

Barabati Fort excavation unveils millennium-old trade links with China

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Bhubaneswar: Recent Archaeological Survey of India findings near Barabati Fort in Cuttack have revealed evidence that the city, often referred to as the Millennium City, has a history beyond 1,000 years.

ASI excavation along the river Mahanadi has provided substantial evidence of human settlement dating back to 6th to 9th centuries. Artefacts, such as pottery shards and stone tools, found at the site suggest Odisha had ancient trade connections with China, Vietnam and Arab countries, according to archaeologists.

"The Chinese pottery that we found at the site belongs to Tang dynasty that existed between 6th and 9th centuries. There are many ceramic and porcelain pieces, which belong to Vietnam, Burma and Arab countries, apart from China," said Dibishada B Garnayak, ASI's superintending archaeologist, Puri circle.

Sources said the Barabati Fort was built in 12th-13th century by kings of the Ganga Dynasty that ruled Odisha for over five centuries. "Earlier findings from the site established Odisha's connection with south Asian countries, while folklore and legends suggest Odisha had strong maritime links with countries



Entrance to Barabati Fort, which was built in 12th-13th century by the Ganga dynasty that ruled Odisha for over five centuries

findings, however, indicate a strong trade link of Odisha with China and Arab countries," Garnayak said.

"The excavation was started four months back and we have dug up to 4.5 metres from the ground and are likely to reach the natural soil within a day or two," Garnayak added.

Former superintendent of ASI, Odisha circle, Jiban Patnaik said the implications of these findings were vast. "They not only challenge previous assumptions about the age of Cuttack, but also contribute to a deeper understanding of historical timeline of Odisha and its role in ancient global trade networks," Patnaik said.

ASI sources said the evidence will be sent for further examination and carbon dating to ascertain the exact

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EAM **OPTIMISTIC** about permanent UNSC seat

RAJKOT, Apr 2 (PTI)

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday expressed optimism about India's eventual permanent membership in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), saying it is inevitable but emphasised the need for heightened efforts in this regard.

Addressing intellectuals in Gujarat's Rajkot city, the External Affairs Minister stressed that diligent work is essential to secure this



S Jaishankar

coveted position.

Acknowledging the current dominance of five nations - China, France, Russia, the UK, and the US - as the UN's original permanent members, the Minister, however, said the international momentum was now favouring India's bid for a permanent seat.

The United Nations was formed around 80 years ago, and these five nations decided among themselves to become

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'New criminal laws are key to modernising justice system'

NEW DELHI, Apr 2 (PTI)

CHIEF Justice of India D Y Chandrachud on Monday praised the new criminal laws passed by the Government that seek to replace the British era laws, calling them a "significant step" towards modernising the justice system.

Delivering keynote address on 20th DP Kohli memorial lecture in the memory of founding director of the CBI, Chandrachud said Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA) provide a comprehensive approach ensuring a seamless flow of information. They are intended to facilitate better co-ordi-



Chief Justice of India (CJI) Justice D Y Chandrachud addresses during the 20th D P Kohli Memorial Lecture on Adopting Technology to Advance Criminal Justice in New Delhi on Monday. (ANI)

nation and collaboration among the stakeholders involved in the investigative and adjudicatory processes.

The new laws will come into force on July 1, replacing the colonial era Indian Penal Code (IPC), Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) and Indian Evidence Act. The new criminal laws enacted by Parliament encompass substantive crime, procedure and evidence, he said. "These laws aim at digitising various aspects of criminal procedure. This is a significant step towards modernising the justice system. From the initial registration of a FIR to the final delivery of judgement, every stage of a criminal investigation is to be recorded digitally."

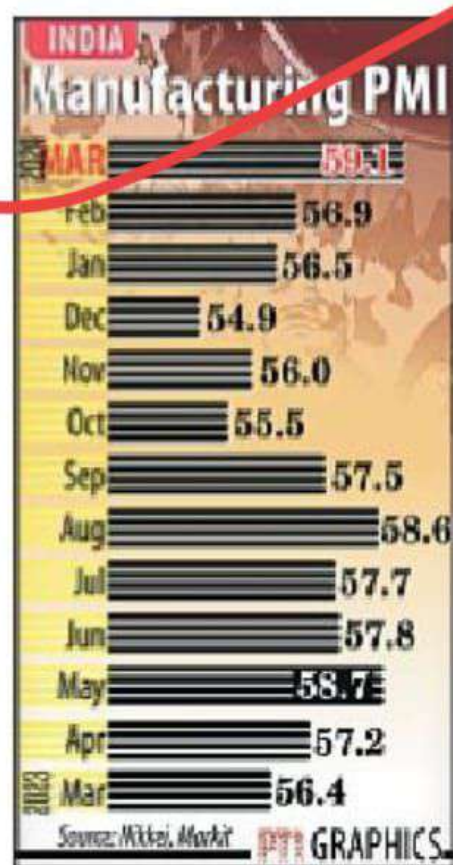
Mfg sector growth hits 16-yr high in Mar

New orders jump amid buoyant demand

NEW DELHI, Apr 2 (PTI)

INDIA'S manufacturing sector growth climbed to a 16-year high in March on the back of the strongest increase in output and new orders since October 2020, amid reports of buoyant demand conditions, a monthly survey said on Tuesday.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) surged to a 16-year high of 59.1 in March, from 56.9 in February, reflecting stronger growth of new orders, output and



input stocks as well as renewed job creation.

In Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion while a score below 50 denotes contraction. "India's March manufacturing PMI rose to its highest level since 2008. Manufacturing companies expanded hiring in response to strong production and new orders. On the back of strong demand and a slight tightening in capacity, input cost inflation picked up in March," Ines Lam, Economist at HSBC, said.



NAGPUR ■ Wednesday ■ April 3 ■ 2024

PML-N led ruling coalition sweeps Senate elections in Pak

ISLAMABAD, Apr 2 (PTI)

PAKISTAN'S ruling coalition swept the Senate elections as the results of 19 seats were announced after the election process to fill 48 vacant seats of the upper house of the bicameral Parliament.

The alliance led by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and including Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and other parties bagged 18 seats out of 19 while an independent candidate also was elected with their support.

Polling was held on 12 seats from Sindh, five seats from Punjab and two seats from the Islamabad capital territory. In

Punjab, PML-N grabbed all seats while in Sindh, PPP got 10 seats and one seat went to Muttahida Qaumi Movement and an independent candidate. The PML-N and the PPP won one seat each from Islamabad.

Eighteen candidates had already been elected unopposed, including eleven from Balochistan and seven from Punjab. Elections in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province were postponed due to controversy over oaths of members elected on reserved seats.

Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar was elected senator after getting 224 votes in the National Assembly.

'Foreign medical graduates cannot be treated differently'

NEW DELHI, Apr 2 (PTI)

THE Supreme Court has said that foreign medical graduates

College, Vidisha, Dr Laxminarayan Pandey Government Medical College, Ratlam and Employees State

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DISENGAGEMENT only way forward: **Rajnath**

NEW DELHI, Apr 2 (PTI)

WITH the India-China military face-off continuing in eastern Ladakh, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday said the Indian troops are standing "firm" and the ongoing talks between the two sides for a peaceful resolution of the matter will continue as disengagement and de-escalation is the way forward.

In an address to the top commanders of the Army, Singh reaffirmed the faith of the billion-plus citizens in the force as one of the "most-trusted and inspiring" organisations in the country.

The Army commanders



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Pande, Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane and others during the Army Commanders' Conference in New Delhi on Tuesday. (PTI)

deliberated extensively on national security challenges along the borders with China and Pakistan and ways to boost the force's overall combat capa-

bility. The Defence Minister, complimenting the Army leadership for successfully taking ahead the country's "defence and security" vision to new

heights, said the role of the force is very important in nation building.

In his remarks, Singh also lauded the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), saying its efforts have led to the "quantum improvement" in road communication along the western and northern frontiers.

On the current situation along the northern borders, Singh expressed full confidence that while the troops are standing firm, the ongoing talks for peaceful resolution will continue and disengagement and de-escalation is the way forward, the Defence Ministry said in a statement.

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Lieutenant General JS Sidana pays tribute to the fallen heroes at the National War Memorial, prior to taking over as the 33rd Director General of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (DGEME) and Senior Colonel Commandant of the Corps of EME, in New Delhi on Monday. (ANI)

Lt General Sidana takes over as new DG of Electronics & Mechanical Engineers

NEW DELHI, Apr 2 (PTI)

LT GENERAL J S Sidana has taken over as the new Director General of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (DGEME) and Senior Colonel Commandant of the Corps of EME.

He took charge on April 1. During his career spanning over 38 years, he has held a variety of important regimental, command, instructional and staff appointments.

“Before his present appointment, he was holding the post of Commandant of Military

College of EME for a duration of two years,” the Defence Ministry said in a statement on Tuesday.

He has been the Major General of EME of HQ Central Command and “commanded Army Base Workshop & EME Centre”.