



Nora's struggle

Canada-born Indian actress Nora Fatehi shares her traumatic experience when she landed in Mumbai

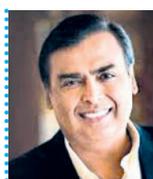
LEISURE | P2



NK's missile mania

North Korea successfully test-fires a new hypersonic missile, the latest step in a plan aimed at using solid fuel to power missiles of all ranges

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Ambani richest again

Mukesh Ambani continues to be the richest Indian and breaks into the world's top 10 wealthiest persons in the latest Forbes 2024 Billionaire List

BUSINESS | P11



PBKS face GT today

A different kind of challenge awaits Punjab Kings when they lock horns with Gujarat Titans in an Indian Premier League match

SPORTS | P12

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SHORT TAKES

EC reviews law and order ahead of polls

New Delhi: The Election Commission (EC) Wednesday directed the chief secretaries and directors general of police of all states as well as the heads of central agencies to ensure peaceful and inducement-free Lok Sabha polls and maintain a strict vigil along the inter-state and international borders to plug the inflow of illicit liquor, cash, drugs and arms.

P3

Rahul files papers from Wayanad

Wayanad: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Wednesday filed his nomination papers from Kerala's Wayanad Lok Sabha seat. Rahul, accompanied by his sister Priyanka Gandhi and other senior party leaders including AICC general secretary KC Venugopal, submitted his nomination papers to the Wayanad Collector who is also the Returning Officer. Prior to reaching the Collector's office, he addressed the public towards the end of the roadshow and said he is always with the people of Wayanad on all issues, including the human-animal conflicts which have claimed many lives in the high range district.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Always in simple attire, no theatrics, no publicity stunts, and no lies...can't believe he was our PM for 10 years

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	73876.82 ↓ 27.09
NIFTY	22434.65 ↓ 18.65
DOLLAR	83.53 ↑ ₹0.06
EURO	90.22 ↑ ₹0.42
GOLD	₹69,440 ↑ ₹457
SILVER	₹78,512 ↑ ₹1476

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	36.8°C	38.2°C
Min Temp	26.8°C	26.0°C
Humidity	85%	81%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

FORECAST
DRY WEATHER
VERY LIKELY



HUGE JOLT: An area of a damaged building cordoned off, following an earthquake at Hualien in Taiwan

PHOTO: REUTERS

9 killed, over 1K hurt in Taiwan earthquake

AGENCIES

Hualien (Taiwan), April 3: The strongest earthquake in a quarter-century rocked Taiwan during the morning rush hour Wednesday, killing nine people, stranding dozens of workers at quarries and sending some residents scrambling out the windows of damaged buildings.

The quake, which also injured more than 1,000, was centred off the coast of rural, mountainous Hualien County, where some buildings leaned at severe angles, their ground floors crushed. Just over 150 kilometres away in the capital of Taipei, tiles fell from older buildings, and schools evacuated their students to sports fields, equipping them with yellow safety helmets. Some children covered themselves with textbooks to guard against falling objects as aftershocks continued.

Rescuers fanned out in Hualien, looking for people who may be trapped and using excavators to stabilize damaged buildings. The numbers of people missing, trapped or stranded fluctuated frequently as authorities learned of more in trouble and worked to locate or free them.

Some 70 workers who were stranded at two rock quarries were safe, according to the fire agency, but the roads to reach them had been damaged by falling rocks.

Upsetting AAP-lecart

Emboldened by the release of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Sanjay Singh by the Supreme Court which made terse observations on the rationale behind his arrest without even a shred of evidence, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal fought tooth and nail in Delhi High Court for his bail claiming that the sole purpose behind his arrest over the alleged money laundering case related to Delhi excise policy scam is to humiliate and incapacitate the party ahead of the polls.

AGENCIES

New Delhi, April 3: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Enforcement Directorate (ED) traded sharp barbs and hardened legal arguments in equal measure Wednesday, as the Delhi High Court heard the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief's plea for interim relief. The court, however, reserved its verdict.

During the arguments, Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, representing the ED, issued a strong rejoinder to arguments about the timing of Kejriwal's arrest, declaring "criminals are supposed to be arrested and put in jail". "Under-



Weight loss charge

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has been rapidly losing weight since his arrest March 21, senior AAP leader Atishi claimed Wednesday and accused the BJP of putting his health at risk by keeping him in jail. She said that Kejriwal has lost 4.5kg since his arrest and that AAP will seek legal help in this regard. However, the Tihar jail administration said his weight has been constant since his judicial custody began.

trial prisoners have no right to say, 'we will commit a crime and we will not be arrested because elections are here'. This is completely ridiculous," Raju declared.

Earlier, appearing for the Delhi CM, senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi began his argument by claiming "sole purpose of the arrest (of the Delhi Chief Minister) is to humiliate... incapacitate" the AAP, which is seen by many as the only real challenger to the BJP for Delhi's seven Lok Sabha seats.

"Efforts are being made to break AAP," he said, arguing that the ED "does not have any evidence" and that the arrest of the sitting Chief Minister was un-

warranted, particularly before an election, a report by NDTV said.

The Additional Solicitor General said, "Suppose a political person commits a murder before the election. Will he not be arrested? Will his arrest harm (the election)? You commit a murder and say I cannot be arrested because it will violate..." The ED further waved away claims by Kejriwal that his arrest and that of ex-Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, was largely based on statements by accused-turned-approvers.

The AAP has pointed to a pattern - the first of multiple statements do not name party leaders, and it is only after arrest and questioning that the ac-

cused-turned-approvers change their statements.

Responding to this - which question was also posed by the Supreme Court Tuesday, as it gave AAP MP Sanjay Singh bail - Raju argued accused persons may change their statement after being presented with evidence. "When accused is confronted with material (then) they say 'I was wrong'."

"You cannot avoid statements and say, 'No, no... these cannot be trusted. Cash payment was made... cash that was not accounted for. Source of the cash was a bribe... it could be ₹100 crore or a little less than that. This has been accepted by the AAP candidate as well," he continued. "We have WhatsApp chats and statements of hawala operators. We have a lot of data..." he argued.

Singhvi questioned the ED over the issue of multiple summons to the CM, particularly after the AAP leader had moved the court to challenge the agency's call.

After hearing both sides, the court reserved its order for Thursday afternoon. "I am going to reserve judgement," said Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma after hearing the senior counsel appearing for the AAP leader.

BJD drops 7 sitting legislators, 2 MPs

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, April 3: Biju Janata Dal (BJD) president and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday announced the second list of candidates for the Assembly elections and the third list for the Lok Sabha polls. While seven sitting MLAs have been dropped, two incumbent MPs were also denied tickets.

Patnaik announced the names of 27 candidates for the Assembly and five for Lok Sabha segments. The 27-member list released for the Assembly elections included seven women candidates.

The sitting MLAs who have been dropped are: Rajkishore Das (Morada), Parshu Ram Dhada (Soro), Ramesh Chandra Sai (Athmallik), Angada Kanhar (Phulbani), Pitam Padhi (Pottangi), Pratap Jena (Mahanga) and Bijaya Shankar Das (Tirtol).

The ruling party has dropped two sitting MPs from Berhampur and Keonjhar from the list.

BJD decided to nominate Bhrugu Baxipatra, who quit BJP earlier Wednesday and joined the ruling party a few hours later, for Berhampur Lok Sabha seat, instead of sitting



LS SEATS	CANDIDATES
Bolangir	Surendra Singh Bhoi
Bhadrak	Manjulata Mandal
Bargarh	Parinita Mishra
Berhampur	Bhrugu Baxipatra
Keonjhar	Dhanurjaya Siddhu

MP Chandrasekhar Sahu. The party picked Dhanurjaya Siddhu for Keonjhar Lok Sabha seat instead of Chandrani Murmu.

The BJD has not announced any name for Balasore Lok Sabha constituency.

With this, the BJD has fielded 20 candidates for the state's 21 Lok Sabha seats.

The ruling party in the state has so far declared nominees for 99 out of the 147 Assembly seats.

Odisha will go to polls in four phases starting May 13, while votes will be counted June 4. **MORE P8**

Students steal bikes to impress girls, held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, April 3: Town police Wednesday arrested five persons including four engineering students, who were stealing motorcycles to impress their girlfriends and buy drugs.

The accused engineering students were identified as Deepak Gochhayat of Joda area, Rajeev Gope of Barbil area, Shivmandan Pradhan of Chakradharpur in Jharkhand and Jay Kumar Das of West Singhbhum in Jharkhand. Another accused was identified as Niles Soren of Joda area.

The students, in the age group of 19-21 years, are studying in pri-

vate engineering school at Dimbo under Sadar block. Police seized five bikes and as many mobile phones from their possession.

The five were produced in the court but remanded to judicial custody as the magistrate rejected their bail pleas

Police said the accused students would steal motorcycles from Keonjhar market area and use them by changing the number plates. "They target expensive bikes to impress their girlfriends and sell them to buy liquor and drugs," said Town police station IIC Ramakant Sai. During the raid, some of the girls were rescued and handed over to their families.

'Pakistani women wish to look like Deepika, Alia'

AGENCIES

New Delhi, April 3: At a time when political atmosphere is getting hotter by the day ahead of the Lok Sabha elections in India, there is a purported race among the women in neighbouring Pakistan to look smarter, with some of them even aspiring to look like Indian film stars Deepika Padukone and Alia Bhatt.

According to reports by Hindustan Times, Pakistani fashion designer Nomi Ansari has revealed about the unrealistic expectations his clients have of him, saying many ask if can turn them into Alia Bhatt or Deepika Padukone.

EVERYONE WANTS TO LOOK LIKE ALIA BHATT OR DEEPIKA PADUKONE. BUT THEY DO NOT HAVE THE BODY STRUCTURE OR THE LIFESTYLE OR THE AUDIENCE TO ACHIEVE THE DESIRED LOOK

NOMI ANSARI | PAKISTANI FASHION DESIGNER



clients have of him, saying many ask if can turn them into Alia Bhatt or Deepika Padukone.



Deepika and Alia have secured a permanent place in the hearts of their fans across the world with not only their films but also their fashion choices. Even in Pakistan, the actors seem to have gained quite a following. During an interview on Hasna Mana Hai with Tabish

Hashmi, the Pakistani fashion designer revealed how women in Pakistan want to look like Deepika and Alia.

When asked if clients come to him with requests, Nomi, who is known for his modern-meets-traditional designs, said, "Everyone comes with a lot of hope and requests. But to make their hope a reality also you need something to start with. Everyone wants to look like Alia Bhatt or Deepika Padukone. But they do not have the body structure or the lifestyle or the audience to achieve the desired look."

When asked what he does with such clients, the designer joked, "Unka hum Mahesh Bhatt bana sakte hain (I can make them look like Alia's father, filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt)."

Following the trajectory set by Bollywood stars such as Deepika Padukone and Priyanka Chopra, in 2023, Alia Bhatt made her Met Gala debut in a stunning white princess gown. In December 2023, at the Red Sea International Film festival in Jeddah, Alia was spotted in two stylish outfits.

Meanwhile, from Oscars and Met Gala to Cannes Film Festival, Deepika has rocked many international red carpets over the years. Be it her classic black gown at Oscars 2023, her Barbie-like pink look at Met Gala 2019 or her sarees at Cannes Film Festival, the actor has created memorable fashion moments in each of her international red carpet appearances. She was also spotted in a saree at the Baftas earlier this year.

leisure



ANYA REVEALS SHE SECRETLY GOT MARRIED TWO YEARS AGO

The Queen's Gambit star Anya-Taylor Joy has revealed that she got married in secret two years ago. The 27-year-old tied the knot with musician Malcolm McRae, 29, in a New Orleans ceremony in April 2022.

BEYONCE THANKS JACK WHITE FOR HIS INFLUENCE ON HER NEW ALBUM

Singer-songwriter Beyonce has shared that she was inspired by Grammy-winning artiste Jack White for her country album, *Cowboy Carter*. Queen Bey sent Jack some flowers to let him know about his influence on the album, and expressed her gratitude to the musician.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Ganesh anticipates some exciting times for you. You are likely to meet some people today who will prove to be assets in the future. You apply yourself to perfection in work, and in your thinking. Towards that end, says Ganesh, you will have to remain practical.

TAURUS
This day, you can't afford to take chances with your health, says Ganesh. If there is the least sign or symptom of illness, go consult a doctor straight away. As you are going to be unusually prone to injuries and infections, it is advisable that you stay at home. Over exertion is bound to weaken you and affect your physical condition. If physical work is unavoidable, stick to light and effortless things.

GEMINI
Analysing other people's minds and thoughts will be your favourite pastime today. You will find yourself thinking about your family life, security and financial issues. Your sensitivity and emotional nature will endear you to many, and they will bestow their love and affection upon you, says Ganesh.

CANCER
The mundane will bring contentment to you today, and you will rather spend the day doing routine stuff. It looks set to be an ordinary day, but then you can always find thrill even in routine activities. Work will keep you on your toes through the day, but then as the day drags ahead, you may feel a bit bored. Ganesh hopes that by evening you will get a hint that tomorrow is going to be more interesting.

LEO
Decisions taken in haste will prove to be harmful. You need to carefully weigh the pros and cons of every decision that you take today, considering all the possible alternative thoroughly. You need to be extremely industrious on the work-front as well. You will feel very energetic and raring to go. However, you will run out of energy at the end of the day, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
Something you achieve in a most unexpected manner will make you very happy today. But your happiness may possibly be marred by getting agitated about the problems you are facing. You may expect new funds for new projects, says Ganesh. Your business will flourish today.

LIBRA
Ganesh says that you will be able to see a huge change in your personal and social status. Ganesh says that this may be due to medium like television or due to your innovative ideas in your work place. People will be praising you and your work today. You will be more interested in the fine arts.

SCORPIO
Your energy levels are on an all time high today, as you plan to begin a new business venture. You are determined to give in your best and toil hard till you succeed in your plans. Well, and the day turns out to be fruitful and worthy when you garner compliments and positive feedback about your work from your peers, says Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
You have the knack of cut those troubles into small slices and gobble it up. You are the one who would not run away from problems, but face it. Good news from far away land may please you and make your day!

CAPRICORN
You have become workaholic and others may have complains against you for being so busy. But, you should not take to heart as you are finishing off assignments which have been hanging in there for a long time now. Once done with the work, you'll have ample of time for your lover. You'll make up for not taking time out for him/her during the first half of the day, feels Ganesh.

AQUARIUS
It is your lucky day today! Whatever you wish for, it will fall into your lap, be it name, fame, money or love. During the second half of the day, you will keep yourself occupied with your hobbies like reading, writing, playing active role in discussion groups or research, says Ganesh.

PISCES
You will find yourself ecstatic now that certain important projects you have been slaving over are nearing completion. You will implement new strategies and will hope that everything goes according to plan. You will experience intimate moments with your partner. On the whole, it will be a peaceful and productive day, says Ganesh.



Nora shares her traumatic past

Mumbai: Nora Fatehi is basking in the success of her latest film, *Madgaon Express*. The actor was part of the new episode of *The Bombay Journey* with *Mashable India*. During the conversation, the dancer-turned-actress opened up about her initial days of struggle in Mumbai as an aspiring actor. She shared how she lived in an apartment with nine girls and called the entire experience 'traumatising'.
During the conversation, Nora began, "I came to India with only Rs 5,000 in my pocket. I lived with nine psychopaths in a three-BHK apartment, where everyone was sharing. I used to think, 'What have I got myself into?' I was not prepared for that at all. I am still traumatised."

that the agency would make money out of you. They cut the pocket money, they pay the rent from that, they cut their commission, the air you breathe, and then they give you whatever is left, which is nothing. So we were on a diet of like one egg, Nutella and bread and milk every day. It was really bad. Some of these agencies they exploit people so badly."
She went on to add, "We don't have laws and regulations for these things. I was serious and I needed therapy for that time. It was a rough time."

SOMY REACTS TO JOURNO'S AWFUL CLAIMS

Mumbai: Popular 90s actress Somy Ali has responded to a few appalling claims made by a journalist in a video which was posted on YouTube.

In this said video, the journalist made a statement about the actress suffering from cancer, and also went on to allege that whatever movies she got in her seven-year-long career were because of her ex-boyfriend Salman Khan.

While Somy refused to take these comments, she decided to give it back to the journalist.

Sharing her thoughts on the video, she said, "My extended family is on Facebook, and for a journalist to fabricate such cruel and disturbing lies about me was baffling. My mother couldn't stop crying when she saw and heard the female reporter repeatedly say I have or have had cancer. How can a journalist say this when our first job is to conduct facts and thorough research before stating anything we deem to be factual."

On Salman's role in her career, the *Anth* actress said, "He has absolutely nothing to do with my career. As someone who went to India on an inane crush and ended up doing 13 films as a leading heroine opposite the biggest actors, from Mithun Da (Mithun Chakraborty) to Sanju (Sanjay Dutt) to Govinda, is pure luck and hard work." AGENCIES



Rashmika on Animal being labelled toxic

Mumbai: The 6th season of *No Filter Neha*, hosted by the ever-charismatic Neha Dhupia, continues to capture audience attention with its promise of unfiltered conversations.
In the upcoming episode, pan-India star Rashmika Mandanna takes the hot seat, bringing her charm and candour to the forefront. Renowned for her stellar performances across various film industries

and her academic achievements, Rashmika's upcoming appearance is highly anticipated by fans nationwide.

Discussing her recent project *Animal*, Rashmika addressed the criticisms labelling the film as toxic by a certain segment of the audience. In a candid revelation, she defended the film's portrayal, stating, "It is a film about this character, and he is just messed up in his head. He will go to any length for his father, and he is also transitioning. If you want the film to be raw, real, and correct, this is how the film is going to be."

Reflecting on her experience during filming, Rashmika emphasised her dedication to portraying her character authentically, constantly immersing herself in the mindset of the role.

Despite the backlash, Rashmika expressed gratitude to those who engaged with the film's narrative, urging viewers to embrace its rawness and authenticity.

Meanwhile, Rashmika is all set for her upcoming film *Pushpa 2: The Rule*. AGENCIES

Sonakshi makes history on SLB set

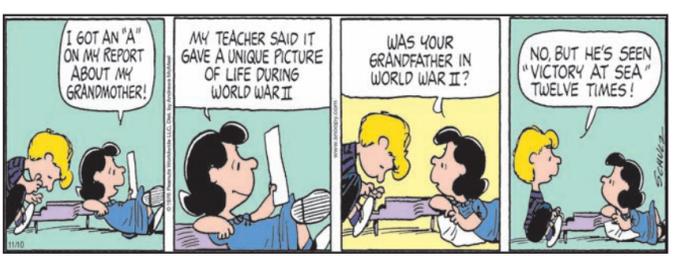
Mumbai: The much-anticipated web series *Heeramandi* by acclaimed director Sanjay Leela Bhansali, aka SLB, has sent ripples of excitement through the entertainment world with the unveiling of a mesmerizing song titled *Tilasmī Bahein*, accompanied by the sensational first glimpse of Sonakshi Sinha's character, Fareedan. Not only has Sonakshi mesmerised audiences by delivering her most hard-hitting performance yet, but she has also made history on the set of

Heeramandi by completing a shot in a record-breaking 20 minutes and nailing it on the first take - never has this happened before on a film directed by Bhansali. A source has also revealed that Sonakshi received a standing ovation from SLB along with the entire crew present on set once the electrifying scene was shot. Setting the stage ablaze with her intense and high-energy performance, Sonakshi is seen in a surreal avatar. Donning a striking saree and exuding glamour from every angle, Sonakshi's portrayal of Fareedan promises to be a revelation, showcasing her emotional depth and range like never before.

As anticipation continues to build for the release of the series, Sonakshi's stellar performance is sure to be the talk of the town, drawing audiences into the captivating world of *Heeramandi*. AGENCIES



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

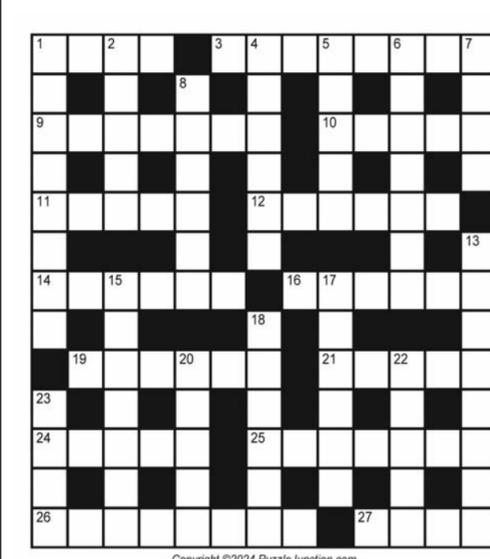


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 King or queen, e.g.
 - 3 Ostracised
 - 9 Apathy
 - 10 Shelf
 - 11 Trowel welder
 - 12 Coagulate
 - 14 Reading material
 - 16 Multitude
 - 19 Cream puff
 - 21 Fragrance
 - 24 Lying facedown
 - 25 Haiphong locale
 - 26 Pause
 - 27 Fishing spot
 - 6 Spanish nobleman
 - 7 Exploit
 - 8 Rabbit warren
 - 13 Kitchen gadget (3,5)
 - 15 Savage
 - 17 Accelerate
 - 18 Hot dish support
 - 20 Ward off
 - 22 Lassitude
 - 23 Moonfish
- Down**
- 1 Lotion type
 - 2 Wedding items
 - 4 Cameroon locale
 - 5 Slacker

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

HEALTH FIRST

CMC health officials carry out an inspection at a roadside eatery at Chandi Chhak in the Silver City, Wednesday



GROWING CITY: Traffic snarl on Vani Vihar-Rasulgarh Road in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

Ensure peaceful polls, states told

AGENCIES

New Delhi, April 3: The Election Commission (EC) Wednesday directed the chief secretaries and directors general of police (DGPs) of all states as well as the heads of Central agencies to ensure peaceful and inducement-free Lok Sabha polls and take preemptive measures to address communal tensions based on past experiences.

Recent violence and turmoil in Manipur and its ramifications for the conduct of a peaceful election were also addressed, with the EC urging for swift action to assist internally-displaced persons and ensure their participation in the electoral process. The poll panel reviewed the law and order as well as security situation for the upcoming elections.

In his remarks, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar said it is the most important and crucial meeting that takes place every five years of the election cycle.

Kumar told the officials that the EC seeks to deliver 'absolutely spotless elections'.

The EC had convened the meeting to bring all the stakeholders concerned on one platform for a seamless coordination and cooperation among the officials of neighbouring states and Union Territories.

Other key issues discussed at

the meeting included a diligent deployment of Central forces, logistical support for the movement and transportation of the security personnel and identification and monitoring of flash-points in border areas that might have ramifications for the election process.

The EC underscored the importance of strict vigilance to curb the movement of contraband items, including narcotics, liquor, arms and explosives, across the international borders.

It also sought identification of the entry and exit points for the movement of liquor and cash along the borders and curbing of illegal ganja cultivation in some states.

The EC reviewed the support from the Indian Air Force and state civil aviation departments for sorties to ferry polling teams in challenging regions of 11 states, including Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra.

Directions were given for adequate security measures to safeguard political functionaries and poll candidates based on their threat perception, particularly in Chhattisgarh and Jammu and Kashmir.

Top officials of Central forces, the Coast Guard, state chief secretaries and representatives of the Defence ministry and railways attended the hybrid meeting.

Election Commission reviews law and order situation for Lok Sabha elections

CHALK OUT PLAN TO MITIGATE HEATWAVE IMPACT: CENTRE

AGENCIES

New Delhi, April 3: Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya Wednesday directed states and Union Territories to chalk out a plan to mitigate heatwave impact, especially for mass gatherings amid the Lok Sabha elections.

Mandaviya, who chaired a meeting to review public health preparedness for management of heat-related illness, highlighted the importance of timely action as soon as India Meteorological Department (IMD) alerts are received in states.

"Timely, advance and wide awareness among the people on the preventive measures will hugely support in reducing the severe impact of such heatwaves," he said.

The IMD has recently predicted that the maximum temperature in the country will be above normal this year.

Since the beginning of April, temperatures of 40 to 42 degrees Celsius have been recorded in many parts of the country, due to which the risk of heatstroke has increased, Mandaviya said.

"It is also known that the general



election 2024 is at its doorstep in which wide public participation is expected and without public participation this great event will not be complete. While ensuring public participation in this, it is the responsibility of all of us to take care of health," he said.

Keeping the above in mind, a meeting was held with all the stakeholders and instructions have been given to the ministry to take appropriate action immediately in coordination with the states, he said.

He stressed on taking special care of children and the elderly at home.

In case of symptoms of heatstroke, one should go to nearest community health centre, Ayushman Mandir, or consult a doctor in the district hospital, Mandaviya said.

An advisory on heatwave was issued to all the states by the Ministry of Health February 29, along with which the action plan prepared by the National Centre for Disease Control for the states and Dos and Don'ts for the general public were shared.

"Taking proper care of everyone's health through the above means, we will celebrate this great festival of democracy with full enthusiasm and with wide public participation," he said.

He said state health departments have been asked to ensure training of doctors in rapid assessment of suspected heatstroke cases and standard treatment protocols, along with ensuring availability of sufficient drinking water, general cooling appliances at all health facilities and availability of heatstroke rooms with emergency cooling.

The departments have been urged to ensure that ambulances are equipped with ice packs/cold water for early management of cases.

Jajpur gets new Collector

Bhubaneswar: The state government has appointed 2012-batch IAS officer Nikhil Pavan Kalyan as the district Collector of Jajpur, official sources said, Wednesday. "In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 20 (1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973 (Act II of 1974), the state government do hereby appoint Nikhil Pavan Kalyan, IAS as the District Magistrate in Jajpur," said a notification issued by the General Administration department. The IAS officer was earlier posted as the Director, Rural Development in the state. Kalyan was working as the Commissioner of Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) prior to his transfer as the Director, Rural Development in Odisha.

11 history-sneeters held



DEBADURLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, April 3: The twin city Commissionerate Police Wednesday claimed to have arrested 11 members of a notorious gang involved in over two dozens of petty crimes like snatching and bike lifting here.

The accused were identified as Binod Das, 22, Anil Das, 19, M Raja, 35, Siba Das, 23, A Prasad, 22, P Ajaya, 20, A Ashok, 20, P Subash, 25, D Srinibash, 22, Samir Pradhan, 19 and N Rajsekhar Achari, 27. They were produced before a City court that sent them to judicial custody.

Addressing media, Commissioner of Police Sanjeeb Panda said at least 27 cases of petty crimes, including chain snatching, have been registered against them at various police stations under Bhubaneswar UPD.

Six motorcycles, 50 stolen mobile phones, 17 gold chains, 25 gram worth gold ornaments, Rs

2.5 lakh cash and iron crowbars were seized from them, Panda said, adding five members of the gang are still on the run. Efforts are on to nab them soon.

In order to rob commuters, Panda said, they would often stage fake road mishaps. "Once a commuter comes to the rescue, they would rob him/her of valuables, including gold jewellery, mobile phone and wallet," the top cop said.

Panda said they would also target parked vehicles. "The miscreants would break the glass of car using slingshots and decamp with the valuables inside. They also stole motorcycles and used those by affixing fake registration plates," he said.

Preliminary investigation revealed that they stayed at a slum on the outskirts of the City to avoid police surveillance, the top cop said, adding that their wives helped them find potential buyers for the stolen jewellery.

BJD, BJP claim poll code violations

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, April 3: The ruling BJD and the principal Opposition BJP in the state traded allegations of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) violations and submitted memorandums to the chief electoral officer (CEO) against each other, officials said Wednesday.

The BJD accused BJP's Bargarh MP candidate Pradeep Purohit and Bijepur MLA nominee Sanat Gadia of violating the MCC by attending the golden jubilee celebration of Balitkika Government School under Barpali block of Bargarh district April 1.

Both leaders allegedly addressed the gathering which the BJD claims is MCC violation. The party demanded strict action against the leaders and officials involved in the act.

In response, the BJP alleged that BJD MLA Nrusingha Sahu distributed sarees to women voters during a joining programme in Dhenkanal district.

Additionally, the BJP claimed that the BJD government distributed Nabin Magic Cards featuring the party symbol, which the saffron party sees as a violation.

Furthermore, the BJP accused the ruling party of distributing money to youths and college students out of fear of losing the election and urged the Election Commission to intervene in the matter.

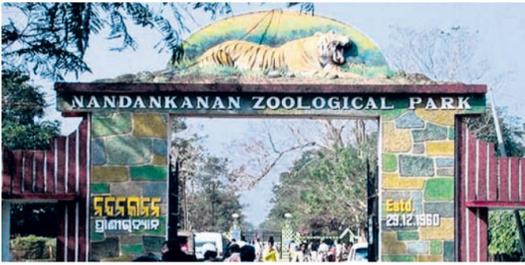


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Spl measures by NZP to keep animals cool



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, April 3: In view of the prevailing heatwave condition in Odisha, the Nandankanan Zoo authority has made special arrangements to protect the animals in the zoo from the scorching summer. Special arrangements like—air coolers, sprinklers, and fruits—have been made in the zoo to provide relief to the animals from the intense heatwave conditions, officials said Wednesday. Special arrangements in the form of water sprinklers in their enclosures have been made for elephants, sambar and deers while coolers have been provided for the chimpanzees and

gibbons. Besides, ice water has been provided to bears for bathing. Watermelons, super fruits like sugarcane and anti-heat medicines are being given to the animals as per veterinary doctors' advice, said Nandankanan Zoo director Manoj V Nair. "We are also ensuring 24-hour drinking water supply in every enclosure of the zoo. We are also ensuring water supply in the pools so that animals could take baths to beat the heat," he said. The enclosures are covered with bamboo thatches and reed screens to protect the animals from the intense heat. Water sprinkling is being done on the bamboo thatch at regular in-

To help the animals cope with the heatwave conditions, Nandankanan Zoo has made arrangements for air coolers, sprinklers, fruits and anti-heat medicines as per veterinary doctors' advice

tervals, zoo officials said. The zoo has 14 drinking water kiosks at different places for tourists. Arrangements are being made to install some new kiosks, they said. "Special care is being taken of animals such as monkeys, squirrels and birds which are prone to heat and stroke. Adequate water is being stocked in the artificial ponds for elephants to cool themselves," officials said. Informing about the facility of providing coolers in the enclosures of chimpanzees, they said, "Air coolers have been fitted and all the enclosures have been covered with hay stacks to keep them cool."



RAISING VOICE: Vendors stage a protest in front of District Magistrate Office in Puri, Wednesday, demanding rehabilitation following demolition of their makeshift shops from Singhadwara area

Docs perform prostate cancer surgery at KIMS

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, April 3: In a major achievement by the doctors at the Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS), a 61-year-old male patient suffering from prostate cancer was completely cured following an advanced laparoscopic surgery. A team led by Sumanta Mishra, associate professor and HOD of Urology at KIMS, performed the advanced Laparoscopic Radical Prostatectomy (LRP) on the patient. The patient, who was discharged after four days of the surgery, is now recovering with his



potency restored. The patient had approached the KIMS Urology department with symptoms indicative of prostate issues. Elevated levels of Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) in his tests raised concerns, leading to a TRUS-guided prostate biopsy and a PSMA PET scan. These advanced diagnostic tools confirmed the presence of localised prostate cancer. The specialised LRP procedure, which involved the complete removal of prostate gland

along with cancer cells and re-connecting the urinary bladder to the urethra, allowed the patient to experience a minimal scarring and swift recovery. "LRP requires advanced skills, high level of surgical expertise, and cutting-edge equipment. The scarcity of such specialised services in the state compelled patients to travel to metropolitan areas for treatment. With the success of this case, KIMS has joined the list of few selected hospitals in the state offering advanced prostate cancer treatment," Mishra said. KIIT and KISS founder Achyuta Samanta lauded the doctors for the successful surgery.

AKSHAYA PATRA'S FOUR BILLION MEAL MILESTONE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

United Nations, April 3: The historic milestone achieved by the Akshaya Patra Foundation of serving four billion meals was celebrated at the United Nations headquarters, with the commemoration highlighting India's proactive measures to ensure food security and offering a template to other nations for impactful action. The event was attended by Infosys founder NR Narayana Murthy, Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi and chairman of Akshaya Patra Foundation Madhu Pandit Das. "This achievement stands as a testament to an unwavering commitment to eradicate hunger and provide nourishment to humanity. The significance of this milestone is further highlighted by serving the meal at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, showcasing a passion for global wellbeing," Modi said in the message that was read out by India's permanent representative to the UN ambassador Ruchira Kamboj. Currently, Akshaya Patra has 72 kitchens in India, feeding 2.1 million children every day in 24,000 schools over the last 24 years.

GOVT EMPLOYEES ON 'POLL DUTY' TO GET SCL

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, April 3: The state government declared Special Casual Leave (SCL) of one day for the government employees who will be deployed on 'poll duty' for Simultaneous General Elections (SGE) and SCL of two days for enabling them to vote.



In a letter to all the departments head, Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena said, "In consideration of the arduous nature of work undertaken by government servants engaged in the conduct of election, I am to say that such government servants who will be deployed on election duty in connection with the SGE, 2024 shall be allowed SCL for one day after attending to poll duty in addition to the Casual Leave (CL) and SCL ordinarily admissible to them during the calendar year, 2024." Similarly, in another letter Jena informed, "In order to en-

able the government employees who are needed to exercise their franchise at a place away from their headquarters, SCL for a maximum period of two days will be extended during the ensuing SGE, 2024 to be held in phased manner May 13, 20, 25 and June 1 in the state. "The day of poll is declared a public holiday in the constituency area. Government employees who are stationed at a place away from their polling stations have to travel for casting their votes. Such employees may be allowed SCL for a period of two days (the day preceding the poll and the day succeeding the poll), if required, in order to enable them to travel and vote at their respective polling stations." Employees who desire to exercise their franchise at a polling station away from the headquarters and do not enjoy a holiday on the day of poll because of their offices being located in the constituency which does not go to poll on that day, will be granted SCL for one more day on the day of the poll. The leave to be granted may be treated as SCL which will not be taken into account in reckoning the total period of CL and SCL of 15 days usually admissible to a government employee in the year.

'VISAGE' OPENS AT BHIMATANGI



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 3: Visage, the premium unisex salon and academy, opened its new branch in Bhimatangi area here, Tuesday. It is one of the 15th branches in the state. The guests present in the inaugural event were former member of State Women's Commission and social activist Namrata Chadha and YouTuber and Influencer Rajendra Prasad Das. Visage founder and managing director Priyadarshinee and branch owner Priyanka were also present on this occasion. The branch is currently offering an opening discount of 27 per cent.

CUO researcher feted by Union Min Pradhan

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 3: The PhD Scholar at Central University of Odisha (CUO) Ayusmita Naik was felicitated by Union Minister of Education, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan at Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) Deemed to be University here recently. She was facilitated along with other researchers in a special programme "Odisha@100... Sambhabanara Satabdi" organised by the Ame Odia Foundation on Utkal Divas. Ayusmita, who is a student of the School of Biodiversity and Conservation of Natural Resources, made outstanding contribution by doing research on two new species of Megascolex earthworms, namely M Jeyporeghatiansis and M

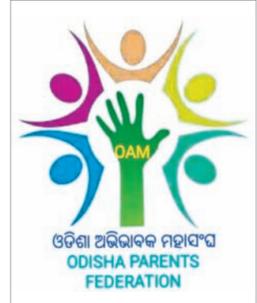


Quadrupapliatus. They were recently discovered from Koraput in northern Eastern Ghats. The first species was discovered from the Jeypore Ghati area and the other one was from Rani Duduma area of Koraput. These two species are new to the world of science. This research was carried out under the supervision of SK Palita, Dean of the School of Biodiversity and Conservation of Natural Resources. University VC Chakradhar Tripathi expressed his happiness at the news of this felicitated and once again congratulated the researchers.

OPF SEEKS GOVT INTERVENTION OVER ADMISSION ISSUE

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, April 3: Odisha Parents Federation (OPF) wrote a letter to School and Mass Education (S&ME) department to take action over harassment of parents by private schools for Class XI admission. OPF has urged the state government to take action in accordance with Justice KP Mohapatra committee report for smooth admission of students in private schools ensuring that they do not end



Ayurveda can guide us for vitality of mind, body & spirit

AYURVEDIC DIET, DEEPLY ROOTED IN THE ANCIENT INDIAN TRADITION, SERVES AS A BLUEPRINT FOR FOSTERING PHYSICAL HEALTH, AND A SUSTAINABLE AND BALANCED WAY OF LIFE

In a world where modern lifestyles often lead to dietary imbalances and health concerns, the ancient wisdom of Ayurveda emerges as a beacon of holistic well-being. Ayurveda, the "science of life", offers profound insights into maintaining balance and harmony within the body, particularly those grappling with diabetes. The Ayurvedic diet, deeply rooted in the ancient Indian tradition, serves as a blueprint for fostering physical health, and a sustainable and balanced way of life. For people with diabetes, the daily struggle centers on man-

aging blood sugar spikes and dips. But what if there existed a natural, food-based approach to navigating this challenge? Ayurveda, the ancient Indian system of holistic medicine, offers a powerful lens to view and manage diabetes. At the heart of Ayurveda lies the concept of doshas — three fundamental energies that govern our bodily functions. Vata, Pitta and Kapha are the building blocks of our body and an imbalance in these doshas is believed to be the root cause of various health issues, including diabetes. For those with diabetes, un-



derstanding their predominant dosha becomes crucial. Ayurveda suggests that balancing the doshas through diet can alleviate symptoms and promote overall health. Embracing the Ayurvedic diet for diabetes Vata pacifying foods: Vata, characterised by air and ether el-

ements, is associated with irregularities and fluctuations. To pacify Vata, focus on warm and grounding foods. Opt for nourishing soups, stews and cooked grains. Include healthy fats such as ghee and olive oil to lubricate the digestive system. Avoid raw and cold foods, as these can exacerbate Vata imbalances.

Pitta-pacifying foods: Pitta, fueled by fire and water elements, is linked to heat and intensity. For those with a Pitta imbalance, cooling and soothing foods are the key. Embrace sweet, bitter, and astringent tastes found in fruits like apples and berries, as well as leafy greens. Limit spicy and acidic foods, as they may aggravate Pitta. Kapha pacifying foods: Kapha, grounded in earth and water elements, is associated with stability and structure. To balance Kapha, opt for light, warm, and stimulating foods. Incorporate a variety of spices such as ginger and turmeric, to enhance digestion. Minimise dairy and heavy sweet foods to prevent excess mucus production. Mindful eating practices: Beyond selecting foods based on doshas, Ayurveda places significant emphasis on mindful eating practices. Chew your food thoroughly to support digestion,

and savour each bite to enhance the overall dining experience. Eating in a calm and relaxed environment promotes healthy digestion and assimilation of nutrients. Herbs and spices as medicine: Ayurveda harnesses the power of herbs and spices for their medicinal properties. Turmeric, with its anti-inflammatory benefits, and fenugreek, known for its blood sugar regulation, are valuable additions to the Ayurvedic diet for diabetes. In the realm of the Ayurvedic diet, food is not merely sustenance; it is a conduit to balance, vitality, and holistic well-being. As we navigate the complexities of modern health challenges, perhaps the ancient wisdom of Ayurveda can guide us back to a place of equilibrium—a place where health is not just the absence of disease but the presence of vitality in mind, body, and spirit.

up paying hefty admission fee. OPF president Basudev Bhatt, in a letter, said, "As per Justice KP Mohapatra committee report, a student passing Class X and joining Class XI in the same school shall be treated as class promotion. However we have seen thousands of students suffering financial problems at the time of admission in Class XI in the same school. Parents have to pay hefty money as admission fee. This is not acceptable." Both S&ME Minister Sudam Marndi and Secretary Aswathy S had agreed on the sensitive point, and had assured to release an order soon. But till date we have not received any order. They have to issue a direction to all authorities concerned and demand schools to follow the order," Bhatt added.

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Labourers suffer as crusher units flourish

Rules regarding wages and protective equipment flouted with impunity by most owners



not follow any labour laws. Most of the crusher units and black stone quarries operate in areas under Jenapur police limits in this district. Most of them violate Sections 21, 22, 23, 24, 30, 31, 36 and 85 of the Factory Act. Sources said that if any labourer dies while working in the crusher units, the owners usually hush up the matter with the help of the administration and the police. At the most, a meagre sum of ₹50,000 to ₹1,00,000 is paid to the family of the worker as compensation. Sources pointed out that labourers working at the il-

legal crusher units are deprived of government benefits in case of mishaps. According to a recent report of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) there are around 372 registered crusher units in Odisha. These units have been permitted to employ a maximum of 7,108 labourers. However, in reality those employed at the registered and unregistered crusher units far exceed the permissible numbers. The crusher units in this district are a case in point. According to a report dated January 30, 2024, there are 12 registered units employing 227 people. However, in reality this is not the case. The district alone has 30 mega crushers while the number of small units is more than 40. Hence one can easily imagine the number of labourers working in these units. It is mandatory for all units to provide personal protective equipment (PPE) to the labourers as per Section 62-H of the Odisha Factory Rules-1950. However, most of the crusher units do not provide any protective equipment to labourers. If a complaint is lodged, police tend to look the other way. Recently, a labourer from West Bengal died and another sustained injuries while working at the 'Shiba Shakti Stone Crusher Unit' near a black stone quarry March 17. It has been alleged that the owner hushed up the matter by paying a meagre compensation to both the families. Police also did not initiate any action against the errant owner as no official complaint was lodged. Sources also pointed out that despite repeated complaints to the district administration about illegal crusher units, no action has been taken till date.

Explosives seized in Malkangiri

POST NEWS NETWORK



Malkangiri, April 3: A huge quantity of explosives was seized in this district Wednesday, police informed. Acting on a tip-off, security forces seized 12 land mines and 190 gelatin sticks buried in a forest near Dayaltung village under Kalimela police station area. The village is located close to the state's border with Chhattisgarh, police said. It is suspected that the explosives belonged to the Maoists, and would have been used by them to target civilians and security forces during the elections, a senior police officer said. Search operations in the area have been intensified, he added. "The explosives were to be

used to carry out their subversive, anti-national activities and to show their presence again in this area. People here are slowly losing the fear of Naxalites and the explosives were to be used to again terrorise innocent civilians," police said. The search was conducted by personnel of the District Voluntary Force (DVF), a special constabulary unit of Odisha police, officials said.

Ganjam man held for killing TTE by pushing him from train

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Thrissur (Kerala), April 3: A migrant worker from Odisha accused of killing a travelling ticket examiner by allegedly pushing him out of a moving train has been arrested, police said Wednesday. The accused Rajanikanta is a native of Ganjam district. He was picked up from nearby Palakkad district soon after the incident Tuesday evening. He was officially arrested Wednesday, police said and added that Rajanikanta was travelling without a ticket on the train. The incident occurred on a Patna-bound train that originated from Ernakulam. The victim K Vinod (48), a TTE from Ernakulam, died after he was allegedly pushed out from the moving train. It is suspected that another train travelling in the opposite direction ran over the TTE's body after he was allegedly

asked him to pay a penalty, which enraged the accused. The TTE was standing near the door, and the accused, with an intention of killing him, pushed him out from behind with his hands," the FIR said. The accused has been booked under Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code, police said. "The TTE was standing near the door and was speaking over the phone. He was apparently registering a complaint against the accused as he was travelling without a ticket. The accused suddenly pushed the TTE out of the moving train from behind with all his strength," Rajesh later told the media. He added that he was shocked to see the brutal crime in front of him, and two other passengers, hailing from Assam, were also witnesses to it. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan condoled Vinod's tragic death while he was on official duty and termed the entire incident 'very painful'.

Family cries foul after chef's death



Barbil, April 3: Mystery surrounds the death of an assistant chef of a hotel here who was found hanging from the ceiling in one of the rooms of the staff quarters Tuesday night. The deceased has been identified as Pabitra Kishore Das, 24, a resident of Arangabad area under Bari police station limits in Jajpur district. His family however, alleged foul play and said Pabitra has been murdered when they were informed Wednesday. Police said that Pabitra had joined duty at the hotel March 28. Hotel sources informed that he was working efficiently and they did not notice anything amiss. However, a couple of other staff of the hotel found him hanging from one of the rooms. Immediately, the management of the hotel informed the police. Personnel from the Barbil Town police station reached the spot and brought down the body. They then sent it for post-mortem and initiated a probe into the incident. Police said that only the post-mortem report will help them ascertain whether it is a case of suicide or some foul play is involved. They are interrogating members of the deceased's family as well as the hotel staff. Pabitra's family members asserted that he couldn't have died by suicide. They said he was very happy the day he joined at the hotel.

10-yr RI for headmaster over sexual harassment

POST NEWS NETWORK



Rourkela, April 3: A POCSO court here sentenced Wednesday the headmaster of Patuadihi Gram Panchayat High School to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment after convicting him of sexually harassing a girl student of the same institution. The court also imposed a fine of ₹70,000 on the convict, identified as Shyamsundar Patel. Judge Mahendra Kumar Sutradhar said that Patel will have to undergo an additional prison term of seven months in case he fails to pay the fine. Fearing sexual harassment, the Class X student had jumped from the roof of the hostel located under Lefripara police station limits. She suffered grievous injuries and died en route to the hospital April 1, 2022.

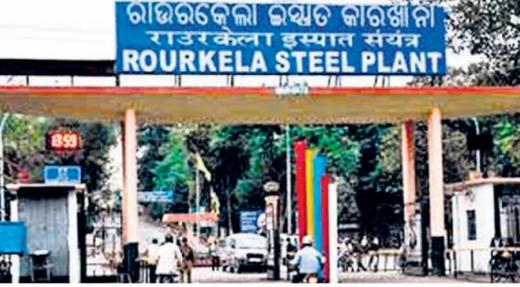
Biramitrapur bandh peaceful
The call for a dawn-to-dusk bandh in Biramitrapur town passed off peacefully Wednesday with no untoward incidents being reported. Even though most of the shops remained closed, other commercial establishments remained open. Educational institutions also remained open, but most of the students stayed away. The bandh was called as a mark of protest against the violence that erupted Monday night in Biramitrapur. During the clash, two persons, identified as Mahabir Sharma and Deepak Sharma, were stabbed and suffered injuries. Both are undergoing treatment at the Rourkela General Hospital here and their condition is stated to be stable, officials said. The clash could have escalated, but did not do so because of prompt intervention by the police. The main accused in the stabbing incident is still absconding, police said. However, two people have so far been arrested and a few others have been detained for questioning, police informed. They added that some more arrests will be made in the next couple of days. It should be stated here that there was no formal call given for the bandh by any party. It was word of mouth passed on by people protesting against the stabbing of the two youths. Biramitrapur police station IIC Bandana Patra affirmed that the bandh had gone of peacefully. "This was a suo motto bandh call and it was peaceful," Patra said. "Even though the bandh was called for 12 hours, normally returned by around 1.00pm in the afternoon. However, we are maintaining continuous vigil over the situation," Patra added.

Elephant kills man

Tigiria: An elderly man was killed by an elephant while he was visiting a mango orchard near Baliput village under this police limits in Cuttack district Wednesday. The deceased has been identified as Basanta Dehury, 62, a resident of Baliput village. Forest department officials said that Basanta had gone to the mango orchard adjacent to Kalichiballabha forest in the morning when he was suddenly attacked by the animal. The tusker picked up Basanta with its trunk and flung him. Hearing Basanta's screams, others nearby rushed to the spot. They took the critically injured Basanta to the Tigiria community health centre where doctors declared him dead on arrival. After being informed, personnel from the Tigiria police station reached the hospital. They sent Basanta's body for post-mortem. A case of unnatural death has been registered. Forest department officials meanwhile said that they are trying to locate the tusker and drive it back into the forest.

RSP commissions 2 ingenious facilities

POST NEWS NETWORK



Rourkela, April 3: The collective efforts of steel melting shop-I (SMS-I) of Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) have successfully commissioned two ingenious facilities at the continuous casting machine-1 (CCM-I) to boost productivity and enhance quality. The facilities have been recently installed and commissioned. They are the new mould oscillation table (MOT) and an in-house developed drive simulation test bench for the MOT showcasing technical acumen and expertise. The integration of the newly installed MOT, provided by M/S SMS India Pvt Ltd, promises im-

proved precision, control and overall performance for CCM-I. This enhancement is set to optimise the quality of cast products while minimising downtime. The departmental team has engineered, installed and activated a drive simulation test bench for the MOT using internal resources. The structural and fabrication

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OUR CHSE RESULT -2023

 DIBYA RANJAN Roll No. : 3121CZ028 Mob.: 8658321521	 PALLY PRIYAMBADA Roll No. : 321CZ017 Mob.: 9853419350	 SNEHA SOUMYASHREE Roll No. : 321CZ039	 OMM PRAKASH Roll No. : 312CZ037 Mob.: 9776045460	 ARUP Roll No. : 312CZ426 Mob.: 9437289207
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OUR MBBS ADMISSIONS -2023

 ASHIRBAD BISWAL Roll No. : 300030045 Mob. : 784821473	 ANUPAM NAYAK Roll No. : 300031030 Mob. : 784821473
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JEE MAIN PHASE -I RESULTS -2024

 JINASU Roll No. : 99.68 Mob. : 802779059	 KAMALAKANTA Roll No. : 99.33 Mob. : 802779057	 OMM PRAKASH Roll No. : 98.86 Mob. : 9776045460	 SWAGATIKA Roll No. : 98.66 Mob. : 738184436	 SANDIP Roll No. : 98.48 Mob. : 848234288	 BAIRIGANJAN Roll No. : 98.22 Mob. : 9114348186
 PARESH Roll No. : 98.12 Mob. : 802779059	 JYOTI RANJAN Roll No. : 98.12 Mob. : 784821473	 SAMIR Roll No. : 98.07 Mob. : 802779057	 SUBHRANSHU Roll No. : 98.06 Mob. : 784821473	 RAHUL Roll No. : 98.00 Mob. : 802779059	

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Exclusive Readymades | Women's Wear | Kidswear | Furnishings | Dress Materials

“We must march on with the quiet certitude that what has to be done will be done.”

THE MOTHER



The Tech Cold War

The world is on the precipice of a technological cold war. As authoritarian regimes develop new digital tools that endanger open societies and threaten democratic values, the West must decide whether to compete or concede. Today, the battle for freedom is being fought in Ukraine; but the frontline could one day be in Taiwan, a global technology hub, producing the world's most advanced microchips, and a flourishing democracy less than 100 miles off the coast of China, which seems bent on annexing the island.

Winning the race for future technologies demands a united front. Just as the West came together to deter Soviet expansionism and stop the spread of communism in the postwar period, the United States and the European Union must revitalise the transatlantic alliance to win the competition for global tech leadership. That means developing a new joint strategy, pooling resources and capabilities, streamlining regulations, and leveraging their strengths – such as advanced tools for semiconductors and lasers, artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and genomics in Europe, and fusion energy, commercial space operations, and synthetic biology in the US.

It will also be necessary to build resilient supply chains. With China dominating the supply of metals and rare-earth elements necessary for batteries, semiconductors, and other technologies, the US and the EU are sleepwalking into a critical-minerals crisis. For example, China's market share of high-powered permanent magnets for offshore wind turbines is nearly 90%.

Lastly, both the US and the EU must focus their efforts on achieving new breakthroughs in vital sectors, including AI, biotech, advanced networks, clean energy, and the manufacturing technologies of tomorrow. To that end, the US CHIPS Act and the European Chips Act offer a blueprint – or at least the beginnings of one – for bolstering competitiveness in the next big technologies.

Cooperation on technology is not new. From the Council of Europe in Strasbourg to the International Telecommunication Union in Geneva, from the OECD to the European AI Act, the race to artificial intelligence seems sometimes to be a policymaking race, to control and coordinate it – and rightly so, in some cases. For example, the main risks identified by the interim report of the UN's AI Advisory Body include risks to the stability of financial systems and to critical infrastructure, as well as strains on the environment, climate, and natural resources.

These issues are too important to be overlooked. In a recent report, the French AI Commission called for the creation of a World AI Organization to “evaluate and oversee AI systems.” This could be a good idea, but it is not the only way to move forward. After all, the existence of the WHO is fundamental, but while it has played a vital role in the eradication of some diseases, it did not prevent the COVID-19 pandemic.

Moreover, regulation should be a means to an end, not an end in itself. Despite the so-called Brussels effect, the EU's alleged ability to set global standards, the bloc's landmark regulations on electric vehicles or the General Data Protection Regulation have hardly made the EU a superpower in electric mobility or in data privacy. That is why transatlantic cooperation should be broadened to include research and development programmes and large “moonshot” projects.

Just as sanctions alone have not curbed Russia's aggression against Ukraine, regulation will not be enough to prevent bad actors from misusing AI. Similarly, the West will have to go on the offensive against China's techno-authoritarian model. Sharing intelligence can identify supply-chain vulnerabilities and facilitate “friend-shoring.” In addition to developing technological ecosystems with like-minded partners, it will be crucial for US and EU policymakers to expose short-sighted private ventures that play into the hands of those who see technology as a tool of oppression, not liberation.

Moreover, the US and the EU cannot expect to win the technology race – which is also a war of ideas – when their citizens have been herded into social-media echo chambers, and when 44% of children globally use TikTok. On this cognitive battlefield, the West must lead the charge to develop technologies that encourage critical thinking and protect privacy, and to stop the destabilising fragmentation of the digital sphere and the spread of online hate and disinformation.

A revitalised transatlantic alliance must ensure that emerging technologies reflect democratic principles and boost strategic autonomy. Forging partnerships with like-minded countries, including Australia, India, Japan, and South Korea, and enhancing cooperation among the G7 and the OECD could support these efforts. Together, they could develop an alternative model of technological empowerment – free of digital repression and authoritarianism – for developed and developing countries alike.

Western leaders should take inspiration from the COVID-19 vaccines, which, building on collaboration, massive experimentation, and decades of fundamental science, were developed in a record eight months. We must keep this spirit alive. Democracies risk being outmaneuvered in the technologies that will shape the future, with dire economic and security consequences. A robust transatlantic tech partnership is an imperative. The destiny of free and open societies depends on it.

Ylli Bajraktari is CEO of the Special Competitive Studies Project. André Loeseckrug-Pietri is Chairman and Scientific Director of the Joint European Disruptive Initiative.



Ylli Bajraktari & André Loeseckrug-Pietri

With China dominating the supply of metals and rare-earth elements necessary for batteries, semiconductors, and other technologies, the US and the EU are sleepwalking into a critical-minerals crisis

FOCUS HEALTH

MENTAL HEALTH IMPERATIVE



Bhaskar Nath Biswal

IT IS TIME TO THINK ABOUT A SOCIETY WHERE MENTAL HEALTH IS VALUED, AFFORDABLE QUALITY MENTAL HEALTH CARE IS AVAILABLE AND TALKING MENTAL HEALTH IS FREE FROM STIGMA

Good mental health is essential for everyone for leading a complete and fulfilling life. Similarly, mental health services are an essential part of the health care of a society. WHO defines health as “a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.” But mental health has not received proper attention as physical health for decades as discrimination against people with mental disorders is continuing even today. This is nothing but a human rights abuse neglected by society.

All people are not same in society. There are certain vulnerable groups who are at higher risk of mental health like households living in acute poverty, patients with chronic health conditions, children exposed to maltreatment, adolescents sexually exploited, orphans, older people, and other disadvantaged groups. People with mental disorders often live in vulnerable situations, pathetic conditions and may be excluded and marginalised from society, which creates obstacle for the achievement of development goals of a nation. The negligence of mental health is evident from the data provided by WHO which says that 76% to 85% of people with severe mental disorders receive no treatment for their disorder in low- and middle-income countries and 35% to 50% in high-income countries.

The COVID pandemic increased the magnitude of the mental health concern across the world to a considerable extent. Before the pandemic, an estimated 193 million people had major depressive disorders and 298 million people had



In a country like India where youths are considered as demographic asset, losing students to the mental health epidemic in their most productive age cannot be ignored

anxiety disorders in 2020. After the pandemic, initial estimates show a jump to 246 million for major depressive disorders and 374 million for anxiety disorders marking an increase of 28% and 26% respectively in just one year.

As per the World Mental Health Report 2023, around 8% of the world's children (aged 5-9 years) and 14% of adolescents (aged 10-19 years) live with a mental disorder. A seminal nationwide study in the United States found that half of the mental disorders present in adulthood had developed by the age of 14; three quarters appeared by the age of 24.

According to a survey conducted in 2021 by the Healthy Minds Network in the US, some 40% of college students struggled with anxiety, 45% with depression and 16% with sui-

dal thoughts. More than 50% of the youth (18-24 years) in India have poor mental health, according to a report by Sapient Labs Centre for the Human Brain and Mind.

Mental health issues are the common and main villains for students. Depression, stress, discrimination and anxiety created from the pressure to perform better in academics drive students to the vicious clutches of mental illness. Some cope up and come out but some drown in the world of mental illness. As many as 26 students committed suicide in Kota in 2023.

Incorporating mental health education into the curriculum at schools and colleges will provide students with the tools they need to identify and address their mental health issues themselves and seek in-

tervention of experts when needed. The most chronic mental illnesses have their onset before 24 years of age when most are a part of the educational system. With inclusion of mental health in curricula, de-stigmatization, removing discrimination and early detection is possible. This also enables stakeholders for early detection of symptoms and simple interventions whenever needed. The education system provides ample opportunities for creating mental health awareness.

According to a report in the Guardian, some universities and schools in Taiwan are offering leave to students to address mental health issues. A student can apply for up to three days off every semester on mental health issues without having to show any proof or note from a doctor but with the knowledge of parents but if it is more than three days in a semester, she/he is advised to attend a counseling session. The same thing can be introduced in our country. If mental health leave is considered normal, many students will come forward to avail it and freely express their concerns to their teachers, parents and counselors.

In a country like India where youths are considered as demographic asset, losing students to the mental health epidemic in their most productive age cannot be ignored. It is time to think about a society where mental health is valued, affordable quality mental health care is available and talking mental health is free from stigma and discrimination.

The writer is Principal, Nabarangpur College.

SPECTRUM SOCIETY

The politics of confusion



Bhabani Shankar Nayak

THE SPREADING OF MASS CONFUSION WEAKENS CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS BY PROMOTING A CULTURE OF DISENGAGEMENT AND RESIGNATION AMONG THE MASSES

The world is witnessing growing confusion in politics, economy, culture, society, and life on a scale never seen before. There is confusion in different aspects of life perpetuated by the ruling elites, who use ‘confusion’ as a strategy to spread dominant narratives without any form of scrutiny. The global, national, regional, and local landscapes are mired with unprecedented levels of confusion, determining various facets of everyday lives. These confusions produce uncertainties and crises, which are tools of control and domestication. This state of bewilderment is not a happenstance occurrence but rather a calculated tactic employed by those in power.

The Brexit referendum in the UK and the involvement of the ex-deputy Prime Minister of Russia, Vladislav Surkov, who funded both human rights activists and anti-immigrant groups show that there is no contradiction among ruling elites when it comes to power. The ruling elites, vested with authority and influence, have mastered the art of utilising confusion as a strategic tool to propagate their agendas and ideologies without any form of scientific mass verification. By obfuscating the truth and clouding the collective understanding, the ruling class maintains control and perpetuates capitalist hegemony.

This phenomenon of mass

confusion manifests in myriad forms, shaping the contours of our everyday lives as per the requirements of the ruling elites of capitalism. In the political arena, conflicting narratives and disinformation campaigns sow seeds of doubt and discord, undermining democratic processes and eroding public trust. Economic policies shrouded in complexity leave the masses bewildered, while benefiting the few at the top, who profit at the cost of mass misery. The collective foundations of cultural norms and religious values of peace and solidarity are manipulated and distorted, blurring the lines between truth and fiction. Mass confusion helps to hide the ugly realities of capitalism with its fantasies. The spread of mass confusion also helps in the normalisation and naturalisation of ruling class falsehood in society.

In society, the proliferation of fake news, disinformation, misinformation, and polarisation fuels division and unrest, fracturing communities and exacerbating social, cultural, and religious tensions. Social, cultural, and religious conflicts help the security state to rise, which projects capitalism as a system of governance. Even on a personal level, individuals grapple with uncertainties and ambiguities, unsure of whom or what to believe in a world mired in confusion spread by fake news. The main-

stream media also acts as the mouthpiece of ruling elites, where unaccountable governance defines governing and non-governing elites in every layer of society and state, and where capitalism becomes the dominant force without any form of opposition.

In order to establish dominance in the battle for narrative supremacy, the capitalist classes shape public discourses by spreading confusion with the help of sophisticated propaganda techniques to manipulate the masses in favour of right-wing reactionary forces. Trust-free social, political, and cultural zones are helpful for the elites to exploit the masses and push their agenda to govern without accountability. Accountable and trustworthy democratic and constitutional institutions are an anathema to capitalism. Therefore, weakening public institutions and public trust by spreading mass confusion is good for capitalism to sustain itself as a system. The spreading of mass confusion weakens citizenship rights by promoting a culture of disengagement and resignation among the masses.

There is a fundamental difference between organic confusion, which is a product of curiosity in seeking knowledge or discovering ignorance, and the confusion manufactured by information warfare and mass

media. The latter is a product of ruling and non-ruling elites seeking to uphold the interests of capitalism by destroying the critical thinking abilities of the working masses.

The struggle for clarity, critical thinking, reflection on everyday realities, transparency, and accountability require mass consciousness based on science and secularism, which can provide a glimmer of hope amidst this fog of mass confusion. As awareness grows and people awaken to the mechanisms of manipulation at play, they can see through the haze and question the narratives imposed upon the masses. Through critical thinking, dialogue, and collective action, there is the potential to pierce through the veil of confusion and reclaim agency over working-class lives and the future of the planet. This entails challenging dominant narratives, fostering media and digital literacy, and holding those in power accountable for their actions. Mass struggle against confusion is the only way to aspire and forge a path towards clarity, understanding, and genuine progress towards peaceful and prosperous co-existence sans capitalism. Truth and knowledge triumph in all pages of history.

The writer teaches at the University of Glasgow, UK. Views are personal.

WISDOM CORNER

“If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality.”

DESMOND TUTU

“The science of psychology has been far more successful on the negative than on the positive side... It has revealed to us much about man's shortcomings, his illnesses, his sins, but little about his potentialities, his virtues, his achievable aspirations, or his psychological health.”

ABRAHAM MASLOW

“Every moment there is creation, every moment destruction. There is no absolute creation, no absolute destruction. Both are movement, and that is eternal.”

RAMANA MAHARSHI

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Catalyst for global unity

Sir, Sport is a wonderful source of positive vibes, helping people find peace through friendly competition and the passion to succeed. It's becoming more and more appreciated for its role in making a big impact without costing a lot in humanitarian, developmental, and peace efforts. Sport teaches us fairness, teamwork, equality, and never giving up. It also helps when things get tough by easing worries and keeping us healthy, both physically and mentally. The United Nations acknowledges the universal power of sport, using it to unite individuals and groups, supporting development efforts, and organising sports-related campaigns. Sports significantly impact physical and mental development, promoting better health, social integration, gender equality, economic development, and peace. The International Day of Sport for Development and Peace, observed on 6 April annually demonstrates sports' transformative impact, promoting education, health, and peace. This year's theme is “Sport for the Promotion of Peaceful and Inclusive Societies,” emphasising its role in bridging cultural gaps and fostering understanding. Sports provide a unique platform for leadership, addressing injustice, and conveying important messages globally. As a universal language, sports strengthen social bonds, promote peace, and respect, aligning with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They offer an opportunity to accelerate social development when combined with personal, societal, and economic factors. The Sports for Nature initiative, launched in December 2022, aims to promote nature conservation and education within sports by 2030. Let's harness the power of sports to drive positive change and create a better future for everyone.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

Beat the heat

Sir, While driving and going for an outing it is better to have a bottle of water with you. The tiring heat requires more consumption of water. One requires at least 8 glasses of water during ordinary days. During summer you can increase it to 12 to 15 glasses of water. Lime juice with salt and a little sugar is preferred to beat dehydration. Instead of going for bottled drinks you can try barley water as well. Health is wealth and one has to keep fit even during hot and humid summer as well.

CK Subramaniam, NAVI MUMBAI



Goa: Less than 50% water stock left in 3 out of 7 dams

THE WATER LEVEL OF TWO OF THESE DAMS HAS GONE BELOW THE 40 PER CENT-MARK, AS PER THE DATA RELEASED BY THE STATE WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Panaji, April 3: The water stock in three out of total seven dams in Goa has dipped below the 50 per cent-mark, indicating that the situation may become difficult during the on-

going summer season. The water level of two of these dams has gone below the 40 per cent-mark, as per the data released by the state Water Resources Department. However, four other dams are well above the 50 per cent



water stock mark with one of them currently holding more than 91 per cent stock, it said. Anjunem reservoir, which meets the water requirement of Sattari and parts of Bicholim taluka in North Goa, is filled with 62.6 per cent water, while Chapoli reservoir, which meets the water requirement of Canacona taluka, has 59.4 per cent stock, the statement said. Gaunem reservoir has 56.6 per cent stock left, while Tillari is filled with 91.1 per cent water

storage, it said. The Selaulim reservoir in Sanguem taluka, which meets the water requirement of most of South Goa districts is, 49.7 per cent full, while the Amthane reservoir, which provides water to Bardez and Pernem (in North Goa) and Bicholim taluka (North Goa), is 38.3 per cent full. The Panchwadi reservoir, which meets the water requirement of villages like Panchwadi and Shiroda (South Goa) is 39.9 per cent full.

Special holiday for Punjab govt staff from J&K, Raj Apr 19

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, April 3: Registered voters of Jammu and Kashmir and Rajasthan working in government establishments in Punjab are eligible for a special holiday April 19 to go and exercise their franchise in their respective states for the Lok Sabha polls, an official said Tuesday.



A holiday has also been declared in these government establishments in Punjab for June 1, when 13 of the state's Lok Sabha seats will go to polls

These establishments are government offices, boards, corporations and educational institutions, according to a statement.

Polling for 12 of the 25 parliamentary seats in Rajasthan and one of the five in Jammu and Kashmir will be held in the first phase of the seven-phase polls.

Punjab's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Sibin C said that a special holiday has been declared for voters from Jammu and Kashmir and Rajasthan who are employed in Punjab to allow them to cast their votes in their respective states in the first phase of polling April 19 (Friday).

A holiday has also been declared in these government establishments in Punjab for June 1, when 13 of the state's Lok Sabha seats will go to polls, the statement said.

Like in the case of voters from Jammu and Kashmir and Rajasthan, special holiday will also be applicable to those from Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh, where polling will also take place June 1 (Saturday), the last phase of the elections.

Goa govt issues extreme heat wave advisory

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Panaji, April 3: Goa may experience extreme heat wave conditions till April 8, according to the Met department, prompting the state government to issue an advisory Tuesday.

"Extreme Heat/Heatwave Advisory by Directorate of Health Services, Goa. If you are experiencing heatwave symptoms, please seek immediate assistance at the nearest health centre or district hospital," the government said.

State Health Minister Vishwajit Rane has posted the advisory on his social media account. The government has asked people to drink sufficient water and avoid dehydration, apart from taking precautions while stepping out during the day.



"Although anyone at any time can suffer from the heat stress, some people are at greater risk than others and should be given additional attention," the advisory stated.

Meanwhile, the IMD said dry weather prevailed in Goa Tuesday, with Panaji recording the highest maximum temperature at 33.6 degrees Celsius.

Delhi Excise Case: AAP leaders in Goa scared: Sawant



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Panaji, April 3: Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has claimed that Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders in the state were scared following the arrest of Arvind Kejriwal and others in the Delhi excise policy case.

He was addressing party workers at Velim in South Goa Lok Sabha constituency Tuesday. Kejriwal was arrested March 21 by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with a money laundering case linked to the now-scrapped excise policy of his government.

He is accused of being directly involved in a conspiracy related to the formulation of the excise policy, favouring certain individuals. "Their Delhi Chief Minister (Kejriwal) is in jail. Do you know why he was jailed? Because he is involved in the excise scam," Sawant said. He alleged that the AAP made money from the excise scam and was not sure what to do with it. "They got some money in Goa (in the 2022 Assembly elections) and

The AAP leaders are afraid after arrests in the Delhi excise scam, and they are tracking my activities
PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CHIEF MINISTER

that is why they won 'matka' (two seats)," he said. The AAP won two seats in Goa in the last assembly election. "The AAP leaders are afraid after arrests in the Delhi excise scam, and they are tracking my activities," Sawant claimed.

The Congress has disappeared from Goa, while AAP leaders are afraid, he said, adding that people will not bother about the Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP). "The only party which is left now is BJP," he said. The ED last week questioned AAP's Goa unit president Amit Palekar and three others in a case linked to the alleged Delhi excise policy case, in which Kejriwal and some other leaders of the party have been arrested. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has fielded Pallavi Dempo as its candidate from the South Goa Lok Sabha constituency.

Seek votes on basis of work done by AAP govt: Mann asks party leaders

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, April 3: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann Wednesday asked AAP leaders to take "positive agenda" to people and seek votes for the Lok Sabha polls on the basis of work done by his government in the past two years.

Mann discussed a poll strategy with AAP candidate from Sangrur parliamentary seat Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer and party MLAs from Assembly segments which are part of the Lok Sabha constituency.

The Chief Minister, who is also AAP's Punjab unit president, is the MLA from Dhuri seat which is part of the Sangrur parliamentary constituency.

He has been taking meetings of party candidates along with MLAs to discuss strategies for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls. On Tuesday, he held meetings with AAP candidates from Patiala and Faridkot and party MLAs. Speaking to reporters here, Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema, who was also part of the meeting, said the CM issued directions for taking "positive agenda" to people and also highlight works done by the AAP government in the past two years.

Cheema also said the state government has fulfilled its major "guarantees" (poll promises), including free electricity to people. He further spoke about steps taken against corruption



Mann discussed a poll strategy with AAP candidate from Sangrur parliamentary seat Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer and party MLAs from Assembly segments which are part of the Lok Sabha constituency.

The Chief Minister, who is also AAP's Punjab unit president, is the MLA from Dhuri seat which is part of the Sangrur parliamentary constituency

and said the corrupt are being nabbed. "We are taking the positive agenda to people and we are completely hopeful that we will win all 13 seats," said Cheema, who is an MLA from Dirba assembly constituency which is also part of Sangrur Lok Sabha seat. Replying to a question on the BJP, Cheema said people of Punjab will teach the saffron party a lesson in the Lok Sabha polls. He claimed that the BJP-led Centre is discriminating against Punjab, alleging withholding of state's share of funds. He highlighted the works done by the Mann government in the past two years, including giving 43,000 government jobs and free electricity.

AAP candidate Hayer said there is a "positive" atmosphere in favour of the party in the constituency and claimed that everyone in the constituency was saying that the kind of work done by the Mann government was never done by any government

in the state. He also stated that the state revenue has risen during the AAP term as he cited an example of increase in revenue by ₹4,000 crore from excise.

Asked whom he sees as his main competitor in the elections, Hayer said it is not a personal fight. It is a fight over issues, he said.

"The CM has told us to take the positive agenda to people. There will be no negative politics. We will seek votes on the basis of works done," said Hayer, who is also the cabinet minister.

Replying to a question on recent deaths because of consumption of spurious liquor in Sangrur, he said action was being taken against the culprits.

To a question on any impact on the AAP's campaign due to the arrest of party leader Arvind Kejriwal, Hayer said everyone was aware of the fact that the AAP leader was "trapped" and also said people will give a fitting reply to the BJP.

GOA MURDER CASE

Police file chargesheet against start-up CEO



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Panaji, April 3: The Goa Police have filed a chargesheet in a court here against Suchana Seth, the CEO of an AI start-up, accused of killing her four-year-old son at an apartment in the coastal state, a senior official said.

Seth (39) was arrested from Chitradurga in neighbouring Karnataka January 7 while she was travelling in a taxi with her son's body stuffed in a bag.

She left Goa January 6 night after allegedly killing her child at an apartment in Candolim area of the state.

The Calangute police earlier this week filed a 642-page chargesheet against Seth in the Goa Children's Court, the official said Tuesday. The chargesheet mentioned that the child died as a result of shock and respiratory asphyxia caused by strangulation.

Seth has been booked under Sections 302 (murder) and 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence) of the Indian Penal Code and Section 8 of the Goa Children's Act, according to

The chargesheet mentioned that the child died as a result of shock and respiratory asphyxia caused by strangulation

the chargesheet.

The Goa Police have named 59 witnesses in the case and also recorded the statement of the accused's husband, who has said that despite orders from a family court in Bengaluru, Seth did not allow him to meet their son.

The Goa Children's Court will hear the case June 14, 2024, when charges would be framed against the accused, who is currently in judicial custody in the coastal state.

The police have also attached with the chargesheet a scribbled note written on a tissue paper using an eyeliner by the accused.

They have also attached the confirmation of handwriting experts who identified it as Seth's handwriting.

1,908 centres for wheat procurement in Punjab

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, April 3: A total of 1,908 procurement centres have been set up across Punjab for the procurement of wheat, said a senior official.

The Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2024-25 began Monday and will run until May 31. Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department Vikas Garg said a total of 1,908 regular procurement centres have been declared as mandi yards and allotment of procurement centres made between all the procurement agencies.

To ensure uninterrupted procurement operations, temporary procurement centres are also being opened, he said. The procurement agencies needed the Cash Credit Limit (CCL) of



₹30,776 crore to procure 115.50 lakh metric tonnes of the crop.

In this regard, the CCL worth ₹27,077.91 crore has been received while the rest of the amount will be received in the

month of May. The procurement agencies require 4.62 jute bales and out of which they have 3.51 lakh jute bales available with them while the rest would be received soon, said the officer. To

stop the illegal entry of wheat from other states for sale in Punjab, directions have been issued to police, the Punjab Mandi Board to set up checkpoints at the interstate barriers.

HC dismisses petition challenging Karnal bypoll

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, April 3: The Punjab and Haryana High Court Wednesday dismissed a petition which had sought directions to set aside the Election Commission's March 16 notification announcing the bypoll for the Karnal Assembly seat.

On Tuesday, a division bench comprising Justices Sudhir Singh and Harsh Bunger had reserved its verdict on a plea seeking directions to set aside the notification.

The BJP has fielded Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, who is also an MP from Kurukshetra in the outgoing Lok Sabha, for the bypoll for the Karnal Assembly seat, vacated by his predecessor Manohar Lal Khattar.

The bypoll is scheduled to be held May 25 along with the polling for the 10 Lok Sabha seats in Haryana.



According to the submission of the petitioner, the EC failed to consider section 151 (A) of the Representation of People's Act, which includes a proviso (a) that if the remainder of the member's term in relation to the vacancy is less than one year, the bypoll need not be held.

The section stipulates that a

THE HIGH COURT WAS ALSO INFORMED THAT BOMBAY HIGH COURT'S NAGPUR BENCH HAD LAST MONTH SET ASIDE AN ELECTION COMMISSION NOTIFICATION ANNOUNCING THE BYPOLL FOR MAHARASHTRA'S AKOLA WEST ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY APRIL 26

IN THAT CASE TOO, THE PETITIONER, AN AKOLA RESIDENT, ARGUED THAT THE REMAINING TENURE OF THE NEW MLA WILL BE LESS THAN ONE YEAR

resident, submitted.

"The petition has been dismissed. The copy of the order is awaited," Advocate Simarpal Singh, the counsel for the petitioner, said. The BJP had last month replaced Khattar, 69, with OBC leader Saini, 54, as

Haryana's Chief Minister in a swift switch in the state.

Khattar is contesting the Lok Sabha polls and is BJP's candidate from Karnal parliamentary seat. Resigning as MLA March 13, Khattar had said, "from today, our Chief Minister (Saini) will look after the Karnal Assembly constituency."

Saini, who was sworn in as the Chief Minister March 12, needs to get elected as an MLA within six months. According to the petition filed by Kunal Chanana, 29, the Haryana Assembly was formed November 4, 2019, and its term is lapsing November 3, 2024. Haryana Assembly polls are due in October 2024.

Since the incoming elected member would scarcely have a period of approximately two months, there is no justification for a significant financial outlay for a truncated tenure, the petitioner argued.

COURT NOTICE
In the Court of Sri Riches Kumar, Additional Civil Judge, Junior Div.-XVII at Jamshepur
Original Suit No. 83 / 2023
Anu Das Plaintiff
Vs.
Shibu Das and others Defendants
To,
(1). Suresh Chandra Dash, S/o Kalipad Das @ Kali Prasad Dash Defendant No. 2
(2). Narayan Chandra Dash, S/o Kalipad Das @ Kali Prasad Dash Defendant No. 3
(3). Laxmikanta Dash, S/o. Kalipad Das @ Kali Prasad Das Defendant No. 4
All Resident of Bahadur Sadar, Kalahandi, Bhawanipatna, Orissa - 766001.
Whereas the above named plaintiff has instituted the instant suit against you and other and earlier notice was duly served to you by registered post as well as through Nazarat and despite of that you neither appeared nor filed written statement, so you hereby summoned to appear by memo of appearance in this court on 18/04/2024 at 10:00 A.M. to answer the same, failing of which the suit will be heard in absence of you and disposed of ex-parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on this 14th day of March, 2024.
Sd/- Additional Civil Judge, Junior Div.-XVII, Civil Court, Jamshepur

BJP, Congress eye Anandapur seat

Ahead of polls, 2 senior saffron leaders join BJD

BY ANNOUNCING ALOK KUMAR SETHY AS ITS CANDIDATE FOR THIS SEAT, THE BJP HAS MADE HEADWAY WHILE BJD AND CONGRESS HAVE NOT YET ANNOUNCED THEIR CANDIDATES FOR THE SEAT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Hatadihi, April 3: Internal squabble in the BJD and decline in vote share of the ruling party in 2022 panchayat elections have come as a boost for the opposition BJP and Congress in Anandapur Assembly constituency under Keonjhar Lok Sabha segment.

The two parties are now planning to wrest the seat from the ruling party. By announcing Alok Kumar Sethy as its candidate for this seat, the BJP has made headway while BJD and Congress have not yet announced their candidates for the seat, leaving the aspirants in the two parties concerned over their fate.

However, the ruling BJD has more aspirants than the Congress. In the last four Assembly elections Mayadhar Jena and Bhagirathi Sethi have won twice each as the BJD and BJD-BJP alliance candidates.

The two are again keen to contest from this seat. However, the locals and BJD workers are not in their favour. BJD workers have reportedly turned away



Abhimanyu Sethi campaigning even though BJD is yet to announce its candidate

from them and demanded to replace the old candidates with fresh faces.

On the other hand, Jena and Sethi are reportedly facing a decline in popularity with resentment brewing against them as reflected in the results of last election.

Notably, BJD received 89,850 votes, Congress 45,657 votes and BJP 31,554 votes in the 2019 elections. The margin was 44,193 votes between the winning BJD candidate and the defeated Congress candidate. However, a

look at the results of the 2022 panchayat elections will reveal that the BJD's vote share has declined considerably.

BJD won in six and BJP in one out of the seven Zilla Parishad zones during the panchayat elections. BJD received 89,713 votes, BJP 71,897 votes and Congress got 19,597 votes. The vote margin was 17,816 votes.

An analysis of the BJD's vote share in 2019 elections and 2022 panchayat elections reveals that it has received 26,377 less votes. Similarly, the Congress party's

vote share in the Assembly elections and that in the panchayat elections has declined. However, BJP got a boost with its vote share increasing by 40,343 votes.

In this situation, both BJP and Congress are eyeing to wrest the Anandapur Assembly seat from BJD if the ruling party repeats its old face from the seat.

A reliable source quoting four-time winner former Congress MLA Jaydev Jena said that Congress will wrest the seat from BJD if the ruling party repeats its old candidates.

Meanwhile, one of the BJD aspirants Abhimanyu Sethi has launched campaigning in the Assembly segment even though the ruling party is yet to announce its candidate from the seat.

Notably, Abhimanyu has been in the BJD for the last 20 years and contributed immensely for the growth of the party organisation. Party workers claimed it would become easier for BJD to win from this seat if Abhimanyu is fielded as its candidate. This could remove the resentment among the party workers and bring back the old

party workers who have defected to other parties.

Meanwhile, the saffron party Tuesday nominated Alok Kumar Sethy and became the first party to announce its candidate for the Anandapur Assembly constituency. Alok is known for his talent and skill in strengthening the party network in the constituency. BJP fielding Alok has alarmed his opponents as he might put up a stiff challenge to them during the election.

However, the constituency is a citadel of the BJD. Earlier, Congress used to come second in the elections. However, the grand old party slipped to third position in the 2022 panchayat elections while BJP came second. It is apprehended that Alok will be more active in this election and will prove to be a bigger hurdle for the BJD in its way to victory.

Furthermore, in a cause of concern for the BJD, the BJP's vote share has increased exponentially in the 2014, 2017, 2019 and 2022 Assembly and panchayat elections here. Alok had earlier contested twice from this seat and this time hopes to win from this seat.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, April 3: Odisha BJP vice-president Bhругu Baxipatra and saffron party's Cuttack district president Prakash Behera Wednesday joined the ruling BJD ahead of the Lok Sabha and Odisha Assembly polls.

While Baxipatra had resigned from the saffron party earlier during the day, Behera quit the BJP March 29.

While the BJD has nominated Baxipatra for Berhampur Lok Sabha seat, speculations are rife that Behera will be nominated for Salepur. Both were unsuccessful in the respective seats as BJP candidates in 2019.

Baxipatra, who officially joined the BJD at the party's headquarters, Sankha Bhawan, was welcomed by BJD's Berhampur MP Chandrasekhar Sahu.

Baxipatra decided to leave the BJP after the party nominated MLA Pradeep Panigrahy, who had been expelled by the BJD, for the Berhampur seat.

Meanwhile, BJD appointed Sahu, the incumbent MP, as its vice-president and chairman of the manifesto committee.

The party has not yet announced the names of other members of the committee that will be responsible for preparing



Prakash Behera and Bhругu Baxipatra

the manifesto for the simultaneous elections to the 147-member Assembly and the 21 Lok Sabha seats in the state.

Sahu's appointment is being seen as a move to accommodate him with Baxipatra getting nominated from Berhampur seat.

The BJD has so far announced candidates for 20 of the state's 21 Lok Sabha seats.

In the last Lok Sabha polls, Baxipatra had secured 3.49 lakh votes but lost to Sahu by a margin of around 94,000.

Former Salepur MLA Prakash Behera has also joined the BJD. He was formally inducted into the regional party in the presence of senior BJD leader Manas Mangaraj.

Behera, who previously won the Salepur seat in 2014 on a Congress ticket, joined the BJD ahead of the 2019 elections and contested again from the same constituency.

However, he was defeated by BJD's Prashant Behera in the election.

PM Modi has taken India to new heights: Patra

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Puri, April 3: BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra, who is once again contesting for the Puri Lok Sabha seat, has said that despite his defeat in the 2019 elections, he remained committed to serving the people of the holy town and the state.

Patra had narrowly lost to Biju Janata Dal (BJD) candidate Pinaki Misra in the last general elections.

This time, Patra finds himself pitted against former Mumbai Police commissioner Arup Patnaik. BJD has chosen to field Patnaik over Misra in this electoral contest.

Talking to PTI Video, Patra said, "We have to believe and repose faith on the 'Guarantee of Narendra Modi ji'. He has taken India to a different realm altogether. He has promised us that India will be the third biggest economy if the BJP returns to power in 2024."

On Monday, Patra had released his report card of the work undertaken by him in the last five years.

"Never before has a defeated candidate presented a report card of the work undertaken by him. After my defeat in 2019, I took a pledge that I will continue to stay with my people in Puri and work for them," he said.

"During these five years, I have opened several post offices in Puri, we have distributed vehicles for Divyangs, we have launched Vande Bharat train from Puri, among other things," Patra said.



Members of BJD from Chandbali Assembly segment in Bhadrak district joined BJP at a merger meeting held at the state party headquarters in Bhubaneswar in the presence of party's state president Manmohan Samal, party leaders Arindam Ray and Sidhant Mohapatra and others, Wednesday

GEORGE'S SON ROHIT JOINS BJD

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, April 3: BJD has got a definite advantage in Biramitrapur Assembly segment as Rohit Joseph Tirkey, son of prominent tribal leader George Tirkey, joined the BJD Wednesday.

He had unsuccessfully contested the 2019 elections from Biramitrapur Assembly constituency in Sundargarh district on a Congress ticket.

Rohit joined the ruling BJD Wednesday morning at Bhubaneswar in the presence of Labour Minister Sarada

Nayak and BJD's observer for Sundargarh district Minister Pritiranjana Gharai and Rajya Sabha MP Sasmit Patra.

Speaking about the development, Sarada Nayak said, "This is certainly a very positive political development. With Rohit coming in, Biramitrapur has become a winnable seat for BJD. Among other factors his father's name would also help him."

Notably, the BJD is yet to pick its nominee for Biramitrapur. Rohit's father is a four-time Biramitrapur MLA and he was with the BJD from 2002 to 2006. George had previously won twice

from Birmitrapur, first in 1995 and then in 2000, on a JMM ticket.

After resigning from the BJD during the Kalinganagar crisis, he secured victory from Birmitrapur in 2009 as an Independent candidate. Subsequently, he founded his own political party, Santa Kranti Dal, in 2014, and successfully won from Birmitrapur for the fourth time. He briefly rejoined the JMM before eventually joining the Congress party in 2018.

Both father and son were defeated from Sundargarh Lok Sabha seat and Birmitrapur Assembly segment in 2019.

'Modi ki guarantee' unsuccessful, does not reach people: Kharge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

CONGRESS LAUNCHES 'GHAR GHAR GUARANTEE' INITIATIVE

New Delhi, April 3: Prime Minister Narendra Modi talks about 'Modi ki guarantee' but it is unsuccessful and does not reach people, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge alleged Wednesday as he launched his party's 'Ghar Ghar Guarantee' initiative under which it aims to reach out to 8 crore households across the country.

Kharge launched the initiative from Usmanpur, Kaithwada in the North East Delhi parliamentary constituency and distributed pamphlets on the Congress's 'Paanch Nyay Pachees Guarantee'.

Party general secretary Jairam Ramesh said it is important to note that the 'Ghar Ghar Guarantee' initiative is being launched from a place from

where, in 1978, the Congress used the hand symbol for the first time. Interestingly, this time the Congress's campaign tagline is also centred around its poll symbol - 'Haath Badlega Halaat'.

Posting a picture of himself handing over the party's guarantee card to a woman, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi said on X, "Our Paanch Nyay and 25 Guarantees are a promise to provide every Indian with a better future, equal opportunities, and a fair share in India's growth."

"Our Paanch big guarantees are Pehli Naukri Pakki - Every educated youth will have their first job guaranteed with ₹1 lakh salary; Mahalakshmi - One woman in every poor family will be given ₹1 lakh every year;



Sahi Daam and Karz Mukti - Loan waiver and legal status to MSP, according to the Swaminathan Commission's formula; Shram Ka Samman - ₹400 per day National Minimum

Wage, including for MGNREGA; Ginti Karo - Every individual and every community to be counted through a nationwide census to ensure social and economic equity. The Congress will empower every youngster, woman, farmer, worker and marginalised citizen of India," Gandhi asserted.

"We will ensure the benefits of the nation's progress are not cornered by a few, but rather reach every household," he said.

Releasing the guarantee card in the North East Delhi constituency, Kharge hit out at Modi, saying, "We give a guarantee that our government has always worked for people and will always do so. The prime minister talks about 'Modi ki guarantee', but his guarantee is unsuccessful and does not reach people."

Modi had promised generating two crore jobs a year but people never got to see those jobs, the Congress chief said, adding that he fails to understand why people encourage such propaganda and vote for those who lie.

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) talked about doubling farmers' income and providing a legal guarantee for a minimum support price (MSP) on crops, but did not honour those promises, he said.

"We want to tell the country that whatever we promise, we fulfil," Kharge asserted.

He also recalled how Congress governments in the past gave guarantees and programmes like MGNREGA, RTI, Right to Food and Right to Education even though the party had not promised those.



Hundreds of BJP and Congress workers joined BJD in the presence party's MLA candidate Lalita Naik at a merger meeting held at Pastikudi village under Kesinga block and Bhawanipatna Assembly segment in Kalahandi district, Wednesday



Workers of other parties joined Congress in the presence of party leaders at a merger meeting held at Landijhari village under Barkote block in Deogarh district, Wednesday

national

of the day quote

Deeply saddened by the loss of lives due to earthquakes in Taiwan today. Our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and wishes for a speedy recovery to the injured

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

Congress is in a very comfortable position as far as Karnataka is concerned. There is no Modi wave in Karnataka because Prime Minister Narendra Modi has not left any footprint in Karnataka during the last 10 years of his rule

D K SHIVAKUMAR | K'TAKA DEPUTY CM

There is no clue where Congress is, it is lagging far behind. If anyone is responsible for this, it is Rahul Gandhi. He neither took the Congress seriously nor the elections. We hope that Congress will come out of its contradictions and introspect

MOHAN YADAV | MP CM

SHORT TAKES

Three more bodies of Maoists found

Raipur: Three more bodies of Naxalites were recovered Wednesday morning in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district where a fierce encounter took place between security personnel and Naxalites the previous day, police said. With this, the number of Naxalites killed in the gun battle Tuesday has risen to 13, they said.

Sushil Modi reveals cancer diagnosis

Patna: Former Bihar Deputy chief minister Sushil Kumar Modi Wednesday said he was diagnosed with cancer six months ago and, as a result, would not be participating in the BJP's Lok Sabha poll campaign. Modi, aged 72, was previously listed by the BJP as one of its star campaigners for the state and was also named a member of its election manifesto committee.

PDP, NC to contest against each other

Srinagar: The PDP and the National Conference -- the two INDIA bloc partners in Jammu and Kashmir -- will be taking on each other on the three Lok Sabha seats in the valley. Mehbooba Mufti-led PDP accused National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah of leaving them "no option". The party's parliamentary board would take a final call on the candidates, she added.

Man slits his throat inside K'taka HC

Bangalore: A man tried to end his life by allegedly slitting his throat with a knife on the premises of Karnataka High Court Wednesday, police said. The man was immediately rescued by the security staff on the court premises and rushed to a nearby hospital where he is under treatment, a senior police officer said.

Gangster, police personnel killed

Jammu: A police sub-inspector and a wanted criminal were killed and a special police officer was injured in a gunfight on the Government Medical College (GMC) hospital premises in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua, officials said Wednesday. Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha and Director General of Police (DGP) R R Swain paid rich tributes to slain Sub-Inspector Deepak Sharma.



Small tea growers produce green leaves on their own land up to five bighas and sell to the factories. Nearly 10 lakh people are involved in this activity. I request them to continue with the production and we will talk with scientists after the elections on the pesticides issue which had been flagged by the Tea Board and other authorities and come out with a solution

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

MANMOHAN RETIRES FROM RS

Soft spoken, erudite and modest, Manmohan Singh has exited public life with his retirement from the Rajya Sabha - the former Prime Minister and architect of India's economic reforms slipping out of politics as quietly and without ceremony perhaps as he entered it 33 years ago



REGULATION OF INDUSTRIAL ALCOHOL

UP, WB on same page in top court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 3: BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh and TMC-governed West Bengal were on the same page in the Supreme Court Wednesday where they asserted the legislative power vested in states to regulate industrial alcohol is untrammelled and complete and beyond the Centre's jurisdiction.

A nine-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud is examining the issue of overlapping powers of the Centre and states in production, manufacturing, supply and regulation of industrial alcohol. A clutch of petitions came before the bench after a seven-judge constitution bench ruled against the states.

The matter was referred to a nine-judge bench in 2010 after a seven-judge bench ruled in 1997 that the Centre will have the regulatory power over production of industrial alcohol. The seven-judge bench had in 1990 observed that through the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, the Union had "evinced clear intention to occupy" legislative competence



on the subject and hence Entry 33 could not empower a state government. Senior advocate Dinesh Dwivedi, appearing for the Uttar Pradesh government, told the court that liquor has always been within the legislative sphere of states and the Centre does not have any jurisdiction with regard to industrial alcohol. Excise, liquor and spirit have always been part of state's jurisdiction, including industrial alcohol, he said.

"The Central government has not issued any order to regulate industrial alcohol as per Section 18G of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951. Therefore, there cannot be a case of conflict or occupied field. The field is unoc-

A clutch of petitions came before the bench after a seven-judge constitution bench ruled against the states

cupied and the states' power to legislate to regulate industrial alcohol is untrammelled and complete," Dwivedi told the bench.

The bench also comprises Justices Hrishikesh Roy, Abhay S Oka, B V Nagarathna, J B Pardiwala, Manoj Misra, Ujjal Bhuyan, Satish Chandra Sharma and Augustine George Masih.

Dwivedi said states' exclusive jurisdiction cannot be made dependent on parliamentary legislation as it would be against the

very essence of the country's federal structure.

He submitted that the top court's decision in the 'Synthetic and Chemicals' case in 1990 took away the states' power in relation to industrial alcohol even under Entry 33 of the Concurrent List, which provides for trade and commerce in production, supply and distribution of certain industrial products.

Senior advocate Arvind Datar, also appearing for the UP government, said the decision given in the 'Synthetics and Chemicals' case renders the state legislatures incompetent to legislate on rectified spirit.

"Synthetics and Chemicals case erroneously treated 'alcoholic liquor for human consumption' as 'alcoholic liquor fit for human consumption'," he said. Senior advocate Jaideep Gupta, appearing for the West Bengal government, submitted that all liquids having alcohol qualify as intoxicating liquor and fall under Entry 8 of List II of the Seventh Schedule, which confers on states exclusive jurisdiction to control and regulate all kinds of spirits produced from molasses.

'CLOCK' SYMBOL CASE

SC asks Ajit-led NCP to give details of ads issued after its order



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 3: The Supreme Court Wednesday asked Ajit Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party to furnish details of newspaper advertisements issued in compliance of its order which instructed the faction to run all publicity with disclaimer that the matter of allocation of 'clock' symbol to it is sub judice.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and KV Viswanathan asked senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the faction led by the Maharashtra deputy chief minister, to furnish the details of advertisements issued after Sharad Pawar alleged that they are not complying with the court's March 19 order.

The bench said, "Mr Rohatgi you have your instructions on how many advertisements were issued after this order. We might be required to take a view if he (Ajit Pawar) is behaving like this. Nobody has a right to deliberately misconstrue our order."

Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for Sharad Pawar, said that on March 19, this court passed a reasoned order in which they (Ajit Pawar group) were asked to issue advertisements that the matter of allocation of 'clock' symbol is sub judice before this court and they were permitted to use the same subject to final outcome of these proceedings.

"Now, they have not complied with the direction and advertisements are being issued by them without the disclaimer.

They have even filed an application before this court, seeking relaxation of the reasoned order. This cannot be changed. We are in the middle period of the elections," Singhvi submitted.

He urged the court to not entertain any such application for review of the order saying they are in the midst of the election.

"Elections are on, your lordships will not entertain such a review. This is nothing but a blatant review. It is a reasoned order. This cannot be changed, we are in the middle of the elections," Singhvi added.

The bench asked Rohatgi about the application and whether it is listed or not. Rohatgi replied that it was not listed and they were only seeking modification of just one line in the order but they (Sharad Pawar faction) claimed that the top court had decided the matter.

Justice Kant said, "The disclaimer in advertisements should continue till elections." Singhvi intervened and said, "In no newspaper this disclaimer is being made and the court's order is made a mockery of."

The bench asked Rohatgi to furnish the details and number of advertisements published by the Ajit Pawar-led faction after March 19 saying the order is in simple language and there cannot be any other interpretation.

On March 19, the top court allowed the Sharad Pawar faction to use 'Nationalist Congress Party-Sharadchandra Pawar' as its name for the upcoming Lok Sabha and Assembly polls in the country.



Flamingos seen on the water of DPS Lake as it has started turning reddish pink due to algae bloom at Nerul in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra

TIDBITS

Mumbai police arrests 9 pirates caught off Somalia coast by Navy

Mumbai: The Mumbai police arrested nine pirates who were brought to India Wednesday, days after the Navy caught them for hijacking an Iranian fishing vessel with 23 Pakistani crew members on board off the Somalia coast, an official said. The Indian Navy rescued the hijacked Iranian fishing vessel 'Al-Kambar 786' and its crew after more than 12 hours of intense coercive tactical measures as part of an anti-piracy operation March 29. At the time of the incident, the vessel was approximately 90 nm southwest of Socotra, an island in the Indian Ocean. The operation involved INS Sumedha and guided missile frigate INS Trishul. "After the successful operation of the Indian Navy team, the pirates surrendered and the crew members were rescued. The pirates were then taken into custody by the Navy and after six days of journey, the pirates were brought to Mumbai," the official said.

7 die of suffocation after fire at tailoring shop

Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar: Seven persons, including two children, died of suffocation after a fire broke out in a tailoring shop in Maharashtra's Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar city early Wednesday morning, a senior police official said. The blaze erupted at around 4 am in the shop located at Dana Bazar in Cantonment area. The tailoring shop and other commercial establishments were located on the ground floor of a building while people were residing on the upper floor, the official said. The shop suddenly caught fire at around 4 am. The police came to know about the incident at 4.15 am. Following the fire, smoke entered the first floor where a family was residing above the shop.

4 killed, over dozen injured in pharma unit explosion

Hyderabad: Four people were killed and 16 others injured due to an explosion in a chemical reactor at a pharmaceutical company's plant in Sangareddy district of Telangana Wednesday, police and fire department officials said. Among the deceased is the firm's director, they said. The blast occurred around 5 pm at the factory of SB Organics Ltd, located at Chandapur village of Hathnoora mandal of the district, and it led to a fire. The plant is located about 40 km from Hyderabad International airport. The fire, which spread through the pharma unit's premises, was subsequently brought under control, the officials added.

Vistara cancels 26 flights, holds meeting with pilots

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 3: Amid flight cancellations due to non-availability of crew, Vistara's top officials Wednesday held a meeting with pilots where discussions were held on new contracts and rostering issues, according to sources.

The Tata Group airline cancelled around 26 flights on Wednesday, the sources in the know said. With a section of pilots reporting sick to protest against the revised pay structure, Vistara cancelled over 100 flights in the last two days and aviation regulator DGCA has asked the carrier to submit a daily report on the cancellations and delays. The sources said top officials of Vistara, including CEO Vinod Kannan, held a virtual meeting with pilots to discuss their problems. Officials of human resources among other departments attended the meeting.

There was no official statement from Vistara on the meeting with the pilots. Flight operations are returning to normalcy and the number of flights cancellations has come down, the sources said.

On issues related to rostering and stretched working hours, the airline officials have assured the pilots that they will be sorted out by May, the sources said.

They also claimed that the current situation was mainly due to higher utilisation of the available pool of pilots. Vistara, which is in the process of getting merged with Air India, has around 1,000 pilots, including about 200 who are at various stages of training.

SCORCHING HEAT

Special diet plans, sprinklers for Delhi zoo animals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 3: With summer around the corner, the National Zoological Park here has taken measures to help animals survive the extreme heat by adjusting their diet plans and installing water sprinklers.

"To ensure animals are comfortable during the prevailing heat, authorities will implement a slew of summer arrangements. In the first place, we will fill the ponds in the zoo area so animals can immerse themselves multiple times a day," an official at the zoo told PTI.

With the mercury expected to soar in the coming months, the authorities are adding regular baths in the animals' routine and installing water sprinklers this month to provide them relief, he said. Assessing the situation in May and June, fans



and coolers will also be installed accordingly, he added. According to the weather department, heatwaves are likely to occur in the national capital in May and June.

"Animals, mainly carnivores, suffer the most from the rising mercury. So we have ensured a proper summer diet, adequate

water and shade for such animals," a senior zoo official said.

"We will make adjustments to the animals' diet plan according to the weather conditions. Rising temperature increases the respiration rate of animals, especially the carnivores. So diet restrictions are

THE HEALTH OF ANIMALS IS ALSO BEING MONITORED AT REGULAR INTERVALS BY THE KEEPERS

AS PART OF THE SUMMER FOOD PLAN, ANIMALS WILL ALSO BE GIVEN ELECTROLYTE POWDER OR VITAMIN SUPPLEMENTS TO HELP THEM FIGHT DEHYDRATION

SEASONAL FRUITS WILL BE PROVIDED TO PREVENT INFECTIONS, ACCORDING TO ZOO OFFICIALS

made accordingly. During the summer, dietary intake of carnivorous animals is usually cut down by 1 to 2 kg," he said.

For instance, instead of bread, they will be served rice, and fruits with higher water content to beat the heat, the official said. Meanwhile, herbivores will also be served fruits with higher water content such as

watermelon and cucumber to keep them hydrated, he added.

The health of animals is also being monitored at regular intervals by the keepers, he said. As part of the summer food plan, animals will also be given electrolyte powder or vitamin supplements to help them fight dehydration.

Seasonal fruits will be provided to prevent infections, according to zoo officials.

Additionally, they will be given glucose, drinking water mixed with electrical powder, and multivitamins to protect them from the extreme weather conditions, they added.

For the next seven days, the temperature is predicted to range from 33 to 37 degrees Celsius in the national capital, with no heatwave conditions likely, according to the IMD weekly weather forecast.

international



Today, in relations with Russia, the bloc (NATO) has returned to Cold War settings
MARIA ZAKHAROVA | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESWOMAN, RUSSIA

BIDEN, TRUMP REMATCH

US President Joe Biden and his Republican rival and predecessor Donald Trump have easily won their presidential primaries in four more states as they are set for a 2020 rematch in November



of the day quote

If there is any kind of attack on the judiciary's independence, I would be at the frontline [in defending judiciary] and for sure, my fellow judges would be standing with me in this. And we never accept interference

QAZI FAEZ ISA | CHIEF JUSTICE OF PAKISTAN

We strongly believe that support to Ukraine should be less dependent on short-term, voluntary offers and more dependent on long-term NATO commitments

JENS STOLTENBERG | SECRETARY-GENERAL, NATO

We (Japan & Indonesia) are longtime friends and have built a cooperative relationship. I hope to further strengthen this relationship

PRABOWO SUBIANTO | PRESIDENT-ELECT, INDONESIA

Strongest quake in 25 yrs jolts Taiwan

The country lies along the Pacific "Ring of Fire," the line of seismic faults encircling the Pacific Ocean where most of the world's earthquakes occur

REUTERS

Hualien, April 3: Taiwan's biggest earthquake in at least 25 years killed nine people Wednesday and injured more than 900, while 50 workers travelling in minibuses to a hotel in a national park were missing. Some buildings tilted at precarious angles in the mountainous, sparsely populated county of Hualien, near the epicentre of the 7.2 magnitude quake, which struck just offshore at about 8 am and triggered massive landslides.

The quake hit at a depth of 15.5 km (9.6 miles), just as people were headed for work and school, setting off a tsunami warning for southern Japan and the Philippines that was later lifted.

Shaking from an earthquake near Taiwan's eastern shore was felt across the island nation and parts of mainland China and Japan Wednesday morning.

Video showed rescuers using ladders to help trapped people out of windows. Strong tremors in Taipei forced the subway system to close briefly, although most lines resumed service.

Fire authorities said they had already evacuated some 70 people trapped in tunnels near Hualien city, including two Germans.

But they had lost contact



EARTHQUAKE KILLS NINE, MORE THAN 900 INJURED
FIFTY ON MINIBUSES HEADING TO NATIONAL PARK MISSING
EPICENTRE JUST OFF TAIWAN'S SPARSELY POPULATED EAST COAST

with 50 workers aboard four minibuses heading to a hotel in a national park, Taroko Gorge, they said, and rescuers were looking for them. Another 80 people are trapped in a mining area, though it was not immediately clear if they were inside a mine.

A woman who runs bed-and-breakfast accommodation in Hualien city said she scrambled to calm her guests who were scared by the quake.

"This is the biggest earthquake I have ever experienced,"

said the woman, who asked to be identified only by her family name, Chan.

The government put the number of injured at 946.

Taiwan's air force said six F-16 fighter jets had been slightly damaged at a major base in the city from which jets are often scrambled to see off incursions by China's air force, but the aircraft are expected to return to service very soon.

In Japan, the weather agency put the quake's magnitude at 7.7, saying several small tsunami

I've grown accustomed to (earthquakes). But today was the first time I was scared to tears by an earthquake. I had never felt such intense shaking before

HSIEN-HSUEN KENG | RESIDENT, TAIPEI

At present the most important thing, the top priority, is to rescue people

LAI CHING-TE | PRESIDENT-ELECT, TAIWAN

waves reached parts of the southern prefecture of Okinawa, while downgrading its tsunami warning to an advisory.

In the Philippines, seismology officials warned coastal residents in several provinces to move to higher ground.

Chinese state media said the quake was felt in the south-eastern province of Fujian, while a Reuters witness said it was also felt in the commercial hub of Shanghai.

Aftershocks could still be felt in Taipei, with more than 50 recorded, weather officials said.

The quake and aftershocks caused 24 landslides and damage to 35 roads, bridges and tunnels

Taiwan weather officials ranked Wednesday's quake in Hualien as "Upper 6", or the second-highest level of intensity on a scale ranging from 1 to 7.

Such quakes collapse walls unless they are made of reinforced concrete blocks, while people cannot stand upright and must crawl in order to move, experts say.

The official central news agency said the quake was the biggest since one of magnitude 7.6 in 1999 that killed about 2,400 people and damaged or destroyed 50,000 buildings

MISSILE MANIA

NK aims to adopt solid-fuel missiles for faster launches

REUTERS

Seoul, April 3: North Korea successfully test-fired a new hypersonic missile, state news agency KCNA said Wednesday, the latest step in a plan its leader Kim Jong Un described as aimed at using solid fuel to power missiles of all ranges.

The North is developing missiles and nuclear weapons undeterred by sanctions in the wake of UN Security Council bans, while analysts say solid-fuel missiles can be faster to deploy than liquid-fuel variants.

It drew swift condemnation from neighbours South Korea and Japan, as well as the United States for firing the intermediate-range ballistic missile (IRBM) into the sea Tuesday.

Kim oversaw the launch of the new Hwasong-16B missile, KCNA said, calling it a strategic weapon showcasing the "absolute superiority" of the North's defence technology.

It perfects the North's project for "putting all the tactical, operational and strategic missiles with various ranges on solid-fuelled, warhead-controlled and nuclear warhead-carrying basis," Kim said, according to KCNA.

That would give North Korea the capacity for "rapidly, accurately and powerfully striking any target in the enemy side worldwide," Kim said.

SHORT TAKES

10-yr security pact

Copenhagen: Finland's President Alexander Stubb Wednesday visited Ukraine where he and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy signed an agreement on security cooperation and long-term support between the two countries, Stubb's office said in a statement. The deal covers a range of topics including political support, backing for Ukraine's defence and security and support for Ukrainian reforms and reconstruction. "The ten-year agreement is proof of Finland's long-term commitment to supporting Ukraine," Stubb's office said.

Biden, Xi hold talks

Washington: US President Joe Biden and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping held a "candid and constructive discussion" on a range of bilateral, regional, and global issues, including areas of cooperation and areas of difference, the White House said Tuesday. This is the first phone conversation between the two leaders after their summit meeting at Woodside in California last November and lasted for 105 minutes during which they discussed about their areas of cooperation and differences. Notably, the last phone call between the two leaders was in July 2022.

New PM in Senegal

Dakar: Senegal's popular opposition figure Ousmane Sonko was named as the prime minister in the new government Tuesday, hours after his key ally was sworn in as president. Sonko, 49, has inspired Senegalese youth frustrated with widespread unemployment and corruption among the ruling elite. A former tax inspector, like the president, he has promised to deliver greater transparency and sovereignty for Senegal. Last month's election tested Senegal's reputation as a stable democracy in West Africa, a region rocked in recent years by coups and attempted coups.

Anti-gay law upheld

Kampala: Uganda's constitutional court Wednesday upheld an anti-gay law that allows the death penalty for "aggravated homosexuality". President Yoweri Museveni signed the bill into law in May last year. The law is supported by many in the East African country but widely condemned by rights activists and others abroad. Activists had contested the law in court, but the judges declined to overturn it in their ruling.

TOUGH TIMES

Zimbabwe declares drought disaster



Harare: Zimbabwe declared a state of disaster Wednesday over a devastating drought that's sweeping across much of southern Africa, with the country's president saying it needs \$2 billion for humanitarian assistance. The declaration was widely expected following similar actions by neighbouring Zambia and Malawi, where drought linked to the El Nino weather phenomenon has scorched crops, leaving millions of people in need of food assistance. "Due to the El Nino-induced drought... more than 80 per cent of our country received below normal rainfall," President Emmerson Mnangagwa said in a speech calling for international aid. The country's top priority, he said, is "securing food for all Zimbabweans. No Zimbabwean must succumb to, or die from hunger".

Gang violence: Exodus in Haiti

Port-Au-Prince: More than 53,000 people have fled Haiti's capital in less than three weeks, the vast majority to escape unrelenting gang violence, according to a United Nations report released Tuesday. More than 60 per cent are headed to Haiti's rural southern region, which worries UN officials. "Our humanitarian colleagues emphasized that these departments do not have sufficient infrastructure, and host communities do not have sufficient resources, to cope with the large number of people fleeing Port-au-Prince," said UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric. The exodus from the capital of some 3 million people began shortly after powerful gangs launched a series of attacks on government institutions at the end of February. More than 1,500 people have been reported killed up to March 22, and another 17,000 have been left homeless, according to the UN. More than 90 per cent of Haitians leaving the capital have been crowding into buses, risking travel through gang-controlled territory where gang rapes have been reported and gunmen have been known to open fire on public transport.



10mn at risk of poverty in Pak: WB

Islamabad: The World Bank has painted a grim economic picture of Pakistan in its biannual report, cautioning that over 10 million more people are at risk of descending into poverty in the cash-strapped country. The Washington-based lender's apprehension comes from a sluggish economic growth rate of 1.8 per cent coupled with soaring inflation, a staggering 26 per cent in the current fiscal year. The World Bank's biannual Pakistan Development Outlook report indicated that the country is set to miss almost all major macroeconomic targets. The international lender said the country is anticipated to fall short of its primary budget target, remaining in deficit for three consecutive years, contrary to the International Monetary Fund's stipulations mandating a surplus.



Doval calls for shunning double standards in combating terrorism

The comments came in the face of China's Belt and Road Initiative facing increasing criticism over lack of transparency and disregard for the sovereignty of nations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Astana, April 3: Perpetrators of terrorism should be effectively and expeditiously dealt with including those involved in cross-border terrorist activities, NSA Ajit Doval said Wednesday, condemning the barbaric terror attack at Crocus City Hall in Moscow and calling for shunning double standards in combating the menace.

In an address at a security conclave of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Astana, he also said that connectivity projects must be fully respectful of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of member states of the grouping, in remarks that came amid concerns over China's Belt and Road

SCO MEET



Initiative (BRI).

Highlighting the challenge of terrorism, Doval underlined the need for holding accountable the sponsors, financiers and facilitators of terrorist activities, in remarks that came amid Pakistan's continuing support to various terror groups.

Doval also raised the issue of the continued threat posed by various terror groups in the SCO region, including those designated by the UN Security Council such as Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Muhammad, Al Qaeda and its affiliates and ISIS, sources said. Doval said India is commit-

Perpetrators of terrorism should be effectively and expeditiously dealt with including those involved in cross-border terrorism

AJIT DOVAL | NSA, INDIA

ted to enhancing transit trade and connectivity asserting that such initiatives must be fully respectful of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of SCO member states.

The National Security Advisor strongly condemned the barbaric terrorist attack at Crocus City Hall in Moscow March 22 and expressed condolences to the families who have lost their loved ones.

Doval conveyed to Russian NSA Patrushev, India's solidarity with the government and the people of Russia to address the threat from terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

The SCO comprises Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan and Iran.

War and the tyranny of expectations

During the beginning of 2022, a majority of the global community praised the courageous Ukrainian soldiers for successfully defending against Russian troops near Kharkiv and Kyiv. "This is Ukraine's finest hour, that will be remembered and recounted for generations to come," declared then British Prime Minister Boris Johnson. "Its soldiers have demonstrated immense bravery," said German Chancellor Olaf Scholz. In a speech from Warsaw, US President Joe Biden proclaimed that Russian forces "met their match with brave and stiff Ukrainian resistance."

After the passage of two years, Ukrainian troops once more find themselves battling against overwhelming Russian military attacks, this time in Donetsk, Luhansk, and other regions. However, the atmosphere is noticeably different this time around. Rather than being met with enthusiastic applause, the Ukrainian soldiers are facing criticism for their inability to shift the momentum and launch a counteroffensive. Last November, for example, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni

made revealing comments to two Russians (who were pretending to be African Union officials): "There is a lot of fatigue, I have to say the truth, from all the sides. We are near the moment in which everybody understands that we need a way out." Ukraine may again be holding off a more powerful aggressor. Yet this outcome now seems like a stalemate, if not a defeat.

The global shift in perceptions is an example of the tyranny of expectations—or how assumptions about who will win a war can skew judgments about who prevails. Outside observers, both experts and laypeople alike, do not evaluate military results by simply tallying up the battlefield gains and losses. Instead, they compare these results to their expectations. As a result, states can lose territory and still be deemed winners if they overperform. States can take land and be labeled losers if they underdeliver. The resulting conclusions about the winners and losers, however skewed, can even rebound and shape the battlefield. Ukraine, for example, lost territory during the initial weeks



of Russia's invasion. But Kyiv's unexpectedly resolute defense earned it widespread Western assistance, which helped it liberate numerous cities in the following months.

The tyranny of expectations is also at work in another major war: the Israeli campaign in Gaza. When this conflict began, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made a grandiose promise that his country would "crush and destroy" Hamas. Declaring that he would eradicate the group completely was a mistake. Hamas is amorphous, dispersed, and heavily armed, which means it is almost im-

possible for Israel to abolish. Netanyahu's pledge makes it extremely difficult for Israel to be seen as the clear-cut winner of the war. When expectations and reality clash, crisis often follows. Israeli disillusionment with Netanyahu's war could cause a seismic shock in Israeli politics.

At first, it might seem that the key to success in war is to exude great confidence about victory. In wartime, after all, optimism can be a force multiplier, whereas defeatism can be contagious. If everyone thinks one side will win a battle, it really might prevail, in a kind of self-

fulfilling prophecy. In War and Peace, for instance, Leo Tolstoy argued that Russian troops fled from the French in the 1805 battle of Austerlitz, despite suffering from similar casualties, because the Russian troops had a crisis of confidence. "We said to ourselves that we were losing the battle," Tolstoy wrote, "and we did lose it."

But an image of sure success can also be dangerous. Judging who wins and loses in war is incredibly murky, and people may make their determinations by comparing the battlefield result with a (somewhat arbitrary) reference point—their expectations. As a result, a conflict's perceived winner may have little to do with the outcome on the ground.

Consider what happened in 1975 when forces from the Khmer Rouge, the Communist group in Cambodia, captured the merchant vessel Mayaguez and its 39 American crewmembers. In response, Washington launched a rescue mission that turned into a debacle. Forty-one US service members died, over 50 were wounded, and three US Marines were accidentally left behind in Cambodia, where they were captured and executed. The crew

of the Mayaguez was set free, but not thanks to the rescue mission. It turned out that a local Khmer Rouge commander had mistakenly taken the Americans prisoner, and senior Cambodian officials ordered their release before the US raid even started. The raid, then, produced nothing except casualties.

But Americans saw the raid as a huge success. In one poll, 79 percent of people judged US President Gerald Ford's handling of the crisis as "excellent" or "good," versus 18 percent who rated it "only fair" or "poor." Ford's overall approval ratings surged. One of the main reasons for this upswing was Americans' low expectations about their military's capabilities. South Vietnam had just fallen to Communist troops, and so US confidence was at a low ebb. Americans were, therefore, delighted to see Washington put on a seemingly muscular performance. In one poll, 76 percent of Americans agreed that "after losing Vietnam and Cambodia, the United States had no choice but to take decisive action, even risking a bigger war, to get back the ship and crew."

AGENCIES

business

of the day quote

Indian capital markets are commanding high valuations as foreign investors are bullish about the country's economic growth on the back of strong domestic macroeconomic data

MADHABI PURI BUCH | CHAIRPERSON, SEBI

With our bespoke AI-powered home appliances, consumers will be able to customise their choices, get easy controls for elders and kids, and get seamless diagnosis for their home appliances.

JB PARK | PRESIDENT & CEO, SAMSUNG SOUTHWEST ASIA

We are expecting the launch of first Small and Medium Real Estate Investment Trust by September-October

G HARI BABU | PRESIDENT, NAREDCO

SHORT TAKES

Gensol Engineering revenue at peak

New Delhi: Gensol Engineering Wednesday said it has recorded the highest-ever revenue of ₹960 crores in FY24 with a growth of 141 per cent Year on Year (YoY). The corresponding (revenue) figure for the previous year was at ₹398 crore, a company statement said. According to the statement, Gensol Engineering Ltd recorded its highest-ever revenue from operations, surpassing ₹960 crore (provisional and unaudited) in the financial year ending March 31, 2024. This represents a growth rate of 141 per cent compared to the previous financial year, it stated.

Chip-making unit: Intel loses \$7bn

Washington: Intel Tuesday disclosed deepening operating losses for its foundry business, a blow to the chipmaker as it tries to regain a technology lead it lost in recent years to Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing. Intel said the manufacturing unit had \$7 billion in operating losses for 2023, a steeper loss than the \$5.2 billion in operating losses the year before. The unit had revenue of \$18.9 billion for 2023, down 31% from \$27.49 billion the year before. During a presentation for investors, Chief Executive Pat Gelsinger said 2024 would be the year of worst operating losses for the company's chipmaking business and that it expects to break even on an operating basis by about 2027.

NALCO posts record cast metal production

New Delhi: State-owned NALCO has made a record production of cast metal at 4,63,428 metric tonne during the financial year 2023-24. The company has also made its highest-ever metal sales of 4,70,108 metric tonne during the fiscal ended March 31, it said in a statement Tuesday. The excavation of bauxite reached a record high of 7,600,230 metric tonne during the financial year 2023-24, NALCO said. According to the company, it has surpassed all previous records since its inception. NALCO CMD Sridhar Patra said, "Major milestones have been achieved by the company by way of backward integration and securitisation of raw materials and energy in the past four years on account of the dedication and hard work of the employees and cooperation received from various stakeholders." The company's alumina refinery has produced 21,24,000 metric tonne of alumina hydrate, while the captive power plant generated a gross 7,193.62 million units of power during the year. Under the Ministry of mines, National Aluminium Company Ltd (NALCO) is the country's leading manufacturer and exporter of alumina and aluminium.

Jindal Stainless to divest entire 26% stake in Jindal Coke by Sept

New Delhi: Jindal Stainless Wednesday said it aims to complete divestment of its entire 26 per cent stake in Jindal Coke by September this year. In the first tranche, the company has offloaded 4.87 per cent shares in Jindal Coke for over ₹36.49 crore. These shares were picked up by JSL Overseas at the same price, according to a regulatory filing. At the same time, Jindal Stainless has acquired a majority stake in Spanish entity Iberjindal. In January, the board of the company gave in-principle approval for the acquisition of up to 100 per cent stake in Iberjindal SL, a subsidiary company based in Spain, and divest 26 per cent equity stake held in its associate company Jindal Coke Ltd (JCL).



India is thriving. There is an infinite demand. There is a robust demand in the Indian market, which has strengthened after the pandemic

SHAI WEISS | CEO, VIRGIN ATLANTIC

3CR UNITS PRODUCTION: SUZUKI'S INDIA FEAT

India has become the second country for Suzuki Motor Corporation to cross cumulative production of 3 crore units, reaching the milestone even faster than it achieved in its home nation, the Japanese carmaker said Wednesday. The company's subsidiary, Maruti Suzuki India, has achieved accumulated automobile production of 3 crore units in India by the end of March 2024, Suzuki Motor Corporation said

Adani Green Energy sets RE milestone

THE COMPANY BECOMES INDIA'S FIRST FIRM WITH 10,000 MW RENEWABLE ENERGY CAPACITY

Press Trust of India

New Delhi, April 3: Adani Green Energy Ltd Wednesday said it has commissioned 2,000 MW of solar capacity at the giant Khavda solar park in Gujarat that has made it the first company in India with over 10,000 MW of renewable energy capacity.



Green Energy has not just envisioned a greener future but has actualised it, growing from a mere idea to explore clean energy to achieving a phenomenal 10,000 MW in installed capacity. This achievement is a demonstration of the rapidity and scale at which the Adani Group aims to facilitate India's transition to clean, reliable and affordable energy," said Gautam Adani, Chairman of the Adani Group.

"In our drive towards 45,000 MW (45 GW) by 2030, we are building the world's largest renewable energy plant in Khavda -- a 30,000 MW project unparalleled on the global stage. AGEL is not just setting benchmarks for the world but re-defining them," he said.

AGEL also said that its operating portfolio is certified 'single-use plastic free', 'zero waste-to-landfill' and 'water positive for plants with more than 200 MW capacity'.

Built on 538 square kilometres, Khavda plant is five times the size of Paris and almost as large as Mumbai.

AGEL has operationalised 2,000 MW cumulative solar capacity (i.e. Over 6 per cent of the planned 30,000 MW) within 12 months of commencing work.

Work at Khavda continues at a fast pace, with AGEL leveraging the project execution capabilities of Adani Infra, the manufacturing expertise of Adani New Industries Limited, the operational excellence of Adani Infrastructure Management Services Ltd and the robust supply chain of our strategic partners, it said.

We are proud to be India's first 'das hazari' in the renewables space

GAUTAM ADANI | CHAIRMAN, ADANI GROUP

to-landfill' and 'water positive for plants with more than 200 MW capacity'.

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MIXED GLOBAL CUES

Indices close lower amid profit-booking



Market is focused on the US FED chair's speech, later today, for more hints. A statement in-line with the last policy is predicted to bring back a respite to the global market

VINOD NAIR | HEAD OF RESEARCH, GEJIT FINANCIAL SERVICES

Mumbai, April 3: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty settled lower for the second straight session Wednesday due to profit-booking in select banking and auto stocks amid mixed trends from the global markets and outflow of foreign funds.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined by 27.09 points or 0.04 per cent to settle at 73,876.82 in a volatile trade. During the day, the index oscillated between the high of 74,151.21 and the low of 73,757.23.

The broader NSE Nifty declined 18.65 points or 0.08 per cent to 22,434.65, with 30 components of the 50-share benchmark ending with losses.

Among the Sensex constituents, as many as 16 stocks closed with losses with Nestle India, Kotak Mahindra Bank, IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Finserv, Titan and JSW Steel being the major laggards.

Index major Reliance, Hindustan Unilever, Maruti and Tata Steel also declined due to selling pressure.

In contrast, NTPC, TCS, Tech Mahindra, Bajaj Finance bucked

the trend and ended the day in green. Axis Bank, Bharti Airtel, Mahindra & Mahindra and Tata Motors also defied the trend.

The rupee depreciated 11 paise to close at 83.53 against the US dollar on Wednesday, as persistent foreign capital outflows and risk-averse sentiment among investors weighed on the local unit.

The Reserve Bank's rate-setting panel Wednesday started its three-day deliberations on the next set of monetary policy amid expectations that the central bank would once again keep the key interest rate unchanged and focus more on inflation control as concerns over economic growth is abating.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹1,622.69 crore Tuesday, according to exchange data.

Gold hits new peak; second time this week

Gold prices jumped by ₹830 to reach a new peak of ₹69,200 per 10 grams Wednesday amid a rally in precious metal rates in the global markets, according to HDFC Securities. This is the second time that yellow metal prices have hit an all-time high in this week. In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at ₹68,370 per 10 grams. Silver prices also surged by ₹1,700 to ₹80,700 per kg. It had finished at ₹79,000 per kg in the previous close. "Spot gold prices (24 carats) in the Delhi markets are trading at ₹69,200 per 10 grams, up by ₹830, taking a bullish trend in the overseas markets," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

India to grow at 7.5% in '24: WB

World Bank revises its earlier economic growth projections for India in 2024 by 1.2%

Press Trust of India

Washington, April 3: The Indian economy is projected to grow at 7.5 per cent in 2024, the World Bank has said, revising its earlier projections for the same period by 1.2 per cent.

Overall, growth in South Asia is expected to be strong at 6.0 per cent in 2024, driven mainly by robust growth in India and recoveries in Pakistan and Sri Lanka, the World Bank said in its latest South Asia Development Update on Tuesday.

According to the report, South Asia is expected to remain the fastest-growing region in the world for the next two years, with growth projected to be 6.1% in 2025.

"In India, which accounts for the bulk of the region's economy, output growth is expected to reach 7.5% in FY23/24 before returning to 6.6% over the medium term, with activity in services and industry expected to remain robust," the bank said in its report.

In Bangladesh, output is expected to rise by 5.7% in FY24/25, with high inflation and restrictions on trade and foreign exchange constraining economic activity.

Following the contraction in FY22/23, Pakistan's economy is expected to grow by 2.3% in

South Asia is expected to remain the fastest-growing region in the world for the next two years, with growth projected to be 6.1% in 2025

FY24/25 as business confidence improves. In Sri Lanka, output growth is expected to strengthen to 2.5% in 2025, with modest recoveries in reserves, remittances, and tourism.

"South Asia's growth prospects remain bright in the short run, but fragile fiscal positions and increasing climate shocks are dark clouds on the horizon," said Martin Raiser, World Bank Vice President for South Asia. "To make growth more resilient, countries need to adopt policies to boost private investment and strengthen employment growth," he said.

"South Asia is failing right now to fully capitalize on its demographic dividend. This is a missed opportunity," said Franziska Ohnsorge, World Bank Chief Economist for South Asia.

If the region employed as large a share of the working-age population as other emerging markets and developing economies, its output could be 16% higher, Ohnsorge said.

In India, the World Bank said, economic activity surprised on the upside in 2023Q4, with growth of 8.4 per cent from a year ago. "The expansion was supported by rapid increases in investment

PhonePe users can now make payments via UPI in Singapore

Press Trust of India

New Delhi, April 3: Fintech firm PhonePe Wednesday said its users can now make payments through UPI in Singapore under a pact signed by the company with The Singapore Tourism Board.

The collaboration has been built upon the existing Unified Payments Interface (UPI) linkage between India and Singapore, which allows customers to instantly make cross-border transactions between the two countries directly from their existing Indian bank accounts.

"Singapore Tourism Board (STB) and PhonePe enter a two-year strategic partnership to promote UPI payments for Indian visitors in Singapore," PhonePe, a decacorn, said in a statement. Privately-held companies with a valuation of over \$10 billion are termed as decacorn.

As part of the partnership, STB and PhonePe will invest in joint marketing efforts across India and Singapore, to promote seamless UPI experiences across key tourism hotspots.

and government consumption. More recent survey data point to continued strong performance," it said.

In February, India's composite purchasing managers index (PMI) stood at 60.6, well above the global average of 52.1 (a value above 50 indicates expansion). Growth in FY2023/24 is estimated to have exceeded earlier forecasts, it said.

According to the report, in India, inflation has remained within the Reserve Bank of India's 2-6 per cent target range since a spike in mid-2023, and the policy rate has remained unchanged since February 2023. Food price inflation has been elevated, partly reflecting a weak harvest due to El Niño, it said.

Financial conditions in India have remained accommodative. Domestic credit issuance to the commercial sector (including public and private borrowers) grew by 14 per cent (year-on-year) in December 2023, the fastest pace since 2013. Financial soundness indicators continued to improve.

The nonperforming-loan ratio fell to 3.2 per cent last year, well below its recent peak, in March 2018, of about 11 per cent.

L&T IDPL inaugurates NRC, public toilet block at Sundargarh

Sundargarh: L&T Infrastructure Development Projects Ltd (L&T IDPL), along with its subsidiary L&T Sambalpur-Rourkela Tollway Ltd (L&T SRTL), which constructed and operates the four-lane highway from Sambalpur to Rourkela on SH-10 in the western Odisha, has unveiled a significant community initiative - Construction of fully equipped Nutritional Rehabilitation Centre (NRC) at district headquarters hospital, Sundargarh and a public toilet at the hospital chowk, within municipal limits of Sundargarh recently. This initiative underscores L&T IDPL's ongoing commitment to addressing critical community needs, including healthcare, and social welfare. The facilities were opened to public by Vineesh Kumar Parayee, Regional Head - Operations (R&B), L&T IDPL. While inaugurating the NRC, he highlighted that the initiative is in alignment with company's broader objectives of aligning with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals specifically SDG-3 & SDG-6 and support the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoH & FW), Government of India. He also added that the NRC is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities having a 10-bed care centre, air-conditioned play area, doctors' room, nursing stations, feeding room and fully equipped kitchen facility for providing nutritional requirements to the toddlers.



FORBES BILLIONAIRES LIST 2024

Ambani richest Asian with net worth of \$116bn

The chairman of Reliance Industries breaks into top 10 and also becomes the first Asian to enter the coveted \$100bn club

Washington, April 3: American business magazine Forbes released its "Forbes World's Billionaires List 2024: The Top 200", which features 200 Indians, up from 169 last year. The total wealth of these Indian billionaires is a record \$954 billion - up 41 per cent from \$675 billion in 2023.

According to reports, Mukesh Ambani, chairman of Reliance Industries, is at the top of the list in India with a net worth of \$116 billion, an increase of 39.76 per cent to \$83 billion last year, making him the first Asian to break into the \$100 billion club. Ambani retained his position as the ninth richest person in the world and both India's and Asia's richest person.

According to the list, Gautam Adani, chairman of the Adani Group, is the

second richest Indian, with a net worth of \$84 billion. The richest woman in India is Savitri Jindal, now the fourth richest Indian, up from sixth a year ago. She has a net worth of \$33.5 billion.

The list stated, "India, which has 200 billionaires (also a record), ranks third."

The Forbes 2024 list also has 25 Indian billionaires who made their debut. These include

India's Top 10	Net Worth
Mukesh Ambani:	\$116bn
Gautam Adani:	\$84bn
Shiva Nadar:	\$36.9bn
Savitri Jindal:	\$33.5bn
Dilip Shanghvi:	\$26.7bn
Cyrus Poonawalla:	\$21.3bn
Kushal Pal Singh:	\$20.9bn
Kumar Birla:	\$19.7bn
Radhakishan Damani:	\$17.6bn
Lakshmi Mittal:	\$16.4bn

dropped off this time. Bernard Arnault and family, with a total net worth of \$233 billion, topped the list, followed by Elon Musk (\$195 billion), Jeff Bezos (\$194 billion), Mark Zuckerberg (\$177 billion), Larry Ellison (\$114 billion), Warren Buffett (\$133 billion), Bill Gates (\$128 billion), Steve Ballmer (\$121 billion), Mukesh Ambani (\$116 billion), and Larry Page (\$114 billion).

According to the "Forbes World's Billionaires List 2024: The Top 200", currently, there are more billionaires than ever - 2,781 in all, 141 more than last year and 26 more than the record set in 2021. They have a combined net worth of \$14.2 trillion in aggregate, up by \$2 trillion from 2023 and \$1.1 trillion above the previous record set in 2021.



Naresh Trehan (managing director of Medanta), Ramesh Kunhikannan (managing director of Kaynes Technology), and Renuka Jagtiani (chief executive officer of Landmark Group). Meanwhile, Byju Raveendran and Rohiqa Mistry have been

India ranks third with 200 billionaires, up from 169 last year, with a record wealth of \$954bn

TIDBITS

Dominant KKR crush Delhi

PBKS batters to face different test vs GT



SUNIL NARINE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Visakhapatnam, April 3: A dominant Kolkata Knight Riders produced a brilliant bowling effort after their batters' sensational display of power-hitting as they thrashed a lacklustre Delhi Capitals by 106 runs and moved to the top of the IPL table here Wednesday.

Sunil Narine showcased his batting prowess with a blistering 85 (39b, 7x4, 7x6) while teenager Angkrish Raghuvanshi (54, 27b, 5x4, 3x6) impressed with a fluent fifty on his IPL batting debut as KKR posted an imposing 272/7, five runs short of the highest total in the tournament's history.

The Capitals never looked like they were in the game be it with the ball or the bat. They crumbled under the pressure of the mammoth total. Skipper Rishabh Pant (55, 25b, 4x4, 5x6) scored his second consecutive half century while Tristan Stubbs (54, 32b, 4x4, 4x6) too hit a fifty but it was in a lost cause as DC folded for 166 in 17.2 overs to suffer their third loss of the season.

Continuing his explosive run, Narine punished all Delhi bowlers alike, sending the ball over the boundary rope seven times. He also hit seven fours in his 39-ball stay. The Capitals were guilty of dropping him on 53 and Narine made his opponents suffer as he notched his highest-ever score in T20 cricket.

Raghuvanshi, who didn't get to bat in his first IPL match against Royal Challengers Bengaluru, also fired on all cylinders, complementing Narine as the pair shared an explosive 104-run stand off 48 balls. With Andre Russell (41, 19b, 4x4, 3x6) and Rinku Singh (26, 8b, 1x4, 3x6) also getting the big hits, batting looked like a child's play for KKR.

With the ball, pacer Vaibhav Arora (3/27) and KKR's record buy Australian fast bowler Mitchel Starc (2/25) deflated the chase in the powerplay itself, as



Rishabh Pant lets his frustration out after being dismissed against KKR

they got rid of Delhi's top four of Prithvi Shaw (10), Mitchell Marsh (0), Abhishek Porel (0) and David Warner (18).

Pant and Stubbs stitched a 93-run partnership, and even though they managed to score quickly, the required run rate jumped to over 20 runs per over and there was only one result possible.

Earlier, Delhi bowlers produced a forgettable performance as they conceded the highest total in the team's history. KKR hit as many as 18 sixes and 28 fours. Narine hit his first of many boundaries when he creamed a short ball by Khaleel Ahmed to deep point.

The West Indian took a special liking for veteran pacer Ishant Sharma, collecting 26 runs from the fourth over that included three sixes and two fours, giving a glimpse of what was to come.

At the other end Phil Salt hit a few before he was dropped by David Warner, but the Englishman couldn't make use

of the reprieve, getting out in the very next ball to bring Raghuvanshi to the middle.

The 18-year-old hit his very first ball of the IPL for a boundary and that was followed by another four: KKR continued to hit boundaries aplenty, amassing 88 runs in the powerplay as DC bowlers struggled to find ways to stop them.

DC seemed to make inroads by dismissing Narine and Raghuvanshi in consecutive overs but Russell had other plans. The DC bowlers were guilty of feeding the all-rounder with full tosses which he dispatched to the boundary with ease.

BRIEF SCORES

KKR 272/7 (Sunil Narine 85, Angkrish Raghuvanshi 54, Andre Russell 41; Anrich Nortje 3/59, Ishant Sharma 2/43) beat DC 166 (Rishabh Pant 55, Tristan Stubbs 54; Vaibhav Arora 3/27, Varun Chakravarthy 3/33, Mitchell Starc 2/25) by 106 runs.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, April 3: Bruised by Mayank Yadav's scorching pace, Punjab Kings' batters will face an altogether different challenge when Gujarat Titans' bowling unit tries to take the pace off deliveries on a slightly tricky Motera track in their IPL match here Thursday.

The Kings have lost their last two away games and another slip-up against Titans will lead to further loss of momentum which tends to shift very quickly due to lack of turnaround time.

Titans, on the other hand, are brimming with confidence after beating Sunrisers Hyderabad comprehensively by seven wickets in their last game.

In the previous match, Kings were completely undone by Mayank's speed and most of their top-order batters looked ill-equipped to face the fast bowler, who was regularly clocking 150 clicks and more importantly, aiming to bowl into the body of the batters.

However, the scenario will be completely different when veteran Mohit Sharma comes calling at the back-end, presenting a palate of variations.

Mohit uses knuckle balls, slow bouncers and wide yorkers to good effect and this year's IPL trend has shown that save Mayank, all speedsters, who have been able to take pace off their deliveries, have been more successful.

It will pose a different kind of challenge for the likes of Shikhar Dhawan, Jonny Bairstow and Jitesh Sharma, all of whom like the ball to come on to the bat.

If Liam Livingstone is unavailable for Thursday's match after sustaining a hamstring niggle in the last game, it will spell doom for Punjab as they would then happen to lose their key enforcer during the death overs.



Punjab will also have to deal with the accuracy of the incomparable Rashid Khan and the guile of Noor Ahmed, former's left-arm alter-ego. The third Afghan in the line-up, Azmatullah Omarzai's all-round skills will also be a challenge for the team.

More than Punjab's batting, it is their bowling, especially at the death, that has been a cause for concern. Harshal Patel, one of their million dollar buys, has had a pathetic season so far going for an economy rate of 11.41 runs per over, having bowled his quota in all three games.

Equally disappointing has been leg-spinner Rahul Chahar, who has conceded runs at an economy rate of 11.37, and hasn't been able to complete his quota of overs. Arshdeep Singh, India's designated death overs yorker specialist, has also been profligate to a certain extent and it has once again compounded Kings' worries.

For Titans, the performance against defending champions Chennai Super Kings could be termed an aberration as they have executed their plans pretty well. The batting is yet to fire in unison but the bowling unit has shown its wares by defending well in opening game and restricting a rampaging SRH to a manageable score in the last game.

MATCHDAY

Indian Premier League
GT vs PBKS
Time: 07:30 pm
Telecast: Star Sports Network
Stream: Jio Cinema

SHORT TAKES

CR7 nets hat-trick

Abha (Saudi Arabia): Cristiano Ronaldo notched his second hat-trick in the space of 72 hours as Al-Nassr routed Abha 8-0 in the Saudi Pro League Tuesday. The five-time Ballon D'Or winner scored three goals and recorded two assists in the first half for the nine-time Saudi Arabian champions. The hat-trick was his third of the league season following his treble in Saturday's 5-1 win over Al-Tai. The Portugal star leads the league with 29 goals. Ronaldo's first two goals Tuesday came from free-kicks. Despite the win, Al-Nassr is still in second, 12 points behind runaway leader Al-Hilal with eight games remaining.

Nagal marches on

New Delhi: Top Indian tennis player Sumit Nagal Tuesday made a promising start at Marrakesh Open, entering the second round with a thrilling win over Corentin Moutet of France at the ATP 250 event in Morocco. Nagal, currently ranked 95, rallied his way to beat Moutet 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 in the opening round of the Grand Prix Hassan II event. Nagal had lost to the same opponent in a Challenger final in Helsinki last year. Nagal will be up against fourth-seeded Italian Lorenzo Sonego in the next round, which will be a repeat of the first-round clash between the two in this year's Dubai Championships.

Fizz flies back home

New Delhi: In-form Chennai Super Kings pacer Mustafizur Rahman is likely to miss the team's next IPL game against Sunrisers Hyderabad Friday as he has gone back to Bangladesh to complete his visa process for the T20 World Cup in the USA and Caribbean. CSK have won two of their first three games. They face Sunrisers in Hyderabad Friday. "He has gone back home to complete visa formalities and will only be back after he gets his passport back. Tomorrow is the day when he applies for the visa," CSK CEO Kasi Viswanathan told PTI. The left-arm pacer will be applying for the visa with the rest of his Bangladesh teammates.

IOC sets deadline to keep boxing in LA28

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lausanne (Switzerland), Apr 3: The International Olympic Committee Wednesday said it needs to find a suitable new international boxing body by early next year or else risk boxing dropping out of the Olympics for the Los Angeles Games in 2028.

The IOC stripped the International Boxing Association of the right to run the Olympic boxing tournaments in Tokyo in 2021 and Paris this year.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport upheld the IOC's decision Tuesday to formally de-recognize the IBA, in effect cutting it out of the Olympic movement altogether.

The IOC has long cited concerns about the IBA's governance and the integrity of how boxing matches are refereed and judged. It also accused the IBA's Russian president Umar Kremlev of using "violent and threatening language" about IOC personnel last year.

"Because of the universality and high social inclusivity of boxing, the IOC wants it to continue to feature on the program of the Olympic Games," the IOC said Wednesday.

"Unfortunately, this is far from certain for the Olympic Games LA 2028 because, for governance reasons, the IOC is not in a position to organize another Olympic boxing tournament. To



keep boxing on the Olympic program, the IOC needs a recognized and reliable International Federation as a partner, as with all the other Olympic sports."

The IOC called on national boxing bodies and Olympic committees to help set up a new international governing body for boxing. To keep boxing in the Olympics for Los Angeles, "the IOC needs to have a partner International Federation for boxing by early 2025," it said.

The IOC didn't name any candidates but the likeliest might be World Boxing, a breakaway body backed by boxing officials in the United States and Britain which split from the IBA last year and elected its own president, Boris van der Vorst of the Netherlands.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 3: If it was not for a timely advice from his uncle and former India drag-flicker Jugraj Singh, men's team vice-captain Hardik Singh would have shifted to the Netherlands back in 2017 when he was striving hard to kick open the door of national camp for himself without success.

Hardik, a star mid-fielder from Khusropur village near Jalandhar in Punjab, says he was on the verge of giving up his dream of playing for India if his maternal uncle Jugraj had not motivated him to stay focussed.

"I progressed from the sub-junior level to the senior level at a good pace after I joined the Mohali Hockey Academy as a 14-year-old. But after a few years, I found myself in a situation where I had lost confidence after being ignored for the national camp.

"At that time, way back in 2017, I thought of shifting base to the Netherlands to play club hockey there. I gave up hope of representing India. If he (Jugraj) had not guided me at that time, I wouldn't be here now. When you are doing well, you need good guidance," Hardik told PTI in an exclusive chat.

"He advised me to explore hockey in the country more and improve my game. That time I was 18-19 year old. So I thought let me give me some more time and explore my hockey in India," he added.

"He (Jugraj) told me you have



age on your side. You have the game, you can shine even by staying back in India. Play for domestic teams and show your skills so that people can know about you," he said. "If not for his guidance I wouldn't have been here today because I didn't have so much patience."

Hardik's decision to stay back

yielded desired results as he went on to become the mainstay in the Indian team's midfield and was also a part of the Tokyo Olympics bronze medal-winning squad besides being a member of the Hangzhou Asian Games gold medal-winning side. He was also part of the silver medal-winning side of 2022 Birmingham

Commonwealth Games.

Recently, Hardik was named FIH Player of the Year as well Hockey India Player of the Year. Jugraj said as an athlete, Hardik too had his setbacks but he just reminded him about the significance of representing the national flag and that motivated the star midfielder.

Surya clears most fitness tests, boost for Mumbai

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 3: Mumbai Indians will soon get the much required batting boost as the world's No.1 ranked T20 batter Suryakumar Yadav has cleared almost all the fitness tests at National Cricket Academy and is very close to playing his first IPL game of the season.

Suryakumar had undergone multiple surgeries - one for grade 2 ankle tear and another for sports hernia - and he last played in the T20 series in South Africa.

"Surya has cleared all but one routine tests which are mandatory to get RTP (Return To Play)



certificate from the NCA. There is one more test left to be conducted on Thursday, after which a clearer picture would emerge," a senior BCCI source told PTI on the condition of anonymity. "He is batting comfortably and has done all simulations," he added.

Asked if Suryakumar will be able to play the Mumbai Indians' home game April 7 against Delhi Capitals, the source said: "The clearer picture will emerge after tomorrow's tests. There's still three days before the next game but since it's a comeback after a long time, it could also be April 11 at home against RCB."

The swashbuckling batter has

been MI's most prolific performer for the past four to five seasons and his absence from the playing XI has been felt by the team that has lost its first three matches this season.

His replacement Naman Dhir, the player from Punjab, is yet to measure up and beleaguered skipper Hardik Pandya would certainly need Surya to stem the rot.

As far as the BCCI's medical team is concerned, the clear mandate was to ensure that India's premier T20 batter is completely fit for the T20 World Cup in the USA and West Indies, and also make sure that there are no premature breakdowns during the IPL.

Tottenham held at West Ham, CL hopes dented

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, April 3: Tottenham missed the chance to overtake Aston Villa in the race for Champions League qualification after settling for a 1-1 draw at West Ham Tuesday in the Premier League. Brennan Johnson had given fifth-place Spurs an ideal start at London Stadium, but that was canceled out by Kurt Zouma's leveller in the 19th. The result left Tottenham two points behind Villa, having played the same number of games.