

## OPINION 6

SIKHS HOLD TIRANGA  
IN HIGH ESTEEM

## WORLD 8

CHINA, RUSSIA TO COUNTER US'  
INDO-PACIFIC STRATEGY

## MONEY 10

DOT ₹33,111 CR FOR  
BSNL AGR DUES

BHUBANESWAR, THURSDAY MARCH 23, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹4

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AYER TO MISS  
ENTIRE IPL 2023  
AND WTC FINAL  
11 SPORTPlan for modern  
Delhi announced

- Govt gives infra-focussed ₹78,800-cr Budget
- Power subsidy, free bus rides to continue

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Finance Minister Kailash Gahlot on Wednesday presented Rs 78,800-crore Budget, giving a major push to transport and infrastructure with an allocation of Rs 21,817 crore ahead of the G20 Summit, and announced a comprehensive plan to make the Capital a "clean, beautiful and modern city".

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said the Budget has something for everyone and free schemes like bus ride for women, power subsidy and pilgrimage for senior citizens will continue in the next financial year as well.

However, the education and health sectors, two highest priority areas of the AAP dispensation, have not seen a major hike.

The Government has proposed Rs 9,742 crore for the health sector, a marginal decline, while in the last Budget, it was Rs 9,769 crore.

The education department has been given Rs 16,575 crore. In the 2022-23 Budget, it had the highest allocation of Rs 16,278 crore. An outlay of Rs



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Delhi Finance Minister Kailash Gahlot arrive for the presentation of Delhi Budget for the financial year 2023-24, at Delhi Legislative Assembly, on Wednesday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

9,337 crore in the transport sector has been proposed for the next financial year. Opposition BJP dismissed the Budget as "directionless" and alleged that it is a bundle of lies and has only paper announcements.

In his 150-minute speech in the Delhi Assembly, Gahlot said a comprehensive infrastructure rejuvenation project was being launched in a very significant year when Delhi will be hosting India's first

G20 summit. The comprehensive plan includes beautification of 1,400-km roads maintained by PWD, construction of 26 flyovers and three double-decker flyovers, induction of 1,600 electric buses and electrification of all bus depots.

Also, the Government has proposed to construct three world-class inter-State bus terminals, two multi-level bus depots, two modern bus terminals and nine new bus depots.

Flares, bottles hurled  
at Indian Mission

High Commission in London responds to stir by pro-Khalistan protesters by putting up bigger Tricolour

PTI/PNS ■ LONDON/NEW DELHI

Around 2,000 protesters waving Khalistan flags descended upon the Indian High Commission here on Wednesday for a planned demonstration and hurled objects and chanted slogans amid a heightened security presence and barricades.

The Indian High Commission countered by unfurling an additional humongous Tricolour on the roof of its building, which seemed to rile the protesters further who then hurled coloured flares and water bottles towards the mission building and at police officers and media covering the protest.

Scotland Yard reacted by further blockading the area outside India House and several additional uniformed and mounted officers on horseback were deployed immediately to the area.

Unlike the violent disorder on Sunday when India House came under attack, the protesters were barricaded across the road with uniformed officers standing guard and patrolling the area throughout. The protesters, including turbaned men, and some women and children, had been bused in from different parts of the UK and chanted pro-Khalistan slogans. The organisers used mikes to make anti-India speeches and attack the Punjab



Protesters gathered outside a heavily guarded Indian High Commission in London. PTI

Police for alleged human rights violations. The speeches switched between English and Punjabi to make allegations of Indian media bias for calling them fringe elements and backed by Pakistan's spy agency ISI. Banners for the so-called "National Protest", organised by groups such as the Federation of Sikh Organisations (FSO) and Sikh Youth Jathebandia, have been circulating on social media since before a protest on Sunday, which ended in violent disorder at India House.

The Indian Government had registered a strong protest over the lack of security measures at its diplomatic mission, which ended in Khalistan flag-waving protesters smashing windows of the Indian High Commission and attempting to pull down the Tricolour. In an apparent tit-for-tat act, India on Wednesday morning removed the barricade security cover of the UK High Commission or British Embassy and its envoy in New Delhi.

Hours after the Indian sharp action more policemen and barricades were installed outside the Indian High Commission in London on Wednesday ahead of the planned protest, in an apparent effort to avoid a repeat of the vandalism seen three days ago.

'Take early action on  
Judges' appointment'

Collegium worried over Centre holding back recommended names as it hurts their seniority

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Collegium has voiced concern over the Centre withholding or overlooking the names recommended for appointment as judges, saying this disturbs the seniority of the candidates, and asked the Government to take "necessary action" for elevation of those recommended earlier. The Collegium, headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, said a notification for the elevation of persons recommended earlier in point of time should be issued at the earliest.

The Collegium was expressing displeasure on the non-appointment of John Sathyan and Ramaswamy Neelakandan in Madras High Court and also reiterated Harpreet Singh Brar's appointment as Judge in Punjab and Haryana High Court.

The Collegium voiced its concern in a resolution dated March 21 in which it recommended the names of four district judges for appointment as judges of the Madras High Court. The Collegium, which comprises Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and KM Joseph, recommended the names of R Sakthivel, P Dhanabal, Chinnasamy Kumarappan, and K Rajasekar.

"By its resolution dated 17 January 2023, the Collegium of the Supreme Court recommended the appointment



of Ramaswamy Neelakandan, advocate practising before the Madras High Court, as a judge of the High Court. As on March 31, 2023, Ramaswamy Neelakandan was 48.07 years of age while K Rajasekar on that date was 47.09 years of age. Neelakandan, who is a member of the Bar, has been recommended earlier in point of time and must be appointed before Rajasekar is appointed. Otherwise, Rajasekar, who is a judicial officer and younger than Neelakandan, would rank senior to Neelakandan.

Such a deviation in seniority would be unfair and against the settled convention," the resolution said. The Collegium said that while recommending the name of Rajasekar for elevation, it is of the view that his appointment should be notified after the appointment of Neelakandan is notified.

"The Collegium is of the considered view that necessary action for the issuance of a notification for the elevation of persons who have been recommended earlier in point of time should be taken at the earliest including the name of R John Sathyan which has been reiterated by this Collegium on 17 January 2023.

Assembly: State Govt attacked  
over rising corruption

Minister cites  
Vigilance cases to  
rebut allegations

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Opposition Congress and BJP members on Wednesday targeted the State Government in the State Assembly over the rising corruption and percentage (PC) culture.

They said the State Government's "zero tolerance to corruption" slogan is only in pen and paper.

Participating in a debate on the admissibility of an adjournment motion on corruption, Opposition Chief Whip Mohan Majhi (BJP) said the PC culture has prevailed from Panchayat to the State level.

Dubbing the Government as "PC Sarkar", he said no bill

is passed without giving bribes to the officials. Right from the Junior Engineer to the top and officers in almost all departments including Mines and Water Resources are involved in corruption.

Congress Legislature Party Leader Narasingha Mishra said corruption has gone to such a level that even bills are being passed without the required works being done.

Raising the mining scam issue, Mishra said the Government is sitting silently after issuing notices to mine leaseholders involved in corruption of Rs 500 to Rs 700 crore.

Replying to the debate on behalf of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Niranjan Pujari said the allegations levelled by the Opposition are not

based on facts. The Government is determined to weed out corruption and strong steps are being taken against corrupt practices.

To substantiate his statement, he said the Vigilance in 2022 registered 287 criminal cases, including 118 trap cases and 85 disproportionate assets cases, against 557 persons including 60 Group-A officers and arrested 198 persons including 36 Group-A officers and 37 Group-B officers.

As many as 124 persons including 23 Group-A officers and 7 Group-B officers have been convicted, the Minister said. The State has achieved a 46-per cent conviction rate in corruption cases. The conviction rate in DA cases in 2022 was 77 per cent, which was the highest in a decade, he claimed.

SC to set up Bench  
to hear plea against  
remission to  
Bilkis' rapists



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday agreed to constitute a special Bench to hear a plea against the remission of sentence of 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano gang-rape case. A Bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices PS Narasimha and JB Pardiwala assured Bano, represented through her lawyer Shobha Gupta, that the new Bench will be formed.

Gupta mentioned the matter for urgent hearing and said that a new Bench needs to be constituted. "I will have a Bench constituted. Will look at it this evening," the CJ said. Earlier, on January 24, the hearing on Bano's plea challenging the remission of sentence of 11 convicts in the gang-rape case by the Gujarat Government could not be held in the top court as the Judges concerned were hearing a matter related to passive euthanasia as part of a five-Judge Constitution Bench. All 11 convicts were granted remission and released on August 15, last year.

## Mamata offers prayers at Shreemandir

Inspects site for  
WB guesthouse  
To have courtesy  
meet with  
Naveen today

PNS ■ PURI

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who is on a three-day visit to Odisha, offered prayers at the Jagannath Temple here on the second day on Wednesday.

Earlier in the day, Banerjee visited the Baliapanda area in the town, where a proposed guesthouse, Bangla Niwas, would be constructed for pilgrims coming from the West Bengal to Puri.

Banerjee, after visiting the proposed site along with Odisha Chief Secretary PK Jena and Puri Collector Samarth Verma, appreciated the place for construction of the guesthouse.

"Lakhs of devotees from West Bengal visit Puri during festivals like Rath Yatra and on other occasions. We want to have our guesthouse in the town to accommodate a few people, if not everyone. I have



been trying for the guesthouse for the past few years," said Banerjee.

The exact size of the land to be given to the West Bengal

Government is yet to be finalised.

Asked about the agenda of her meeting with her Odisha counterpart Naveen Patnaik

on Thursday, Banerjee said, "It is a courtesy meet and we will discuss developmental issues and about the proposed Puri guesthouse."

In Subarnapur  
3 school kids die, 1 critical as car his them

CM announces ex-gratia for deceased's kin

PNS ■ SONEPUR

In a deeply-shocking incident, three school students were killed and another sustained critical injuries when a car ran over them at Saradhapalli in the Binika area of Subarnapur district on Wednesday.

The four students of Class-VI of the Saradhapalli Upper Primary School were standing near the gate of the educational institution when a speeding car dashed against the boundary wall and then ran over them.

While one of them died on the spot, three others were grievously injured and admitted to the District Headquarters Hospital. However, two more succumbed to their injuries during treatment.

The deceased were identified



as Subrat Bhoi (11), Rajesh Pera (10) and Raja Pera (10). The injured one, identified as Kapil Bhue (13), was undergoing treatment.

Tension ran high at the spot of accident as irate locals detained the driver of the car. On being informed, police reached the place and initiated an in-

vestigation.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik while expressing deep grief over the students' death announced assistance of compassion of Rs 3 lakh for the family of each deceased and Rs 50,000 to each injured victim and proper treatment for them.

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Congress members on Wednesday created a ruckus in the Odisha Legislative Assembly objecting to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik reading out a written statement in the House on Tuesday evening while replying to a demand for grants discussion for the Home and General Administration Department.

The Opposition members contended that "Ministers can read out Budget documents, refer to books, newspapers and documents during the speech

but not written speech". They then walked out of the House.

Congress Legislature Party (CLP) Leader Narasingha Mishra submitted a privilege notice to Speaker Bikram Keshari Arukha regarding this. During Zero Hour, he requested the Speaker to allow him to move the privilege notice against the Chief Minister for reading out a written statement.

However, the Speaker did not allow him to move the notice, saying, "It is still under examination."

Mishra said, "I assume that as the privilege notice was against the Chief Minister, that's why there is a different

consideration. Earlier on many occasions, I was allowed to move such a notice."

Supporting him, Leader of Opposition Jayanarayan Mishra (BJP) also urged the Speaker to allow the Congress leader to move the notice.

"As per our system, no one can read out a written statement without prior approval from the Speaker. What is the problem in allowing the CLP Leader to move the privilege notice?" he questioned.

The Speaker said he would consider the notice after due examination.

However, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Niranjan Pujari defended the Chief Minister,

saying "Ministers can read out speech and other documents in the House".

"I also hold the Finance portfolio. Am I not reading the Budget speech in the House? This tradition is there in Lok Sabha and across the country," Pujari said.

On this, CLP Leader Mishra said, "Ministers can read out Budget documents, refer to books, newspapers and documents during the speech but cannot read out a written speech."

He urged the Speaker to give a ruling on this issue as a dispute had been created in the Assembly.

Amid all this, ruling BJD

members stood up in their seats and raised slogans against the BJP and the Central Government over various issues.

They alleged that they are not allowed to speak in the House as Opposition members consume a maximum time of Zero Hour.

Later, the Speaker allowed BJD members Arun Sahoo and Debi Prasad Mishra to speak during the Zero Hour.

In another development, BJD members created a ruckus over issues pertaining to the Mahanadi river demanding a ruling from the chair. The Speaker later directed the Water Resources Minister to make a statement on this issue.



### Jaga Mission

# Congress alleges large-scale irregularities

‘BJD workers getting benefit’

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Congress on Wednesday alleged large-scale irregularities in the Jaga Mission, a programme by the Naveen Patnaik Government to upgrade the slums across the State.

Pradesh Congress Committee president Sarat Patnaik in a Press meet said that according to official

figures, till 2017, more than 18 lakh people are living in slums in the urban areas. The Chief Minister had said that by 2023 the State would be slum-free. But instead of choosing eligible beneficiaries, those who have buildings, land, three- and four-wheelers and earning lakhs of rupees are finding place in the beneficiaries' list.

Though the trumpet of honest and transparent Government is being blown,



there is a nexus between the corrupt Government and officials, Patnaik alleged.

Congress leader and former Chief Secretary Bijay Patnaik said, “BJD workers instead of actual beneficiaries are getting land. People having two-storied buildings and sweet stalls are included in the new list.”

“People with good income are also there in the new list. In order to avoid being exposed, the list was published

on March 11 and only two days including Sunday were given to file complaints. How can a common man lodge grievance within these two days,” Bijay Patnaik questioned.

Furthermore, he said, “The beneficiaries’ list has been prepared with an ill motive. So, we demand to cancel the list immediately.”

Among others, PCC spokesperson Rajani Mohanty also spoke.

### In Kendrapada

## Thunderstorm: Fire tender thrown 50 metre off road

PNS ■ KENDRAPADA

Heavy rain along with thunderstorm lashed different parts of Kendrapada district damaging houses, crops and trees.

The intensity of the wind was so heavy that a fire brigade vehicle of Marshaghai that was stranded on the road was thrown 50 metre off the road. The locals and fire tender personnel later brought the vehicle onto the main road with the help of a tractor.

Even, some two wheelers that were parked in front of Marshaghai Tehsil office were damaged as a branch of a mango tree fell on them.

Heavy wind swept in several



places at Derabish, Garadpur and Marshaghai blocks. Roofs of many houses were blown off while trees were uprooted at many places and fell on the road. Consequently, road communication was disrupted for some hours on Tuesday. Electricity supply was disrupted too.

The vegetables, back gram and green gram growers of the district were also affected in the thunderstorm as their vegetables and crops were damaged extensively.

# Rungta Mines to set steel complexes

State’s steel production to reach 100 MTPA by 2030

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Government is moving forward to transform Odisha as the steel hub of India by raising the steel production to 100 MTPA by 2030. In this direction, the State is planning to set up 13 new steel plants with a total capacity of 64.28 MTPA in coming days.

This was informed by Steel and Mines Minister Prafulla Mallik in the State Assembly on Monday.

Replying to a question of BJD MLA Padmini Dian, the

Minister said the greenfield projects are proposed to be set up at Barbil, Karakolha, Keonjhar, Mahadeijoda and Nayagarha in Keonjhar district, Banarpal in Angul district, Mahakalapada in Kendrapada, Dinkia in Jagatsinghpur, two in Kalinganagar in Jajpur district, Lathikata and Bonai in Sundargarh district and Rairangpur in Mayurbhanj district.

The ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India would set up a 24-MTPA plant at Mahakalapada in Kendrapada district while Jindal Steel Odisha Ltd at Banarpal would set up a 19.2-MTPA plant at Banarpal in Angul district.

The JSW Utkal Steel would set up an integrated steel plant at Dinka with a total capacity of 12 MTPA. The Arya Iron & Steel Company has proposed to set up its plant at Barbil: the Orissa Alloy Steel and Beekay Utkal Steel Industries at Kalinganagar; the Envirocare Infraresolution at Lathikata; the Fedders Electric & Engineering at Bonai and the Rungta Mines Pvt Ltd at Rairangpur.

Besides, the Rungta Mines has proposed to set up plants at Karakolha and Keonjhar while the Siddhiriddhi International would set up its unit at Mahadevi Joda and the Orissa Metaliks at Nayagarh.

The State Government has

auctioned 41 mines, out of which 23 have become operational. Notices Inviting Tender (NITs) has been issued for auction of five more mines while another ten more mines are in pipeline for the auction.

The 10 mines which will be put for auction during 2023-24 are -- Koira iron ore block, Karlapat bauxite block, Alaghat West iron ore block, Nuapaimali bauxite block, Rengalaberha N-E-extension and Nuagaon West iron ore block, Gandhalpada West iron ore block, Jhumka-Pathiriposhi West iron ore block, Roida-I iron ore block, Tumura limestone and dolomite block and Sargiguda graphite block.

## CM waves tax on film ‘Zwigato’



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Government has waived the entertainment tax on film 'Zwigato' acted by Kapil Sharma and directed by Nandita Das. CM Naveen Patnaik approved a proposal in this regard on

Wednesday here.

Notably, the film is based on the life and struggle of a food delivery rider and his family. Apart from Sharma, also in the lead role is Sahana Goswami. It's a Hindi movie and its entire shooting has been made in Bhubaneswar.

The CM appreciated the efforts of director Das for shooting the film in Bhubaneswar and hoped that more and more commercial films would be shot in Odisha which would not only give a boost to the tourism potential of the State but also give employment opportunities to many talented youths. The State Government is promoting Odisha as a destination for film shooting through proactive policies, he said.

## IOCL approves Paradip Petro Complex

Largest-ever investment at a single location

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has accorded Stage-I approval to set up a Paradip Petrochemical Complex at a cost of Rs 61,077 crore. This would be the IOCL's largest-ever investment at a single location. "We thank the Government of Odisha for the incentive package for this project that will produce vital petrochemical products like PVC, phenol, IPA and polymers. It will vitalise key downstream industries like plastic, pharma, agrochemical,

personal care, paints, etc., and support Aatmanirbhar Bharat," the corporation said in a statement.

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan welcomed the IOCL's move.

"This effort is guided by PM Narendra Modi's vision of Purvodaya which will spur socioeconomic growth in Odisha," said Pradhan.

"I thank PM Modi and Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri for their commitment for the development of Odisha and eastern India. The decision will act as a catalyst towards making India Aatmanirbhar in the petrochemicals sector," he added.

## Sleep disorder can lead to serious medical conditions

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Sleep disorder is a symptom that should not be ignored as it may lead to serious medical conditions, cautioned doctors at the Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) here.

A study has estimated that 50-60 per cent youths in India are suffering from sleep disorder. Several remedial measures are available to treat the disease including a dedicated 'sleep lab' commissioned at the KIMS, the first in Odisha, the doctors said.

The sleep lab with 64 channels has been installed at the KIMS. A sleep board has also been created for multidisciplinary discussion in



case of complex sleep disorder cases.

Obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) is the more prevalent sleep disorder. It is an under-recognised and under-diagnosed medical condition with a myriad of negative consequences on the patient's health and society as a whole. It affects 17 per cent of women and 34 per cent of men in the US with similar prevalence in other countries.

The causes of OSA include a narrow, crowded or collapsible upper airway, a low threshold for arousal to airway narrowing during sleep and unstable control of breathing. Common symptoms include snoring, awakening from sleep with a sense of choking, excessive daytime sleepiness, morning headaches, fitful sleep, lethargy and decreased libido. While the "gold standard" of diagnosis is by polysomnography, a detailed history and focused physical examination may help uncover previously undiagnosed cases, said the doctors.

Undetected obstructive sleep apnea can lead to hypertension, diabetes mellitus, thyroid disorders,

memory loss, heart disease, depression and even death. OSA can both worsen existing medical conditions and influence the onset of new disease. Disturbed sleep patterns lead to increased levels of daytime somnolence, which can cause days of missed work and increased levels of motor vehicle and occupational accidents.

Several modalities exist for treating obstructive sleep apnea, including continuous positive airway pressure, oral appliances and several surgical procedures. However, conservative approaches such as weight loss and alcohol and tobacco cessation are also strongly encouraged in the patient with obstructive sleep apnea.

## HITTING THE BULL’S EYE

# Bhagat, Sukhdev, Rajguru have no impact on present youths

Bhagat Singh and Shivaram Rajguru had shot and killed Assistant Superintendent of Police John Saunders on December 17, 1927 wrongly. They had intended to kill James Scott, the Superintendent of Police who had ordered the merciless lathi-charge causing the death of Lala Lajpat Rai in Lahore while leading a rally against the Simon Commission. Both Bhagat, a staunch Sikh boy, and Rajguru, a Marathi Brahmin, were only 20 years old then. The other co-revolutionary and murder plan mastermind Sukhdev Thapar was 21. The three had come together as members of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Army and Naujawan Bharat Sabha, all engaged in activities to drive the British out to make India free. Eventually, police caught up with them; and after a lopsided court trial, the three were hanged in the Lahore Central Jail on March 23, 1931.

Incidentally, though pretty much late, only Bhagat Singh has been somehow deified and Rajguru and



BISWARAJ PATNAIK

Sukhdev have not received much attention as most historians have portrayed the two as sidekicks of Bhagat. The brave-hearts in those days had turned revolutionaries when the bullock cart or foot travel was the commonest transport system and these young guys travelled across the country to garner support to scare the mighty British away from the Indian soil. They lived life of nomads without money, food or much support. What sustained them was the rarest

of rare spirit of patriotism.

Ninety-two years have rolled by, but the nation has done only precious little to keep them live in the minds of youths. Most unfortunately, they did not live to see or enjoy the outcome of their incredible efforts in 1947. Even Gandhi had not hailed them as heroes in 1931. Less said the better about the so-called other grand leaders who occupied highest seats of power after independence only because of a few non-rigorous jail terms.

Most of the youth community today have gone haywire! The first bane of modern India is the make-believe democratic electioneering process. Everyone knows here that the bigger the support, the surer the win by competing political creatures. Shockingly, like until the early 1990s, the youths of today, particularly the majority unemployed, are enticed by the crooked political leaders to work for them as vote gatherers. Systematically, they are tempted to alcohol and good food, mainly

flesh and fowl to which the long-impooverished young people fall easy prey. Lifestyle, access to alcohol advertisement, high level of stressful situations coupled with anxiety, low self-esteem of an individual, depression, peer pressure susceptibility and other problems related to education are considered facilitators of alcohol consumption among the youth. No wonder therefore, alcohol is today the commonest commodity used as bait to hook the young to work as vote goons. Cheap alcohol and broiler meat are the commonest sight during election times across all States of India. The youths today are vote merchants that buy other voters with bribe money provided by political crooks. The gullible Indian voters lap up the dole to buy booze, good food or clothes to show off. The voter's expenditure patterns for alcohol is largely driven by local liquor which is cheap and easy to access. Not surprisingly, the illegal alcohol traders, invariably cronies of local politicians, make great deal of hay as the sun keeps

shining.

A 2018 IIM-Bengaluru and University of Kent study looked at consumption patterns of households in major States before and after elections and found a spike in the expenditure on some key items ahead of the vote. The Indian voters keep waiting for the bribe money to drink more liquor, eat more meat and buy clothes. Some of them also spend on kids' books and school uniforms. The research paper titled 'Cash for Votes: Evidence from India' also suggests that if there were simultaneous polls for all 4,120 Assembly constituencies in India, black money to the tune of Rs 12 lakh crore would go into 'vote-buying' through use of misguided, spoilt, misdirected youths of the country only because they have the courage to leap into misadventures of any kind for some gratification, no matter how temporary. Cash-for-votes is a known phenomenon in India as is evident from the seizures of cash and liquor in the run-up to elections and occasional

arrests of people for their distribution.

For sure, India is predominantly a young country as the youth population is huge unlike Japan, Italy, Spain or Germany. But the young ones are mostly lazy, greedy, luxury-mad and frighteningly non-industrious. In addition to political poison injected into their systems, the smart phone has done the damage to the remaining active portions of the brain triggering some sane thinking. So, the politically-damaged youths, especially in the rural settings, are maimed further by the smart phones which transport them to all the nastiest locales with only a soft touch of a button. Thus, once the political fun is over, they resort to the smart phone for recreation and fun.

Even in the so-called well-governed States, liquor flow is disturbingly immense. The political executives find liquor as grand revenue earner. It also makes bribe-grabbing easy and safe. Liquor traders dish out huge sums of

money to political scoundrels. Very sadly, the outwardly well-governed States too have this ghastly liquor spoiling the youth issues. On purpose, the governments look away from liquor-related sins. They are too happy with the status quo primarily because liquor ensures votes. That is the big reason why liquor shops are mushrooming everywhere. Most interestingly, even dry States have politicians and bureaucrats making huge money. All that they have to do is look away from the illicit liquor traders bringing in huge loads of the stuff into the forbidden territory clandestinely. The State loses revenue, but the bosses carry home immeasurable bribe money. On record, the States remain dry.

India is unlikely to see a Bhagat Singh, a Rajguru or a Sukhdev ever again! But there is still hope of regimes mending themselves. They would have to come under oath never to pander to baser emotions. Vote-gathering through the misdirected youths is one such sin they need to expiate for.

## Azex death: ‘Breakup with GF’ comes to fore

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Even as the mystery shrouding the death of DJ Azex alias Akshay Kumar Maharana is yet to be unraveled, a fresh angle of 'breakup with his girlfriend' has come to the fore making the matter murkier.

Police suspect that Azex might have died by suicide following a breakup with his girlfriend Jigyansa. A dispute had emerged between Azex and Jigyansa after the latter came to know that he developed relationship with another female friend. The three had made a conference call to resolve the issue, the proof of which is in possession of police, sources said.

While questioned by police on Tuesday, Jigyansa had reportedly confessed that she

had terminated relationship with Azex.

Now, police are likely to question the female friend of Azex.

On the other hand, Azex's mother said Jigyansa gave a false statement to police. "My son was not in relationship with anyone except Jigyansa," she said.

Two police teams have been formed to probe the case. While one team is investigating the technical part, the other is questioning the family members and relatives. The probe is now in the final stage and the case would be solved soon, said ACP Manas Gadrnayak.

Police have registered an 'abetment of suicide' case against Azex's girlfriend and her male friend under Sections 306 and 34 of IPC.

### In city

## Man climbs atop hoarding to end life

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A man climbed atop a hoarding tower at Sishu Bhawan Square here on Wednesday morning in a bid to end his life.

According to reports, one Tulu Patra of Soro area in Baleswar district scaled the 40-feet-high tower. He was trying to strangle himself with a GI wire.

On being informed, Fire Service personnel rushed to the spot and rescued the person

after a half-an-hour-long effort.

After being rescued, Patra levelled serious allegation against the Drivers' Association which was staging strike in the State recently. He said some of the agitators were torturing him mentally and threatening his family members, for which he was trying to commit suicide.

He was detained at the Capital police station for questioning.



# Leopard panic in Nuapada as another cattle killed

PNS ■ NUAPADA

Panic continued to grip locals around the Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary and other areas in Nuapada district as another cattle was killed and two leopards were spotted by villagers in separate areas on Tuesday night. This came just a day after an elderly woman was dragged away by a leopard and her half-eaten body found in the nearby jungle in the sanctuary.

Forest personnel informed that a calf was killed by a leopard at Jalamadei village in Komna, the same place where the elderly woman's attack was reported.

Meanwhile, at Taria Mahuabhatta under Amanara panchayat of Nuapada block, villagers claimed to have spotted two leopards on the prowl the same night. While they informed the Forest Department about it, the animals had disappeared by

the time the staffs arrived.

In the last 15 days, two buffaloes and a calf were killed while a bullock and a calf were attacked by the predators, villagers claimed.

Official sources said at least four such incidents have been reported since March 6 and locals have found half-eaten carcasses of their cattle and even spotted the predator animal.

According to reports, the female leopard has two cubs

and is taking shelter in a cave near the village. As the cubs are past the feeding stage, the animal is hunting for prey to feed itself and its offspring.

Forest officials, however, reassured that their staffs have been deployed near the village and camera traps installed to monitor the leopard's movement. The affected villagers would be compensated for the lost livestock as well, they said.

## Balanga police crack woman's murder

### Nab accused husband, some

PNS ■ BALANGA

The Balanga police in Puri district have cracked the case of a woman body being recovered from the Bhargavi river near Chilapatana village under the Satyabadi police station by arresting a man-son duo on Tuesday.

The deceased was identified as Thhakimani Sahoo of village Khadikuda under the Balanga police station area. Earlier, the Satyabadi police had seized the body and sent it for postmortem.

As per direction of Puri SP K Vishal Singh, a police team led by DSP Tara Jasmin Guria

and Balanga police station OIC Rashmiranjan Prusty began an investigation and detained the deceased ' husband Kapila Sahoo and his son Abhimanyu suspecting their involvement in the case.

In a Press meet, Pipili SDPO Debadatta Baral said Kapila had a fight with his wife Thakimani over a cup of tea and losing his cool hit his wife with a bamboo stick. Thakimani died on the spot. After the incident Kapila called his son from Puri.

Both father and son planned to get rid of the body secretly without knowledge of villagers at late night. They tried to burn it. But as it remained half-burnt, the duo stuffed it in a sack and threw it into the Bhargavi river.

## Dharna before B'pur rly stn continues



### B'pur-Puri direct train demanded

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

A two-hour-long daily dharna by the Sanskarbadi in front of the Brahmapur Railway Station reached its fifth day on Wednesday.

The organisation has been demanding the introduction of a new passenger train directly from Brahmapur to Puri on a daily basis keeping the rising flow of passengers in view.

While president of Sanskarbadi Trinath Maharana led the agitation, it was supported by a few other social organisations, namely, the Baristha Nagarika Manch, the Manav Adhikar Surakshya Manch (MASM), the Ganjam Zilla Bikash Manch and the Gareeba Bandhu.

The leaders in their address expressed serious concern over an inordinate delay by the Railways in introducing a new Brahmapur-Puri daily passenger train despite repeated demands.

## Woman dies in road mishap in Jajpur

### Kin allege delay in arrival of ambulance

PNS ■ JAJPUR

A woman injured in a road accident in the Dharmacharya area in Jajpur district on Wednesday died due to the delay in arrival of the 108 Ambulance.

The deceased identified as Gedi Geuma (48), wife of Aranya Guemu of Jarka Kumari area, was injured when an unidentified vehicle hit him while crossing NH-16 in the

early hours of morning.

Getting the information, family members called 108 Ambulance. However, as the ambulance did not come after a long time, the family somehow managed to shift her to the Dharmachaya Hospital in a critical condition. However, the doctor declared him dead.

The family of the deceased expressed strong resentment over the delay in arrival of the emergency vehicle and lodged a police complaint. The cops have started an investigation after receiving the complaint.

## Biological mother, mother school, mother India



### Whom children shouldn't forget

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

“Children should not forget three mothers of their life i.e., biological mother, mother school and mother India. In order, the alphabet 'S' in the dictionary comes first and the letter 'W' comes later but in real life 'Work' comes first and 'Success' follows it,” said Prof R Venkat Rao to the students and alumni of City High School, Brahmapur on Saturday.

He further quoted Barrack Obama's words 'IT means Information and Technology in yester years but today, IT means 'Indian Talent' and writer Sri Guru Charan Das's explanation of IT as 'India Tomorrow' referring to the students who gathered there.

The Old Boys Association felicitated Prof Rao who has been appointed as the new Vice Chancellor of India International University of Legal Education and Research, Goa. The meeting was organised at eLibrary of the City High School and presided over by Dr E Jayanti Rao.

## Angul-Sukinda line: ECoR GM reviews traffic, infra

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

East Coast Railway (ECoR) General Manager Manoj Sharma on Tuesday inspected the Baghuapal-Budhapank railway section of the Angul-Sukinda rail line project.

Sharma reviewed the facilities and related infrastructure works and advised officials to take necessary steps to ensure that train traffic is not hampered.

The 92.825-km long broad gauge single electrified railway line section between Budhapankh Station in Angul district and Baghuapala station near Sukinda in Jajpur district under the Khurda Road Railway Division has recently been authorised for operation of goods traffic.

The Angul-Sukinda Railway Limited (ASRL) is a special purpose vehicle (SPV) incorporated on February 20, 2009, by the Ministry of Railways through RVNL for the construction and maintenance of the broad gauge single railway line between Budhapank Station (Angul) and Baghuapala Station (Sukinda).



The new rail-line provides a direct link between iron-ore rich areas of Joda and Barbil to steel and sponge iron industries in Angul region. It also offers a shorter and congestion-free alternative route between the coal mining belt of Talcher to

coal-based thermal power plants in Kalinganagar industrial areas.

This would also be in close proximity to the steel plants in Angul region, Nalco, and a cluster of industries located in Kalinganagar areas of the State.

Dispatch of finished products of steel plants from the Kalinganagar complex to destinations in Mumbai and Delhi via Talcher-Sambalpur-Jharsuguda would also be shorter and cheaper via the new alignment as compared with the route via Kharagpur.

## In Brahmapur

# 3 hurt as bomb explodes in miscreant's hand

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Three persons were critically injured when a bomb exploded at village Jogiapalli under the Nimakhandi police station in Brahmapur on Tuesday. The injured were identified as Kalia Patro, Mahesh Dora and Kartik Patro.

Kalia and Mahesh had arrived at Kartik's house in a motorbike, when he was paying wages to his workers and tried to hurl a bomb. But suddenly the bomb exploded in Kaalia's hand. The impact of the explosion was so powerful that his hand was severed. His aide Mahesh was also grievously injured and Kartik suffered injuries on his back.

It was suspected that the bomb attack on Kartik was to extort money from him.

Sadar SDPO SS. Mohapatro,, Nimakhandi police station IIC Bhabananda Pradhan rushed



to the spot and shifted the injured to the MKCG Medical College Hospital in

Brahmapur.

Soon after the incident, Brahmapur SP Saravana

Vibek M also visited the spot to take stock of the situation.

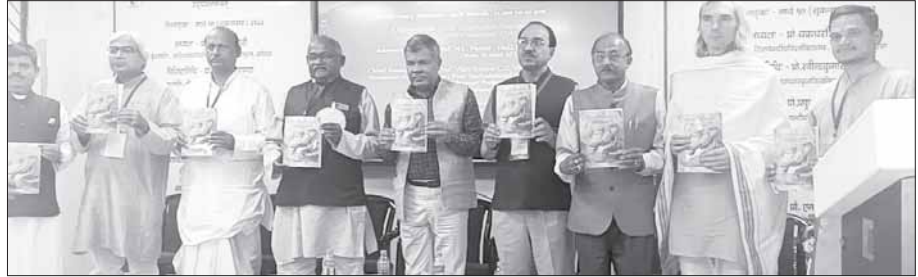
# CUO holds 3-day int'l Sanskrit conf

### 90 research papers presented

PNS ■ KORAPUT

A three-day International Conference on 'The Importance of Sanskrit in India and Abroad' was organised by the Sanskrit Department, Central University of Odisha, Koraput from March 17 to 19 in the University campus at Sunabeda.

The valedictory programme was presided over



by Vice-Chancellor of the university Prof Chakradhar Tripathi, who highlighted the value of the Sanskrit language in traditional as well as modern society.

Dean, School of Languages and HoD,

Department of Sanskrit Prof NC Panda delivered the welcome address and highlighted the usefulness of Sanskrit.

Scholars from India and abroad attended where more than 90 selected research

papers were presented. In the cultural session of the conference, Krishnakutuhalam drama was staged and local dances like Sambalpuri, Dhemsia, Jhumar, Bharatnatyam, etc. were also performed.

## Stir again if no varsity tag to K'pada Auto College

### Cong sends memo for CM

RAJESH BEHERA ■ KENDRAPADA

Congress activists led by senior leader Ganeshwar Behera submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister through ADM Pitambar Samal, expressing their dismay over the reply of Higher Education Minister Rohit Pujari in the State Assembly that the Government was unaware of a continued agitation demanding university

status to the Kendrapada Autonomous College.

Behera stated that on November 2, 2021 both the Town and Block Congress committees had launched a Collectorate gherao agitation called "Mati Pain Pati Khol" and submitted a memorandum to the CM pressing for several demands, including university status to the Kendrapada Autonomous College.

Congress activists had also held another huge demonstration in front of

## INBRIEF

### NISHA BISWAL NOMINATED AS US FIN AGENCY BY CEO

Bhubaneswar: Indian-American policy expert Nisha Desai Biswal is proposed to be the Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC). Nisha, who hails from Gujarat, is the wife of Subrat Biswal of Angul district in Odisha and both are currently residents in the USA. US President Joe Biden has nominated Nisha as Deputy CEO of the US DFC. She is now the Senior Vice-President for International Strategy and Global Initiatives at the US Chamber of Commerce and looking after the US India Business Council and the US Bangladesh Business Council.



### CWDS HEALTH CAMP FOR VISUALLY-IMPAIRED STUDENTS

Bhubaneswar: The Child and Women Development Society (CWDS) held a health camp for visually-impaired students under the guidance of chairman Maj Dr Kalpana Das in association with the SCHBANG for Good Foundation at the Odisha Association for Blind (OAB) here. Students of the Bhabagrahi Model School and the Vocational Training School underwent medical checkup. Dr Kajal Rakshit checked the conditions of the Dibyang students. OAB president Sannyasai Behera joined as chief guest. CWDS secretary Dr Bijay Biswal and other volunteers like Prakas Kumar Parida and Prasant Barik were present.



### SBI DONATES AMBULANCE TO CANCER FOUNDATION

Bhubaneswar: The State Bank of India Bhubaneswar Circle donated an ambulance to the Konark Cancer Foundation (KCF) on Wednesday. The KCF is providing all types of sup-



port to cancer patients of Odisha. SBI CGM Chander Shekhar Sharma handed over the vehicle's keys to KCF managing trustee Arup Mohan Pattnaik.

### MAN HELD FOR RAPING MINOR NIECE IN KENDRAPADA

Kendrapada: The Marshaghai police arrested one Sarada Prasad Mohanty (33) of Samajori village for allegedly raping his minor relative niece in December last year, informed Kendrapada SDPO Jayanta Mohapatra on Tuesday. Mohanty committed the crime after taking the girl to a hotel for taking food.

### AM/NS INDIA CELEBRATES SAFETY WEEK

Bhubaneswar: The 52nd National Safety Week was observed across all locations of the ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India) in Odisha with the theme "Our Aim-Zero Harm". The celebrations at the Paradeep Pellet Plant com-



menced with hoisting of the safety flag by Suresha G, ED, Odisha Operations. Similar events were also conducted at the proposed Integrated Steel Plant (ISP) project site in Paradeep and township project site at Chakradharpur in Paradeep. At the valedictory function at Sagasahi Project site, Arun Kumar Rath, Head, Brownfield Projects, Odisha, said, "We can create the ideal safety ecosystem only when we extend this awareness to all the stakeholders."

## Man kills wife, hangs self in S'garh

PNS ■ SUNDARGARH

A man committed suicide after killing his wife in Talsara in Sundargarh district on Tuesday night. The deceased were identified as Hemant Dandasena and his spouse Rashmi of Damakuda village under the Talsara police limits.

Hemant first asphyxiated Rashmi and then hung himself. A domestic dispute was believed to have led him to take such a drastic step.

Sources said the couple had tied the knot last year. After

marriage, Hemant had gone to Goa as a contract labourer and returned home during Holi. Rashmi, meanwhile, was staying with her in-laws. After Hemant's return, they started living separately. However, trouble was brewing between the two over domestic issues. On Tuesday night, distressed over the conflict, Hemant smothered Rashmi with a pillow and then hung himself.

Police reached the spot after getting information and started investigation. A case was registered.



# ‘Hike capital budget of Army’

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Faced by two hostile neighbours namely China and Pakistan and the ongoing tension at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, a Parliament Standing Committee on Defence report has called for a hike in capital Budget of the Army. It will enable it to enhance deterrent capabilities to meet any challenge, the report noted.

The committee appreciated the efforts made by the Defence Ministry towards the indigenisation of military platforms and hoped that the country would see "100 per cent contract value" going to Indian



vendors in the years ahead. The report was tabled in Parliament on Tuesday.

Referring to the challenges before the Army, the parliamentary standing committee cited proxy wars, in an apparent reference to Pakistan-backed cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

The committee was of the view that funds slated for modernisation of the armed forces should always be incremental. "The committee also desired that there should be a separate allocation for committed liabilities and new schemes, under the modernisation/capital budget," it said.

"Our expenditure should be in proportion to the increase in defence spending of our neighbours. Therefore, the committee recommended that the capital budget of the Army should be increased to have a deterrent capacity to ward off at least two hostile neighbours," it said, in an indirect reference to Pakistan and China.

The committee noted that the capital outlay for the Navy for 2023-24 was projected at Rs 52,804.75 crore. "Against this projection, the committee found that this year's allocation is pragmatic and supportive for the Navy as the ministry actually allocated the same amount as projected, although, this projection is Rs 14,818.21 crore

less than the projection it made in the year 2022-23," it said.

"This also indicates that the requirements of the Navy for the new scheme have decreased, and gone down which may affect its modernisation drive. The committee recommended to be apprised of the reasons for the lower projection in comparison to last year," the panel said.

The committee recommended that from next year onwards a separate statement of the net budget be provided after taking into account the inflation, noting that it is a recurring and unavoidable phenomenon in all aspects of economic theory which applies to the Navy also.

# ‘Sensationalist lies’: India’s High Commissioner to UK on Punjab

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/LONDON

Terming the reports on the situation in Punjab as "sensationalist lies," Indian High Commissioner to London Vikram Doraiswami said on Wednesday the situation is normal in the State and visitors including from the UK are safe.

He made these observations in the backdrop of ongoing operation in India to nab Amritpal Singh and Waris Punjab De.

While summarizing the situation in Punjab, the envoy



said in London "there is no truth to sensationalist lies being circulated on social media. The Indian High Commissioner was talking about the law enforcement action against Waris Punjab De.

"The situation for travel is normal and visitors including

from the UK are safe.

"Let me assure all our friends here in the UK, especially brothers and sisters with relatives in Punjab that there is no truth to sensationalist lies being circulated on social media," Doraiswami said in a video address released by the Indian High Commission in London.

It was reported on Saturday that mobile Internet services have been suspended in several districts of Punjab, state police said after launching an operation to arrest the chief of suspected pro-Khalistan outfit 'Waris Punjab De', Amritpal Singh and his aides.

# India likely to be severely hit by water scarcity by 2050: UN report

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Come 2050 and India is expected to be the most severely water-hit nation due to scarcity of the precious item with a flagship UN report warning that overall the global urban population facing water scarcity is projected to increase from 933 million in 2016 to 1.7-2.4 billion people within the next 27 years.

The flagship UN report 'United Nations World Water Development Report 2023: partnerships and cooperation for water', released Tuesday ahead of the UN 2023 Water Conference, said that around 80% of people living under water stress lived in Asia; in particular, northeast China, as well as India and Pakistan.

"The global urban population facing water scarcity is projected to increase from 933 million (one third of global urban population) in 2016 to 1.7-2.4 billion people (one third to nearly half of global urban population) in 2050, with India projected to be the most severely affected," the report said, citing data.

No doubt, the observations of the report hold importance for India which is home to 18 percent of the world's population, but has only 4 percent of its water resources. The UN report comes a month after the government's policy think tank, the NITI Aayog had pointed out that India's depen-



dence on an increasingly erratic monsoon for its water requirements is a challenge. Climate change is likely to exacerbate this pressure on water resources, even as the frequency and intensity of floods and droughts in the country increases.

Yet another report by the United Nations Institute for Water, Environment and Health in January 2023 had estimated that India's 3,700 large dams will have lost on average 26 per cent of their initial total storage by 2050.

Against such a bleak scenario, experts have called for setting up strong mechanisms to prevent the global water crisis from spiralling out of control.

"There is an urgent need to establish strong international mechanisms to prevent the global water crisis from spiralling out of control," said UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay. "Water is our common future, and it is essential to act together to share it equitably and manage it sustainably."

Globally, two billion peo-

ple do not have safe drinking water and 3.6 billion lack access to safely managed sanitation, the report found with Richard Connor, the report's editor-in-chief pointing out that "uncertainties are increasing".

"If we don't address it, there definitely will be a global crisis," he said, pointing to rising scarcity that reflects reduced availability and increased demand, from urban and industrial growth to agriculture, which alone consumes 70 per cent of the world's supply.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said in the report that "Water is the lifeblood of humanity.

It is vital for survival itself and supports the health, resilience, development and prosperity of people and planet alike."

Guterres voiced concern that humanity is blindly travelling a dangerous path. "Vampiric overconsumption and overdevelopment, unsustainable water use, pollution and unchecked global warming are draining humanity's lifeblood, drop by drop."

# Won't go back on JPC demand: Cong

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Congress on Wednesday claimed that the Government wants the party to take back its demand for a JPC on the Adani issue and in return it would drop the call for an apology over Rahul Gandhi's remarks in the UK, asserting there was no question of any such compromise.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said efforts are being made since the last few days that a "formula" or middle path is found with both the



Opposition and the Government relenting.

"This is unacceptable to us, these two things are completely unconnected. One is a reality. The questions we are asking are fundamental questions, this has happened. The BJP's demand of apology is just baseless, it is on false allegations. So

# Railways restores fare of AC 3-tier economy class travel in trains

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Railways on Wednesday issued an order to restore the fare for AC 3-tier economy class travel which had been withdrawn in November last year when it was merged with AC 3-tier.

Despite the restoration in price, Railways will continue offering linen to passengers, the order indicated.

The present order has withdrawn an earlier circular in which the fare for AC 3-tier economy class ticket had been made equal to the fare of an AC 3-tier ticket. The reason for the merger was stated to be the cost of linen which was initially not provided in the economy air conditioned class. According to the order, passengers who have



booked tickets online and over the counter will be given a refund of the extra amount for the pre-booked tickets.

The railways, while introducing the 3E as a class in September 2021, had announced that fares in these newly-introduced coaches will be 6-8 per cent less than normal AC 3 coaches, pitching the class of travel as the "best and cheapest AC travel service" in the world.

Before the November 2022 order, passengers could book AC 3 economy tickets under a separate category of "3E" in specific trains where railways offered such seats.

Officials said, currently there are 463 AC 3 Economy coaches compared to 11,277 normal AC 3 coaches.

AC 3 economy coaches have better facilities for passengers than normal AC 3 coaches, officials said.

# CAG extending its outreach to include political executives to highlight audit concerns

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India Girish Chandra Murmu on Wednesday said the audit watchdog outreach is now being extended to include political executives to highlight audit concerns.

"The intention is to build a shared understanding of the most pressing concerns in governance and find possible solutions," Murmu said during an orientation programmes with the Officer Trainees of the Indian Information Service (IIS) belonging to three batches of 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Noticing that most of the

officers are from engineering background, she said technical skills should be used to handle the challenges of future media, especially with emerging self-help AI tools such as ChatGPT. He said that the trainee IIS officers should gear up to meet the challenges posed by Big Data and Artificial Intelligence.

Murmu said the media is a very powerful tool that adds value to society. "In the Indian context, it has helped to disseminate the government's plans and initiatives. As a probationer, you have to understand the perspective and vision of your department, and it should improve country's image," he said.

# Army introduces millets in soldiers' ration

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With a view to promote consumption of millets in light of the United Nations (UN) declaring 2023 as the International Year of Millets, the Indian Army has introduced millets flour in the rations of soldiers. Special emphasis is on providing healthy millet based food and snacks to troops guarding the China front or the Northern Border.

This landmark decision will ensure troops are supplied with native and traditional grains after over half a century, when these were discontinued in favour of wheat atta, officials said here on Wednesday.

Traditional millet foods with proven health benefits and suited to our geographical and climatic conditions would be a vital step in mitigating life style diseases and enhancing satisfaction and morale of the troops. Millets would now form an integral part of the daily meal for all ranks, they said.

Government sanction has been sought to procure millets flour not exceeding 25 percent of the authorised entitlement of Cereals (Rice and Wheat Atta), in rations for troops com-



encing from the year 2023-24 onwards. Procurement and issue will be based on option exercised and quantity demanded.

Three popular varieties of millets flour including Bajra, Jowar and Ragi will be issued to troops duly considering preference. Millets have the benefit of being a good source of proteins, micro-nutrients and phyto-chemicals thus boosting the nutritional profile of soldier's diet.

In addition, advisories have been issued for Millets to be extensively used in organised functions, Barakhanas, canteens and in home cooking. Centralised training of chefs is being undertaken to prepare wholesome, tasty and nutritious millet dishes. Special emphasis for introducing value added millet items and snacks to troops deployed along Northern borders have been given.

# Def Min justifies barring married individuals from applying for JAG

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Defence Ministry on Wednesday justified in Delhi High Court on the policy barring married individuals from applying for Judge Advocate General (JAG), the legal officer in the army, and said considering the "effects of marriage", the bar is a "reasonable restriction placed in public interest and the interest of national security". In an additional affidavit filed in response to a petition chal-



lenging the embargo, Defence Ministry said the condition of being unmarried for grant of commission to cadets aged 21-27 years is "restricted only for the period of recruitment and pre-commissioned training" which involves a high amount of stress and rigours of military

training and the restriction on marriage before successful commission is in the interest of the candidates as well as organisation.

A bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Sachin Datta granted time to petitioner Kush Kalra to file his response to the Centre's stand. Last year, the high court had asked the Centre to explain the reason behind the policy on an affidavit while remarking that the policy barring married individuals from applying for the

post "does not make any sense".

The Centre, in its earlier affidavit filed in March 2019, said that right to marry cannot be a right to life under the Constitution and there was no discrimination on the basis of marital status of the candidates. The authorities have sought dismissal of the PIL saying the Constitution does not stipulate right to marry as a fundamental right.

In the latest affidavit, the Centre submitted that in the Indian Army, both males and females are treated equally and

all army personnel have similar qualification requirements for basic military training and in all types of entries, "unmarried clause" is common. It explained that once the unmarried cadets complete their training and are granted commission, there is no bar on marriage or its "natural consequences" like pregnancy and several service benefits are also given, but during conduct of basic military training that lasts for minimum one year, such provisions are not possible.

# SC cautions lower courts for not applying mind in bail matters

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has cautioned the lower courts for not applying mind and remanding the accused persons into the custody of the probe agency the moment they appear before them in response to the summons. The apex court noted that the appellants fear arrest not at the behest of the CBI but at the behest of the trial court. It ordered that the appellants be released on bail in the event of their arrest subject to terms and conditions as may be imposed by the special court, including the condition for the surrender of the passport, if any.

The top court said this while hearing the appeals of four accused challenging Allahabad High Court orders that rejected their pleas for pre-arrest bail in a case probed by the CBI. "Suffice for the present to note that it is not the CBI which is seeking their custody, but the appellants apprehend that they may be remand-



ed to custody by the trial court and this is why they seek protection. We must keep this in mind while deciding the fate of these appeals," it said.

"This is for the reason that in some parts of the country, there seems to be a practice followed by courts to remand the accused to custody, the moment they appear in response to the summoning order. The correctness of such a practice has to be tested in an appropriate case," a bench of Justices V Ramasubramanian and Pankaj Mithal said in its verdict delivered on March 20. The case was related to a bank loan default case.

# NPG under PMGatiShakti examines, recommends 6 infra projects

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Network Planning Group (NPG) under PM GatiShakti at its 45th session examined and recommended six Infrastructure projects including that from Railways and Road Transport Highways Ministry.

These projects will be developed in tandem with the PM GatiShakti Principles using the integrated and holistic approach. These projects will also provide multimodal connectivity, seamless movement of goods and passengers as well as increase logistics efficiency across the country.

A project by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy was also examined by the NPG. A one of its kind project for the Inter-State Transmission System for Renewable Energy Projects in Ladakh is a big step towards achieving the Government of India's target of 500 GW capacity from non-fossil fuels by the year 2030.

The Ministry of Railways proposed a project for city logistics. The project was for



Kanpur Anwarganj - Mandhana elevated railway track. It is a City specific project as it will increase line capacity utilization for railways and improve city logistics in the region. The project is located in the heart of Kanpur city wherein 16 Level Crossing (LC) are located in 16 Km stretch with GT road running parallel to this track.

On both sides of the railway track there are important components such as universities, medical college, cardiology centre, cancer centre, good shed, consumption centres, warehouses, agricultural components, among others.

Eventually, it leads to traffic jams and an increase in waiting time of trains, and vehicles. After the construction of this track rail logistics will improve by 4.2 MTPA. Further,

a project by the Ministry of Railways for construction of Rail Bridge across river Ganga in connection with the new railway line connecting Vikramshila - Kataraah railway station on East central railway in Bihar State was examined by the NPG. The project is about 40 KM from Bhagalpur alongside a stream on river Ganges.

The NPG examined two projects by the Ministry of Roads, Transport and Highways pertaining to construction of 4 Lane to Bijni to Mandi section including construction of twin tube tunnels of Pathankot - Mandi.

The second project proposed by MoRTH was the construction of a 4 Lane of Belgum - Hungsund - Raichur, as a part of Panaji - Hyderabad Economic Corridor.



President Droupadi Murmu confers Padma Shri on social worker Hirabaiaben Ibrahimibhai Lobi from Gujarat during Padma Awards 2023 ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi on Wednesday (PTI Photo)



# Modi to visit Varanasi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Varanasi on March 24 and inaugurate and lay a number of projects in his home constituency and address the 'One World TB Summit at Rudraksh Convention Centre. Prime Minister will dedicate and lay the foundation stone of various projects worth more than Rs. 1780 crores at Sampurnanand Sanskrit University ground, according to the Prime Minister's office. On the occasion of World Tuberculosis Day, the Prime Minister will address the One World TB Summit. The summit is being organised by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and Stop TB Partnership. Founded in 2001, the Stop TB Partnership is a United Nations hosted organisation that amplifies the voice



of the people, communities, and countries affected by TB. He will launch various initiatives including the TB-Mukt Panchayat initiative; official pan-India rollout of a shorter TB Preventive Treatment , Family-centric care model for TB and release of India's Annual TB Report 2023. Prime Minister will also award select States and UTs and Districts for their progress towards ending Tuberculosis.

# NIA arrests Khurram in NGO terror funding case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday arrested the Programme Coordinator of Jammu and Kashmir Coalition of Civil Societies (JKCCS) in connection with the NGO Terror Funding Case. Following the first arrest made in this case, the NIA arrested Khurram Parvez, the Programme Coordinator of JKCCS and Chairperson of Philippines-based NGO Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD), the NIA said in a statement. "Investigations revealed that Khurram Parvez has been collecting funds under the garb of fighting for Human Rights, from various international entities/ persons based abroad and channelizing those funds for funding terror activities in the Kashmir valley," the agency said. He, along with his associates, were also propagating a secessionist agenda through his various NGOs. Khurram Parvez has already been chargesheeted in another NIA case. He was formally arrested upon production in this case on Wednesday, it said. The case relates to the terror funding of



proscribed terrorist organisations, such as Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) and Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, by certain NGOs, Trusts and societies based in the Valley. Investigations have revealed that Khurram Parvez and his associates raised funds to support individuals who were involved in pelting stones at security forces personnel and also motivated others to extend similar support, it said. These trusts and societies, which have been under investigation, have utilised the funds raised by them to publish anti-national and incriminating materials to cause hatred and disaffection towards Government of India, it added.

# NIA court sentences Bodo militant to life imprisonment

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has secured conviction for life and rigorous imprisonment against a Bodo militant in the 2014 Assam indiscriminate firing case. The NIA Special Court, Guwahati, on Tuesday sentenced Bodo militant Rabi Basumatary alias Rongjabaja alias Rabi to life imprisonment, along with rigorous imprisonment for 10 years, in various cases of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in a 2014 case of indiscriminate firing on villagers in Assam, the NIA said in a statement here on Wednesday. Rabi, who was convicted by the court on March 13, 2023, has been sentenced to life imprisonment in two cases and rigorous imprisonment in two others. He has been convicted under IPC sections relating to murder, attempt to murder and common intention besides relevant provisions of the UAPA. He has also been fined in all the cases, and will have to undergo additional simple imprisonment in case of failure to pay the same. All the substantive sentences will run concurrently, the agency said.



Seven villagers were killed and two grievously injured in the case, in which Rabi was arrested in September 2016 and chargesheeted by NIA in March 2017 through the first supplementary chargesheet. Investigation in the case had revealed that Rabi Basumatary alias B Rongjabaja was a member of the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB), an armed separatist outfit fighting to obtain a sovereign Boroland for the Bodo people. On May 1, 2014, Rabi, along with six other NDFB cadres, had entered Balapra village under Gossaigaon police station area of Kokrajhar district of Assam, where they opened indiscriminate fire on the villagers on instructions from top NDFB leadership headed by G Bidai and Songbijit. The Special NIA Court had subsequently registered the case as Special Case 05/2015.

# BJP seeks CBI probe into Kerala 'waste mgmt scam'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the backdrop of a major fire in the waste dump in Cochi in Kerala on March 2, the BJP on Wednesday claimed a major 'waste management scam by the son-in-laws of the UDF-LDF Government' in the state and demanded an investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into the alleged corruption. The BJP accused the Kerala Government of "not following rules" spelt-out by the 'Swachata abhiyan' of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Addressing a press conference here, the BJP-in-charge of Kerala and former environment minister Prakash Javadekar said While the solid management rules were notified by the Centre in 2016, the Kerala Government never followed them, leading to a complete "mismanagement" of waste all over the state, he said. He said the firm chosen for the waste management in Kochi received a Rs 54 crore-contract and it in turn subcontracted the

task to other firms for over Rs 22 crore. "Rs 32 crore went straight into its pocket," the BJP leader claimed. "Goa and Indore have been among the best examples of managing waste and turning it into wealth. But the Kerala government never tried to do anything in this regard," he said. Javadekar said since Kerala government is not allow permission for the CBI probe, the High court may order such a probe into the alleged scam. The BJP leader said that corruption involving kin of the Left and Congress functionaries in Kerala led to the absence of a waste-management plan and a consequent fire at a landfill in Kochi which among damages caused innumerable health problems to the Cochin inhabitants, he said. The former union minister alleged involvement of son-in-law of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan besides sons-in-law of a former Left Democratic Front (LDF) and a Congress leader in the "monumental" corruption

which caused the man-made disaster recently. While the Left is in power in Kerala, the Congress is the main opposition party. Both are now together in looting the state, Javadekar alleged. "There are three sons-in-law, two companies and a big scam. The LDF and the UDF have come together in looting Kerala," he said, claiming that the companies assigned to deal with waste management in the city are linked to the kin of politicians. Kerala BJP leaders, including Union minister V Muraliedharan and former Union minister K J Alphons, were present at the press conference. "I am directly saying that the chief minister has taken interest," Javadekar said. BJP has been electorally focusing on Kerala and has recently received support from one of the Bishops in the state. The Prime Minister has recently hoped that the BJP may come to power in Kerala in coalition with others. .

# Will challenge hegemony of BJP in 2024 LS polls: Akhilesh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav said on Wednesday that his party would challenge the hegemony of the ruling BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. He also said that the SP would contest all the 80 Lok Sabha seats in the state. Yadav also hit out at the BJP-led state government and alleged that it was against farmers. He said other political parties should decide their respective roles ahead of the general elections next year. He alleged that the BJP government was selectively targeting the leaders of the Samajwadi Party and its associates. "Azam Khan is being victimised by the Yogi Adityanath government as he is a senior leader of the Samajwadi Party," Yadav said while addressing mediapersons here on Wednesday. "The SP will lead UP's opposition alliance in the Lok Sabha elections," said Yadav, who returned to Lucknow after attending the two-day national executive meeting of the party in Kolkata. He said that the SP would play a major role in the opposition alliance in UP. "In the upcoming assembly elections in various states, the SP will field candidates where it has a



presence. The party will contest the assembly elections with alliance partners in those states. The SP chief had recently visited Telangana to participate in the Bharatiya Rashtra Samithi (BRS) rally organised by K Chandrashekhara Rao. He also visited Tamil Nadu to participate in MK Stalin's birthday programme. Alleging that the BJP-led government in UP was against farmers, he said the arrears of farmers have not been cleared so far. Yadav also said that the state government should give compensation to farmers who have faced losses due to damage to their crops in the recent unseasonal rains and hailstorm.

# SP supremo takes jibe at Tourism Min

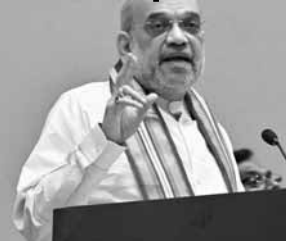
PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday took a jibe at UP Tourism Minister Jaiveer Singh, saying the latter played a key role in the victory of Dimple Yadav in the bypoll to Mainpuri Lok Sabha seat in November last year. "Jaiveer Singh is the tourism minister. He is unpredictable and as a tourist, he can stray in any direction," Yadav said. Jaiveer Singh was elected to the UP assembly from Mainpuri Sadar, a segment of the Mainpuri Lok Sabha seat. Mainpuri is the stronghold of the Samajwadi Party and its founder Mulayam Singh Yadav held this seat. Retaliating to the jibe, Jaiveer Singh said: "People of Uttar Pradesh have rejected the Samajwadi Party many times since the 2014 Lok Sabha elections. In fact, people of UP have sent Akhilesh Yadav on permanent tourism to political oblivion."

# Shah opens Maa Sharda temple virtually

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The precincts of a newly constructed Maa Sharda Devi Temple, located close to the line of control in Tithwal village of North Kashmir district of Kupwara, came alive on Wednesday as large number of devotees assembled here for the first time to worship the idol, made from panch dhatu(five metals). The 3.5 feet-tall idol of Goddess Sri Sharadamba, was donated by the Sringeri Sharada mutt for installation at the newly-constructed Sharda Temple. The temple, constructed on a piece of land provided by the local villagers in the area, was formally inaugurated by the Union Home Minister Amit Shah through video conferencing. Several dignitaries including Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha, were present on the occasion and became witness to the historic occasion. Several



guests including Ravindra Pandita, Founder Save Sharda Committee Kashmir, Kashmiri pandit scholars were given warm reception by the local villagers on their arrival in Tithwal. Amit Shah began his address by wishing countrymen for the New Year. He said that today on occasion of New Year, the newly constructed temple of Maa Sharda has been opened for the devotees and this is an auspicious sign for devotees from all over India. He said inauguration of Maa Sharda's temple is beginning of a new era. He said that today's beginning will help in bringing back lost glory of this place and

with the blessing of Maa Sharda this place will remain the centre of worship and continue to awaken the consciousness of India for ages. "Sharda Peeth has been a historical centre of India's cultural, religious and educational heritage, like Kartarpur Corridor, Government under the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will move forward to open Sharda Peeth for devotees". The Union Home Minister said that the architecture and construction of this temple has been done according to mythological scriptures under the aegis of Sharda Peeth. Shah said the idol of Sharda Maa, donated by Sringeri Math, and its installation here, the time period from 24 January till today was like a journey. The reconstruction of Maa Sharda's temple in Kupwara is a necessary and important step in direction of discovery of Sharda-civilization and promotion of Sharda-script.

# India home to spiritual ancestors of Koreans: Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Even as the diplomatic relations between India and South Korea complete half-century, the spiritual ties between the two go back to centuries because India is not 'foreign' but 'home' to spiritual ancestors of the Koreans, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said at the felicitation ceremony of Jogye Sangh. The function was held on the completion of the 43-day 'padyatra' of Buddhist pilgrimages by Jogye Sangh of South Korea on the completion of 50 years of diplomatic relations between India and South Korea. About 108 Buddhist pilgrims from the Republic of Korea walked over 1,100 kms in over 43 days as part of the walking pilgrimage organised by Sangwol Society of South Korea. Speaking on the occasion, Yogi said: "Lord Gautam Buddha had started his Dhamma Yatra from Sarnath by giving his first sermons. I congratulate you on completing your 43-day pilgrimage. The 'padyatra' is being organised to strengthen the relations between the two countries on the completion of half-century of the diplomatic relations between India and South Korea. When saints make efforts to deepen the relations,



its meaning becomes divine." Lord Buddha's meditation tradition entered Korea through his disciple Huineng in China. "Shravasti, the origin of your meditation tradition Seon, is where your journey came to an end. In this sense, you have not come abroad but to the home of your spiritual ancestors," Yogi said. The group of monks travelled on foot along the entire Buddhist circuit, including Lumbini, Nepal, the birthplace of Lord Buddha, to Kushinagar, the place of Mahaparinirvana. Yogi said: "Both India and South Korea celebrate independence on August 15. India got the opportunity to chair the G20 summit in its 'Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal'. This year, the theme of G20 is 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'; it connects us with the spirit of India's "Vasudhaiva Kutumbhakam." "Buddha's preaching inspires the entire mankind to

embrace friendship, oneness, compassion, and humility. India is the centre of reverence and faith for the Buddhist society of the world," the CM added. He went on to say that many places associated with the life of Mahatma Buddha are in Uttar Pradesh. "Lord Buddha had delivered his first sermon in Sarnath while in Shravasti, he spent most of his 'varshavaas', and Kushinagar is his place of 'Mahaparinirvana'," Yogi noted. "Lucknow is surrounded by the aura of Lord Buddha from all sides. Shanti Upvan Buddha Vihar is in UP and so is the International Buddhist Research Institute. As the international airport has become operational in Kushinagar, the development of an airport in Shravasti is also underway on a war footing. The state government is going to set up an agriculture and technology university named after Mahatma Buddha in Kushinagar itself. The relations between India and South Korea are scaling new heights under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he said. The chief minister added that the mutual trade between India and South Korea is \$28 billion, in which India exports goods worth \$9 billion and imports worth \$19 billion from South Korea.

# Mamata offers prayers at Shree Jagannath Temple

PTI ■ PURI

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Wednesday offered prayers at the Shree Jagannath Temple here and offered a huge flag, which was tied atop the 12th-century shrine, seeking the welfare of all people. Banerjee, accompanied by senior government officials from her state and Odisha, entered the temple at 4 pm and had a dar-

shan of the sibling deities-Lord Balabhadra, Devi Subhadra and Lord Jagannath. "She offered prayers to the deities standing alone near the 'Bhitar Katha' (inner cordon). She is a devotee of Lord Jagannath," said Ramakrushna Dasmohapatra, her priest. She witnessed 'arti' while standing near Bhitar Katha. She also went to 'Mukti Mandap' (seat of religious pundits) and sought the blessings of the

pundits there. Later. She also visited the temple of Maa Laxmi and Maa Bimala in the temple premises while making a round of it. The West Bengal Chief Minister stood at the 'Pata Agana' (a corridor near the main temple) to witness the 'Bana Bandha' (tying of flag) ritual during which the flag atop the 65 m high temple is changed every day. "She offered a 14-haath flag to the Lord

praying for the wellbeing of all," the priest said. One haath is 1.5 feet. Local police in plain-clothes provided security to her and no one was allowed to go close to her. The devotees were, however, allowed to enter temple and have 'darshan' of the deities when Banerjee was inside temple. The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration presented a wooden idol of Lord Jagannath to her.



People buy dates near the Jama Masjid ahead of the start of the holy month of Ramzan in New Delhi on Wednesday

PTI Photo

# Ahead of polls, NCP chief calls meeting of Opposition leaders

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Amid talks of opposition unity in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, NCP supremo Sharad Pawar has invited leaders of various opposition parties here on Thursday 23 to discuss issues of common interest and efficacy of EVMs. Sources said the meeting will take place at 6 pm. Pawar has held that in the interest of free and fair elections, electronic voting machines (EVMs) need to be accurate and any doubts over their efficacy must be addressed by the Chief Election Commissioner. Experts have said that any machine with a chip inside can be hacked and we cannot allow democracy to

be hijacked by unscrupulous elements. Therefore, in the interest of free and fair elections, we must sit together and listen to the views expressed by eminent IT professionals and cryptographers. Pawar said in his letter to the opposition leaders. Leaders of several opposition parties are likely to attend the meeting keeping in view Pawar's stature. The meeting comes in the wake of several efforts being made to bring unity in opposition ranks to help take on the BJP together. West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee and Telangana Chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao have made some efforts in this direction in the recent past.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Already engaged

A prominent US conservative academic says BJP is the most important foreign political party in the world

The Bharatiya Janata Party and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh rarely figure in public discourse of Western countries. And when it does, it is generally for criticism. However, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's nine years in office, and his Government's persistent emphasis on its Hindu core, seem to have changed that. Evidently, those who matter in government and decision- and opinion-making are shedding their blinkers to have a closer look at the Sangh Parivar. The blinkers, needless to say, were often manufactured at the facilities (academia, the mainstream media, *et al*) run by the Left-liberal establishment. But it looks like the important people in the West want to have a 360-degree view of the saffron family, especially the BJP. This is the reason that a prominent conservative academic, in an opinion piece in the prominent conservative newspaper *Wall Street Journal*, chose to state that the BJP "is, from the standpoint of American national interests, the most important foreign political party in the world. It may also be the least understood." The author Walter Russell Mead is "convinced that Americans and Westerners generally need to engage much more deeply with a complex and powerful movement [Hindutva]." It may be mentioned here that Mead is a well-known critic of China. Three years ago, he wrote an article with the self-explanatory headline, 'China Is the Real Sick Man of Asia,' in *WSJ*. Unsurprisingly, the Chinese Government was incensed; it even expelled three *WSJ* journalists.



Mead, who teaches at New York's Bard College, is quite bullish not just about India but also the BJP, which "is headed for a repeat victory in 2024." India is emerging both as a leading economic power and, along with Japan, as the linchpin of American strategy in the Indo-Pacific, he wrote. Therefore, for the foreseeable future the BJP will be calling the shots in a country without whose help American efforts to balance rising Chinese power are likely to fall short. Mead is not exactly a cheerleader of the BJP. He talked about the anti-Government journalists who "can face harassment and worse." He also talks about "anti-conversion laws as well as occasional outbursts of mob violence." Yet, he doesn't find the BJP beyond the pale, for the party may reject many ideas and priorities of Western liberalism, "*it embraces key features of modernity*" (emphasis added). Further, he is appreciative of the saffron party which "combines a basically pro-market economic stance with populist rhetoric and traditionalist values." This is also a trait that American conservatives generally admire. The *WSJ* article should not be seen as just an academic's exuberance; the West's deeper engagement with Modi's India was written all over Air India's 70-billion deal to buy 470 aircraft. This could not have been possible without the consent of the big boys and girls of global finance — and of politics. Indo-Western engagement has already begun.

### PICTALK



Women traditional attire celebrate Gudi Padwa festival, the beginning of Maharashtra New Year, in Nagpur

## Legal remedies for crimes against women

Underreporting of crimes against women makes it difficult to assess the correct prevalence of such crimes and provide relief

Domestic violence and crimes against women have been a persistent problem in many countries, including India. Despite various initiatives and measures taken by governments and civil society organizations, these issues continue to affect women in our society. The victims of such crimes often find themselves in a vulnerable position, not aware of their legal rights and remedies.



that women are responsible for their own safety.

One of the most effective legal remedies for victims of domestic violence is obtaining a restraining order or protection order. A restraining order is a court order that prohibits the abuser from contacting or coming near the victim or their children. The order can be obtained by filing a petition in court and providing evidence of abuse. Once the order is issued, the abuser can be arrested and charged with a criminal offence if they violate the order.

Another significant legal remedy for victims of domestic violence is obtaining a divorce or separation. In many cases, the victim may need to obtain a restraining order before filing for divorce or separation to protect themselves and their children from further harm.

Domestic violence and crimes against women have been a persistent problem in many countries, including India. Despite various initiatives and measures taken by governments and civil society organizations, these issues continue to affect women in our society. The victims of such crimes often find themselves in a vulnerable position, not aware of their legal rights and remedies.

One big reason for the persistence of these issues is the under-reporting of crimes against women. Many women are hesitant to report such crimes due to fear of retaliation, social stigma, and lack of trust in the justice system. This under-reporting not only makes it difficult for victims to seek legal remedies but also makes it challenging for authorities to tackle these issues effectively. Crimes against women such as rape, sexual harassment, and trafficking constitute serious offences that can have long-lasting consequences for the victim. Victims of these crimes can seek legal remedies to hold the perpetrator accountable and obtain compensation for the harm they have suffered. It is not that we do not have laws though their implementation leaves much to be desired. The

number of crimes identified under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) for instance, Rape (sec.376 IPC), Kidnapping & abduction (sec.363 – 373 IPC), Dowry Deaths (sec.302/304-B of IPC), torture, both mental and physical (sec.498-A of IPC), Molestation (sec.354 of IPC), Sexual harassment (sec.509 of IPC) (referred to in the past as Eve-teasing), Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986, Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 and last but not the least, Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005. Unfortunately, the actual number of such crime is never known as women shy away from reporting it.

Victims can also seek legal remedies through civil lawsuits, which can provide compensation for the harm they have suffered, including medical expenses, lost income, and emotional distress. It is imperative for women to be aware of their constitutional rights and seek help from law enforcement agencies and civil society organizations.

(The writer is an advocate in the Delhi High court)



HITESH BAISLA

### WORRYING SIGNS IN PUNJAB

Sir — The drama surrounding the Punjab Police manhunt for fugitive radical preacher Amritpal Singh which has entered its third day, and the spurt in pro-Khalistani activity in countries abroad have brought back memories of 1984 and the Operation Bluestar misadventure that culminated in the assassination of Indira Gandhi. The preacher's supporters filing a habeas corpus petition in the Punjab and Haryana High Court, claiming that he has been spirited away by the police, has only muddled the waters. There is no room for error in the efforts to rein in anti-India elements that threaten to destabilise Punjab.

The reign of terror that prevailed under the Khalistani militants during the eighties must surely haunt all sane individuals in the state. It took many years for Punjab to regain at least part of its lost glory. India cannot afford a re-run of those times when militancy claimed so many lives and almost destroyed the prospects of a state that was once the food bowl of the nation.

CK Subramaniam | Mumbai

### UNSEASONAL RAINS AND FOOD SECURITY

Sir — Incidentally, agriculture in India still thrives only on seasonal rain. The farmer, even today, patiently awaits the annual monsoon. But if that rain is unseasonal, it becomes a disaster. In recent days, farmers have been concerned about the rains caused by western disturbances.

At a time when the wheat harvest has ripened in the fields and the farmer is getting ready to pick up the grain from the barns at the market. Likewise, mustard has also ripened. Due to unusual rainfall in many Northern Indian states over the past few days, wheat and mustard crops have been severely damaged. When the mustard seed was ready, it was dispersed because of hail. Furthermore, the mustard which had reached the mandis got wet because of the rain. In fact, because of rising temperatures due to global warming in recent years, there has been a rapid shift in weather patterns.

By and large, clouds of crisis are

# Sikhs hold Tiranga in high esteem

Reckless politics by earlier governments created conditions that bred an insurgency movement but Sikhs have always saluted the Tiranga



BHOPINDER SINGH

Healthy politics is all about disagreements (irrespective of the fact that every ruling dispensation would suggest otherwise), and so it should always be. Dissent and disagreement with a government and its perceived policies is not the same as rebelling against the nation. History is instructive that often dissent against the government can be the highest form of patriotism e.g., dissent against Emergency in 1975. However, something is sacrosanct and beyond the realm of either political usurpation or conversely destruction. These are the foundational 'Ideas of India' as enshrined in the holy book of the land i.e., the Constitution and the defined symbols within, the most sacred of them being the national flag, Tiranga or Tricolour.

Recent images of a Khalistani supporter attempting to pull down the Tiranga at the Indian High Commission in London, were simply deplorable beyond words. The shameful act militated against the inert sense of patriotism that ought to beset all Indians, irrespective of their partisan loyalties, personal identities, and disaffections. That it came from a member of a community that has given more blood and lives to protect the integrity, sovereignty, and dignity of India since time immemorial, made it even more hurtful and unbelievable.

Contrast this recent image with that of the valourous Sikh warriors (8 Sikh Regiment - the irrepressible 'Chardhikala' battalion) who battled their way to the top of Tiger Hill in the Kargil War. These fierce Khalsa warriors with unmatched josh and daredevilry reached atop the Tiger Hill and flew the Tiranga – the price to pay for flying that Tiranga was one officer, four junior commissioned officers and 30 jawans of 8 Sikh who went down fighting and charging with a war cry that sent shivers down the spine of the enemies, 'Bole So Nihal Sat Sri Akal!' To defend their commitment to the flag, their forefathers had refused to surrender and came down fighting to the last man in earlier battles like Saragarhi. There is no surprise the latter day Sikh Regiment (along with Sikh Light Infantry) has continued to

be one of the most decorated regiments of the Indian Army due to its fiery traditions. 1st Battalion of the Sikh Regiment, later the 4th Mechanised Regiment, is considered the Commonwealth's most decorated battalion with 245 pre-independence and 82 post-independence gallantry awards. Martial Sikhs need no certificate of patriotism. Those who seek to besmirch its fine history written in blood and sacrifice, don't behoove or represent the community's unflinching standards and ethos for eons!

Sikhs may be about 1.7% of the national population but they are almost 20% of the recipients of the highest gallantry award i.e., Param Vir Chakra (with the National Emblem of India in the centre, surrounded by four copies of the Vajra). These men willingly put themselves in the line of fire to defend the Tiranga. They are Lance Naik Karam Singh, Subedar Joginder Singh, Flying Officer Nirmaljit Singh Sekhon and Hony Capt Major Bana Singh.

Beyond soldering, farming is the mainstay of the Sikh community and they have had many socio-economic concerns with various dispensations since independence (like any region or ethnicity). Reckless politics by earlier



RECENT IMAGES OF A KHALISTANI SUPPORTER ATTEMPTING TO PULL DOWN THE TIRANGA AT THE INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION IN LONDON WERE SIMPLY DEPLORABLE BEYOND WORDS

governments created conditions that bred an insurgency movement, but that didn't imply that every Sikh who had a genuine grievance against the government wanted to secede or become a Khalistani (as is instinctively and thoughtlessly attributed today). At the height of militancy in 1987, then Naib Subedar Bana Singh of 8th JAKLI had led an impossible assault and wrested control of an almost impregnable peak in Siachen Glacier. Such is the cloth from which the Sikh community is cut – societal and political differences aside, a nation first and foremost, always!

Like many proud Veterans who had guarded the nation with their lives and were later participating in the Farmers Protest a few years back, little did they know that they would be abused as Khalistanis, 'anti-nationals' by people who would never come remotely close to making the sacrifices that these men and women had made, and even by some among them, who were misguided and truly condemnable. Larger citizenry did not differentiate (unlike in the 80's) and the dispensation encouraged the wrongful narrative that a Khalistani flag had replaced the Tiranga at Red Fort – it hadn't

replaced the Tiranga and the flag hoisted on the said pole was the sacred Nishan Sahib and not the Khalistani flag. But politics of disparagement ensued and wrongfully diminished a patriotic community, as truth may not have been able to generate the much-needed polarisation!

As a result, the PVC awardee Hony Capt Bana Singh voiced his disapproval of the Agnipath scheme and even walked with an opposition leader on his Bharat Jodo Yatra - the logic of the proud Indians - "This is our country, and we have to address what issues there are". He rightfully delinked his right to dissent from any suggestions of disagreeing with the 'Idea of India'. Instead, he owned and sought to protect the 'India', which he was proud of by dissenting. Today all his tweets are signed off by emoticons of a folded hand and the 'Tiranga!' The person who sought to remove the Tiranga from the building in London could never claim to represent the clan of defenders of the nation and its Tiranga. This is i.e., the most patriotic, gallant and noblest Sikhs.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Parliament logjam continues



Kalyani Shankar's piece 'Reforming Parliament: Charity begins at home' (Thee Pioneer, March 21) assumes a good deal of significance given the acrimony between the Opposition and the Treasury Bench getting fiercer and in turn leading to the repeated suspensions of Parliamentary proceedings in both Houses-to the detriment of the Exchequer. This time, it is the allegedly defamatory comments Congress leader Rahul Gandhi recently made about the Modi government in the United

Kingdom. This resulted in a controversy that stalled the House of Representatives. Legislators from the ruling regime want to make Mr Gandhi come to the House and apologize. Contrarily, the Opposition leaders are adamant on their demand for a probe into the Adani-Hindenburg issue by the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC). Ironically, these gratuitous adjournments are commonplace in all regimes and have adverse bearing on the precious time of the Members of the Houses as well as on the taxpayers' hard-earned money. Reverse columnist's observation that in a matured over-year democracy like India, what matters most is the smooth functioning of the Parliament. For that to happen, some pragmatic and corrective measures are needed.

Zeeshaan | Kazipet

threatening our food chain. The frequency, timing and quality of precipitation has shifted. The rains are heavy and short-lived. In the past, sudden temperature rises prior to time were considered harmful to wheat crops. Last year, despite a full harvest, wheat grain remained low because of an early increase in temperature. Therefore, productivity declined, and the farmer suffered.

Rain is expected to fall for a few more days because of western disturbances. In such a situation, where immediate relief is required for farmers, the central and state governments must promote advancing research and research for crops. This will assist farmers in preventing the damage caused by the effects of global warming.

This crisis will turn off the next generation of farmers. A country with a population of 140 million may face a food crisis in the coming decades. For that, far-reaching policies must be implemented right away.

Abhijit Roy | Jamshedpur

### EXCESSIVE SALT IS DANGEROUS

Sir — It is very imperative for all of us to

consume salt in food according to taste and need. Without salt, food is tasteless and bland. Nevertheless, excessive salt consumption causes death all over the world. Recently a report from the World Health Organization has explained why salt is proving fatal. According to this WHO report, every year around 20 lakh people around the world die because of eating too much salt. At present the average use of salt per person in the world is 10.8 grams. While the WHO has set a maximum limit of 5 grams per person's consumption of salt.

That means we are consuming double the amount of salt. These figures are proof that it is healthy to take salt in limited quantities, not according to taste. If we all reduce the amount of salt, the number of deaths due to heart diseases worldwide every year can be brought down. WHO estimates that consuming less salt can save the lives of 22 lakh people by 2025 and about 70 lakh lives can be saved by 2030.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

ROBOTIC AUTOMATION IS THE FUTURE

It will be the main driver of growth in the e-commerce



The face of robotics is quickly changing due to new technologies like edge computing, cloud computing, AI and machine learning. Every industry is experiencing a change as a result of the use of robots. For example, robots are used in restaurants to prepare food, in manufacturing to perform tasks like picking and placing, pelletizing, and material movement. They are also used in supply chains and warehouses to perform every conceivable task from sorting to inventory management until the product is ready for delivery.

Industries all over the world have been integrating robotics and automation into their operations because of the introduction of the latest cutting-edge technologies to increase corporate productivity, efficiency, and marketability. The e-commerce sector has grown exponentially during the last two to three years. According to Statista, global retail e-commerce sales were over 5.2 trillion dollars in 2021 and are projected to increase to 8.1 trillion dollars by 2026.

The disruption of the supply chain caused by the rise in e-commerce sales has driven businesses to find more innovative ways to meet customer demand for speedy delivery.

Increased demand for e-commerce sales in turn drives up the need for faster delivery, packing, shipping, inventory management, and supply chain management. Advanced and automated warehouses can help meet this demand. The need for automated warehouses has increased significantly in the last couple of years. The global market for warehouse automation systems, which was estimated to be worth \$21.7 billion in 2021, is expected to grow to \$93 billion by 2031, according to Allied Market Research.



In warehouses, robots have a crucial job to do. The employment of robots in warehouses helps with time-consuming and arduous chores like picking stuff up off the floor or sorting products by size, shape, or colour. Most often used in warehouses are piece-picking robots, automated guided vehicles (AGVs), collaborative robots, sorting and shuttle robots.

Inventory management plays an extremely important role in warehouse management. Automated storage and retrieval systems (AS/RS) are most frequently used for inventory control and on-demand product storage and retrieval. They are used to expedite material handling and order fulfilment procedures.

Automated robotics systems with AI capabilities aid companies in boosting the effectiveness and speed of supply chain operations. These AI-enabled systems have grown considerably as a result of technological breakthroughs; they now learn from both existing systems and the surrounding system. Robotic systems are becoming quicker, better, and more adaptable thanks to AI and machine learning, which is beneficial for e-commerce fulfilment operations.

Increased demand for online shopping and shifting customer expectations for quicker deliveries are the main causes of the rise in demand for warehouse automation. Emerging technologies like 5G, AI, ML, edge computing, and sophisticated robots will help the e-commerce sector develop at a phenomenal rate in the years to come..

*{The writer is cofounder and CEO of Addverb Technologies}*

Moral compass is critical for democracy

JS RAJPUT

Elected representatives must ensure proper and well-informed debates and discussions in Parliament and Assemblies



The manner the Indian Parliament conducted itself in the second half of the Budget session in March 2023 inflicts considerable disquiet amongst all those who revere it as a pious institution that could transform the lives of every Indian and give dignity and better life to those who deserve support and handholding because of exclusion and sufferings inflicted for generations due to historical, social and cultural constraints.

Could such an assembly of responsible people afford to waste their time for weeks together? They all are—officially—honourable individuals who are guardians of the Constitution; they are policymakers and lawmakers of the nation. The global image of India is changing fast; it is being viewed with considerable interest; there are high hopes in the international community. The last decade has convinced the powers that be that India is emerging as a self-confident nation; it is no more cowed down by its belligerent neighbours. India is no more willing to suffer ‘thousand cuts’ and terrorist attacks. The new-found sense of national pride could be seen in practically every home and hearth in India, in its farms and fields, across the high-end research labs bringing out innovations in areas, extending from artificial intelligence to space research.

India has enhanced its pace of change with full confidence and self-assurance. It has to make course corrections as well and must recall the Mahatma. ‘The Lonely Pilgrim (Gandhiji’s Noakhali pilgrimage)’, a compilation by Manubahan, contains the essence of how Gandhi realised that the national service has nowadays come to mean striving for a big name, according to many now, through which one can get a notice in the papers or is photographed—which is better—or secure ministership as a reward for going to jail.

So everyone wants to grab power in order to rise to a ministership in the end. But how can even good ministers do any notable work without the people’s support? The country does require ministers, but a minister can adorn his post only if he deserves it, Gandhi said. He observed, in

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THE 75+ GENERATION OF INDIANS HAS SEEN AND OBSERVED THE DECLINE OF MORAL AND HUMANISTIC VALUES IN THE POLITICAL SPHERE, AND THE CONSEQUENT DETERIORATION OF THE CREDIBILITY OF LEADERS, ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES, AND THOSE IN OFFICE

*(Professor Rajput works in education, social cohesion and religious amity)*

this very context, the presence of ‘selfish stinginess’ and reiterated that “we must, therefore, train ourselves to keep national interest always before us.” And this was not the first time he was referred to ministers.

On September 18, 1938, when provincial governments had spent just ten months in ‘power’, things were not much different! The Mahatma received a letter from a citizen, indicating that the main purpose of the “Congress ministry appears to us to be to worship your idol in public and break it in secret; to worship the symbols of Imperialism in secret and denounce them in public, to play the malefactor towards their opponents when they cannot conquer by truthful and legitimate methods...”

Gandhi had condensed this after “toning down the bitterest part.” The letter writer had also included a sentence which after 85 years appears prophetic: “The government of a people cannot be run by the common argument of promised boons and by corrupting the electorate with hope.”

The lesson to be drawn is clear: the mere scent of power coming to ministers made them leave no stone unturned to shake the moral foundation of good government. In this particular instance, the letter-writer found it strange why Gandhi’s “soul should not revolt against such a predatory Ministry for creation of which the moral responsibility is entirely yours”.

After over seven decades of Independence, India has more ex-ministers than serving ministers. The taste of having savoured power—exceptions apart—has been highly intoxicating. We have ‘Lok-Sewaks’ who swear by the name of Mahatma Gandhi but have amassed wealth by means that could be beyond the comprehension of the finest of economists.

People have seen the growth and display of affluence that follows that politicians becoming elected representatives, ministers and chief ministers. In fact, most panchas and sarpanchas of village panchayats have proved to be good learners from politicians.

The issue before the nation is: why are the elected representatives losing credibility among those who elect them and put them in the saddle of power?

The manner democracy is being conducted was most crudely exposed in the recent election of the mayor of Delhi, which presented a shocking spectacle for everyone who feels a sense of pride in Indian democracy. The entire country witnessed it, as did the world. I found it shameful. Sadly enough, one could cite numerous such instances that have led to the disaffection between the representative and those represented.

On May 12, 1920, Gandhi said: “If I seem to take part in politics, it is only because politics today encircle us like the coils of a snake from which one cannot get out no matter how one tries. I wish to wrestle with the snake...” He did, and created a model of giving people a voice, a non-violent approach that helped not only India but so many other nations to throw away the yoke of imperialism, the caste system and apartheid.

In one word, he made people trust the moral force. On September 7, 1920, it was so articulated by Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore: “We need all the moral force which Mahatma Gandhi represents, and which he alone in the world can represent.” It was this moral force that every Indian was supposed to comprehend, internalise and put to practice.

Obviously, the representatives of people at every stage were—and are—supposed to be the prime torchbearers of the legacy of

Gandhi. Each one of them needs self-introspection; they must analyse the extent to which their conduct is contributing to the national cause, strengthening democracy, and helping the amelioration of the miseries from the life of the ‘last man in the line.’

The 75+ generation of Indians has seen and observed the decline of moral and humanistic values in the political sphere, and the consequent deterioration of the credibility of leaders, elected representatives, and those in office. It adversely impacts the very vitals of democracy, its institutions and, above all, the people and their concerns.

Ministers are put behind bars, but continue to receive all the perks and privileges of the post and position. It is an unheard-of situation in a democracy. How could India ignore resignations on moral grounds credibility—like those of TT Krishnamachari, KD Malaviya and Lal Bahadur Shastri?

This generation of elderly citizens often recalls Gandhi and his in-depth comprehension of a free person and a free nation. He acknowledged that the superficial study of the British Parliament had made him think that all power percolates to the people from parliaments. It was not so, he himself realised: “The truth is that power resides in the people and it is entrusted for the time being to those whom they may choose as their representatives. Parliaments have no power or even existence independently of the people.”

One earnestly hopes that the elected representatives realise the source of their power—the people—and ensure proper and well-informed debates and discussions in Parliament and Assemblies. Following the moral compass could strengthen their role performance and bestow the satisfaction of serving the needy.

Stress among women is rampant but it can be managed

Women can reduce the risk of burnout in their daily lives by following a few simple changes to their lifestyles

Stress is a common problem that many women experience in their daily lives. Whether it’s due to work, family obligations, or other responsibilities, stress can take a toll on both mental and physical health. According to a Deloitte report in 2022, 56 per cent of Indian women’s stress level is higher than it was a year ago. Globally, 53 per cent of women admitted to feeling more stressed than last year.

Due to a shift in hormonal levels (including sex hormones, like estrogen, which can also impact stress hormones, cortisol, and response), females are at a higher risk of developing mood disorders. Since a woman passes through puberty, menstruation, preg-



nancy, postpartum, and post-menopause, they face a host of different stressors and reactions to stress. However, the good news is that there are many effective ways for women to cut down on stress and improve their overall well-being. In this article, we will explore some of the most effective strategies for reducing stress in a woman’s life.

**Exercise regularly**

Exercise is one of the most effective ways to reduce stress for women. Physical activity releases endorphins, which are chemicals in the brain that promote feelings of happiness and well-being. Additionally, regular exercise can help women sleep better, improve their mood, and increase their energy levels.



**Practice mindfulness meditation**

Mindfulness meditation is a technique that involves focusing on the present moment and paying attention to your thoughts and emotions without judgment. It has

been shown to be effective in reducing stress and anxiety in women. By practicing mindfulness meditation regularly, women can learn to manage their emotions and respond to stressful situations in a more positive and productive way.

**Get enough sleep**

Sleep is essential for overall health and wellbeing, and it’s also crucial for managing stress. When women don’t get enough sleep, they may feel irritable, anxious, and stressed. By making sleep a priority and getting enough rest each night, women can reduce their stress levels and improve their mental and physical health.

**Connect with others**

Connecting with others is a vital way for women to reduce stress in their lives. Spending time with friends and family members, participating in social activities, and engaging in hobbies and interests can all help women feel more supported and less stressed.

**Eat a healthy diet**

Eating a healthy diet is essential for overall health and wellbeing, and it can also assist women manage stress. Foods that are high in vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants can help reduce inflammation and promote feelings of wellbeing. Also, avoiding foods that are high in sugar and caffeine can help prevent spikes in blood sugar and promote better sleep.

**Take breaks throughout the day**

Taking breaks throughout the day is essential for managing stress. By taking short breaks to stretch, walk, or simply relax, women can give their minds and bodies a chance to recharge and refocus. This can help them feel more productive and less

stressed throughout the day.

**Seek professional help**

If stress is becoming overwhelming or interfering with daily life, it may be helpful to seek professional help. A mental health professional can help women develop coping strategies and manage stress in a healthy way.

In conclusion, stress is a common problem for many women, but there are many effective strategies for reducing stress and improving overall wellbeing. By exercising regularly, practicing mindfulness meditation, getting enough sleep, connecting with others, eating a healthy diet, taking breaks throughout the day, and seeking professional help when needed, women can successfully manage stress and enjoy a happier, healthier life.



## PTI ■ BEIJING/MOSCOW

Xi embarked upon the 3-day Moscow trip ostensibly to broker a peace deal and end the raging conflict in Ukraine, as he sought to push a peace talks plan that elicited a frigid response from the US, Kyiv's key ally. The trip, described by Xi as "one of friendship, cooperation and peace," marked his ninth visit to Russia since he first became the Chinese President in March 2013. The joint statement issued in Chinese and Russian languages said the two sides expressed serious concern over NATO's continued strengthening of military security ties with the Asia-Pacific countries, which undermined regional peace and stability. It said the two sides



**Washington (PTI):** In President Vladimir Putin and Russia, Chinese President Xi Jinping sees a "counterweight" to American and NATO influence on the continent and elsewhere around the world, the White House has said. The statement by John Kirby, National Security Council Coordinator for Strategic Communications at the White House, came as Putin accorded a red carpet welcome to his Chinese counterpart Xi in Moscow and held marathon talks spread over two days on a range of issues, including the raging war in Ukraine.

opposed cobbling together a closed and exclusive bloc structure in the Asia-Pacific region, creating camp confrontation, in an apparent reference to the Quad alliance comprising the US, India, Australia, Japan and AUKUS, consisting of Australia, the UK and the US. Both sides said the US adheres to the Cold War mentality and pursues the Indo-Pacific strategy, which has a negative impact on peace and stability in the region, it said. China and Russia are committed to building an "equal, open and inclusive security system" in the Asia-Pacific region that does not target third countries, in order to maintain regional peace, stability and prosperity, it said. Both countries expressed serious concerns over the consequences and risks of the tri-lateral security partnership — AUKUS and related nuclear-powered submarine cooperation programmes on regional strategic stability, it said.

## AP ■ KYIV

The video posted by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to Telegram appeared to be from CCTV cameras that captured the moment a missile hit the nine-story residential block by a

“Russia is shelling the city with bestial savagery,” Zelenskyy wrote to accompany the video. “Residential areas where ordinary people and children live are being fired at.” He appealed for countries to increase pressure on the Kremlin to give up its invasion of Ukraine. The city is about

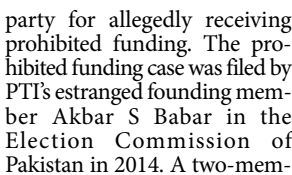
Russia has denied targeting residential areas even though artillery and rocket strikes hit apartment buildings and civilian infrastructure on a daily basis. Earlier Wednesday, an overnight drone attack partially destroyed a high school and two dormitories in the city of Rzhyshevsk, south of the Ukrainian capital, officials said. It wasn't clear how many people were in the dormitories at the time. The body of a 40-year-old man was pulled from

Ukraine. Earlier Wednesday, Chinese leader Xi Jinping left Moscow after meeting with President Vladimir Putin and discussing his peace proposal, which has been rejected by the West as a non-starter. The drone barrage and other Russian attacks on civilian infrastructure drew a scathing response from Zelenskyy. "Over 20 Iranian murderous

"It's hell in Zaporizhzhia," Ukrainian lawmaker Oleksiy Goncharenko wrote on Telegram, adding: "There aren't any military facilities nearby."

## AP ■ ISLAMABAD

A Pakistani court on Wednesday rejected the country's top investigating agency's plea to cancel former prime minister Imran Khan's bail in the prohibited funding case, a media report said. Khan, the chief of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party was granted bail by an Islamabad-based banking court in a prohibited funding case. The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in October last year filed a case in the banking court against Khan, 70, and other members of his



ber bench comprising Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri conducted the hearing in the plea in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday, according to the Express Tribune newspaper. The court also rejected the request to cancel the bail of co-accused Tariq Shafi, the report said. The FIA filed an application in the IHC on February 28 against the banking court's decision to grant bail to the PTI chief and appealed to the court to annul the decision as it was "against the law".

**Damascus (AP):** An Israeli airstrike early on Wednesday targeted the international airport in the northern Syrian city of Aleppo, causing material damage and putting it out of service, Syria's state news agency reported. It was the second attack on the facility this month. SANA quoted an unnamed military official as saying Israeli warplanes fired the missiles toward Aleppo, Syria's largest city and once commercial center, while flying over the Mediterranean Sea. It did not mention any casualties. Bassem Mansour, head of Syria's civil aviation, told the pro-government Sham FM radio station

The airport has been a key channel for the flow of aid into the country after the February 6 earthquake hit Turkey and Syria, killing over 50,000 people, including more than 6,000 in Syria.

## AP ■ NEW YORK

Indictment, says biographer Michael D'Antonio, would



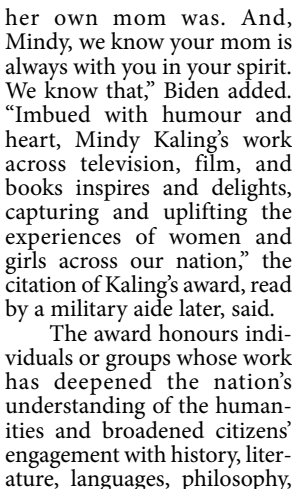
Trump first faced legal scrutiny in the 1970s when the Department of Justice brought a racial discrimination case against his family's real estate business. Trump and his father fiercely fought the suit, which accused them of refusing to

The case ended with a settlement that opened the way for some Black tenants but did not force the Trumps to explicitly acknowledge they had “failed and neglected” to comply with the Fair Housing Act. Since then, Trump and his businesses have been the subject of thousands of civil lawsuits and numerous investigations. There have been probes into his casino and real estate dealings, allegations of bribery and improper

Trump is a master of delay tactics, "finding ways to endlessly delay in the hopes that the investigation and litigation will go away. And he's had remarkable success," says CREW president Noah Bookbinder, a former federal corruption prosecutor. "It makes accountability absolutely essential because we can't have people in a functioning democracy operating in positions of power with total impunity where they can commit crimes and never have to face any consequences," he said.

## PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden has presented the prestigious 2021 National Humanities Medals to Indian-American actress and producer Mindy Kaling, with several others, in recognition of her giving voice to a new generation of storytellers, at a White House ceremony. The National Medal of Arts is the highest award, given to artists, arts patrons, and groups by the US government. It honours exemplary individuals and organisations that have advanced the arts in America and inspired others through their distinguished achievement, support, or patronage. Presenting the award to the actress on Tuesday, at the ceremony attended by First Lady Dr Jill Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris and the Second Gentlemen, Biden said that Kaling is the first woman of colour to create, write, and star in a primetime sitcom. He added that the 43-year-old actress empowers a new generation to tell their stories with irreverence and sincerity. "The daughter of Indian immigrants — we know about that, right? — Our Vice President is a daughter of Indian immigrants — a mother who was a great scientist," the US President said. "Above all, she is hardworking and an adoring mom, just like



and other humanities subjects. The 11 other distinguished medal recipients were Judith Francisca Baca, Fred Eychane, Jose Feliciano, Gladys Knight, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Antonio Martorell-Cardona, Joan Shigekawa, Bruce Springsteen, Vera Wang, The Billie Holiday Theatre, and the International Association of Blacks in Dance. Richard Blanco, Johnnetta Betsch Cole, Walter Isaacson, Earl Lewis, Henrietta Mann, Ann Patchett, Bryan Stevenson, Amy Tan, Tara Westover, Colson Whitehead and Native America Calling were the recipients of the National Humanities Medal.

Locally heavy rain and snowmelt may cause flooding on Wednesday in southern California and central Arizona, the National Weather Service warned. Trees and power lines were reported downed in the San Francisco Bay Area. An Amtrak commuter train carrying 55 passengers struck a downed tree and derailed near the East Bay village of Portola Costa. The train remained upright and nobody was injured, Amtrak and fire officials said. In the Bay Area community of Portola Valley, a man driving a sewer truck was killed when a tree fell onto the vehicle, the California Highway Patrol said. And in the community of Rossmoor, a driver was injured and a passenger died after a large tree fell onto a car, the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District said.

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For Hindustan Auto Finance Limited  
Sd/-  
Rishabh Aggarwal  
(Company Secretary & Compliance Officer)

Place: New Delhi  
Date: March 22, 2023



# Macron wants French pension plan implemented by year end

AP ■ LONDON

French President Emmanuel Macron said on Wednesday that the pension bill he pushed through without a vote in parliament needs to be implemented by the “end of the year,” sticking to his decision to raise the retirement age from 62 to 64 despite mass protests. Macron, who made the comments in an interview broadcast on national television, said the bill will “continue its democratic path.”

The Constitutional Council needs to review the bill in the coming weeks, and it can only be turned into law after the body gives its approval. It was the first time that Macron spoke publicly since his government forced the pension bill through parliament last week, prompting scattered protests in Paris and across the country, some degenerating into violence. His government survived two no-confidence votes at the lower chamber of parliament on Monday.

The 45-year-old president repeatedly said that he was convinced that France’s retirement system had needed to be modified to keep it financed. “That reform is not a luxury, it is not fun, it’s a necessity for the country,” he said. Macron also condemned



Protesters take part in a torchlight demonstration against the raising of the retirement age in Nantes on Tuesday.

the violence at some protests.

He notably referred to rioters storming the US Capitol in 2021 and Brazil’s top government buildings earlier this year, as well as the yellow vest movement against social injustice in France in 2018 which led to violent clashes and vandalism in the Paris streets.

“When the United States of America lived what they lived at the Capitol, when Brazil lived what it lived, when you have seen extreme violence in Germany, The Netherlands, or sometimes here at home in the past ... we must say that we

do respect (peaceful protesters), we do listen, we’re trying to move the country forward ... but we cannot accept factious people nor factions,” he said.

At the same time, Macron insisted that he respects unions and protests organised by opponents to show that they disagree with the pension plan, seeking to clarify that he considers they are legitimate — unlike troublemakers. “We must listen to them, listen to their anger and respond to it,” he said.

Unions have called for new nationwide protests and

strikes on Thursday to demand that the government simply withdraws the retirement bill. High-speed and regional trains, Paris metro and other public transportation in major cities were expected to be disrupted.

Macron acknowledged that a majority of the French are opposed to the reform. “But between opinion polls and the general interest of the country, I’m choosing the general interest ... And if it means bearing unpopularity afterwards, I will bear it.” He also said he “trusts” Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne to continue leading the government, suggesting he is not planning a government reshuffle. Early on Wednesday, dock workers in Marseille blocked access to the city’s commercial port — France’s biggest — preventing trucks and cars from entering amid a heavy police presence.

Garbage was still piling up on some Paris streets as sanitation workers entered their 17th day of strike. Authorities issued an order in recent days requiring some garbage employees to ensure a “minimum service” for health reasons.

Oil shipments in the country were partially disrupted amid strikes at several refineries in western and southern France.

## China’s backing for Ajay Banga to head World Bank doubtful

PTI ■ BEIJING

China on Wednesday sounded doubtful about backing Indian-American business leader Ajay Banga to lead the World Bank, saying it is “open” to supporting “other potential candidates” based on merit. Reports from Washington said 63-year-old Banga, who is nominated by US President Joe Biden to head the Bank, is due to visit China on Wednesday to meet officials of the People’s Bank of China to seek Beijing’s support for his candidature.

Asked whether China will back Banga, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing here that “we have noted the candidate nominated by the US side and are open to other potential candidates”. He said the World Bank is the most influential multilateral development institution in the world and is of systemic importance to global poverty reduction and development. “As a major shareholder of the World Bank, China stands ready to work with all parties for an open, transparent and merit-based presidential selection process,” he said and asked the media to competent authorities for more details.

## 12 dead as strong quake jolts Pak, Af



Rescue workers and people gather at a hospital, where earthquake victims are brought in, in Saidu Sharif, a town Pakistan's Swat valley on Tuesday.

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

A strong 6.8 magnitude earthquake with the epicentre in Afghanistan shook Pakistan, killing at least 12 people and injuring nearly 250 others in both the countries, authorities said on Wednesday. The earthquake’s epicentre was Afghanistan’s Hindu Kush region, while its depth was 180 kilometres, according to the Pakistan Meteorological Department. Tremors were also felt in many parts of north India, including the Delhi-National Capital Region. In Pakistan, earthquake tremors were felt in Lahore, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Quetta, Peshawar, Kohat, Lakki Marwat, Gujranwala, Gujrat, Sialkot, Khot Momin, Madh Ranjha, Chakwal, Kohat and Gilgit-Baltistan areas. Television footage showed

panic-stricken citizens out on the streets. The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) in Peshawar in a tweet said that nine persons, including five men, two women and two children were killed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, bordering Afghanistan. Two persons - a man in Islamabad and a 13-year-old girl in Abbottabad - lost their lives due to sudden cardiac arrest after the quake, Dawn newspaper reported. At the time of the earthquake, a stampede was reported in the markets of Rawalpindi, The Express Tribune newspaper reported. Nearly 200 people were injured in Swat, where hospitals had declared a state of emergency. The earthquake also jolted the mountainous region of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), where the resultant landslides created fear.

## Spain’s Vox party fails in govt no-trust motion

**Barcelona:** Spain’s parliament dismissed an attempt by the far-right Vox party to topple the governing leftist coalition on Wednesday, voting overwhelmingly against a no-confidence motion brought against Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez’s government.

The motion only earned the support of Vox’s 52 lawmakers plus one rogue vote, for a total of 53. The government received 201 votes, while the 91 members of the conservative Popular Party, the chamber’s leading opposition party, abstained.

In a move that was slammed by other political parties, Vox leader Santiago Abascal broke with custom and didn’t stand as an alternative prime minister. Instead, Vox chose an independent candidate in a futile attempt to win wider support.

Ramón Tamames, 89, a former communist leader who has journeyed across the political spectrum, was the losing candidate. The economist had pledged that his only act as prime minister would have been to immediately call for a national election to coincide with local elections scheduled for May 28.

Tamames presented himself and Vox as protectors of the unity of Spain against Catalan separatist parties that Sanchez has relied on to win important votes in parliament. **AP**

## ‘IMF facility debunks Sri Lanka’s bankrupt status’

PTI ■ COLOMBO

President Ranil Wickremesinghe told Parliament on Wednesday that the IMF bailout had restored Sri Lanka’s international recognition, ending the image of bankruptcy and helping the local banks regain foreign investors’ confidence. The IMF board had on Tuesday approved a USD 3 billion facility over a four-year period to help Sri Lanka emerge from its balance of payment crisis which plagued the island since April last year. Wickremesinghe said the bailout would “create opportunities for low-interest credit, restore foreign investors’ confidence, and lay the foundation for a strong new economy”.

The receipt of the IMF Facility is a step towards building a better future for the youth and uplifting the country. Additionally, the country is expecting about USD 7 billion dollars more in rapid credit support from other parties. “Amidst numerous hardships,



bearing all kinds of pressure, and undergoing suffering with equanimity, the people of this country remained calm and patient. Their commitment was a great strength in achieving the IMF Facility,” Wickremesinghe, also the country’s finance minister, said. Wickremesinghe, however, reminded the hard grind ahead of Sri Lanka with having to reform the vital sectors of the economy.

“We are now starting a new journey. We have to introduce many economic reforms throughout the process. The foundation for our success will be through this path. Some of these reforms have already been proposed and implemented

through the interim budget of 2022 and the budget for 2023. We will introduce numerous other reforms,” he said. Wickremesinghe said he was able to gain the IMF facility and revive the economy without any support from the opposition despite his appeals for them to join him. He sought parliamentary approval for the agreement with the IMF, “without parliamentary approval I will not be able to go for the second round of negotiations”, he said.

For Wickremesinghe, the hard task of negotiating with its bilateral and private bondholders has started. He has indicated Sri Lanka would be helped with a 10-year moratorium on debt repayment. Sri Lanka has been hit hard by a catastrophic economic and humanitarian crisis. The economy is facing significant challenges stemming from pre-existing vulnerabilities and policy missteps in the lead-up to the crisis, further aggravated by a series of external shocks, the IMF said.

## Boris Johnson to be grilled over partygate scandal

PTI ■ LONDON

Former British prime minister Boris Johnson will be grilled by a cross-party parliamentary panel for several hours on Wednesday to establish whether he knowingly misled the House of Commons over the partygate scandal of COVID law-breaking parties at Downing Street.

The House of Commons Privileges Committee has published a fresh bundle of evidence, including photographs and statements from Johnson’s close aides at the time, ahead of the oral evidence session. The seven-member committee, which scrutinises members of Parliament, said it was publishing the material for the benefit of those following the oral evidence session.

“The documents comprise the evidence and materials that will be referred to in the course of oral questioning by MPs,” it said, adding that much of the material has already been previously published. Among the documents is the



written evidence of Martin Reynolds, the former principal private secretary to Johnson when he was Prime Minister, who claims he questioned whether it was “realistic” to make the claim in Parliament that all COVID guidance was followed.

Reynolds said Johnson agreed to delete the reference to the guidance but then went on to tell the Commons the following day that “the guidance was followed and the rules were followed at all times”. In his own written evidence published on Tuesday, the 58-year-old former Prime Minister admitted he did mislead MPs over partygate but in good faith.

## UK inflation jumps to 10.4 per cent

AP ■ LONDON

UK inflation accelerated for the first time in four months in February as high food and energy prices hit consumers battered by the nation’s cost-of-living crisis. The consumer price index jumped to 10.4 per cent in the 12 months through February from 10.1 per cent the previous month, the Office for National Statistics said on Wednesday.

The figures surprised analysts who had forecast inflation would slow to 9.9 per cent. The figures increased pressure on the Bank of England to approve an 11th consecutive interest rate increase when it meets on Thursday, regardless of concerns about the economic impact of strains on the global banking system.

Many economists now expect the central bank to boost its key bank rate by at least a quarter percentage point.

## Clashes erupt at Lebanon govt HQ



**Beirut (AP):** Lebanese security forces on Wednesday fired tear gas to disperse hundreds of protesters, mainly retired soldiers, who tried to break through the fence leading to the government headquarters in downtown Beirut.

The violence came amid widespread anger over the harsh economic conditions in the country, where mismanagement by the ruling class has been rampant for years, preceding the economic meltdown that started in late 2019.

The retired soldiers and policemen demanding better pay clashed with riot police and troops. Several people suffered breathing problems from the tear gas. The protesters hurled stones at the officers protecting the government headquarters and repeatedly tried to break through the fence.

There was no immediate information about any injuries during the violence. The

protest was called for by retired soldiers and depositors who have had limited access to their savings after local banks imposed informal capital controls amid the crisis.

The controls restrict cash withdrawals from accounts to avoid folding amid currency shortages.

People with dollar accounts can only withdraw small sums in Lebanese pounds, at an exchange rate far lower than that of the black market.

Since early on Wednesday, riot police and army special forces were deployed around the government headquarters, an Ottoman-era three-story building known as the Grand Serail of Beirut.

Nearly two hours after the violence broke out, the protesters dispersed.

The Lebanese pound hit a new low on Tuesday, selling for more than 143,000 pounds to the dollar before making some gains.

## Kansas could soon approve ‘born alive’ abortion bill

**Topeka (US):** A Kansas proposal based on the disputed idea that providers leave newborns to die after unsuccessful abortions is nearing legislative approval, as Republicans pursue limited anti-abortion measures following a decisive statewide vote last year protecting abortion rights. The Kansas House was set to take a final vote on Wednesday on a bill declaring that when an abortion procedure inadvertently results in a live birth, medical personnel must take the same steps to preserve the newborn’s life as “a reasonably diligent and conscientious” provider would with other live births.

The measure is similar to a proposed Montana law that voters there rejected in November. The US Supreme Court declared in June that states can ban abortion, and the Republican-controlled Kansas Legislature has long had strong anti-abortion majorities in both chambers. But a 2019 Kansas Supreme Court decision protected abortion rights and in August 2022, voters rejected a proposed change to the state constitution to overturn that decision and give lawmakers the power to greatly restrict or ban abortion.

Supporters of the “born-alive infants protection” bill argued during a House debate Tuesday that the measure will survive a court challenge because it doesn’t limit abortion itself.

**REVOCATION OF PUBLIC NOTICE**  
I Smt. Veena Rathore W/o Late Sh. Rohitash Kumar Rathore has earlier issued a Public Notice dated 31.07.2018 in the newspaper “Pioneer” whereby my son namely Kapil Rathore was disowned by me. Since, my son Kapil Rathore has not only tendered apology for his past conduct and behavior but has started taking care of me and therefore, I hereby revoke my above mentioned Public Notice i.e. Notice dated 31.07.2018 which was published in the newspaper “Pioneer”.

Sd/- Manoj Sharma (Advocate)  
N-8/B, LGF, Jagpura Extn, New Delhi-14

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
I, Subhash Khurana S/o Sh. Hansraj Khurana R/o Ambala Cantt., Haryana partner M/s Khurana Industries C-74, 1st Floor, Anand Niketan, New Delhi. Inform the general public that I have given notice of dissolution of the firm M/s Khurana Insudtries to 2” Partner Sh. Gurpreet Singh Bhatia. Hence the firm M/s Khurana Industries stands dissolved immediately. From now Sh. Gurpreet Singh Bhatia is not entitled to use firm Name M/s Khurana Industries anywhere- Govt. Department, GST Department, Bank, General Public, Any MES, PWD etc.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client IDFC First Bank limited, that Mr. Sanjay Kumar Das & Mr. Bhupendra Sharma are joint owners of Property bearing No.R2C-124, land area measuring 83 Sq. Yds, with roof rights, out of Khazra No.2/22, Situated in the area of Village Khayala, Delhi State, Delhi colony known as Vajra Garden, New Delhi-110008. Said property by virtue of Sale deed dated 26.03.2021, Registration No. 3945, executed by Mr. Dilwar Singh, who was owner of the said property by virtue of GPA, Agreement to sell and will dated 06.05.1987. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owners want to sell the said property and someone want to purchase the same by taking home loan from our client, if anybody has any objection/s upon the said property, and its ownership / its title / sale and mortgage of above owners, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)  
200, 1st Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Mori Nagar, N. Delhi-15  
Ph. 811-11927-29. kumarregulationsadvocates@gmail.com

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
Principal Chief Materials Manager  
Headquarters Office, Baroda House, New Delhi-110001  
Mail ID : salenr365@gmail.com

**No. 117-S/Sales/Auction Programme/2023-24**  
**Dated - 20.03.2023**  
**e-AUCTION NOTICE NO. June/2023**  
E-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous Scrap, Non Ferrous Scrap, Other Misc Scrap, Condemned Loco, Coaches and Wagons, Scrap Rail and other scrap P Way material. Used lead Acid Batteries/Used oil/Refused oil will be sold only to recyclers registered with State Pollution Control Board. Auction programme is as under.  
**e-AUCTION DATES FOR 'June, 2023.**

S. No	Depot conducting auction	Time	1 <sup>st</sup> round	2 <sup>nd</sup> round	3 <sup>rd</sup> round	4 <sup>th</sup> round	5 <sup>th</sup> round
1	Alambagh/Lucknow 0522-2451257	10:00	5	12	19	26	30
2	Shakurbasti 011-27015387	10:00	2	7	14	21	30
3	Jagadhari 01732-252388	10:00	6	13	20	23	30
4	Sr.DMM/LKO 0522-2234756	10:00	6	13	20	23	30
5	Sr.DMM/FZR 01632-244154	11:00	1	8	15	22	30
6	Sr.DMM/UMB 0171-2611203	11:00	2	7	14	21	30
7	Sr.DMM/MB 0591-2413141	10:00	1	8	15	22	30
8	Sr.DMM/DLI 011-23365311	11:00	5	12	19	26	30

1. The details of item to be sold in auction will be available in catalogue at [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).

2. The intending purchasers may inspect the scrap material before the auction during working hours at nominated locations.

3. To participate in e-auction, purchasers need to get themselves registered with ireps. The details on last sold rates in auctions are available at [www.railnet.gov.in](http://www.railnet.gov.in).

4. For further details regarding registration and other conditions of e-auction, please visit Railway website '[www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)'.

873/2023

(Om Kumar)  
Dy. Chief Material Manager/S&P

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**



# DoT seeks ₹33,111 cr for BSNL AGR dues

Expects PSU to become profitable by FY 2027

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Department of Telecom has sought Rs 33,111 crore for payment of adjusted gross revenue dues of state-run BSNL which is likely to be made in the upcoming April-June quarter, according to a Parliamentary panel report.

In a submission to the Standing Committee of Communications and Information Technology, the Department of Telecom shared that against the proposal of Rs 39,725.07 crore for 2023-24, Rs 66,691.82 crore has been allocated to it in the budget.

"The increased amount is towards the payment of AGR Dues to BSNL, which is a part of its revival package. The Department had proposed an amount of Rs 33,111.00 crore for the AGR Dues. The payment



will be made once BSNL claims the amount and is most likely to happen in the first quarter of FY 2023-24," the DoT informed in a written reply to the panel.

The Finance Ministry has allocated a total of Rs 1,08,153.25 crore under Budget Estimates for 2023-24 to the DoT comprising Rs 41,461.43 crore under revenue section and Rs 66,691.82 crore for capital section accounts.

The government had allocated Rs 44,720 crore for capital infusion in the state-run BSNL and MTNL for the current fiscal which was revised to Rs 33,269.01 crore and out of the total allocated fund Rs 23,873.44

crore have been spent till December 2022.

The DoT has informed the panel that the techno-commercial bids of TCS and ITI were opened by BSNL on November 23 and financial bids of January 13 for procurement of 4G equipment and as per the cabinet approval Group of Ministers will approve the process of procurement.

"Due to indigenous development of 4G stack for the first time in the country and issues in supply chain of chipsets, the deployment will gradually start and completion of projects of all 1 lakhs sites is likely to take 2 years," the DoT submitted.

# Stocks rise on Wall Street, even the most beaten-down banks

AP ■ NEW YORK

Stocks are rising on a calming Wall Street Tuesday, even the banks most beaten down by the industry's crisis, amid hopes for more help from the U.S. Government.

The S&P 500 was 0.6% higher in midday trading after halving a bigger gain from the morning. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 131 points, or 0.4%, at 32,376, as of noon Eastern time, while the Nasdaq composite was 0.6% higher.

Markets around the world have pinballed sharply this month on worries the banking system may be cracking under the pressure of the fastest set of hikes to interest rates in decades.

If the S&P 500 squeezes out a gain, it would mark its first back-to-back rise in two weeks.

In the U.S., shares of smaller and mid-sized banks rose after Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen told a bankers' group more government assistance "could be warranted" if risks arise that could bring down the system.

Earlier this month, the U.S. Government said it would make



depositors at Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank whole, even those with more than the \$250,000 limit insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.

They were the second- and third-largest U.S. Bank failures in history.

They had struggled as depositors rushed to pull their money out en masse.

Such runs can topple a bank, and investors have since been hunting for the next one that could fall. Much focus has been on First Republic Bank, which shares some similar traits with Silicon Valley Bank, and its stock had lost 90% for the month through Monday.

It jumped 39.6% Tuesday. Other smaller and mid-sized banks also rallied, including a 7.2% climb for Comerica and a 7.7% gain for Zions Bancorp.

Hopes for the banking industry began to turn over the weekend after regulators pushed together two huge Swiss banks.

Shares of both banks in that deal rose Tuesday in Switzerland, including a 9.8% jump for acquirer UBS.

Credit Suisse, meanwhile, rose 5.3% after tumbling a day earlier.

Credit Suisse had long-standing problems that were relatively unique, but all banks on

both sides of the Atlantic have the shared challenge of navigating a world with much higher interest rates than a year earlier.

Central banks have jacked up rates at a blistering pace in hopes of getting high inflation under control.

But such moves act like huge hammers with little nuance. They try to bring down inflation by slowing the entire economy.

That raises the risk of a recession later on. Higher rates also hurt prices for stocks and other investments.

That's one of the factors that hurt Silicon Valley Bank, which saw the value of its bond investments drop with the rise in rates.

The Federal Reserve is beginning its latest meeting on interest rates Tuesday, with an announcement slated for Wednesday.

Earlier this month, much of Wall Street was bracing for the Fed to reaccelerate its hikes and raise by 0.50 percentage points. A string of reports on the economy came in hotter than expected, including data on the job market, retail sales and inflation itself.

## BRIEF

### PFC SIGNS MOU WITH IISC FOR NEW ENERGY RESEARCH BUILDING

Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC), a Maharatna Company and India's leading NBFC in the power sector, has signed an MoU with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) to support establishing a state-of-the-art building that will house the Interdisciplinary Centre for Energy Research (ICER). The state-of-the-art building for ICER will foster cutting-edge fundamental and applied research on various energy-related areas, with special focus on green hydrogen generation.

### IIFL AIMS WORLD RECORD WITH IIFL JITO AHIMSA RUN

IIFL Group, which is one of India's largest financial services conglomerates, aims to create Guinness Book of World record with IIFL Jito Ahimsa Run to be held on April 2, 2023 across 23 countries and 65 cities in India. This is the largest such run for the cause of peace and non-violence. The run is being organized by the ladies wing of Jito (Jain International Trade Organization) and IIFL besides Jito volunteers and supporters across the world.

### NTPC COMMEMORATES WORLD WATER DAY

NTPC Limited, India's largest power producer, today commemorated World Water Day through a conference on 'Sustainable Supply Chain with Focus on Water Sustainability', along with prominent supply chain partners and vendors to observe World Water Day 2023. Ramesh Babu V, Director (Operations) and officials from multiple organizations participated in the discussions. The event witnessed the release of the NTPC Water Compendum 2023.

### PFC INKS PLA FOR JPY 2.65 BN WITH JAPAN BANK

PFC recently signed a Project Loan Agreement (PLA) for JPY 2.65 Billion with Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) at a ceremony held at JBIC headquarters, Tokyo, Japan. This PLA was executed under General Agreement signed between PFC & JBIC for JPY 30 Billion.

## Modi launches ITU Area office, innovation Centre

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday inaugurated the new International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Area Office and Innovation Centre here.

Modi also unveiled the Bharat 6G Vision Document and launched the 6G R&D Test Bed.

ITU is the United Nations' specialized agency for information and communication technologies (ICTs). Headquartered in Geneva, it has a network of field offices, regional offices and area offices.

India signed a Host Country Agreement in March 2022 with ITU for establishment of an area office. The area office in India also envisaged to have an Innovation Centre embedded in

it, making it unique among other area offices of ITU.

The area office, fully funded by India, is located on the second floor of the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT) building at Mehrauli in New Delhi.

It will serve India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Afghanistan and Iran, enhancing coordination among nations and fostering mutually beneficial economic cooperation in the region, a statement said.

Bharat 6G Vision Document is prepared by Technology Innovation Group on 6G (TIG-6G) that was constituted in November 2021 with members from various ministries/departments, research and development institutions, academia, standardization bodies, telecom service providers.

## Tomar launches blended learning platform for higher edu in agri

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Tuesday launched a blended learning platform for higher education in agriculture, developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) as part of a World Bank-funded project.

ICAR has developed the blended learning ecosystem as part of the five-year National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP) concluding this year. India and the World Bank have contributed USD 82.5 million (about Rs 600 crore) each for this project that aimed at strengthening the national agriculture education system in the country.

"The blended learning is an extension of Krishi Megh. I believe it will strengthen the foundation of Krishi Megh and

will help in meeting the requirement of digital learning," Tomar said at the launch of this platform at the three-day international conference here.

Krishi Megh, which is a data recovery centre of ICAR, enables the farmers, researchers, students and policymakers to be updated with latest information regarding agriculture and research. For India to become a developed nation by 2047, the minister said the blended learning ecosystem will play a key role in this journey.

Blended learning is a combination of offline and online learning in a way that one complements the other.

ICAR Director General Himanshu Pathak said, "I believe the World Bank will further promote research and education. ...To address the challenges of climate change and low productiv-



ity, education will play a crucial role. Our young students as well as scientists need to be equipped to combat all problems and experiment to learn new things which can be done through a blended learning ecosystem."

ICAR Deputy Director General (Agricultural Education) R C Agrawal said it has been the ICAR's endeavour to enhance agricultural higher education in alignment with guidance from the National Education Policy 2020 and the UN-SDGs.

Now, all agricultural universities have access to e-learning and e-governance applications. They all have smart classrooms, video conferencing facilities and virtual reality experience labs, he said.

About 86 per cent of agricultural universities have academic management systems; 90 per cent have wi-fi on campus and 92 per cent have high-speed internet connectivity. The e-content, using virtual and augmented reality, is highly immersive. Assessments, including short and long answer type questions

have been digitised, he added.

The NAHEP has achieved "almost all targets" and significantly exceeded more than half of them. "The quality of students coming in is better, in that they have higher cut-off scores, the graduates have higher placement rates and the research is more effective," Bekzod Shamsiev, Senior Agriculture Economist at The World Bank, said.

The next challenge is to transform digital learning into digital agriculture. Agricultural universities have an important role to play in promoting precision farming, environmental monitoring and automation of agricultural processes, he said.

It should lead to better trading systems and market information, efficient supply chain logistics and provide information for better policy making and regulation, Shamsiev added.

## Par panel calls for ease of doing business to attract investment in mining sector

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Parliamentary panel has suggested that factors like ease of doing business and increase in competitiveness should be looked into in a bid to boost a favourable investment environment for the mining sector.

The committee also acknowledged the efforts of the Ministry of Mines to accommodate the private sector to help the mining sector reach new heights.

"The Committee has been given to understand that the amendment to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 in 2015 and in 2021 has been aimed at increasing the production of minerals and time-bound operationalisation of mines, maintaining continuity in mining operations even after a change of lessee and increasing the pace of exploration and auctioning of mineral resources," the Standing Committee on Coal, Mines and Steel said in its latest report. These amendments have resulted in the enhancement of mineral production across the spectrum and will be a major boost to many industries which

are primarily dependent upon key raw materials provided by the mining sector.

The measures are intended to enhance self-reliance in the mineral sector.

It envisages involving the private sector as a co-partner in the country's development and enhancing business opportunities in the economy, it said.

"The Committee has been informed that the scope and potential for the private sector in the mining sector is widely available in the existing legislation. Further, the National Mineral Policy (NMP), 2019 envisages that the private sector would be encouraged to take up exploration activities," it said.

Besides, NMP 2019, the recent reforms undertaken by the government also encourage investment by the private sector in the mineral sector.

The Committee find that the private sector plays a dominant role in mineral production and accounted for about 58.54 per cent or Rs 77,713 crore in the total value production in 2021-22 (Provisional).

As on April 1, 2022, there are 94 mines with CPSUs, 144 mines with state PSU.

## 20 women-led startups in pipeline to become unicorn, say study

Total valuation of unicorn built by women founders stands at \$30 bn

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Around 18 per cent of India's unicorn startups are founded or co-founded by women and 20 other firms are in pipeline to become unicorn, a joint study said on Tuesday.

The study conducted by TiE Delhi NCR, research firm Zinnov, Google, NetApp and venture capital firm Indian Angel Network found that despite comparable metrics, success, and high entrepreneurial intent, socio-cultural barriers hinder women founders' growth.

"Approximately 18 per cent of India's total unicorns are founded by women, with 20 Potential Unicorns in the pipeline," the study said.

The startups that are in the pipeline to become unicorns include WinZO, Doubnut, Infinity Learn, Locus, Pratipati, Portea, SirionLabs, etc.

Women founded or co-founded start-ups that have already become unicorns include acko, BYJU's Pristyn Care, MyGlam, MobiKwik, Open etc.

The total valuation of unicorn built by women founders stands at over USD 30 billion and total equity investments raised by them is over USD 12 billion.

The study, however, found a huge gender disparity in the Indian start-up ecosystem.

"Disparity in ticket size caused women founders to face an investment loss of about USD 3.7 billion over the past 3 years," the study said.

According to the study, from an investor's perspective, women founders come across as more cautious compared to their male counterparts, which lowers deal size offers to them.

"Women founders face more scrutiny on their commitment compared to their male counterparts which makes negotiations more challenging from their point of view," the study said.

## India may require 31,000 pilots in next 20 years: Boeing

PTI ■ MUMBAI

US aircraft maker Boeing has said India may require 31,000 pilots and some 26,000 mechanics over the next 20 years amid the growing order book of the aircraft original equipment manufacturers.

Speaking on the sidelines of a CII event here, Boeing India President Salil Gupte also said the South Asian region is expected to remain the fastest-growing market globally over the next several years.

Courage of the government to go forward and privatize Air India and Tata Group to take up the airlines will transform the Indian aerospace industry, he said. "India is going to need over 31,000 pilots and 26,000 mechanics over the next 20 years to take care of the aircraft coming in. This is as important a part of the Indian growth story as the aircraft (orders)," Gupte told reporters.



He said considering India's air traffic growth, a lot of focus has to be on making infrastructure robust, both hard infrastructure which includes airports as well as critical infrastructure, which includes pilots, among others. Tata Group-owned Air India last month announced placing orders for a total of 470 planes with both Boeing and European aviation major Airbus.

Air India's mega aircraft deal with Boeing, Gupte said, is a massive deal for

India as a nation, and added that India is getting a representation on the global stage.

Last September, Boeing had projected India's air traffic growth at around 7 per cent through 2040. He also said that after coming out of the pandemic, the recovery in air travel demand has stunned the world and Boeing does not see any impact of the financial crisis on air travel growth.

It is "too early to know what the consequences of the bank situation of the US and Europe and others are going to be. At this stage, we really see no slowdown in the demand for aviation," Gupte added.

There is a huge market for narrow-body aircraft for Boeing in India, he said and added that, "as much as 90 per cent of the market over the next 20 years is going to be a narrow body market and we expect we will be successful in competing for those every single campaign (aircraft order)."

## Google suspends Chinese shopping app amid security concerns



AP ■ HONG KONG

Google has suspended the Chinese shopping app Pinduoduo on its app store after malware was discovered in versions of the app from other stores.

Google said in a statement Tuesday that it suspended the Pinduoduo app on the Google Play app store out of "security concerns" and that it was investigating the matter.

The suspension of the Pinduoduo app — mainly used in China — comes amid heightened U.S.-China tensions over Chinese-owned apps such as TikTok, which some U.S. lawmakers say could be a national security threat.

They allege that such apps could be used to spy on American users.

Pinduoduo is a popular e-commerce app in China which often offers discounts if users team up to buy multiples of an item.

Google warned users Tuesday to uninstall any Pinduoduo app not downloaded from its own Play store.

Downloads of Android and even iOS apps can often be found on websites that allow people to download apps without going through official app stores.

"Google Play Protect enforcement has been set to block installation attempts of these identified malicious apps," Google said in its statement.

"Users that have malicious versions of the app downloaded to their devices are warned and prompted to uninstall the app."

It was unclear if there are similar security concerns around the Pinduoduo app for Apple users, and Pinduoduo was still available to download from Apple's iOS store Tuesday.

In a statement, Pinduoduo said that Google had not shared more details with the company beyond informing it that the current version of its app was "not compliant with Google's policy."

## India will not slow down: RBI article

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Unlike the global economy which is risk of recession, India would not slow down and maintain the pace of expansion achieved in 2022-23, said the RBI bulletin on Tuesday.

Even as global growth is set to slow down or even enter a recession in 2023 as global financial markets wager, India has emerged from the pandemic years stronger than initially thought, with a steady gathering of momentum since the second quarter of the current financial year, said an article in the March bulletin of the Reserve Bank.

Year-on-year growth rates do not reflect this pick-up of pace because by construction they are saddled with statistical base effects, and instead suggest a sequential slowing down through successive quarters of 2022-23 to an unsuspecting reader, it said.

"...Unlike the global economy, India would not slow down - it would maintain the pace of expansion achieved in 2022-23. We remain optimistic about India, whatever the odds," said the article authored by a team led by RBI Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra.

They said the NSO's end-February data release indicates



that the Indian economy is intrinsically better positioned than many parts of the world to head into a challenging year ahead, mainly because of its demonstrated resilience and its reliance on domestic drivers.

Currently available forecasts of India's real GDP growth for 2023-24, including those of the RBI, settle between 6.0 and 6.5 per cent.

The article observes that hawkish minutes of the Federal Open Market Committee's (FOMC) meeting, a sharp rise in US treasury yields, and fresh geopolitical risks after Russia suspended its participation from the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) dented positive sentiment in the Indian equity market during the second half of February 2023.

Consequently, the BSE Sensex reversed its earlier gains and registered a cumulative decline of 1 per cent during February 2023.

## Hindustan Zinc board approves 4th interim dividend of ₹10,985 cr for FY23

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Vedanta Group firm Hindustan Zinc Ltd (HZL) on Tuesday said its board has approved a fourth interim dividend of Rs 26 per equity share or 1,300 per cent for FY2022-23 amounting to Rs 10,985.83 crore. This takes the Udaipur-based Hindustan Zinc's total payout to shareholders at a record Rs 32,000 crore this fiscal, making it among the top-dividend payers in the country.

"The board of directors of the company in its meeting held on March 21, 2023 has approved fourth interim dividend of Rs 26 per equity share i.e. 1300 % on face value of Rs

2 per share for the financial Year 2022-23 amounting to Rs 10,985.83 crore," Hindustan Zinc said in a filing to BSE.

The fourth interim dividend will be paid within stipulated timelines as prescribed under law, it said.

Hindustan Zinc (HZL) said that it has declared its ever-high-est dividend of Rs 32,000 crore for FY'23 by announcing the fourth interim dividend.

HZL, in which Vedanta holds a 64.92 per cent stake and has for long been unsuccessful trying to buy back the residual government stake, is the largest and only integrated producer of zinc, lead and silver in the country.

## Average salary may rise 10.2% in 2023 led by e-commerce, IT, professional services: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Average salary in India is expected to increase by 10.2 per cent in 2023, mainly driven by e-commerce, professional services and information technology, a report said on Tuesday.

The average salaries in India will increase by 10.2 per cent in 2023, lower in comparison to 10.4 per cent (actuals) in 2022, but still in double digits, according to a 'Future of Pay' 2023 report by professional services organisation EY.

The projected salary increases for 2023 are slightly lower

than the actual increases for 2022 across all job levels, except for blue-collar workers, who are projected to have a slightly larger decrease in compensation in 2023, it stated.

The top three sectors with the biggest projected salary increases are tied to technology, said the report.

E-commerce has the highest projected salary growth at 12.5 per cent, followed by professional services at 11.9 per cent and IT at 10.8 per cent, it added.

The data presented in 'EY Future of Pay' report is based on a survey with over 150 leaders.



# Oz beat India in 3rd ODI, seal series

PTI ■ CHENNAI

The Indian batting unit once again choked under relentless pressure from the Australian spinners as the visitors clinched the three-match ODI series 2-1 with a comfortable 21-run victory, here on Wednesday.

Chasing a stiff target of 270 on a tricky pitch, India were all out for 248 in 49.1 overs as Australia came back in the series after losing the first ODI by five wickets.

The series defeat is an indicator that the Indian team is far from prepared for the World Cup and there are too many loose ends that needs to be tied.

The match turned out to be an anti-climax in the final 15 overs as Australian spinners Adam Zampa (4/45) and Ashton Agar (2/41 in 10 overs) snared as many six Indian wickets, giving away only 86 runs in the 20 overs between them.

The Chepauk track got slower and slower and post 35th over in the Indian innings, it became very difficult to hit the big strokes.

Once Zampa bowled a couple of googlies to force Hardik Pandya (40 off 40 balls) and Ravindra Jadeja (1 off 33 balls) hit against the turn, the writing was on the wall.

It was Zampa's best figures against India and he certainly was the hero for the Aussies.

Incidentally, Australia were the last international team to beat India in a bilateral ODI series back in 2019. The score-line back then was 3-2. Since that series defeat four years back, India have won seven back-to-back bilateral ODI rubber at home.

It was three games in a row that the Indian top-order flat-



tered to deceive and that too in home conditions. They could have been blanked 3-0 in the series had Australia scored at least 235 in the opening ODI.

The highest run-getter for India in the series was KL Rahul with 116 runs and that tells the story.

Between overs 35 to 43, India managed only 31 runs and that was where the game turned on its head.

Skipper Rohit Sharma (30

off 17 balls) started well but played one pull shot too many off Agar and two balls later of Tamil Nadu he hit a regal six off Agar over extra cover.

Kohli's first boundary came in his 21st delivery, a pull shot off Agar and two balls later of Tamil Nadu he hit a regal six off Agar over extra cover.

Rahul's first boundary came in his 45th ball when he hit Zampa over his head for a four. Next over, Starc fired from wide off crease but the length ball was hit for a straight six. However a ball fired by Zampa into the blockhole was dug-out by Rahul but Abbot timed his jump well

to hold onto it at the boundary.

Then it was the turn of Agar to quickly send back Kohli and the out-of-form Suryakumar Yadav (0) for his third first-ball duck in as many games.

From 146 for 2, India had slumped to 185 for 6 when Pandya and Jadeja joined forces with the Australian close-in fielders making it infinitely difficult.

But Pandya, however, maintained a 100-plus strike-rate

despite tight bowling by the opposition.

Earlier, a fine opening spell by Pandya and a probing effort by Kuldeep Yadav put a tight leash around the Australian batters before its tail wagged considerably to take the visitors to a fighting 269 all out in 49 overs after opting to bat first.

The five wickets added 131 to keep Australia in the game.

While Pandya (3/44 in 8 overs) shaved off the top half, Kuldeep's (3/56 in 10 overs) rhythm and guile on a helpful Chennai track was the biggest takeaway as the latter's delivery to remove Carey was the ball of the series. It was a classical left-arm wrist spinner's leg-break that beat the southpaw all ends up and Kuldeep's ecstasy was there to be seen.

India were in control after pegging Australia back at 138 for 5 but a 58-run stand between Carey and Marcus Stoinis for the sixth wicket and 42 for the eighth wicket between Sean Abbott (26) and Ashton Agar (17) took them close to 250 while Mitchell Starc and Adam Zampa added 22 precious runs for the final wicket.

What looked like a good toss to win for Australia after Mitchell Marsh (47 off 47 balls) and Travis Head (33 off 31 balls) put on 68 for the opening stand didn't seem so as Pandya bowled three different deliveries in his first three overs to completely seize the momentum in favour of the hosts.

David Warner (23 off 31 balls) and Marnus Labuschagne (28 off 45 balls) paid dearly for their indiscreet shot selection off Kuldeep's bowling before Carey (38 off 46 balls) played his first innings of substance on the final day of a long near two-month tour.



## Short break for India's white ball players before joining IPL teams

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian players, who are part of the ODI series against Australia, will get a short break for three to four days before joining their respective IPL camps with the tournament starting from March 31.

Defending champions Gujarat Titans and Chennai Super Kings will play in the opening match of the season in Ahmedabad.

It is understood that all the players, who are in the World Cup scheme of things, will have their workload management monitored and hence the rest is going to be paramount.

"Some players might join their IPL camps directly but they will have an option of taking a three-four day break and relax at home before touching base with their respective IPL teams," a BCCI

source told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

Even if the players directly join the training camp, it is unlikely that they would be training for at least next 72 hours.

### LYER TO MISS ENTIRE IPL, DOUBTFUL FOR WC

Shreyas Iyer is all set to undergo lower back surgery and will not take any part in the IPL, according to sources in the board. The decision is being taken keeping the player's best interest in mind as a surgery right now will give him an outside chance of at least making a comeback before the World Cup in October, although chances of making it for the marquee event also looks dim at the moment.

Jasprit Bumrah and Prasidh Krishna are the two players who have already undergone back surgery.

## Fleming to be Texas Super Kings coach in MLC

PTI ■ DALLAS

Former New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming will be the coach of Dallas-based Major League Cricket (MLC) club Texas Super Kings (TSK), which announced its partnership with IPL side Chennai Super Kings (CSK).

Four-time IPL champions, CSK had recently said that they would make a "major announcement" with regard to their association with the new T20 tournament in the US.

TSK said in a statement that CSK will bring "operational expertise" and help "Texas compete on the field".

"The (Texas Super kings) team will be led by coach Stephen Fleming. Fleming is a former captain of the New Zealand national cricket team and head coach of Indian Premier League team Chennai Super Kings. He played in the first-ever T20 to be staged as captain of the New Zealand team in 2005," said a TSK statement.

Fleming is a long-serving CSK head coach and has guided the Chennai franchise to four IPL titles.

CSK join Delhi Capitals and Mumbai Indians as the third IPL side to get associated with the six-team MLC, scheduled to begin on July 13.

The six MLC teams are San Francisco Unicorns, Lost Angeles, MI New York, Seattle Orcas, Texas Super Kings and Washington DC.

Delhi Capitals, co-owned by GMR Group, are partnering with Seattle Orcas to "help build and operate a world-class cricket team", while Mumbai Indians have joined the US cricket revolution by acquiring the New York franchise.

Meanwhile, all six MLC teams completed the domestic player draft at the Space Center in Houston, where they selected nine players each from more than 100 cricketers eligible to represent the "US cricket community".

The remainder of each team's player roster will be filled with top T20 cricketers from across the world.



## New IPL Rule: Captains allowed to name playing XI after toss

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The captains of IPL teams can name their playing eleven after the toss instead of handing over team sheets before the spin of coin, stated the new playing conditions issued by the BCCI.

According to playing conditions clause 1.2.1: "Each captain shall nominate 11 players plus a maximum of 5 substitute fielders in writing to the IPL Match Referee after the toss."

"Other than set out in Clause 1.2.9 no player (member of the playing eleven) may be changed after the nomination and prior to the start of play without the consent of the opposing captain."

This effectively means that after the toss, if a skipper feels that he needs to change his eleven as per demands of the situation, he is free to do that till the match starts.

The other significant change in playing conditions is penalising unfair movement by the wicketkeeper in case there is shift in position before the batter meets the ball.

In the event of unfair movement by the wicket-keeper, either umpire shall call and signal dead ball and inform the other umpire the reason for doing so. The bowler's end umpire shall then: "award the one-run penalty for Wide or No ball, if applicable or award 5 Penalty runs to the batting side. Inform the captain of the fielding side of the reason for this action. Inform the batters and, as soon as practicable, the captain of the batting side of what has occurred."

The "Impact Substitution" where a new player can be introduced during the match from the five designated substitutions had already been announced by the tournament committee.

## Siraj slips from top spot to third in ODI rankings



PTI ■ DUBAI

Pacer Mohammed Siraj was on Wednesday dethroned from the top spot by Australia's Josh Hazlewood in the latest ICC rankings for ODI bowlers, as the Indian slipped to third place.

Another Australian pacer, Mitchell Starc, who impressed during the first two ODIs of the three-match series in India, also moved up to join Siraj at joint third.

Siraj, who returned with impressive figures of 3/29 to help India win the first ODI against Australia, was expensive in the second ODI giving away 37 runs in three overs and consequently lost his position as the top-ranked bowler.

The right-arm pacer had copped the brunt of the attack by Mitchell Marsh and Travis Head during the second ODI in Visakhapatnam. Siraj, who has had a successful run across formats in recent past, was crowned as the world No. 1 bowler in ODIs in January this year.

Starc claimed three wickets in Mumbai to stage Australia's fightback while his 5/53 in the second ODI in Visakhapatnam powered the visitors to a 10-wicket win.

Hazlewood, who missed the entire tour of India consisting four Tests and three ODIs, became world No. 1 bowler in ODIs for the first time ever.

"Hazlewood, whose career-best second position was attained for the first time in June 2017 and which he had kept since August 2022, is No. 1 in ODIs for the first time," the ICC said.

Mohammad Shami, who produced a match-winning spell in Mumbai, also moved five spots up to reach to 28th in the list.

KL Rahul's unbeaten 75, which helped India recover from a poor start and win the first ODI by five wickets, helped him move up three places to get to the 39th spot.

In the ODI ranking among batters, India's Shubman Gill -- who made 'marginal progress' - - and Virat Kohli remained fifth and seventh respectively, while captain Rohit Sharma moved up one place to ninth.

New Zealand's Kane Williamson moved up to the second spot among batters in Test cricket following his dominant show with the bat against Sri Lanka, with the former skipper notching up scores of 1, 121 not out and 215 in the two-match series which the Kiwis won 2-0.

With his sixth double ton in Tests, Williamson is now just one behind Kohli (seven) as players with most scores over 200. Australia's Marnus Labuschagne remains the top ranked batter in Test cricket.

New Zealand's left-handed batter Henry Nicholls, who made 200 not out in the Wellington Test and was involved in a massive 363-run stand with Williamson in what was Test cricket's 2,500th match, jumped up 20 spots to reach to 27th.

Sri Lanka captain Dimuth Karunaratne occupies the 10th spot.



## 2023 WC in India likely to start on Oct 5, final in Ahmedabad: report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The 2023 ODI World Cup in India is likely to start on October 5 with the final to be held at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on November 19, according to a report.

The BCCI has shortlisted at least a dozen venues for the 10-team marquee event, which will see 48 matches, including three knockouts across the 46-day period, an ESPNcricinfo report said.

The 11 other shortlisted venues, according to the report, are Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Dharamsala, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow, Indore, Rajkot and Mumbai.

Except for the final match, which is set to be played at the world's largest stadium in Ahmedabad, the BCCI has not specified the venues for any games as yet.

The list of 12 cities, however, does not include Mohali and Nagpur, which had hosted a Test match against visiting Australia recently.

India had won the title when it last hosted the 50-over World Cup in 2011.

## WORLD NO 1 ALCARAZ RETURNS TO MIAMI AFTER RAPID RISE

AP ■ MIAMI

World number one Carlos Alcaraz heads into this week's Miami Open looking to defend both his title and top ranking and admitting even he has been surprised by his dizzying rise to the top of the sport.

A year ago, the 19-year-old came to Miami on the back of wins on clay in Croatia and Brazil and hoping to make his mark on the hard courts. His victory in South Florida launched a remarkable year.

The highlight was his US Open triumph which made him the youngest player to become world number one and he returns to Miami after last week's win in Indian Wells, achieved without dropping a set in the tournament.

"It's all been very fast, when I got to Miami last year I was around number 20 and a year later I am coming in with the number one ranking. That is something very

special. I fulfilled my dreams quicker than I expected," he told reporters on Tuesday. Because of his victory in Miami last year, Alcaraz must win at the Florida event again if he is to hold on to his number one spot, but he says he feels no pressure in that regard or to meet newly raised expectations.

"I don't feel the pressure too much. I know the things I have to do. I need to play relaxed and not mind if I lose or if I play well or not," he said.

"My goal is always the same. To feel comfortable on court. To enjoy playing tennis and try to have great thoughts when playing. That is why I am playing at a good level. I am enjoying every single second and playing relaxed. That is what I am thinking about on court," he added.

As at Indian Wells, world number two Novak Djokovic is missing after being refused entry to the United States due to his lack of a COVID vaccine and Alcaraz says he misses the Serb's presence,



along with the injured Rafael Nadal. "I'm a professional tennis player, but also I'm a huge fan of tennis and I always want to watch the best players in the world, like Rafa, like Djokovic," he said.

"I played a couple of times against Rafa and I wish to play against him more and with

Djokovic as well. I wish to play against him more times, you know, but obviously in every tournament I want them to be playing and I hope we get them back soon," he said.

Far from feeling the weight of following in the footsteps of the 'Big Three' of Djokovic, Nadal and the

now retired Roger Federer, Alcaraz says he is trying to draw lessons from their successes.

"You have to improve, you have to get better every day. That's why the big players, the Big Three, for example, did all through their careers - to improve every day a little bit," he said.

Alcaraz can expect plenty of support from the crowd in Miami, which includes many Spanish-speaking fans.

"It's so special to come back here and feel the same energy that I felt, for example, last year," he said.

"I have great supporters here, a lot of people supporting me. I remember last year it was unbelievable you know, with the crowd. I feel like I am at home, you know," he added.

The top seed will begin his title defence against Argentine Facundo Bagnis or a qualifier and could face two-time Miami champion and former world number one Andy Murray in the third round.

## I'VE NEVER FELT THAT MUCH HATE: SABALENKA

AP ■ MIAMI GARDENS

Belarus' world number two Aryna Sabalenka says she has faced "hate" in the women's tour locker-room but hopes tensions with Ukrainian players will eventually ease. Australian Open champion Sabalenka lost to Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina in Sunday's Indian Wells final and at the media day for this week's ATP-WTA Miami Open was asked about her recent comments on "tensions" in the locker-room between Ukrainian and Russian and Belarus players.

"It was really, really tough for me because I've never faced that much hate in the locker room," said Sabalenka.

"Of course, there are a lot of haters on Instagram when you're losing the matches, but like in the locker room, I've never faced that," she added.

"I had some, not like fights, but I had some weird conversations with, not the girls, but with members of their team. It was really, it was tough. It was tough period. But, now it's getting better," she said. In comments at Indian Wells Sabalenka had said she had been in a dispute with Ukrainian Lesia Tsurenko's coach Nikita Plesov. Tsurenko was due to play Sabalenka at Indian Wells but withdrew before their match.

The Ukrainian said she had a "panic attack" and had also been upset with a conversation about the war and the position of Russian and Belarusian players with WTA CEO Steve Simon.



# NITU, NIKHAT & SAWEETY CONFIRM MEDALS

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Riding on impressive performances, star Indian pugilists Nitu Ghanghas, Nikhat Zareen and Saweety Boora registered thumping victories to confirm at least three medals for India at the Mahindra IBA Women's World Boxing Championships by advancing to the semi-finals at the Indira Gandhi Sports Complex here on Wednesday.

Squaring off against the two-time Worlds bronze medalist Madoka Wada of Japan, the 2022 Commonwealth Games champion Nitu (48kg) secured a scintillating win with the Referee Stops Contest (RSC) verdict in the second round of the bout. With an attacking approach from the word go, the 22 year old hardly had to break a sweat against the veteran Japanese and was in complete control of the bout.

"I have been able to apply 100% apply of my practice in the ring so far and going into the next match I feel good I have won all my three bouts by RSC. She (Maduko) is a southpaw just like me and as this was my first time in the tournament facing a southpaw, I had to pay complete attention and attack. I was on the counter from the first round but I feel like I should have played a bit more attacking and I will try to do that in my next bout. (After the defeat in last edition's quarters) I felt that since is the tournament happening in India this year with the home support constantly backing us, I won't let the medal slip away this time," said Nitu after the bout.

The Indian will now take on the reigning Asian champion and last year's World Championships silver medalist Alua Balkibekova of Kazakhstan in what will be a

rematch of last year's World Championships quarter finals.

Following Nitu's victory, Nikhat (50kg) successfully continued her title defence by recording a hard-fought 5-2 win on points after the bout was reviewed against the two-time World Championships bronze medalist Chuthamat Raksat of Thailand. Both pugilists were at the top of their game and gave it their all to emerge victorious in this bout that went right down the wire.

However it was the 26 year old Indian who utilized her superior technical ability to edge out her Thai opponent and come out on top with the win.

"Yes, today's bout was stressful but I won by a split decision so I am really happy that I secured a medal for my country, and going forward I'll win the gold medal too. My strategy today was to win in the first 2 rounds and then play



around in the last. I won the 2 rounds but from 3:2 in each so in the last round, I aimed to play from a long range but there was a lot of clinching so my body got a little tired. All the bouts I have had till now were powerful but for me, it's been a good experience to keep moving forward and defeating them so hopefully I will keep mov-

ing forward like this and fight for my country," said Nikhat after the bout.

Nikhat will face Rio Olympics bronze medalist Ingrid Valencia of Colombia in the semi-finals.

Contrary to Nikhat, the three-time Asian medalist Saweety (81kg) recorded a dominating 5-0 win against the 2018 World

Championships bronze medalist Viktoria Kebikava of Belarus. In what was her first match of the tournament, the experienced pugilist from Haryana was extremely confident throughout the bout and landed strong, accurate punches to seal the win. She will be going up against Emma-Sue Greentree of Australia in her next bout.

"The boxer from Belarus (Viktoria) is a very good fighter with a world medal to her name and with both of our strengths including uppercuts being similar, I knew that I will have to fight till the very end. I was a bit tired towards the last round but I kept going for my coach who was constantly motivating from the ring-side and my family in the audience,

all of whom had high hopes from me. My next bout will definitely be better than this one as I always get better with the number of matches that I play," commented Saweety after her bout.


Meanwhile, the two-time World Youth champion Sakshi Chaudhary (52kg) and the 2022 World Championships bronze medalist Manisha Moun (57kg) went down fighting in the quarter finals despite their best efforts. While Sakshi lost 0:5 against Wu Lu of China, Manisha lost 1:4 against Amina Zidani of France and bowed out of the competition.

The 2020 Olympics bronze medalist Irma Testa (57kg) of Italy also secured her place in the semi-finals after beating Jucielen Romeu of Brazil with a 5-0 score-

line. The Italian who won silver at last year's World Championships looked determined to better that this time round and proved it with her stellar performance.


Later on Wednesday, the Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist Lovlina Borgohain (75kg), the 2022 Commonwealth Games bronze medalist Jaismine Lamboria (60kg) and Nupur Sheoran (+81kg) will all take to the ring for their respective quarter-finals bouts.

The on-going prestigious event is witnessing the participation of 324 boxers, including several Olympic medalists, from 65 countries fighting for the titles in the 12 weight categories. The tournament has a massive prize pool of INR 20 crore.



ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

EXAMINATION SECTION



ADMISSION NOTICE NO. 46/2023

09.02.2023

F.No.AIIMS/7-10/Exam.Sec/(B.Sc-M.Sc-2023)/2023

Admission Notice for B.Sc. (H) Nursing/B.Sc. Nursing (Post-Basic)/B.Sc. (Paramedical Courses) and M.Sc Nursing/ M.Sc courses/M. Biotechnology for session August-2023 at AIIMS New Delhi & other AIIMS

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi invites Online applications (Basic Registration followed by Generation of Code and Final Registration) for Entrance Examinations leading to admission for subject cited above courses in below mentioned schedule:-


SCHEDULE FOR UNDER-GRADUATE COURSES	
Basic Registration (PAAR) for B.Sc. (H) Nursing/B.Sc. Nursing (Post-Basic)/B.Sc. (Paramedical Courses) -2023	Start Date :15.02.2023 Closing Date: 20.04.2023 (05.00 PM)
Generation of Code for Final Registration for B Sc. (H) Nursing/B.Sc. Nursing (Post-Basic)/B.Sc. (Paramedical courses) -2023 only for those whose Basic Registration is accepted.	Start date: 01.03.2023 Closing date: 28.04.2023 (05:00 PM)
Final Registration (Payment of fees and city choice) only for those who have Generated Code for Final Registration.	Start date: 01.03.2023 Closing date: 28.04.2023 (05:00 PM)

SCHEDULE FOR POST-G RADUATE COURSES	
Basic Registration (PAAR) for M.Sc Nursing/M. Biotechnology/M.Sc Courses -2023	Start Date :15.02.2023 Closing Date: 20.04.2023 (05.00 PM)
Generation of Code for Final Registration for M.Sc Nursing/M. Biotechnology/M.Sc Courses-2023 only for those whose Basic Registration is accepted.	Start date: 03.03.2023 Closing date: 28.04.2023 (05:00 PM)
Final Registration (Payment of fees and city choice) only for those who have Generated Code for Final Registration.	Start date: 03.03.2023 Closing date: 28.04.2023 (05:00 PM)

All applicants are required to visit the website [www.aiimsexams.ac.in](http://www.aiimsexams.ac.in) regularly since all subsequent Corrigendum/Addendum/Updates will only be uploaded on the website.

CBC 17112/12/0042/2223


ASSISTANT CONTROLLER (EXAMS.)



ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

ANSARI NAGAR, NEW DELHI - 110608

EXAMINATION SECTION



ADMISSION NOTICE NO. 44/2023

07.03.2023

Ref.No.FAIIMS/Exam.Sec./Advt./4-5/(INI-CET-PG-JULY-23)/2023

Institute of National Importance Combined Entrance Test (INI-CET)

for admission to PG Courses for July 2023 session

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi invites online applications for Institute of National Importance Combined Entrance Test (INI-CET) July 2023 for admission to PG courses [MD/MS/M.Ch.(6years)/ DM(6years)/MDS] of AIIMS, New Delhi, JIPMER Puducherry, NIMHANS Bengaluru, PGIMER Chandigarh & SCTIMST Trivandrum and other AIIMS (Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Jodhpur, Nagpur, Patna, Raipur, Rishikesh, Bibinagar, Bathinda, Deoghar, Mangalagiri, Raebareilly, Kalyani and Bilaspur etc.) for July 2023 session as per following schedule:-


Date of uploading Prospectus Part-A including eligibility criteria: 07.03.2023		
Online Registration for application	Start date	Closing Date
#Registration and Basic Information [All applicants who have applied earlier and whose Basic Registration have been #ACCEPTED for Julv 2019. January 2020, July 2020, January 2021, July 2021 session, January 2022, July 2022 and January 2023 are not required to complete Registration and Basic information again. They will have to complete application form only after Generation of Examination Unique Code (EUC Code)]	07.03.2023	25.03.2023 (by 5:00 PM)
Editing of Registration and Basic information (after last date of editing, editing of Registration and Basic information will not be allowed)		
Status of Registration and Basic information and last date of correction of rejected Images	28.03.2023	31.03.2023 (by 5:00 pm)
Final Status of Accepted Registration and Basic information	03.04.2023	by 5:00 pm)
Generation of Examination Unique Code (EUC) [only for Accepted Registration and Basic information - Previous EUC code not valid for July 2023 session]	24.03.2023 (05:00 pm)	10.04.2023 (05:00 pm)
Completion of Application form (only for the candidates those have generated EUC code)		
Editing of completion of Application form (Change of category will not be allowed after payment of registration fee in any circumstances)		
Uploading of valid Certificate/Card: SC/ST/OBC(NCL)/EWS/PwBD certificate and OCI Card.		
a) Date(s) of valid OBC(NCL) certificate: The OBC(-NCL) certificates should have been issued between 08.05.2022 to 07.05.2023 (date of Exam) both dates inclusive.	24.03.2023 (05:00 pm)	07.05.2023 (05:00 pm)
b) Date(s) of valid EWS certificate: The EWS certificate must be valid for financial year 2023-2024 and issued between 01.04.2023 to 07.05.2023 (on or before date of Exam), both date inclusive based on income of year 2022-2023.		
Date(s) of checking status of Completion of application form & Last date of submission of required documents.	14.04.2023 (11:00 pm)	15.04.2023 (05:00 pm)
Final Status of online Registration and uploading of admit card on AIIMS website	01.05.2023 (Monday)	
Date of Examination	Examination Centers	
07th May, 2023 (Sunday)	Cities all over India	

Important:- For Prospectus, detailed information etc. please visit the website [www.aiimsexams.ac.in](http://www.aiimsexams.ac.in) All applicants are required to visit the website regularly since all subsequent Corrigendum/Addendum/Updates will only be uploaded on the website. Registration and Basic information are mandatory. Only those with accepted Registration & Basic information can proceed for Generation of EUC for completion of application form.

Correction/edit of Registration:- For candidates requiring correction in Registration & Basic candidate information OR Completion of application form, the edit panel will be available as per schedule only. It may kindly be noted that the editing shall be done only by the candidate. Candidate will be responsible for all corrections. No corrections allowed after closing date of editing. Applicants may note that further correspondence will NOT be entertained in this regard.

Note:- All applicant for which fees not paid will be summarily rejected and no correspondence will be entertained in this regard.

PAAR



AIIMS


Exams

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

NEW DELHI

ASSTT. CONTROLLER (EXAMS)

CBC 17112/12/0045/2223



EAST COAST RAILWAY

(1) Tender Notice No. ST-OT-SIG-ZONAL-KUR-307, Dt.: 20.03.2023

NAME OF WORK : SIGNALLING ZONAL WORK EACH COSTING Rs.5,00,000/- OR LESS IN THE SECTION UNDER JURISDICTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (SIGNAL) / SOUTH /KHURDA ROAD OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION, EAST COAST RAILWAY FOR ONE YEAR.

Tender Value : ₹ 69,33,817.40, EMD : ₹ 1,38,700/-

(2) Tender Notice No. ST-OT-TELE-ZONAL-BALU-308, Dt.: 20.03.2023

NAME OF WORK : TELECOM ZONAL WORK EACH COSTING Rs.5,00,000/- OR LESS IN THE SECTION UNDER JURISDICTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (TELE) / BALUGAON OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION, EAST COAST RAILWAY FOR ONE YEAR.

Tender Value : ₹ 48,53,583.04, EMD : ₹ 97,100/-

Bidding Start Date : 28.03.2023 (for both the Tenders).

Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1100 Hrs. of 11.04.2023 (for both the Tenders)


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

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

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigendum issued for this tender.

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, PR-1101/N/22-23

Khurda Road



PANCHAYAT SAMITI OFFICE, BHUBAN

DIST-DHENKANAL

No.- 940


/Date:- 21.3.2023

Tender Call Notice bearing Identification No. 02/2022-23 which was communicated on 27.02.2023 vide Memo No.- 831 /Dt.- 27.02.2023, 832 dtd. 27.02.2023, 833 dtd. 27.02.2023, 834 dtd. 27.02.2023, 835/dtd.13.02.2023 for 10 no. of projects under DMF Scheme is hereby cancelled. A fresh Tender Call Notice bearing no. 03/2022-23 is hereby published/ communicated against Tender Call Notice No. 02/2022-23.

Block Development Officer

Bhuban

OIPR-19323/11/0003/2223



OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (AGRI.), AGRIL. ENGG. DIVISION, RAYAGADA

Email Id: [rayagadaeeagrill@gmail.com](mailto:rayagadaeeagrill@gmail.com) Mobile- 7751817238

INVITATIONS FOR BIDS THROUGH e-Procurement

No- 137 Agril. Date-15/03/2023

Bid Identification No/e - Procurement Notice No. - E.E (A)- RAYAGADA Division

1. The Executive Engineer (Agril.), Agril.Engg.Division,Rayagada, Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate Bids in Single cover system for the works as detailed in table below.


Sl. No.	Block	Name of the work	Approximate Estimated value put in Tender (Excluding G.S.T/Rs.)	EMD/BID Security (in Rs.)	Cost of Bid Documents (in Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion
1	Gosani	Shallow Tube Well, Shradhapur, Gajapati District	1005016.00	10050.00	6000.00	C&D	90 days
2	Mohana	Cluster Solar Deep bore well, Baliganda, Gajapati District	1667472.00	16675.00	6000.00	C&D	90 days
3	Mohana	Community river lift project, Punja Sargi, Gajapati District	883863.00	8840.00	4000.00	C&D	90 days

The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. The web-site for "ONLINE BIDDING" is <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Bid documents will be available in above Website from Dt.17.03.2023 at 11.00 AM upto 5.00 PM of Dt. 27.03.2023 for "ONLINE BIDDING". Date of original bid documents submission Dt.20.03.2023 at 11.00 AM to Dt.28.03.2023 upto 5.00 PM.Bids shall be opened at 11.00 AM & onwards on Dt. 29.03.2023. The bidder must possess matching class compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC). Further details and other terms and conditions can be seen from DTCN in the e- Procurement web site [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in) N.B: Subsequent corrigendum / addendum if required shall be available in the website as indicated above

Sd/- P.K.Behera

Executive Engineer (Agril.), Agril.Engg.Division,Rayagada

OIPR-01461/11/0003/2223



DSPL- 507

ଠିକ୍ ସମୟରେ ସଠିକ୍ ଟୀକାଦେଇ ଆପଣଙ୍କ ଶିଶୁକୁ ସୁରକ୍ଷିତ ରଖନ୍ତୁ ।

୫ ବର୍ଷରେ ୭ ଥର ଟୀକା ନେବାକୁ ଭୁଲନ୍ତୁ ନାହିଁ କୌଣସି ଥର

୧ମ ଥର

୨ୟ ଥର

୩ୟ ଥର

୪ର୍ଥ ଥର

୫ମ ଥର

୬ଷ ଥର

୭ମ ଥର

ଟୀକାକରଣ ସୂଚୀ

ବୟସ	ଟୀକା
ଜନ୍ମ ସମୟରେ	ବିବିଜି,ଓପିଜି, ହେପାଟାଇଟିସ୍-ବି (ଜନ୍ମ ମାତ୍ରା)
୬ ସପ୍ତାହ (ଦେହ ମାପ)	ଓପିଜି-୧,ପେଣ୍ଡାଭାଲେଣ୍ଟ-୧,ଏଫଆଇପିଜି-୧,ଆରଜିଜି-୧,ପିପିଜି-୧
୧୦ ସପ୍ତାହ (ଅବେଶ ମାପ)	ଓପିଜି-୨,ପେଣ୍ଡାଭାଲେଣ୍ଟ-୨,ଆରଜିଜି-୨
୧୪ ସପ୍ତାହ (ସାବେ ଚିକିତ୍ସା ମାପ)	ଓପିଜି-୩, ପେଣ୍ଡାଭାଲେଣ୍ଟ-୩, ଏଫଆଇପିଜି-୨,ଆରଜିଜି-୩,ପିପିଜି-୨
୯-୧୨ମାସ	ଏଫଆଇ-୧,ଭିଟାମିନ୍-କ***, ପିପିଜି ଦୁଷ୍ଟର, ଜେଲ-୧**, ଏଫଆଇପିଜି-୩
୧୬-୨୪ମାସ	ଏଫଆଇ-୨,ଭିଟାମିନ୍-କ***, ଡିପିଜି ଦୁଷ୍ଟର-୧, ଓପିଜି ଦୁଷ୍ଟର-୧,ଜେଲ-୨**
୫-୬ ବର୍ଷ	ଡିପିଜି ଦୁଷ୍ଟର-୨
୧୦ ବର୍ଷ	ବି.ଡି
୧୬ ବର୍ଷ	ବି.ଡି
ଗର୍ଭବତୀ ମହିଳା	ବି.ଡି-୧, ବି.ଡି-୨, ବି.ଡି ଦୁଷ୍ଟର*

\* ଯଦି ୩ ବର୍ଷ ଭିତରେ ଡିଡି/ଡିଡି ବିଭାବ ଦୁଇଟି ମାତ୍ର ନେଇଥିବେ ।  
\*\* କେବଳ ଜେଲ ପ୍ରଦତ୍ତ କିଲ୍ଲା ମାନକ ନିମନ୍ତେ  
\*\*\* ଭିଟାମିନ୍-କ ୯ ମାସରୁ ଆରମ୍ଭ ହୋଇ ୫ ବର୍ଷ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ପ୍ରତି ୬ମାସ ବ୍ୟବଧାନରେ ଦିଆଯାଏ ।

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ସ୍ବାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ଏବଂ ପରିବାର କଲ୍ୟାଣ ବିଭାଗ,ଓଡ଼ିଶା