket, Tuesday

There was a certain tackiness on the pitch alright, but the RCB bowlers also hit the right length to keep the Giants batters on a tight leash. The dismissal of Giants' skipper Beth Mooney (8) was a perfect example for this.

Mooney had struck Renuka for two boundaries earlier, and she immediately changed the line coming around the wicket. She was rewarded with the big wicket when Mooney failed to tackle a delivery that shaped in to beat her defensive prod.

Renuka soon ousted Phoebe Litchfield too when the Aussie batter failed to drag her feet back inside the crease before Richa Ghosh, standing up, completed her stumping. The pacer bowled her full quota of four overs on the trot.

From that point, the Giants kept on losing wickets and it thwarted their attempts to give some steam to the innings. Dayalan Hemalatha's unbeaten 31 off 25 balls helped them go past the 100-run mark.

They ended the first 10 overs at 44/2, and the back 10 too did not prove much different as RCB bowlers kept chipping away without conceding too many runs. That the Giants managed a total of just 10 fours and two sixes in their entire innings underlined their tough time.

**BRIEF SCORES:** GG Women 107/7 (Dayalan Hemalatha 31 n o, Harleen Deol 22; Sophie Molineux 3/25, Renuka Singh Thakur 2/14) lost to RCB Women 110/2 (Smriti Mandhana 43, Sabbhineni Meghana 36 n o, Ellyse Perry 23 n o) by 8 wickets.

# Bhagat opens up on next goal, dream

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Feb 27:** Dead chuffed to have equalled Chinese badminton icon Lin Dan's record of five World Championships titles, Indian para shuttler Pramod Bhagat now wants to defend his Paralympic gold in Paris, and has also set himself a long-term target of staying fit till the 2036 Games.

The 35-year-old Bihar-born para shuttler Sunday matched Lin Dan's record after outwitting nemesis England's Daniel Bethell 14-21 21-15 21-14 in SL3 (standing/lower limb impairment/severe) final.

"Since the Olympics, I lacked in my training and he also worked on his game and he always had an upper hand in the 7 to 8 times that we have played in the finals. So, it became a mental barrier for me. I had to break that barrier before the Paris Olympics," Bhagat, who was diagnosed with polio when he was five years old, told PTI.

"I wanted to rectify the mistakes which I had committed in open tournaments. So, in January, my doubles partner Sukant (Kadam) and I went to



Nikhil Kanetkar Badminton Academy in Pune.

"Nikhil sir is an Olympian and has a lot of experience. He helped me. We focussed mainly on how I could regain my strengths and beat Daniel. Since it is a big event whoever wins will have an upper hand ahead of the Olympics."

With the win, Bhagat completed a hat-trick of crowns after Stoke Mandeville in 2015 and

Basel in 2019. He also won a gold medal at 2022 Tokyo and 2009 Seoul edition.

"It was an important win for me, not only because I wanted to equal Lin Dan's record but also because the Olympics is the next big event, and I wanted to go into Paris without any mental barrier. It will help me to retain my gold and that is the goal now," said Bhagat, who was conferred the prestigious Major Dhyana

# Kosovo dash India's title hopes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Alanya (Turkey), Feb 27:** India's hopes of winning their first-ever senior title outside the SAFF region were dashed by an injury-time goal by lower-ranked Kosovo in their concluding round-robin Turkish Women's Cup match here Tuesday.

While the 1-0 victory, thanks to a strike by Ereleta Memeti (90+2'), propelled 100-ranked Kosovo to nine points from three matches and gave them their second title in a row, India, placed 35 spots above their opponents in the FIFA chart, finished runners-up with six points.

It was the Blue Tigresses' best performance in the tournament in three appearances. India's Manisha Kalyan was adjudged the best midfielder of the tournament for her exemplary display throughout the competition.

It was a do-or-die match for India. For Kosovo, a team, who last tasted defeat in November 2022 (1-3 against Slovenia), a draw was enough, though they did even better.



India were happy to keep their shape and contain Kosovo, though the epicentre of the battle was quite far from the Indian box. India, while sitting on a mid-press on most occasions, chose their moments to impose a high press on the Kosovo back-four, a tactic that yielded several chances and also served to confuse the opposition defence.

Soumya Guguloth had the best chance of the first half and perhaps even the game on the quarter-hour mark, when Pyari Xaxa managed to steal the ball at the edge of the Kosovo box, before playing it to Indumathi Kathiresan, who threaded a delicate through ball between the lines, to Soumya behind the defence.

The India winger only had Djelza Mehmeti to beat from inside the six-yard box but managed to side-foot it straight at the Kosovo keeper. India's ploy to pressurise the Kosovo defence worked wonders, with Pyari, the striker, being the chief work-horse. She managed to make a crucial interception at the edge of the area in the 38th minute, an action that required a high boot from Donjeta Halilaj to bring her down.

If the first half seemed like a tight match-up, the second half was twice as much. Kosovo looked to implement their own high press, which often left the Indian fullbacks isolated when the ball was played out wide to them.

Chand Khel Ratna award in 2021.

Talking about the Paris Games, Bhagat said: "Tokyo was my debut Olympics and I got a lot of support from the public and government. The most important thing was the recognition which I received and it has made me more hungry to go and defend my gold."

A fan of the Daddies - 39-year-old Hendra Setiawan and 36-year-old Mohammad Ahsan of Indonesia - Bhagat says he has a long-term goal of competing at the 2036 Olympics.

"I also have a goal of participating at the 2036 Paralympics, which hopefully, India will host. Age is a number and I am fit and I hope I can stay fit and compete in 2036. It is a very long-term goal but not an impossible dream," Bhagat said.

India is likely to bid for the hosting rights for 2036 Olympics with Prime Minister Narendra Modi also declaring last October the country's interest in hosting the Games. "If not singles, I can play in mixed or men's doubles. India is becoming a sports hub and I want to be there when India gets to host the Paralympics."

# Iyer in Mumbai squad for Ranji Trophy semifinal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Feb 27:** Middle-order batter Shreyas Iyer was on Tuesday named in Mumbai's 16-member squad for the Ranji Trophy semifinal against Tamil Nadu starting March 2.

Mumbai qualified for the semifinals after their quarterfinal clash against Baroda ended in a draw at the BKC Ground, with the 41-time champions making it to the final four on the basis of first-innings lead. Lacking big runs and struggling with a back-related issue again, the 29-year-old Iyer was not named in India's squad for the last three Tests against England. Iyer, subsequently, also missed Mumbai's quarterfinal match along with all-rounder Shivam Dube.

The timing of Iyer pulling out of the key Ranji clash coincided with BCCI secretary Jay Shah announcing that a directive will be issued to players to compulsorily play domestic matches.

While Dube is on the mend having suffered a side strain issue, Iyer has recovered completely and will be available for the semifinal against Tamil Nadu.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Loftie-Eaton smashes fastest T20I ton

**Kirtipur (Nepal):** Namibia's Jan Nicol Loftie-Eaton smashed the fastest century in T20I history, achieving the feat off just 33 deliveries against Nepal in the opening match of the Tri-Nation series here Tuesday. The middle-order batter bettered the record of Nepal's Kushal Malla by just one delivery. Malla had achieved the feat during the Hangzhou Asian Games last year when his side had posted a world-record total of 314/3 against Mongolia. Loftie-Eaton played a knock of 101 off just 36 deliveries, which included 11 fours and eight sixes at an amazing strike rate of 280.55. The left-handed batter scored 92 runs in boundaries.

### Long-serving HI CEO Elena Norman resigns

**New Delhi:** Fresh turmoil hit Hockey India (HI) Tuesday when its long-serving CEO Elena Norman resigned from her position owing to non-payment of dues for the past few months, sources in the national federation told PTI. The Australian held the post for nearly 13 years and had not been paid for the last three months. Norman's resignation comes days after the chief coach of the Indian women's hockey team Janneke Schopman who claimed that she was not valued and respected by the national federation. Norman's resignation is another setback for the body, which did not give the exact reason for her departure in the official statement.

### Furor erupts over CR7's obscene taunt

**Riyadh:** Cristiano Ronaldo is reportedly being investigated for making an alleged offensive gesture while playing for Al Nassr in the Saudi Pro League. Footage on social media appeared to show Ronaldo cupping his ear and repeatedly thrusting his hand forward near his pelvis, seemingly aimed at rival Al Shabab supporters. The incident occurred Sunday after Al Nassr beat Al Shabab 3-2. In the background were chants of "Messi." While the incident was not captured by television cameras, criticism of the 39-year-old Portugal striker has been swift. Local media reports say the Saudi Arabia Football Federation has opened an investigation.