



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

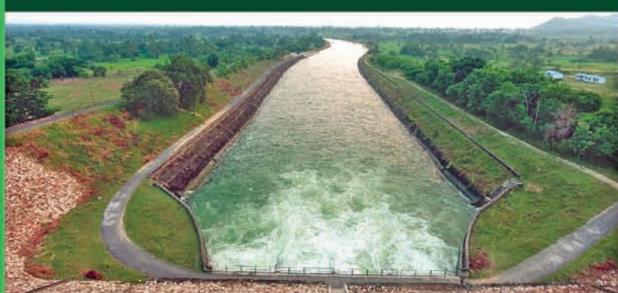


## KALAHANDI

A Tale of Transformation

**SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK**  
HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER, ODISHA

DEDICATES THE  
**Upper Indravati Lift Canal System**  
for the people of **KALAHANDI**.



- Cost **Rs.986.71 Crore**
- Net Irrigation **25,275 Hectares**
- **Benefit more than 3 Lakh People**
- **43.26 kms of Concrete Canal**
- **1142 kms of Underground Pipeline**
- Use of **Latest Technology**
- **Fastest** Completed Irrigation Project in Odisha

Salute to Kalahandi Farmers - They are the Second Highest Contributors of Rice to Odisha's Food Security

# leisure



## PALTROW NOT COMFORTABLE BEING IN FRONT OF CAMERA

Actress Gwyneth Paltrow says she decided to step back from her acting career after discovering that she was happier away from the camera. She said this during a conversation with Naomi Campbell on her #NoFilterWithNaomi YouTube series.

## SEXUAL OBJECTIFICATION OF WOMEN STILL EXISTS: KEIRA

Actress Keira Knightley, whose new film *Misbehaviour* celebrates inclusivity, feminism and beauty of all kinds, said sexual objectification of women still takes place. *Misbehaviour* tells the true story of feminists who disrupted the broadcast of the Miss World contest in 1970.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
Your charismatic appeal is always ready-to-use. And today, you will possibly reap rich dividends through it. But there is always scope for improvement and you will find yourself drawn to altruism. Ganesh guarantees satisfaction in lending a helping hand to the needy.

**TAURUS**  
You will enjoy your responsibilities at the home front, says Ganesh. People whom you trusted to watch your back might let you down today. Remember, what you sow is what you reap, so do not fall short of putting in the effort required to make something fruitful. Be careful and cautious in dealing with people, advises Ganesh.

**GEMINI**  
A favourable day to put an end to all the doubts surrounding your ability to do well, especially in the field of communication. People around you will find you incredibly charming and enchanting. You will win hearts with your verve and panache. You may want to spruce up your surroundings at work and at home. It will fetch you crucial brownie points from those you want to impress.

**CANCER**  
It is quite possible that your personal life will take precedence over your professional life. You will not be able to repress or ignore your feelings, and you should not either, says Ganesh. But you should be careful about how you express yourself in public.

**LEO**  
If it's a fresh start that you are looking for, then this day promises to give you just that, predicts Ganesh. If you have chalked out plans for your future, today you may go ahead and implement some. Remember that rushing blindly into anything is not the solution; it is always the slow and steady who wins the race.

**VIRGO**  
Today, your power and finance will be greater than ever before, says Ganesh. You will also be inclined to make monetary provisions for any future economic instability that may arise. The people around you will stand up and take notice of the leader in you. A word of caution from Ganesh: there may be unprecedented fluctuations in financial transactions.

**LIBRA**  
Today promises to be a busy day that will keep you occupied. You may also engage in written correspondence to re-establish some old contacts. Ganesh doesn't rule out optimum use of the phone for this purpose. When it comes to the work front, Ganesh predicts you will be asked to bring order to the workplace.

**SCORPIO**  
You might find your spirit sagging as worries cloud your thinking. Small things might probably bother you in a big way. Do not let them bog you down as life is all about mind over matter. As the day progresses, things will begin to look up. Take a break from the rigmarole if stress begins to take a toll on you, advises Ganesh.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Watch out for Cupid's arrow today, warns Ganesh. Love will strike and strike hard. Alternatively, you may also find yourself in an argument with a loved one that ought to have been avoided. An evening of romance beckons... keep the roses ready and the carpet rolled to heal any bruises you might have caused.

**CAPRICORN**  
You may be attentive, as much as an eagle is while chasing its prey, but you still need to be careful when signing any important legal documents, advises Ganesh. Brokers and dealers, especially, are likely to incur heavy losses unless they take necessary precautions to avert misfortune.

**AQUARIUS**  
Today, you're up against those who want to get back at you. But not for nothing are you the King! Ganesh says you needn't worry, as few can match your prowess. Amid all the hullabaloo, your spouse will be a supportive presence.

**PISCES**  
Within adversity, lie the lessons of success; avoid having to resort to that philosophy by implementing your plans, if they are well thought out, in a phased manner. This will help you achieve your targets, says Ganesh.



## Rakul Preet cycles her way to set

MUMBAI: Actress Rakul Preet Singh saved her gym time and cycled way to her film set. Rakul posted a video on Instagram. In the clip she is seen cycling while someone is seen filming her from a car. "Well whAt m trying to say here is cycling on way to set time management.. 12kms," she wrote. Rakul has started shooting for *MayDay*. The film also stars Amitabh Bachchan, Ajay Devgn and Angira Dhar, and it marks Ajay's return to direction after *Shivaay* and *U Me Aur Hum*. The thriller is expected to release April 29, 2022. The *De De Pyaar De* actress, sharing her New Year resolution, recently said "You can't go back and change the beginning but you can start where you are to change the ending. #NEWYEAR #NEWYOU #NEWRESOLUTIONS."

## B-Towners greet fans on harvest fests

MUMBAI: Top celebrities Wednesday took to social media and wished fans on the occasions of Bihu, Lohri, Makar Sankranti and Pongal festivals. "Happy Lohri.. prosperity and peace," wrote Amitabh Bachchan. Ananya Panday tweeted: "Wishing you & your family good health, prosperity & the strength to rise above all obstacles on the auspicious occasion of Lohri." Kajol, Kangana Ranaut, Taapsee Pannu, Diljit Dosanjh, and Rakul Preet Singh also extended warm wishes to netizens on the festival of Lohri. "Festival time again! This time we get rid of all the bad covid baggage of 2020 and look forward to a normal, lively, active 2021 - totally covid free! Happy festivities!" Hema Malini tweeted. "Saareya nu Lohri diyaan lakh lakh wadaaiyan!" shared Shraddha Kapoor in Punjabi. "Happy Lohri to all of you who celebrate. Love and light always," Preity Zinta posted. In the course of the day, Manoj Bajpayee, Athiya Shetty and Ranvir Shorey also extended Lohri wishes to fans.



"Happy Lohri to all of you who celebrate. Love and light always," Preity Zinta posted.

## Tiger debuts on YouTube with Casanova

MUMBAI: Actor Tiger Shroff is back as a singer with his second single, *Casanova*. The song marks his debut on YouTube, and the young actor took to Instagram Wednesday to share his excitement with fans. "So excited to present our next single to you all! Hope you guys like it #Casanova is OUT NOW exclusively on my YouTube Channel!" he wrote, alongside a music

video that shows him flaunting moves his abs and cool dance moves. In the video, Tiger grooves to his new song in all-white and an all-black outfits. Fans have given a thumbs up to the song, describing it as 'amazing' and 'superb'. His debut song Unbelievable was also loved by his admirers. On the film front, Tiger currently has three releases lined up -- *Baaghi 4*, *Heropanti 2* and *Ganapath*.

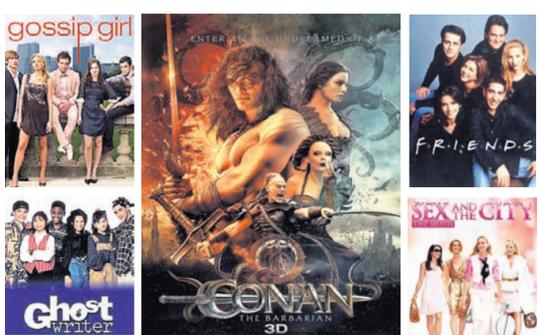


## OTT splash of reboots, revivals and reunions in store

There is a long list of reboots, revivals and reunions planned for the streaming space, with writers getting on the storyboard to find something new in the old tales, and revisit the success formula.

The trend of reboots and revivals is not new, but it is seeing a resurgence in the streaming world, which can be termed as a way to get viewers to reconnect with the legacy of the past.

Here goes a list of major reboots lined up in the coming months.



will mark what could be the hottest revival on the small screen in 2021. Jennifer Aniston, Lisa Kudrow, Courtney Cox, David Schwimmer, Matt LeBlanc and Matthew Perry will feature in the special, which

was scheduled to happen last year but was delayed because of the pandemic.

**SEX AND THE CITY**  
The girls of *Sex And The City* will be back for another adventure, and romantic rendezvous. Titled *And Just Like That*, the chapter will see Sarah Jessica Parker, Cynthia Nixon and Kirstin Davis reprising their roles. Kim Cattrall will not return as Samantha.

**GOSSIP GIRL**  
The original *Gossip Girl*, was about the antics of a group of Manhattan teenagers. The reboot will feature a new generation of private-school teens who will be

navigating the new world of social media-driven gossip.

**CONAN THE BARBARIAN**  
A live-action series based on Conan, the character created by writer Robert E. Howard, is being developed by Netflix. No actor has been attached to play the iconic role at the moment. In the past, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Jason Momoa brought the sword-wielding character alive on screen.

**GHOSTWRITER**  
A reboot of the children's series *Ghostwriter* is under work. It will follow four kids whose neighbourhood bookstore is being haunted by a ghost. The show is

being made for AppleTV+.

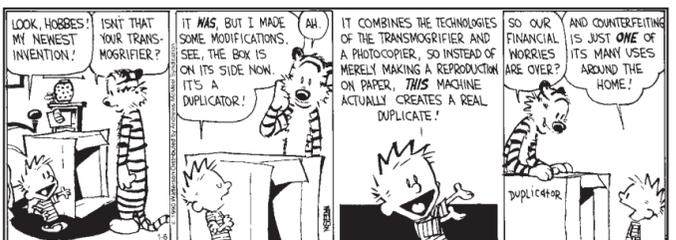
**DEXTER**  
Serial killer Dexter will be back with the revival of the suspense drama. Michael C. Hall, who starred as the title character in the original series, will reprise the role while showrunner Clyde Phillips will also be back on board for the 10-episode series.

**FRESH PRINCE OF BEL-AIR**  
Will Smith and Morgan Cooper have got together to reimagine the beloved comedy *The Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air*, the fresh version will delve into the conflicts and emotions of being a person of colour in the US.

### PEANUTS



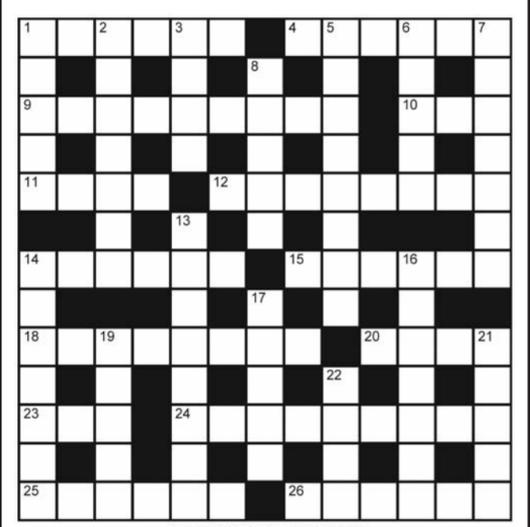
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



### FUN post CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 biloba
  - 4 Look up to
  - 9 Sailors' totes (5,4)
  - 10 Knight's title
  - 11 Himalayan legend
  - 12 Orchestra member
  - 14 Heavy overcoat
  - 15 Picturesque
  - 18 Lift
  - 20 Ripens
  - 23 Shipwreck signal
  - 24 Urge to hit the road (5,4)
  - 25 Hang around
  - 26 Ambrosia
- Down**
- 1 Lightheaded
  - 2 Jots down
  - 3 Send to the canvas
  - 5 Territory
  - 6 "Peer Gynt" dramatist
  - 7 Unpredictable
  - 8 Premature
  - 13 Decriminalise
  - 14 Spoon, for one
  - 16 Fail to take care of
  - 17 Sponge
  - 19 Krupp works city
  - 21 Nymph chaser
  - 22 Combustible heap

### SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, each row, column and box must contain the numbers 0 to 9 and the letters A to E.

B	A			6				9
		3		C	E			2
8	A	C			3		5	
0	6	7	2		D	5	C	1
D				A	3	0	9	6
E	6		5			1		4
		0			7	D		C
			0	B	6		2	5
4	C		9		E	D	7	6
9	D		E		C	0	2	
		8	7		E		A	
3	5				E		7	6
1		5		E	4	8		9
0			9				B	
			6	4	C	2	5	

### SOLUTIONS

**CROSSWORD**

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

**SUDOKU**

9	6	8	D	7	E	A	4	2	5	3	1	C	0	B
3	0	C	9	8	B	1	E	7	4	D	2	A	6	5
E	B	4	0	1	2	3	9	5	A	C	6	7	D	8
5	A	1	3	6	4	C	D	8	0	B	7	2	E	9
7	2	D	A	C	5	6	8	0	B	E	9	4	1	3
2	5	0	1	D	7	8	6	3	4	C	E	B	9	A
A	D	9	B	5	C	2	7	E	3	0	8	1	4	6
1	E	7	6	0	9	B	A	4	2	5	D	3	8	C
4	C	3	8	E	A	D	5	1	9	6	B	0	2	7
8	9	6	4	2	3	0	1	A	D	9	7	1	A	E
0	7	2	C	4	8	9	1	A	D	9	3	8	5	0
D	9	5	2	A	1	E	3	C	8	B	4	6	7	0
6	3	E	5	8	B	7	0	D	1	2	C	9	A	4
C	1	A	E	9	D	4	B	8	6	7	0	5	3	2
8	4	B	7	3	0	9	2	6	E	A	5	D	C	1

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



## TIME MANAGEMENT

Actor Rakul Preet Singh saved her gym time and cycled her way to a film set

LEISURE



## COVID MUSEUM ON CARDS

Docs in Kolkata plan a Covid museum to honour the frontline workers and document how lives have changed since then

TWO STATES P5



## COVID DOESN'T SLOW

Coronavirus mutation, first found in Britain, has now spread to 50 territories, according to the WHO

INTERNATIONAL P9

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



No, not the scientists, I am waiting for a nod from the minister sir!

## PADMA SHRI D PRAKASH RAO PASSES AWAY



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 13:** Noted social activist and Padma Shri D Prakash Rao passed away while undergoing treatment at the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack Wednesday. He was 63.

The social worker died following a brain stroke, informed family members. He was admitted to SCB after being infected with Covid-19 December 25.

The tea seller of Cuttack had spent his entire earning to educate school children. Rao started the school 'Asha O Ashwasana' in Buxi Bazaar area in 2000 to provide free education to slum kids when he saw kids in his neighbourhood taking to petty crimes. Apart from his school, Rao was also a well-known blood donor. He was conferred with the prestigious Padma Shri award in 2019 for his contribution towards boosting the value of education among slum kids in Cuttack.

## MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	49492.32 ↓ 24.79
NIFTY	14564.90 ↑ 1.40
DOLLAR	73.78 ↓ ₹0.07
EURO	88.94 ↓ ₹0.42
GOLD	₹49,234 ↑ ₹189
SILVER	₹65,700 ↓ ₹206

## WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP. MAX	31.8°C	29.6°C
TEMP. MIN	22.6°C	20.4°C
Humidity	93%	90%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

Forecast: Dense fog in the morning

# Internet in every nook & corner

THE STATE TARGETS TO CONNECT ALL BLOCKS AND GPs WITH BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY BY MAY-END

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 13:** To bolster application of information technology in governance, the state has decided to accelerate the process of providing internet connectivity to all blocks and Gram Panchayats (GPs) by May-end. Reviewing the progress made on Bharat Net project here Wednesday, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra has set the target and asked concerned officials to strictly meet the deadline.

"In today's context, internet connectivity is a basic requirement for maintaining high growth rate in rural sector. It will help in empowering the citizens and also in capacity building besides adding to quality education and health services. People can avail various services provided through online mode. GPs can also be connected through video conferencing," Mahapatra said during the meeting.

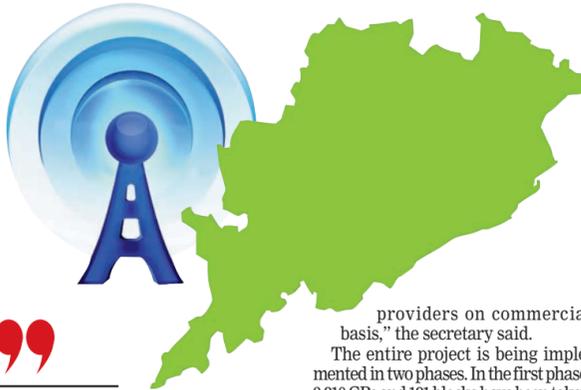
It was also decided that all government offices— including the schools, medical facilities, banks and common service centres (CSCs) be connected with broadband connectivity. The telemedicine centres and agriculture kiosks would be connected for faci-

**In today's context, internet connectivity is a basic requirement for maintaining high growth rate in rural sector. It will help in empowering the citizens and also in capacity building besides adding to quality education and health services**

SURESH CHANDRA MAHAPATRA | CHIEF SECRETARY

**So far, 3,770 GPs and 175 blocks have been provided connectivity under Phase-I. The roadmap for connecting remaining blocks and GPs has already been rolled out under Phase-II**

MANOJ KUMAR MISHRA | SECRETARY, E&IT DEPT



tating healthcare, e-learning and profitable agri-commerce.

Electronics and Information Technology (E&IT) secretary Manoj Kumar Mishra said with completion of the work, OCAC would be the chief bandwidth provider in remote areas of the state. Mishra added that the ground-level activities have been put on fast track mode. So far, 3,770 GPs and 175 blocks have been provided the connectivity under Phase-I. The roadmap

for connecting remaining blocks and GPs has already been rolled out under Phase-II. The Phase-II work is being executed under the joint collaboration of Odisha Computer Application Centre (OCAC), Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited (OPTCL) and Tarasoftm, he said.

"This infrastructure will bring all the GPs within the scope of SWAN network. Its dark fibers can also be hired to the telecom and internet service

providers on commercial basis," the secretary said.

The entire project is being implemented in two phases. In the first phase, 3,810 GPs and 181 blocks have been taken up, of which 3,770 GPs and 175 blocks in 18 districts have been connected.

The work for connecting 2,954 GPs and 133 blocks of 12 districts has been taken up under Phase-II. Under this phase, around 20,000 km of areal optical fiber is to be drawn; against which, drawing of 13,400 km of cable has been completed. Out of the total 3,087 connection points 'end to end testing' have successfully been conducted in 1,630 points.



**ARMOUR IS HERE**  
Covid vaccines are being dispatched from Bhubaneswar to all districts of the state, Wednesday. The state received as many as 20,000 doses of indigenously developed 'Covaxin'. A special plane carrying 'Covaxin' from Hyderabad arrived at the Biju Patnaik International Airport here, Wednesday. The vials of 'Covaxin', manufactured in Hyderabad by Bharat Biotech and ICMR, were transported to the state vaccine store here amid tight security.

## Trump on verge of 2nd impeachment

By the time the last copy was filed, impeachment proceedings were on and according to sources the process was to be completed by 3 am (IST), Thursday

AGENCIES

**Washington, Jan 13:** President Donald Trump was on the verge of being impeached for a second time in a fast-moving House vote, just a week after he encouraged loyalists to "fight like hell" against election results and then a mob of supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol. "We are debating this historic measure at a crime scene," said Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass.

Security was exceptionally tight Wednesday, shocking images of National

Guard troops massed at the iconic Capitol, with secure perimeters around the complex and metal-detector screenings required for lawmakers entering the House chamber.

While Trump's first impeachment in 2019 brought no Republican votes in the House, a small but significant number of leaders and lawmakers were breaking with the party to join Democrats, saying Trump violated his oath to protect and defend U.S. democracy.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell believes Trump commit-

ted impeachable offenses and considers Democrats' impeachment drive an opportunity to reduce the divisive, chaotic President's hold on the GOP, a Republican strategist told The Associated Press Wednesday.

McConnell also called major Republican donors this weekend to gauge their thinking about Trump and was adamantly told that Trump had clearly crossed a line. McConnell told them he was through with Trump, said the strategist, who demanded anonymity to describe McConnell's conversations.

## PETROL, DIESEL PRICES ON FIRE

### PRICES IN BHUB

**Petrol - ₹85.09/LTR (+₹0.25)**  
**Diesel - ₹81.29/LTR (+₹0.27)**

PNN & AGENCIES

**New Delhi/Bhubaneswar, Jan 13:** Petrol and diesel prices rose sharply by 25 paise per litre Wednesday after oil marketing companies decided to break the momentary pause in the wake of a sudden spike in the global oil prices. Accordingly, in the national capital, petrol was sold at the new record high level of ₹84.45 from the previous days of ₹84.20 a litre while diesel price increased to ₹74.63 per litre as against ₹74.38 a litre earlier.

Across the country, the pump prices of petrol and diesel increased Wednesday but the quantum varied depending on the prevailing tax structure in each state.

## Pari case: SC notice to CBI, Odisha govt; hearing likely Feb 5

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, Jan 13:** The SC Wednesday issued notice to the CBI and Odisha government in a petition filed by Saudamini Sahu, the mother of five-year-old girl who was allegedly kidnapped, raped and murdered in July last year, seeking a CBI inquiry into her daughter's death case.

A three-judge bench of the apex court comprising Justices AM Khanwilkar, BR Gavai and Krishna Murari sought the response of CBI and the state government within four weeks. The court is likely to hear the matter February 5.

The court also granted one-week time to the petitioner to file formal application for urging additional grounds and filing further documents.

Significantly, the mother of Pari pleaded the court to order an independent inquiry into the alleged rape and murder of Pari in July last year in Jadupur, Nayagarh. The petitioner also sought direction to the CBI to investigate all cases related to missing children in the state.

Pari's mother accused Babuli Nayak for the alleged murder and also contended that rampant organ smuggling is behind the murder. The petitioner also contended that the state police are treating the parents of Pari as criminals. "The police are completely insensitive towards the



■ A THREE-JUDGE BENCH OF THE APEX COURT SOUGHT THE RESPONSE OF CBI AND THE STATE GOVT WITHIN FOUR WEEKS

■ THE COURT GRANTS ONE-WEEK TIME TO THE PETITIONER TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

family members of Pari." The petitioner submitted that the preliminary investigation undertaken by the police, the crime branch and SIT illustrates that all of them have made all attempts to sabotage the investigation process into the alleged incident and attempted all kind of subversion tactics to influence the complainant and her relatives to discard the aforesaid allegations as false and frivolous. The petitioner also contended that the SIT has not investigated the role of local inspector in-charge who is hand in glove with the accused person and shielding the real culprit, and the local MLA has also not been interrogated by the SIT.

## State-of-the-art bus terminal in Cuttack

ESTIMATED AT ₹65CR, THE TERMINAL WILL BE SPREAD OVER 12 ACRES OF LAND AT KHANNAGAR IN SILVER CITY

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 13:** The state government has decided to develop a state-of-the-art bus terminal at Khannagar in Cuttack city at a cost of Rs65 crore. Holding a high-level meeting in this regard, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday announced that the bus terminal would be named after the great freedom fighter Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

Notably, the country is going to celebrate Netaji's 125th birth anniversary January 23 this year. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, one of the greatest freedom fighters, was born at Oriya Bazaar in Cuttack and received school education there. In a tribute to Netaji, the bus stand will be named after him.

The state government has decided to set up a state-of-the-art bus termi-



nal in Khannagar as the Badambadi bus stand is facing traffic congestion due to lack of space leading to problems for public and passengers.

Naveen directed to set up a special kiosk in the terminal to aware the public about Netaji's life and struggles. To promote Netaji's ideology and biography, motifs and paintings will

be displayed at various points in the terminal. The bus terminal will have all kinds of state-of-the-art facilities for the convenience of the passengers. It will include a large terminal building, 180 bus bays, parking space for 247 vehicles, bus service area, a vehicle repair and maintenance block, and parking space for three wheelers.

A three-storey terminal building will be built on 1,18,000 square feet land, which will include a passenger lounge, a food court, a cloak room, a ticket office, an e-vehicle charging point, rainwater storage on the roof and a solar panel.

The terminal will accommodate 180 buses at a time. There will also be an Integrated Information Management System for the convenience of passengers. It was decided at the meeting to extend the Ring Road in Cuttack for another two kilometers for the construction of the terminal. Besides, an area of around two acres adjoining the proposed Netaji Bus Terminal will be reserved for development of commercial complex on Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode in future. A private developer will be selected to develop the commercial complex and maintain it for a period of 45 years.

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**Gate No. 3, Exhibition Ground, Unit-III, Kharvela Nagar, BBSR Time: 10.30 AM To 9.00 PM**

**Upto 27th Jan. 2021**

Use Mask & Maintain Social Distancing to Prevent COVID-19

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# State spells out vaccination norms

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 13:** The state government Wednesday announced a list of protocols to be followed by officials during the Covid-19 vaccination drive beginning January 16.

Jayant Panda from SCB Medical College, who is also the technical advisor to the government on Covid-19, held a virtual press conference to inform the people about the norms which are to be followed during the administration of the vaccine. He also tried to allay the fears of people related to vaccines.

"The vaccination drive will be taken up between 9 am to 5 pm at 160 health centres across the state from January 16. The drive is likely to go on for one week. One centre can vaccinate a maximum of 100 beneficiaries. If there is lesser number of vaccine takers in few places, we can club 2-3 centres into one," he said.

"The vaccines will be given only with advance notice and registration. If a person fails to turn up on the day of his vaccination, the unused vaccine would not be given to any other person who was not



Covid vaccines being dispatched to various districts from a storeroom of Odisha State Medical Corporation in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday



OP PHOTOS

## 100 BENEFICIARIES PER CENTRE

The vaccination drive will be taken up between 9 am to 5 pm at 160 health centres from January 16	The drive is likely to go on for one week. One centre can vaccinate a maximum of 100 beneficiaries	If a person fails to turn up on the day of his vaccination, the unused vaccine would not be given to any other person
		If a person develops adverse reaction to the vaccine, ambulances stationed at the centres will transfer them to hospitals

called on that day by the government," he said. The doctor said that if health

workers fail to turn up on the scheduled day, he would not be accommodated on any other day. "He has

to contact the District Collector and then as per the official's decision, the next day of his vaccination would be decided," he said.

He also said that there are no major reports of reaction from the vaccine. He also assured all possible help in case of any adverse situation arising out of administration of the vaccine.

"The vaccinated person can contact the local doctors and assistant if any reaction is seen. If the health of a vaccinated person deteriorates, ambulances will be stationed at such centres to transfer them to

## Second consignment of vaccine arrives

Odisha received the second consignment of COVID vaccine Wednesday as a special plane carrying 20,000 vials of indigenously developed 'Covaxin' arrived at the Biju Patnaik International Airport here, an official said. The vials of Covaxin, manufactured in Hyderabad by Bharat Biotech and ICMR, were transported to the State Vaccine Store here amid tight security, he said. Covaxin will be administered to people in the state capital and Covishield in the districts, the official said. If more Covaxin doses are available, those will be administered to people in other urban areas, he said.

hospitals," he said.

The health expert also said that if a person is found to be infected with the virus after the first round of vaccination, he/she can't take the second round of dose and has to wait for 14 days for the second vaccination.

# Upgrade slums to livable habitats: CS

Eligible households to be provided houses under Jaga Mission

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 13:** Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra directed officials of Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) department to transform urban slums into livable habitats with basic services like road, electricity, drinking water and community space facilities here Wednesday.



While reviewing the progress made on grant of land rights to slum dwellers under Jaga Mission, Mahapatra Wednesday directed the officials to provide land rights to all eligible houses under the mission as announced by the Chief Minister.

H&UD secretary G Mathivathanan said that Odisha's Jaga Mission has been recognised

as a pioneering model by United Nations. It is the world's largest slum titling project, he claimed.

According to sources, drone and socio-economic survey in 48 municipalities and 61 NACs have been conducted as per the Land Right to Slum Dwellers Act of 2017.

Around 1.65 lakh households (HHs) have been identified and listed for grant of land rights. Out of them, 60,000 HHs have already been given the Land Right Certificate. 1.5 lakh HHs have been issued land entitlement letters.

The Chief Secretary directed the Revenue and Disaster Management department to expedite the matters relating to demarcation and conversion so that land rights against the landless HHs in slums can be settled.

Further, Mahapatra said that provisions of the Forest Conservation Act should be adhered to while laying the minimum basic infrastructure in the forest category land within the urban areas.

## Goods carriages can pay MV tax by end of Feb

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 13:** The state government Wednesday extended the grace period for payment of motor vehicle tax and additional tax of goods carriages for this quarter till February 28, 2021. State Commerce and Transport department has issued a notification in this regard.

The move will help the goods carriages owners who are not able to pay the motor vehicle tax and additional tax for the quarter January to March due to Covid-19 pandemic. "Due to lockdown declared by Government of India as well as the State Government to prevent COVID-19, goods carriages owners are not able to pay Motor vehicle tax and additional tax due for the quarter (January-March, 2021) within the grace period as prescribed under the Odisha Motor Vehicles Taxation Rules 1976," the notification stated.

Considering the difficulties faced by vehicle owners of goods carriages, the government have been pleased to extend the grace period for payment of motor vehicle tax and add tax in respect of goods carriages for the quarter January to March, 2021 up to 28.02.2021," it said.

## TEAM Entertainment and Media now in YouTube

**Bhubaneswar:** TEAM Entertainment and Media is all set to start an infotainment YouTube channel 'TEAM ODA', said a press release issued by the organisation's chairman Nishikanta Mishra Wednesday. The launching ceremony of the YouTube channel is scheduled to be held at Rabindra Mandap at 5.45 pm Thursday. The inaugural ceremony will be followed by a musical evening, added the release.

## CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

In an affidavit before the Notary Public, Cuttack, I Sushmita Sahu, D/o Maguni Sahu, At/PO.-Chandpur, Dist.- Nayagarh do solemnly affirm that my actual name is Sushmita Sahu as stands recorded in my Educational Proof, Aadhaar, Pan Card. I request the competent authority to correct my name as "Sushmita Sahu" instead of Shashmita Kumari Sahoo in the service record of my father.

# 'Annapurna not free, we charge ₹1'

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 13:** Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) and Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi engaged in a verbal spat on the issue of Annapurna scheme here Wednesday.

The civic body claimed that as per norms and orders of BMC, distribution of food on roads often leads to kiosks at roadside and derail the works to shift the destitute to dignified places.

On the other side, Sarangi said that she and her volunteers are distributing food by charging Re 1 from the beneficiaries and not donating it for free. She claimed that there was nothing illegal about the philanthropic activity.

Meanwhile, the Odisha unit of BJP and the BJD went into a twit-

## FOOD DISTRIBUTION CONTROVERSY



ter war once again over alleged disregard to former CM of the State, Biju Patnaik in Mayurbhanj.

Sources said some leaders of both the parties exchanged heated arguments at the 'Disha' meeting in Baripada Tuesday over putting of stickers mentioning 'Biju Pucca

Ghara' on the wall of a house which was constructed under PM Awasth Yojana.

After the incident, BJD MLA Pranab Prakash Das took to his twitter account to take on BJP. Das stated "I condemn the way Zilla Parishad Chairperson Sujata Murmu disrespecting legendary Biju Babu at the Disha meeting in Baripada. Insulting Biju Babu who had fought for the rights of Odia community and contributed greatly to the freedom struggle, is an insult to the entire Odia community too."

Reacting to Das' comments, BJP State general secretary Lekhashree Samantsinghar fired salvo on the ruling party and said that BJD engaged contract goons to misbehave with the tribal women in Mayurbhanj in the name of respecting Biju Babu.

# TOSHALI CRAFTS FAIR FROM JANUARY 21

DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, ONLY 250 STALLS WILL BE SET UP AT JANATA MAIDAN THIS YEAR

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 13:** An inter-departmental meeting to discuss details on conducting the 15th Toshali National Crafts Mela 2021 was held here Wednesday under the chairmanship of Development Commissioner-cum-Addl. Chief Secretary Pradip Kumar Jena.

In the meeting, he stressed upon social distancing and strict adherence to Covid protocols. The 15th Toshali National Crafts Mela



will be held at Janata Maidan from January 21 to February 4, 2021. For the success of the fair, co-

operation with various departments are required, said Commissioner-cum-Secretary,

Handloom Textile and Handicrafts Department Shubha Sarma.

The fair will provide a great opportunity to weavers and artisans. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, 250 stalls will be set up at the fair. Discussions on police deployment in and around the ground to maintain law and order were also held. Adequate traffic personnel will be deployed to control traffic and smooth movement of vehicles, an official said.

The State Fire officer has been

requested to provide two units of Fire Brigade round the clock.

Uninterrupted power supply, water supply to the fair ground, first aid, special facility for PwDs and ample media coverage will be facilitated by respective Departments.

Additional Commissioner of Police Rekha Lohani, BMC Commissioner Premchand Choudhary and other senior officers of various departments were present in the meeting.

# FM varsity to get ultramodern museum

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 13:** If all goes according to plan, a state-of-the-art museum will come up on the premises of Fakir Mohan (FM) University in Balasore soon.

FM University vice-chancellor Dinabandhu Sahoo made the announcement while addressing a gathering on the varsity premises on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Vyasa Kabi Fakir Mohan Senapati, Wednesday.

With ultramodern facilities, the museum will be a tribute to the Vyasa Kabi, regarded as the father of modern Odia literature. He played a leading role in establishing the distinct identity of Odia language and literature, Sahoo said.

Earlier in the day, Sahoo and other senior officials of the varsity paid floral tributes to the legendary writer at his birthplace in the coastal district.

According to one of the senior officials of the university who accompanied the VC to the legendary



The upcoming museum, which will be easily accessible to almost all, will go a long way in highlighting his glories for generations to come

DINABANDHU SAHOO | VC, FM UNIVERSITY

writer's birthplace, the existing museum dedicated to the poet in Balasore is not well accessible. "The upcoming museum, which will be easily accessible to almost all, will go a long way in highlighting his glories for generations to come," said the official.

According to Sahoo, a life size statue of the legend will be built on the Remuna campus of the university.

He urged all, including the varsity students, to work together so as to put the varsity on the global map.

"Despite working under adverse situations like unavailability of electricity and quality paper, the legendary poet (Senapati) brought laurels to the state. In today's technology-driven world, we've almost every facility at our disposal. However, we're unable to create another Fakir Mohan Senapati,"

## A tribute to Vyasa Kabi

With state-of-the-art facilities, the museum will be a tribute to Vyasa Kabi Fakir Mohan Senapati

He is regarded as the father of modern Odia literature as he played a pivotal role in establishing the distinct identity of Odia language

He is best remembered for penning masterpieces like 'Chha Maana Atha Guntha' and 'Lachhama' (novels), and 'Rebati' and 'Daka Munshi' (short stories)

Sahoo said, urging the varsity students to think out of the box and venture into a creative world.

Notably, Fakir Mohan is best remembered for penning masterpieces like 'Chha Maana Atha Guntha' and 'Lachhama' (novels), and 'Rebati' and 'Daka Munshi' (short stories).

## SKY IS THE LIMIT



A boy in a jubilant mood after buying a kite and a spool from a roadside vendor in Naya Sarak area of Cuttack on the eve of Makar Sankranti festival, Wednesday

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# Angry over youth's death, locals set police van ablaze in Bhadrak

## Graft: Fisheries officer netted with ₹1L bribe

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Baripada, Jan 13:** Vigilance sleuths from Balasore Division arrested Mayurbhanj district fisheries officer Surendra Ghadei for allegedly accepting Rs 1,10,000 Tuesday evening.

The official demanded the bribe from Dhurjati Das to issue work orders for fish farming and a hatchery project as well as to issue subsidy money under a biofloc fishing scheme, a Vigilance official informed. Acting on a complaint filed by Das, a trap was laid by the Vigilance sleuths. Ghadei was caught red-handed while he was accepting the bribe in his office at Baripada town in Mayurbhanj district. The entire bribe money of Rs 1,10,000 was recovered from the possession of the accused. A case in this connection was registered and further investigation is underway, a Vigilance official said.

## 7 wounded in boar attacks

**Hinjilicut:** Boars unleashed a reign of terror at Sikiri and Kharida under Hinjilicut block of Ganjam district Wednesday as the animals attacked seven people, leaving them wounded. Reports said, boars attacked some people of Sikiri when they were in their farmlands and others were taking bath in a village pond. The injured included Kashinath Behera, Abhiram Barad, Bhagwan Padhi and Purusottam Sahu. Similarly, three labourers working in a brick kiln at Kharida were wounded in boar attack. Four of the wounded people were admitted to MKCG Medical in Berhampur.



at the site. The deceased was identified as Bapi Mahalik of Jijharpur village.

According to reports, Bapi, physically challenged son of Bahigirathi Mahalik, was at his sister's house in Hatuari village. He was taking lunch when some policemen came in an auto rickshaw. They allegedly barged into the house and bashed Bapi all of a sudden. Amid the chaos, Bapi and other kin ran towards a pond nearby. Bapi, fearing police attack, jumped into the pond. But police could not know it.

Villagers searched for him. Later firefighters recovered his body from the pond.

The incident triggered tension in the area and angry people blocked Bhadrak-Chandabali road near Ali

Nagar. At this time, a police van was returning with an accused from Pirahat. Angry people set the van on fire. They also attacked some policemen in the van. The accused in the van managed to escape, taking advantage of the melee.

Family members of the deceased alleged that Bapri jumped into the water body after being tortured by the policemen.

SP Charan Singh Meena, SDPO Sarthak Ray, ASP Jatin Panda and block chairperson Bidyulata Nayak rushed to the spot and tried to placate the mob.

They provided Rs 10,000 from Red Cross fund, Rs 2000 under Harishchandra Yojana to the bereaved family and assured an impartial probe into the incident.



People of Telugu speaking community start observing their traditional festival Pongal in Berhampur

## Illegal mining still rampant in Joda; 35 tonnes of ores seized

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Joda/Jhumpura, Jan 13:** Even as the mines department has allegedly failed to check illegal mining despite various monitoring measures in Joda mining circle of Keonjhar district, forest officials have been successful in catching illegally extracted minerals in some cases, a report said.

According to the report, a heavy vehicle with registration OD-15-0386 was carrying huge quantities of illegally mined manganese from Nayagad forest late Monday night.

A team of forest officials made surprise raids in the forest and seized the vehicles.

Champua ranger Ghasinath Patra said, following a directive from Keonjhar DFO, a squad of forest officials from Champua, Joda, Balibandh and Bamebari conducted night patrolling late Monday night when they caught the truck with 35 tonnes of high grade iron ores. However, the driver managed to escape under the cover of darkness.

Illegal mining activities are allegedly on the rise in Joda mining circle. It may be noted here that a few days ago, some local youths had detected piles of manganese in a bushy area, just 500 metres from Joda police station and the office of the joint director of mines. The manganese was seized and the mineral was worth over Rs 1 lakh.

## Pari murder case: Accused refuses brain mapping test

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Nayagarh, Jan 13:** The main accused in the Pari murder case in Nayagarh district was produced before the Juvenile Justice Board here, Wednesday.

However, he refused to undergo a brain mapping test as demanded by the SIT. As a result, the Juvenile Justice Board quashed the bail plea of the SIT. Later, the SIT, which is probing the Pari rape and murder case, filed a fresh petition before the board seeking permission to conduct a layered voice analysis test on the accused.

The board scheduled the next date of hearing to January 20 when it will hear the alleged thrashing and torture of the accused during his remand with the SIT, the counsel for the defendant Chandrabijayi Mishra said.

The board will also hear the plea of the SIT to conduct the layered voice analysis test of the accused on the above mentioned date, government pleader Balabhadra Mohanty said.

SIT had earlier filed a petition at the same board seeking its permission for conducting a 'narco-analysis test'. The accused had not given his consent for the test.

Pari, a five-year-old girl of Jadupur village under Sadar



Juvenile Justice Board scheduled the next date of hearing to January 20 when it will hear alleged thrashing and torture of the accused during his remand with the SIT

police limits in Nayagarh district, went missing June 14. Her body packed in a sack was recovered from near a pond June 23. The pond is only 50 metres from the place where she was last seen. The case attracted state-wide attention November 24 when the parents of the deceased attempted self-immolation in front of the State Legislative Assembly last year. The Assembly session was under way then.

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhadrak, Jan 13:** Tension flared up at Jijharpur under Tihidi police limits in Bhadrak district Wednesday as locals set a police van afire after an accused died while running in fear of police action. Agitating people staged a road blockade while police were deployed



Bapi, a physically challenged youth was at his kin's house in Hatuari village when some policemen allegedly barged into the house and bashed him all of a sudden

# Sulia Yatra January 19 as per tradition

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bolangir, Jan 13:** The famous Sulia Yatra, a festival of tribals in Bolangir district, will be held January 19 in strict accordance with the Covid-19 norms.

The festival is held every year on the first Tuesday of the lunar fortnight of the Hindu Pousha month by the tribals at the Khairaguda Badakhala and Kumuria Sanakhala under Deogaon block of the district. This was stated here by chief priest Somanath Deheria at a meeting of the Sulia Yatra puja committee, Tuesday.

The organising committee Tuesday finalised the date of the festival in the meeting and presented a plan for the same in view of the Covid-19 restrictions imposed in the state. As per reports, the members of the com-



mittee have decided to perform rituals concerning the puja and animal sacrifice according to tribal customs during the festival sans major celebrations.

Speaking to mediapersons, Maya

Pradhani, the president of the Sulia Puja committee said the festival is being organised on the first Tuesday of the month of Pausha. This year, it will take place January 19, he said.

However, the district adminis-

tration is yet to hold any meeting or announce anything related to the annual festival.

The tribals holding their traditional weapons take out a procession and worship their traditional deity Sulia Budha on the basis of ancient rituals. They sacrifice birds and animals to propitiate the deity. The sacrifice is part of their custom and is believed to be an act of gratitude to the deity. The devout can offer animals or birds for sacrifice. They will have face masks and maintain social distance among themselves and form a queue for darshan of the deity.

Sulia Yatra is one of the major festivals of tribals in western Odisha. Devotees from within and outside of the state through the district to witness the festival.

## Fog impact in Ganjam: Tanker, van overturn

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Chhatrapur, Jan 13:** In two separate mishaps, a gas tanker overturned on national highway (NH-16) at Tampara near Chhatrapur town and a police van coming to rescue the victims of the accident also turned turtle. The incidents happened in the wee hours of Wednesday owing to dense fog in the area. In the first incident, the driver of the gas tanker lost control over the vehicle leading to the road mishap. Police blocked both sides of the road apprehending danger due to gas leakage. In the second incident, five policemen on their way to Tampara were injured after their van overturned while trying to save a motorcyclist on the NH-16.

# Floating pillars to protect turtles in Gahirmatha marine sanctuary

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Mahakalapara, Jan 13:** The concern of environmentalists and wildlife lovers over the deaths of endangered Olive Ridley turtles every year in Gahirmatha marine sanctuary will come to an end with the forest officials deciding to put up floating pillars to demarcate the prohibited zone of the sanctuary, a report said.

The forest officials have launched this programme for over a month now to demarcate the prohibited zone on the sea coast. The prohibited zone comprises the nesting site of the endangered turtles which will extend up to 20 km from the sea coast.

According to reports, the floating

pillars are being put up near the Madali river mouth inside the sanctuary by identifying the spots with the help of a GPS coordination method. The forest officials after identifying the spots have put up floating pillars of stainless steel having a length of 70 to 90 feet in the sea.

The floating pillars could be seen from a long distance which will help alert the fishermen in the fishing trawlers and mechanized fishing boats from venturing into the prohibited zone. The floating pillars will also alert the fishermen

drifting in the sea. The fishermen have long been demanding demarcation of the jurisdiction of the sanctuary.

Earlier, fishermen used to enter into the prohibited zone of the sanctuary and illegally fish in its water due to lack of a proper jurisdiction of the sanctuary. Illegal fishing often results in clashes with the forest officials and their subsequent arrest in their hands.

When contacted, Ranger Debashis Bhoi of Gahirmatha marine sanctuary said that currently five floating pillars will be put up while 15 more will be put up in coming days.



# Science grad scripts success in veg farming



Soumyaranjan, a graduate majoring in Physics with 82 per cent marks, observed: "I was never interested in jobs. I wanted to be self-reliant with farming."

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Basudevpur, Jan 13:** While scores of educated youths lead miserable life after they fail to find jobs, Soumyaranjan, a youth of Deuli village under Basudevpur block of Bhadrak, has set an example for them. He has scripted success in vegetable farming which has made him self-sufficient.

According to reports, the central and state governments have been implementing a number of schemes to make youths self dependent, but many are shying away from farming and other allied activities.

But Soumyaranjan, a Science graduate (with Physics honours) is an exception. With focus on farming, he has done integrated farming on an acre of land at his village.

After graduation, he was not keen for running

after jobs. His father Umesh Chandra Samal is a government servant while his mother Parbati is an educated homemaker.

Soumyaranjan completed his graduation in Science majoring in Physics from Soro-based UN College with 82 per cent marks.

"I was never interested in jobs. I wanted to be self-reliant with farming. Initially, I started giving tuition to students in 2019 and opened Parbati Pre-school," he said.

But Covid-19 badly affected his tuition from March as his school remained closed for months. But he did not buckle under pressure. Then, he thought of making use of an acre of land for horticulture purpose at Guagaon.

He started farming thirty varieties of vegetables. He brought high yielding seeds and saplings from some nurseries in his district. He used bio-compost and natural manure in-

stead of chemical fertilizers.

In the first phase, he had sown 5 quintals of ola seeds, 5000 brinjal saplings and 200 saplings of bitter guard. He raised pumpkins, spinach, ridge guards, lady's fingers, papaya, long beans, radish, guard, cucumber, and plantain.

He admitted that he earned enough from vegetable farming this year. Over 30 quintals of ola was harvested from his land.

In the last two/three months, he has been able to produce 5 to 6 quintals of brinjal from his farmland.

"I was interested in farming and horticulture. After lockdown, I was not frustrated. I decided to produce vegetables which will be marketed at my field itself. Youth should not run after jobs. Farming and horticulture has enough potential to fetch them good earnings," he observed.

**EAST COAST RAILWAY ENGINEERING WORKS**  
File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/20-21/E-Tender/53, Dated: 11.01.2021

1) Tender Notice No. e-Tender-NORTHKUR-254-2020, Dated: 05.01.2021  
**DESCRIPTION: PROPOSED PLACEMENT OF 3.5 MT CAPACITY TRUCKS FOR CARRYING RAILWAY MATERIALS UNDER ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / KENDUJHARGARH OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION**  
**Approx. Cost of the work (₹):** 33.16 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 66,300/-, Period of Completion: 24 (Twenty Four) Months.

2) Tender Notice No. e-Tender-NORTHKUR-255-2020, Dated: 07.01.2021  
**DESCRIPTION: PROVIDING HOUSEKEEPING, HOSPITALITY AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES (ROUND THE CLOCK) TO THE OFFICERS REST HOUSES AND SUB-ORDINATE REST HOUSES AT BHADRAK, KENDUJHARGARH AND HARICHANDANPUR STATIONS OF KHURDAROAD DIVISION.**  
**Approx. Cost of the work (₹):** 49.93 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 99,900/-, Period of Completion: 24 (Twenty Four) Months.

**Date and time of closing of tender:** At 1500 hrs of 27.01.2021 (For all tenders)

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-Tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.  
**NOTE:** The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender.  
Complete information including e-tender documents is available in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>.

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), Khurda Road  
PR-490/L/20-21

**DISTRICT MINERAL FOUNDATION, KEONJHAR**  
(2nd Floor, DRDA Building, Keonjhar-758001)  
e-mail-dmfkeonjhar@gmail.com

**NOTICE**  
No.63/DMF Dt.13.01.2021

The advertisement published vide this Office Advertisement No.2253/DMF, Dtd.29.12.2020 inviting applications from eligible Doctors/Dentists to hold walk-in-interview on 16.01.2021 for selection of Doctors for engagement in different health institutions of this district under DMF is hereby deferred to 23.01.2021 in view of the COVID vaccination programme for HCW scheduled to be held on 16.01.2021. This is for information of all concerned. The venue & time of interview remains unaltered. Also the filling of vacant post of Dentist is hereby cancelled until further orders. Hence no walk-in-interview for the post of Dentist shall be held on the said date.

For details, candidates may visit [www.kendujhar.nic.in](http://www.kendujhar.nic.in) and can also contact the following mobile numbers during office hours-9437084590/9348363247.

**Sd./- Chairperson-cum-Chairman & Managing Trustee**  
District Mineral Foundation, Keonjhar

**OFFICE OF THE DEAN & PRINCIPAL SAHEED LAXMAN NAYAK MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL, KORAPUT - 764020, ODISHA**  
Tel.: 06852-250101, E-mail: [slnmchkoraput.od@gov.in](mailto:slnmchkoraput.od@gov.in)  
Website: [www.slnmch.nic.in](http://www.slnmch.nic.in)

No. 98/2021 Date: 12.01.2021  
**TENDER CALL NOTICE**

No. E-515: The Dean & Principal, SLN Medical College and Hospital, Koraput - 764020, Dist. - Koraput, Odisha invites sealed tenders in the prescribed proforma from the registered and reputed manufacturers, authorized suppliers, dealers, stockist and DGS and D Rate Contract holders for "Supply of Chemicals, Reagents, Diagnostic Kits, Discs and Glass Wares and Lab related items etc."

The detail information, terms and condition can be had from the Office of the undersigned in any working day after publication in Newspapers. The bidder can also download the tender documents directly on the website [www.koraput.nic.in](http://www.koraput.nic.in) / [www.slnmch.nic.in](http://www.slnmch.nic.in).

The last date of receipt of tenders through Regd. Post/Speed Post/Courier is 03.02.2021 till 3.00 P.M.

The Dean & Principal, SLN Medical College and Hospital, Koraput reserves right to accept/reject/cancel any or all the tenders in full or part without assigning any reason thereof.

**Sd./- Dean & Principal**  
SLNMCH, Koraput  
OIPR-10121/11/0016/2021

**Government of Odisha No. C-296**  
**"e" Procurement Notice**  
Bid Identification No. 34/2020-21

1. Name of the Work	: 1 No. of work
2. Estimated Cost	: 14.28 lakhs
3. Period of Completion	: One month
4. Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal	: From 11.00 A.M. of 20.01.2021 to 5.00 P.M. of 03.02.2021
5. Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal	: 5.00 P.M. of 03.02.2021
6. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	: Executive Engineer, P.H. Division, Bhubaneswar

Further details can be seen from e-procurement portal in the website (<http://tendersorissa.gov.in>).

**Executive Engineer**  
P.H. Division, Bhubaneswar  
OIPR-13021/11/0002/2021



We must watch over our thoughts. A bad thought is the most dangerous of thieves.  
THE MOTHER

# Case for a vegan diet

That a vegan diet helps in reducing, and even removing diabetes and heart disease, is fairly well known. While generally higher in carbs, vegan diets are up to 2.4 times more effective at improving blood sugar management in people with diabetes. Vegan diets are also more effective at reducing total and LDL (bad) cholesterol, compared to omnivorous diets.

But what effect does it have on other problems of the human body. In a study done by CM Clinton et al. in 2015, forty people with osteoarthritis followed either a whole-food, plant-based vegan diet, or their regular omnivorous diet for six weeks. The vegan group reported greater improvements in symptoms, energy levels, vitality, and physical functioning, compared to the regular diet group.

Since I have had rheumatoid arthritis for last 20 years I was particularly interested in this study done by R. Peltonen et al printed in the British Journal of Rheumatology, 1997. This study took 43 people with rheumatoid arthritis. Participants consumed either a raw, vegan diet rich in lactobacilli, or their habitual omnivorous diet for one month. Participants in the vegan group experienced significant improvements in disease symptoms, such as swollen and tender joints, much less pain, joint swelling, and morning stiffness, than those continuing with their existing diet. A return to their omnivorous diet, after the study was over, again aggravated their symptoms.

A raw vegan diet is actually the answer to almost everything. But it is the most difficult thing to do. When I binge on rice and curries over several weeks I give myself two days of just "green juice" - a mixture of whatever green vegetables/leaves we have in kitchen, a few neem and coriander leaves, ginger, tomato, haldi, celery, beetroot, and a fruit, four times a day. This brings me back to good health immediately and makes me lose weight! In fact, every study done, on the effects of a vegan diet on weight loss, shows it to be far more effective than any other diet. I tried a vegan diet during the lockdown and lost 11 kg in three months - without feeling hungry at all. In fact, now I eat only once a day and my feeling of fullness could be due to the higher intake of dietary fibre which can help people feel full. But it could also be because studies show that a vegan meal reduces the hunger hormone, ghrelin, less than a meat-containing meal, in healthy participants. What effect does a vegan diet have on the brain? Scientists Medawar, Huhn, Villringer and Witte, reviewed 32 studies done on the effects of plant-based diets on cognition, and printed the results in Translational Psychiatry.

This is what they write, "We found robust evidence for beneficial effects of plant-based diets versus conventional diets on weight status, energy metabolism and systemic inflammation in healthy participants, obese and type-2 diabetes patients. Considering neurological or psychiatric diseases and brain functions, the systematic review yielded in six clinical trials of diverse clinical groups, i.e. migraine, multiple sclerosis, fibromyalgia and rheumatoid arthritis. Here, mild to moderate improvement, e.g. measured by antibody levels, symptom improvement or pain frequency, was reported in five out of six studies, sometimes accompanied by weight loss."

The most important thing they found was that the body's inflammation was much less in plant based eaters. "The reason could be due to the abundance of anti-inflammatory molecules in plants and/or their avoidance of pro-inflammatory animal-derived molecules."

A study by Song et al. estimated that statistically replacing 3 per cent of animal protein, especially from red meat or eggs, with plant protein would significantly improve mortality rates. In a study done by Winston Craig on the "Health effects of vegan diets", printed in The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, 2009, he writes: "A vegan diet appears to be useful for increasing the intake of protective nutrients and phytochemicals and for minimizing the intake of dietary factors implicated in several chronic diseases." In a recent report by WHO/FAO, different plant food groups were rated with respect to their ability to influence chronic disease reduction. Cancer risk reduction, associated with a high intake of fruit and vegetables, was assessed as probable/ possible risk of heart disease reduction as convincing, and lower risk of osteoporosis was assessed as probable.

Data from the Adventist Health Study showed that non-vegetarians had a substantially increased risk of both colorectal and prostate cancer than did vegetarians. A vegetarian diet provides a variety of cancer-protective dietary factors. In addition, obesity is a significant factor, increasing the risk of cancer. Because the mean BMI of vegans is considerably lower than that of non-vegetarians, it may be an important protective factor for lowering cancer risk. Fruit and vegetables are described as protective against cancer of the lung, mouth, oesophagus, and stomach, and to a lesser degree some other sites, whereas the regular use of legumes provides a measure of protection against stomach and prostate cancer. In addition, fibre, vitamin C, carotenoids, flavonoids, and other phytochemicals in the diet, are shown to exhibit protection against various cancers, whereas allium vegetables provide protection against stomach cancer, and garlic against colorectal cancer. Foods rich in lycopene, such as tomatoes, are known to protect against prostate cancer.

Red meat and processed meat consumption are consistently associated with an increased risk of colorectal cancer. Those with the highest intake of red meat had elevated risks, ranging from 20 per cent to 60 per cent, of oesophageal, liver, colorectal, and lung cancers, than did those who ate the least. The use of eggs was recently shown to be associated with a higher risk of pancreatic cancer. Data suggest that legume intake is also associated with a moderate reduction in the risk of prostate cancer. Consumption of isoflavone-containing soy products during childhood, and adolescence, protects women against the risk of breast cancer later in life, whereas a high childhood dairy intake has been associated with an elevated risk of colorectal cancer in adulthood. Data from the Adventist Health Study showed that consumption of soy milk by vegetarians protected them against prostate cancer, whereas in other studies the use of dairy was associated with an increased risk of prostate cancer. Bone health depends on more than just protein and calcium intakes. Research has shown that bone health is also influenced by nutrients such as vitamin D, vitamin K, potassium, and magnesium, and by foods such as soy and fruit and vegetables. Vegan diets do well in providing a number of those important substances. Results from 2 large cohort studies support an association between vitamin K intake and the risk of hip fracture. In the Nurses' Health Study, middle-aged women consuming the most vitamin K, green leafy vegetables, had a 45 per cent less risk of hip fracture. In the Framingham Heart Study, elderly men and women, who ate the largest amount of leafy vegetables, had a 65 per cent decreased risk of hip fracture than did those who ate the least.

Fruits and vegetables provide phytochemicals and vitamin C that boost immune function and prevent certain types of cancer. A meta-analysis on the effect of a plant based diet concludes a beneficial effect on heart disease, cancer, overweight, body composition, glucose tolerance, digestion and mental health. You have only one body. Why don't you take care of it?

To join the animal welfare movement contact [gandhim@nic.in](mailto:gandhim@nic.in), [www.peopleforanimalsindia.org](http://www.peopleforanimalsindia.org)

## WISDOM CORNER

- Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished. LAO TZU
- The future is no more uncertain than the present. WALT WHITMAN
- The constant assertion of belief is an indication of fear. JIDDU KRISHNAMURTI



Raj Persaud

IT IS CLEAR THAT TRUMP HAS USED SOCIAL MEDIA TO BUILD UP A PERSONALITY CULT WITH A NARCISSISTIC FOLLOWING. BUT BANNING TRUMP FROM SOCIAL MEDIA WILL NOT UNDO THE DAMAGE



Maneka Gandhi

A raw vegan diet is actually the answer to almost everything

## FOCUS SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

# DEPLATFORMED TRUMP

Social-media platforms are finally turning on Donald Trump. Since the US president incited a violent attack on the Capitol on January 6 that left five people dead, platforms ranging from Twitter (long his preferred megaphone) to Shopify (on which he sold merchandise) have banned him. And Parler - the unmoderated platform that has become the new darling of the far right, and Trump's likely refuge - has temporarily shut down after Amazon booted the site from its web-hosting services.

Efforts to remove Trump's digital platform have been widely praised as crucial to mitigating "the risk of further incitement of violence," as Twitter's statement put it. But will excluding Trump from social media really make America safer? Recent psychological research suggests that the answer is no. After all, narcissists do not respond well to social exclusion.

To be sure, there is considerable debate over whether that label fits Trump. Section 7.3 of the American Psychiatric Association's Principles of Medical Ethics - commonly known as the "Goldwater rule" - is clear: Clinicians should refrain from opining publicly on the mental health of public figures whom they have not personally examined.

But many psychologists and psychiatrists have diagnosed Trump anyway, concluding that he is a textbook narcissist. In 2017, 27 psychiatrists and mental-health experts even published a book warning that Trump's mental state - including his narcissism - presented a "clear and present danger" to the United States.

It is not hard to see why. Narcissism involves unusually high needs for praise and admiration, combined with an inflated view of one's own capabilities or "specialness." It is the personality type least likely to accept defeat, such as in an election. A narcissist cannot admit they are less popu-



Efforts to remove Trump's digital platform have been widely praised as crucial to mitigating "the risk of further incitement of violence," as Twitter's statement put it. But will excluding Trump from social media really make America safer? Recent psychological research suggests that the answer is no. After all, narcissists do not respond well to social exclusion

lar than someone else - such as, say, their predecessor - or that an adversary got the better of them.

If forced to confront such uncomfortable realities, narcissists tend to feel threatened and lash out aggressively. Social exclusion would hurt anyone. But for a narcissist, it is unbearable - and likely to trigger a violent reaction.

Moreover, the risk extends beyond Trump himself, because there is little doubt that many of his supporters exhibit narcissistic tendencies. Multiple studies have confirmed as much, including one published last October by Joshua Hart and Nathaniel Stekler of Union College.

One reason why narcissists are more likely to support Trump, Hart and Stekler argue, is that he is "a quintessential narcissist," and "people tend to gravitate toward others, including leaders, who are similar to themselves." More broadly, narcissism reflects a "blend of insecurity and grandiosity" that predisposes individuals to right-wing authoritarianism

and social dominance - both of which, the authors argue, are "ideologically consonant with political conservatism and especially Trump's specific version of it."

Other research has shown that, in recent decades, the prevalence of narcissistic personality traits has increased significantly throughout the US population. Some blame this trend on the rise of social media, although the evidence so far is inconclusive.

In any case, it is clear that Trump has used social media to build up a personality cult with a disproportionately narcissistic following. But banning Trump from social media will not undo the damage. At best, the move amounts to closing the stable door after the horses have bolted. At worst, it will spur the horses to start kicking even harder.

Researchers have linked narcissism to a number of anti-social behaviours, such as aggression, domestic violence, and sexual coercion. One recent study by a team led by Victoria Blinkhorn of

Liverpool John Moores University, showed that people scoring significantly higher for narcissism view violence more positively. Although men were more likely to score high, narcissistic women were as accepting of violence as their male counterparts were.

So, the assault on the US Capitol may have been rooted at least as much in the psychology of narcissism as in politics. If so, socially ostracising Trump and his supporters could make matters much worse. In fact, another recent study co-authored by Blinkhorn found that narcissists may be more supportive of violence after facing social exclusion, especially if they receive "explicit cues of ostracism."

If shunning narcissists only channels their emotional pain into increased aggression toward others, it is vital to ensure that violence is not the only cathartic outlet available to them. Joining with like-minded people, whether at political rallies or in online communities, can help narcissists avoid confronting feelings of weakness or vulnerability.

The danger, then, is that ignoring behavioural science and banishing Trump and many of his far-right supporters from social media might be riskier than allowing them to continue engaging in closely moderated discussions in which comments that incite violence are removed. The narcissist mindset implies a psychological defense strategy generating physical violence. So while those online discussions may be problematic, they could provide the digital equivalent of a pressure valve, allowing narcissists to let off steam - and thereby preventing a deadly explosion.

The writer is a London-based psychiatrist and the author of the forthcoming book *The Mental Vaccine for Covid-19 - A Streetwise Person's Guide* (Edward Everet Root Publishers Co. Ltd.).

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## SPECTRUM FAKIR MOHAN SENAPATI

# An icon of Odia language & literature

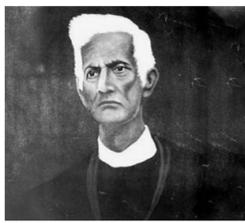


Rup Narayan Das

THE HALLMARK OF SENAPATI'S LITERARY CONTRIBUTION IS SOCIAL REALISM

Fakir Mohan Senapati whose birth anniversary falls today is remembered for his seminal contribution to Odia language and literature. Born in 1843 in Baleswar (Balasore) in colonial India, he grew up in the milieu of social inequity and injustice which found resonance in his writings. His foremost contribution, however, was the protection and preservation of Odia language against all odds.

In a portion of his *Atma Jivana Charita*, which is ably translated into English by John Boulton, who was a professor at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London, as *My Times and I*, Senapati wrote that the complete disappearance of traditional Odia primary schools from South Midnapur adjoining Baleswar was intriguing and was a sorry tale. Sometime between 1865 and 1870, a Bengali sub-inspector of schools was appointed to set up government schools there. He tried to found Bengali medium schools there, but people refused to have their children taught in Bengali. It was against these historical circumstances that the movement to protect Odia language was started subsequently in which Fakir Mohan Senapati played a pioneering role. His *Atma Jivana Charita* is more



than a vignette of his life. It critically reflects the socio-economic and political history of his time. In his autobiography, he also wrote that during his boyhood ship-building was a thriving industry in Baleswar. There were between five to six hundreds ships under commission. Three quarters of them were salt-carriers and the rest transported commercial goods to Madras, Colombo and islands in the Bay of Bengal. In those days in Baleswar steamers were unheard of; seafaring ships were then sail-driven. For the inhabitants of Baleswar town, salt manufacturing was the sole source of livelihood. As a port and business centre, Baleswar had achieved fame in both India and Europe. He further observed in his autobiography that European merchants from Holland, Denmark, France and Britain had established trading posts there be-

fore moving to Bengal.

The hallmark of Senapati's literary contribution is social realism. His literary works mirrored social oppression, subjugation and pathos vividly and intensely. Senapati in his novel *Chhaman Athaguntha* published in 1898 for the first time articulated the urges and aspirations of the common masses for redemption from the tentacles of feudal landlords and usurious money lenders. It augurs well that four eminent litterateurs- Rabi Shankar Mishra, Satya P. Mohanty, Jatindra K. Nayak and Paul St-Pierre - have translated Senapati's celebrated novel *Chhaman Athaguntha* into English which is published by Penguin. Critiques have lauded *Chhaman Athaguntha* as the "culmination of the tradition of realism" in modern Indian literature. His other novels include *Lachhama*, *Prayashchita* and *Mamu*. Arguably, Senapati can be regarded as the father of Odia short stories; most important being *Revati* which captures the pangs of transition and pathos of womanhood. *Randipua Ananta* is yet another remarkable short story of Senapati.

The greatest tribute to Senapati will be to promote Odia language at a time when it is facing threat due to urbanisation and mod-

ernisation when parents of expatriate Odias and even those living in Odisha do not encourage their children to learn the mother tongue. Secondly, his literary works need to be translated to other regional languages so as to reach wider readership across the country. The Central Sahitya Akademi and the Odisha government together should take steps to translate Senapati's literary works into other regional languages. Getting able and qualified translators to translate Senapati's writings is quite a challenge, because there is risk of losing the pristine purity, lucidity and flavour of the original text. What the Odisha government or for that matter Sahitya Akademi can do is to consider engaging Odia IAS officers posted in other states, who are trained in the respective languages having taste and temperament for literature, to translate such works into regional languages.

The writer, a retired joint secretary of Lok Sabha Secretariat, is currently a senior fellow of the Indian Council of Social Science Research at Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi. Views are personal.

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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

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

### No-kill meat

Sir, Lab grown meat is basically a no-kill meat. It is a form of cellular agriculture, in which the meat is produced by in-vitro cell culture of animal cells in a bio-reactor. Why lab grown meat? To produce 1 kg of meat it requires 5,000-20,000 litres of water. Livestock farms account for 14-18 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions and 80 per cent of all deforestation in Amazon. Use of antibiotics in animal husbandry has been linked to development and spread of antibiotic resistant microbes causing diseases like Avian Influenza (bird flu), salmonellosis and campylobacteriosis. Whereas the lab grown meat needs 11 per cent less water and 2.8 per cent less land, no use of antibiotics and other drugs; and without inflicting any harm to nature. Considering the tremendous potential and eco-friendly benefits of the industry, the USA, Israel and Singapore have jumped into lab grown meat making them available for public consumption in restaurants. Although IIT Guwahati has already developed and patented its own lab grown meat, the Indian government is yet to take interest. Though it has some limitations like cost effectiveness and consumer acceptability, we can always invest our innovation and knowledge capital to overcome them like we did in producing the cheapest Mars mission in the planet!

Aryaputra Parthasarathi Das, BHUBANESWAR

### Hooch kills

Sir, Illicit liquor related deaths have become shockingly common in India. The latest being the loss of 12 lives and five lives respectively in Madhya Pradesh's Morena and Uttar Pradesh's Bulandshahr. Last year, more than 100 people lost their lives in Punjab's Majah region after consuming hooch. Post-tragedy, bootleggers are always rounded up, and materials that were used to prepare hooch are seized and destroyed. But before liquor tragedy strikes, authorities are mere onlookers. Those from the lower socioeconomic sections are easy targets for illicit liquor vendors. People fall prey to 'inexpensive and powerful' liquor sold by unscrupulous elements. Dangerous spirits mixed with methanol give rise to morbidity and mortality of a severe nature. It is almost always the small time traders who are booked, while the larger perpetrators of the crime go scot-free. Nationalisation of the sale of liquor to eliminate unlawful liquor operators through a national liquor policy, and taking stringent measures to control the easy availability of rectified spirits, are the steps that can go a long way in preventing hooch deaths.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA (MAHARASHTRA)



# Sale of poultry products banned in Delhi

IN THE PAST ONE WEEK, DELHI HAS REPORTED SEVERAL BIRD DEATHS, INCLUDING THOSE OF DUCKS AT THE SANJAY LAKE AND CROWS AT CITY PARKS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 13: Fresh bird deaths and avian influenza cases were reported in Uttar Pradesh Wednesday, while in neighbouring Delhi, civic bodies banned the sale of poultry products, even as the city government asked people not to panic and eat completely cooked eggs and chicken.



The civic bodies through their veterinary services departments have also said that said owners of restaurants and hotels will face action if egg-based dishes or poultry meat and other products are served to customers.

In the past one week, Delhi has reported several bird deaths, including those of ducks at the Sanjay

Lake and crows at city parks. Reports of over 50 bird deaths were also received on a helpline of the Delhi government's animal husbandry unit Tuesday.

The Delhi Health Department in its advisory in view of bird flu cases, asked people not to panic and follow a set of dos and don'ts, including not consuming half-cooked

chicken, half-boiled or half-fried eggs.

"H5N8 is highly pathogenic in birds but the pathogenicity in humans as well as the likelihood of human infection with avian influenza (AH5N8) virus is low," the advisory issued by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) of Delhi stated.

It said avoid contact and prevent exposure from sick-looking sluggish chicken. "Eat only completely cooked eggs and poultry products cooked at 70 degrees Celsius for 30 minutes. Do not consume half-cooked chicken or bird or half-boiled and half-fried eggs," the advisory said.

Do not keep raw poultry meat near cooked meat. Wash hands frequently at the time of handling raw poultry products. Take due care of personal hygiene and maintain cleanliness in surrounding, it cautioned.

# TMC appeals to Left, Congress to support Didi in fight against BJP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Jan 13: The Trinamool Congress Wednesday appealed to the Left Front and the Congress to back West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in her fight against the "communal and divisive" politics of the BJP Elections to the 294-member state assembly are due in April-May "If the Left Front and the Congress are genuinely anti-BJP, they should be behind Mamata Banerjee in her fight against the communal and divisive politics of the saffron party," senior TMC MP Sougata Roy told reporters.

TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee is the "real face of secular politics



If the Left Front and the Congress are genuinely anti-BJP, they should be behind Mamata Banerjee in her fight against the communal and divisive politics of the saffron party

SOUGATA ROY | TMC MP

against the BJP," he said.

Roy claimed that none of the schemes launched by the BJP-led government at the Centre has worked

successfully. "The TMC's narrative is of con-

structive criticism in the interests of development," he said.

Referring to cattle-smuggling that has kicked up a political storm in poll-bound West Bengal, Roy said it is the duty of the Border Security Force (BSF) and not the state police to prevent this.

"The BSF, which is under the central government, looks after the borders of the country. It is their duty and not that of the police to prevent cross-border smuggling of cattle," the TMC MP said.

Launching a stinging attack against Union Home Amit Shah, who had visited the state last month, the senior lawmaker said, "Instead of having lunch at different places, he should have visited the border to check whether the BSF is doing its job properly or not."

Responding to a query whether BJP state chief Dilip Ghosh will be the saffron party's chief ministerial candidate for the elections, he said it is an internal matter of the BJP.

# Ex-TMC MP's arrest triggers war of words in poll-bound Bengal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Jan 13: The arrest of former TMC MP KD Singh in a money laundering case triggered a fresh verbal duel in the poll-bound West Bengal Wednesday with the BJP demanding questioning of top brass of the Trinamool Congress in the case, while the ruling party denying any association with Singh for long.



KD Singh

The Enforcement Directorate has arrested Singh in a money laundering case, official sources said Wednesday.

They said Singh has been placed under arrest under sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The opposition BJP in West Bengal demanded the top brass of the TMC leaders should be questioned in this connection.

"Who is K D Singh? His identity is that he is a former MP from the TMC. So the best thing would be to question the TMC leaders to bring out the truth," state BJP vice president Jaiprakash Majumdar said.

Speaking on the issue, his party colleague Suvendu Adhikari, who had recently switched over to the BJP, claimed Singh's dealings with the TMC leaders should be probed.

Senior CPI(M) leader Sujan Chakraborty said the TMC can't deny its involvement with Singh as their leaders had used his plane during election campaign.

The TMC leadership, however, denied any association with Singh for the last few years.

"He has not been associated with us for a long time. For the last few years, we have no relation with him. If he has committed any wrong then the law will take its course. We have nothing to say regarding it," TMC MP Sougata Roy said.

He, however, described the demand for questioning of the TMC leaders as "baseless and politically motivated". The central probe agency had carried out searches at the premises KD Singh and those linked with him in September 2019 in connection with two PMLA cases.

Singh has been the chairman of the Alchemist group and while he resigned from the post in 2012, he is stated to be the Chairman, Emeritus and founder of the business group.

The ED is probing him as part of two money laundering cases.

Who is K D Singh? His identity is that he is a former MP from the TMC. So the best thing would be to question the TMC leaders to bring out the truth

JAIPRAKASH MAJUMDAR | BJP VICE PRESIDENT

# PROTEST & LOHRI



Farmer leaders burn copies of the new farm laws as they celebrate Lohri festival during their ongoing protest against the central government at Singhu border in New Delhi, Wednesday.

# Will provide vaccine free to people of Delhi if Centre fails to do so, says Kejriwal



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 13: The AAP government will provide coronavirus vaccine free to the people of Delhi if the Centre fails to do so, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said Wednesday.

He said he has already appealed to the Centre for ensuring free vaccination in the country since there are many people who may not afford the life-saving shot.

"We will see what the Centre does. If need be and the Centre does not provide the vaccine free of cost, we will make it available free of cost for the people of Delhi," he told reporters.

The chief minister also appealed for not spreading rumours about the vaccine. "I understand that the Centre and our scientists have brought the vaccine following all the protocols and safeguards. So, there should not be any doubt and people should come forward for vaccination," he said.

Kejriwal said the coronavirus vaccine will be given first to health-care and frontline workers, and he

expressed hope it will provide relief to the people from the virus and the pain they suffered over the last one year.

The vaccination drive will begin in Delhi from Saturday at 89 centres.

Around 51 lakh people, including health workers, frontline workers, those aged 50 years or above, and those with co-morbidities, will be covered under the first phase of vaccination in the national capital.

Each person will be given two doses of the vaccine, and the government has estimated the requirement of 1.02 crore doses for the first phase of the vaccination in Delhi.

The Centre is bearing the cost of the first phase of vaccination of priority group people. Sources said over

Rs 300 crore will be required to provide free COVID-19 vaccination to 1.5 crore people of around two crore population of Delhi.

However, no information was immediately available from the Delhi government about the total number of people to be vaccinated and the expected funds needed for the same.

# Farmers' agitation gives many vendors chance to revive income

With protesting farmers staying put at the border point of the national capital for over six weeks now, many small businesses have sprung up at the site

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 13: Before the coronavirus pandemic, Rakesh Arora used to be a vendor at the India Gate, but his business did not pick up after lockdown. Now, the farmers' stir at the Singhu border has given him a chance to improve livelihood, selling badges and stickers.

With the protesting farmers staying put at the border point of the national capital for over six weeks now, many small businesses have sprung up at the site, the newest being sale of pro-protest badges and stickers.

Shopkeepers with basket full of badges and stickers, with 'I love Kheti (farming)', 'I love Kisan', and 'Kisan Ekta Zindabad' printed on them, have seated themselves at every nook and corner of the highway. Almost every protestor could be seen donning a badge, while the tractors and trolleys flaunt the stickers.

Rakesh Arora and his nephew brought in inventory worth Rs 2,500 two days ago from Ambala

and have managed to sell products worth Rs 700 so far.

"I used to be a vendor at India Gate. But after lockdown, business has been really poor. So we decided to set shop at the protest once we saw an opportunity," Arora said.

Amaan, an electrician from Delhi's Okhla has also taken to selling these badges and stickers, owing to lack of work. Both badge and sticker are being sold at Rs 10.

"It doesn't yield much income, but something is better than nothing. Barely 15-20 people buy these each day," he said.

Brothers, Moin (17) and Nadeef (11), from Uttar Pradesh's Loni, have also ventured in this business.

"We bring in 500 of these badges everyday. We manage to sell some 300 of them," said Moin, who set up shop in Singhu a week back. Many shopkeepers at Singhu border are hoping to make most of the agitation, by earning whatever little they can. Many of these badges are sourced from Delhi's Sadar Bazaar market.

Chandan Kumar, who has been running an electrical equipment

shop at the Singhu border for over five years now, has pushed bulbs, switches and wires to the back and lined his shop with 'No Farmer, No Food' stickers and badges.

"The electrical business had completely taken a backseat. I realised that the farmers liked stickers about their agitation. So I started getting radium paper from Kashmir Gate market and started printing the stickers myself," he said.

Kumar added that while it was not at all a close substitute for his earlier business, but it did bring in some income.

For over a month several farmers, mostly from Punjab and Haryana, are camping at the borders of Delhi to protest the three farm laws, which the NDA claims will reform the agriculture sector.

However, the protesting farmers have expressed apprehension that the new laws would pave the way for eliminating the safety cushion of Minimum Support Price and do away with the mandi system, leaving them at the mercy of big corporates.



# Covid museum on cards in Kolkata



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Jan 13: To commemorate the frontline workers who died in the battle against the coronavirus and document how lives have changed amid the pandemic, doctors are planning to set up a museum in Kolkata.

The museum will showcase items like PPE kits, masks, gloves and sanitisers, besides several other materials that became essential in the fight against the virus, West Bengal Doctors' Forum (WBDF) office-bearer Dr Rajiv Pandey said Wednesday.

A proposal has been sent to the state government and a final nod is awaited, Dr Pandey said.

"This pandemic has come after more than 100 years, even our grandparents have never seen something that we are witnessing," he told PTI.

"We have already lost around 90 doctors in our state to the pandemic. Like so many other things, this time and these people will be

forgotten. Future generations should not be allowed to forget the sacrifices made. That's the reason we have planned this museum," he said.

The museum will also tell stories of the people who lost their lives in the fight against the virus, he said. Even ambulances used to ferry patients will also be featured in the museum, Dr Pandey said.

The museum will also have a memorial for the doctors who have succumbed to the disease.

"We will document how this pandemic unfolded - how vaccines were invented and the fight of the entire mankind against the pandemic. Also, how different countries tried to fight it out will be depicted," said Dr Arjun Dasgupta, who mooted the idea of the museum.

Pandey said a written request has been sent to the state government to provide a piece of land at a subsidised rate at a suitable location.

"We want the government to provide a piece of land, the rest we will arrange," he said.

# national



**The Modi government is not embarrassed when 60 farmers are martyred but is ashamed about the tractor rally**  
RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

## DEAD NURSE LISTED FOR COVID VACCINE

A dead nurse has been registered here as a frontline worker who will receive a shot of the Covid vaccine in the first phase of inoculation



## of the day quote

We profusely thank the Supreme Court for doing this (stay on farm laws) for the nation. We are grateful



KAMAL HASSANI | ACTOR-TURNED POLITICIAN

In Uttar Pradesh, on an average, 165 crimes are committed against women every day. Recently, hundreds of cases came to the fore in which either the administration did not listen to the aggrieved side or they misbehaved with the complainant



PRİYANKA GANDHI VADRA | CONGRESS LEADER

Cases of Avian Influenza have been confirmed in 10 states, as on 13 January, 2021. Further, cases of unnatural mortality of birds have been reported in Ganderbal district of Jammu and Kashmir and 4 districts of Jharkhand. Many congratulations and best wishes to all of you on completion of 5 years of Prime Minister Crop Insurance Scheme



NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR | UNION AGRICULTURAL MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### Quake hits Ghaziabad

**Ghaziabad:** A low-intensity earthquake of magnitude 2.9 hit Ghaziabad in the National Capital Region (NCR) Wednesday, according to the National Centre for Seismology (NCS). The quake occurred at 7.09 pm at a depth of five kilometres, the NCS, which functions under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), said. According to the MoES, the NCS has started a geophysical survey over the Delhi region for an accurate assessment of seismic hazards following a string of tremors in Delhi-NCR in 2020.

### Major blaze at slum in Kolkata

**Kolkata:** A major fire broke out at a slum in Kolkata's Bagbazar area Wednesday evening, police said. At least five fire tenders were pressed into service as the blaze engulfed several houses in the slum on Kshirode Vidyavinode Avenue beside the Bagbazar Women's College near Chitapore Lock Gate Bridge, they said. Blasts were heard in the slum which police suspect to be of gas cylinders at the houses on fire, officials said. There were no reports of any casualty yet, they said.

### BSF seizes 12 kg narcotic substance

**Chandigarh:** The Border Security Force (BSF) on Wednesday seized 12 kg of a narcotic substance, suspected to be heroin, in the Amritsar Sector along the India-Pakistan border in Punjab. The contraband was concealed in an approximately 13-foot-long PVC pipe in the area falling under the jurisdiction of BSF's 88th Battalion. The BSF said it was the handiwork of anti-national elements.

### No lavish b'day for Maya this yr

**Lucknow:** There will be no celebrations, no cake-cutting and no lavish lunch at the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) office this year to mark the 65th birthday of party president Mayawati. Party sources said that Mayawati had decided not to celebrate her birthday this year due to several reasons - her father's demise in November last year, Covid pandemic and farmers' protest.

# India clears purchase of 83 Tejas jets for IAF



AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Jan 13:** The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), the highest decision-making body for security issues headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved the purchase of 83 Tejas Mark 1A fighter jets at a cost of Rs 48,000 crore, including infrastructure.

The CCS approved the largest indigenous defence procurement deal worth about Rs 48,000 crore to strengthen the Indian Air Force's fleet of homegrown Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)-Tejas. "This deal will be a game changer for self-reliance in the Indian defence manufacturing," Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said.

The LCA-Tejas is going to be the backbone of the IAF fighter fleet in the years to come. LCA-Tejas

incorporates a large number of new technologies many of which were never attempted in India. The indigenous content of LCA-Tejas is 50 per cent in the Mk1A variant which will be enhanced to 60 per cent. The Light Combat Aircraft Tejas is indigenously designed by the Aircraft Development Agency (ADA) under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

The HAL has already set up second line manufacturing facilities at its Nasik and Bengaluru Divisions. Equipped with the augmented infrastructure the HAL will steer LCA-Mk1A production for timely deliveries to the IAF.

"The decision taken today will considerably expand the current LCA ecosystem and help in creat-

ing new job opportunities," the minister said.

HAL follows a system integrator model in the LCA Mk1A programme and acts as an umbrella organisation, fostering manufacturing and design capabilities in private industry.

The first squadron of the Light Combat Aircraft, Tejas was raised in 2016. The manufacturing of 83 LCA Tejas jets will not only be a boost for 'Make in India' or self-reliance but help in filling the gaps in the Indian Air Force as its current fleet is down to 30 squadrons, way below the sanctioned strength of 42.

Each squadron comprises 18 fighter jets. These 83 jets are in addition to the 40 Mark 1 already ordered by the IAF.

Last year in March, the Ministry of Defence gave the go-ahead for the purchase of 83 Tejas Mark 1A aircraft for the Indian Air Force.

This was a major breakthrough as after cost negotiations for over three years between the Ministry of Defence and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, the price for procurement of the advanced variant of the indigenously-made Light Combat Aircraft Tejas was slashed.

The IAF has 20 Mark-1 jets of the earlier variant while another 20 are to be delivered.

## SMILING QUEENS



Students from Shahzada Nand College, wearing traditional Punjabi attire, perform Gidha during an event to celebrate the Lohri festival in Amritsar

# BSF unearths 150-m long tunnel from Pak



Security officers standing near the tunnel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jammu, Jan 13:** A 150-metre tunnel constructed along the International Border (IB) to facilitate infiltration of terrorists into Jammu and Kashmir from Pakistan was detected by Border Security Force (BSF) personnel in Hiranagar sector of Kathua district Wednesday, officials said.

This is the third tunnel unearthed by alert border guards along the IB in the twin districts of Samba and Kathua in Jammu region over the past six months and ninth in the past decade.

"A nearly 150-metre-long tunnel was detected by a BSF patrol party during an anti-tunnelling operation in Bobiyaan village of Hiranagar sector this morning," Inspector General of BSF, Jammu frontier, N S Jamwal told reporters at the scene. He along with other senior officers rushed to Bobiyaan soon after the detection of the tunnel. "The opposite of this side is Pakistan's Shakergarh which is notorious for having launch pads and bases of terrorists. We have inputs available with us as a result

of that we are sensitive to whatever is happening here," the BSF officer said, assuring that all necessary measures are in place to counter Pakistani designs. He said sand bags with Pakistani markings are evidence of the hand of Pakistani establishment in the construction of this tunnel, which is identical to the previously detected tunnels having a depth of 25 to 30 metre with two to three feet diameter. Asked whether this tunnel was recently dug or it's an old one, the BSF officer said it is a matter of investigation. However, he said some of the sand bags recovered from the tunnel have 2016-17 year of manufacture which suggest that it is an old tunnel. "We were searching for this tunnel for a long time and its detection was the effort of the anti-tunnelling operation which is underway all along the IB. Whether any infiltration had taken place through this tunnel in the past can be said after completion of our investigation," he said. Jamwal, however, said the BSF is sure that no infiltration had taken place through this tunnel in the recent past.

## INDIGO AIRLINES MANAGER KILLING

# Nitish govt faces flak

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Patna, Jan 13:** The Nitish Kumar government drew flak on Wednesday, a day after an Indigo Airlines station manager was shot dead by some unidentified bike-borne assailants near the Shastri Nagar police station area here.

Police said that Rupesh Kumar Singh (40) was entering his Kusumvila apartment at around 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday when the assailants opened fire at him. Singh sustained 20 bullet injuries and was rushed to a nearby hospital, where the doctors declared him brought dead.



Nitin Naveen, BJP MLA from Patna's Bankipur, who visited the incident site on Wednesday said that Bihar police should adopt Uttar Pradesh's model of encounters to deal with the criminals. Following the killing, several political leaders cutting across party lines reached Singh's home and extended their condolences to his family members.

BJP leader Vivek Thakur said that Patna police should either crack the case within 3 to 5 days, or it should be transferred to the CBI. Thakur also lashed out at the Nitish government saying that he has no faith in it.

"People like Singh have no criminal background. Still, assailants gunned him down outside his home and that poses a question to the state government," the BJP leader said. "If we delay in handing over the case to the CBI, it might turn out to be like the Sushant Singh Rajput case where the agency has failed to make any headway due to inadequate evidence," he added. "Who are behind Singh's murder? He was a private firm employee. The state government should ascertain the reason for his death."

# Man digs well at home

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Guna, Jan 13:** Pained to see his wife fetching water daily from a hand-pump located half-a-km away from their home at Guna in Madhya Pradesh, a poor labourer has dug a well in his own house in a fortnight to ease her woes.

The district administration has lauded the man's gesture towards his wife and decided to extend benefits of some government schemes to him for the betterment of his life. Bharat Singh (46), a resident of Bhanpur Bawa village under Chanchoda tehsil, had been concerned about his wife having to travel all the way to the hand-pump to fetch water for the daily needs of the family, comprising four members. One day, after being unable to get water due to a fault in the machine, his wife returned home sad and complained to him about



land where the family grows crops for their requirements, he said. Singh, who lives in a hut, said though he belongs to the Other Backward Classes and BPL (below poverty line) category, he had been unable to get a ration card for his family despite several efforts. Guna Collector Kumar Purshottam appreciated Singh's gesture and his caring nature towards his wife.

# Not discriminating against any state: Centre

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Jan 13:** The Central government on Wednesday said that 1.65 crore doses of Covishield and Covaxin vaccines have been allocated to the states and Union Territories for health care workers, without any discrimination.

The vaccines have been transported to far corners of the country, three days before the commencement of the nation-wide vaccination drive. The government plans to vaccinate nearly 30 crore people in the first phase of the drive, including one crore health care

workers. "Full initial procurement amount of 1.65 crore doses of Covishield and Covaxin vaccines have been allocated to all states and UTs in proportion of health care workers database.

Therefore, there is no question of discrimination against any state in allocation of vaccine doses," the Union Health Ministry said. "This is the initial lot of supply of vaccine doses and would be continuously replenished in the weeks to come. Therefore, any apprehension being expressed on account

of deficient supply is totally baseless and unfounded."

States have been advised to organize vaccination sessions taking into account 10 per cent reserve and wastage doses and average of 100 vaccinations per session per day. "Therefore, any undue haste on the parts of states to organize unreasonable numbers of vaccination per site per day is not advised."

In wake of this statement, a top government source told IANS

"Launch day session sites for whole country have been reduced from 5,000 to 2,934 and for Delhi, reduced from 89 to 75 now."

The states and union territories have also been advised to increase the number of vaccination session sites that would be operational every day in a progressive manner as the vaccination process stabilises and moves forward.

On Tuesday, the Union Health Ministry said that 1.1 crore Covishield and 55 lakh Covaxin doses have been procured at the cost of Rs 200 and Rs 206 per dose, respectively.

# SC takes up Yamuna pollution, says clean water basic right

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Jan 13:** The Supreme Court Wednesday said pollution-free water forms a basic right under the constitutional framework as it took suo moto cognisance of the issue of contamination of rivers by sewage effluents.

A bench, headed by Chief Justice S.A. Bobde, said: "We deem it appropriate at this stage to start with the issue of contamination of river Yamuna."

The observation from the top court came on a plea by the Delhi Jal Board citing increased ammonia levels in Yamuna due to discharge of pollutants. The bench, also comprising Justices A.S.

Bopanna and V. Ramasubramanian, said the plea highlights an issue of great significance and consequence not only for general public but all living beings dependent upon open surface water.

The court said the right to clean environment and further, pollution free water has been protected under the broad rubric of the right to life guaranteed under Article 21.

"Open surface water resources including rivers are lifeline of human civilisation. In olden days, almost all the human settlements were at the bank of some river. Every civilisation including ours, has shown great amount of gratitude to these life creating resources," it noted. It observed that one of the major



causes of water pollution is discharge of non-treated/partially treated municipal waste including sewage effluent of cities into rivers.

"Such discharge of human sewage and other pollutants results into deterioration in chemical, physical and biological properties of

water. All these processes lead to degradation of natural environment," it said.

The top court added that deterioration of quality of fresh water has a direct correlation with the quality of public health and polluted water is a major cause of variety of diseases and discomforts. It said that the mandate of law is clear as far as setting up of sewage treatment plants and stoppage of sewage effluents in surface water, but it is often found that either the sewage is not treated through a plant before being discharged or the treatment plants are not functional.

The top court issued notice to Uttarakhnad, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh.

"Notice shall also be issued to Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India and the Central Pollution Control Board in addition," said the top court order and appointed senior advocate Meenakshi Arora as amicus curiae in the matter.

The top court directed the CPCB to submit a report identifying municipalities along the river Yamuna, which have not installed total treatment plants for sewage as per the requirement or have gaps in ensuring that the sewage is not discharged untreated into the river.

The top court has listed the matter for further hearing January 19.



**The Supreme Court's order to stay the new farm laws only reiterates the fact that the new laws are against the interests of farmers**  
**SIDDARAMAIAH | SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER**

## INDIA, TURKMENISTAN TO BOOST TIES

India and Turkmenistan Wednesday reviewed bilateral ties and agreed to enhance cooperation in the UN and multilateral arena



## of the day quote

When would the coronavirus vaccine be provided to the poor? The government also needs to tell whether it would be free of cost or they will have to pay for it

**AKHILESH YADAV | SAMAJWADI PARTY PRESIDENT**

Maharashtra government has so far received 9.83 lakh doses of COVID-19 vaccines out of the total requirement of 17.5 lakh for inoculation in the first phase

**RAJESH TOPE | MAHARASHTRA HEALTH MINISTER**

Vedas are a treasure of principles of good governance and the concept of public welfare state can be conceived by adopting these principles

**ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CHIEF MINISTER**

# Vax reaches far corners of India

From Assam to Goa and from J&K to Kerala, the vaccines were carefully and swiftly transported to far corners of the country, a day after the first consignment of the Covishield vaccine from the Oxford/AstraZeneca stable rolled out of the Serum Institute of India manufacturing facility in Pune

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 13:** India's drive against COVID-19 gathered momentum on Wednesday with planes carrying vaccines flying into airports across the country from where the precious cargo was dispatched to small cities and towns in readiness for the inoculation exercise beginning January 16.

While SII moved about 56 lakh doses of Covishield to 13 cities, Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech said it had successfully transported the indigenous Covaxin, developed in collaboration with the ICMR and the National Institute of Virology, to 11 cities. It said it has donated 16.5 lakh doses to the Centre.

"After having received the government purchase order for 55 lakh doses, the company shipped the first batch of vaccines (each vial containing 20 doses)," Bharat Biotech said in a statement Wednesday.

It added that the vaccine was sent to Ganavaram, Guwahati, Patna, Delhi, Kurukshetra, Bengaluru, Pune, Bhubaneswar,



Jaipur, Chennai and Lucknow. As the vials began reaching their destinations, in readiness for the pan-India vaccination drive that will be launched on Saturday, states firmed up their plans and fine-tuned logistical details.

In Delhi, where the drive will begin in 89 centres, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said his AAP gov-

ernment will provide the vaccine free if the Centre fails to do so.

He said he has already appealed to the Centre as there are many people in the country who can't afford the life-saving jab. In accordance with the national priority list, the vaccine will be first given to health-care and frontline workers

The first consignment of about

94,000 doses of the Covishield vaccine reached the Madhya Pradesh capital on scheduled flight from Mumbai, a state government official said. From the airport, insulated vans of the health department transported the boxes - that signal India entering a decisive phase in its fight against the pandemic - to the State Vaccine Centre where Medical Education Minister Visvas Sarang inspected the arrangements. The doses will be dispatched to eight districts from Bhopal.

Officials said about five lakh health and frontline workers will be administered the shots in the first phase of the inoculation drive

Kerala, too, received its first Covishield vaccine consignment on Wednesday morning on a Go Air flight that landed at Kochi. Another flight was expected to land in Thiruvananthapuram later in the day. Sources in the National Health Mission sources said of the 4.33 lakh doses of the vaccine, 1,100 will be sent to Mahe, an enclave of Puducherry.

The vaccine will be stored in the

regional vaccine centres at Kochi, Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode from where it will be distributed to 133 centres.

So far, 3,62,870 people have registered themselves for a shot. Giving details of the vaccination plans for Maharashtra, Health Minister Rajesh Tope said the state had already received 9.83 lakh doses of the total requirement of 17.5 lakh for the first phase. Of these, 9.63 vials were from SII and 20,000 from Bharat Biotech, the state minister told reporters. "We have to give the doses twice to a person in a gap of four weeks, hence 55 per cent of the around eight lakh registered health workers will undergo vaccination as of now," he said.

The Centre, he said, has asked the state to reduce the number of inoculation centres from 511 to 350, saying the government should focus on other emergencies as well. State capital Mumbai, which will have 72 centres, received over 1.39 lakh Covishield vaccine doses, said civic body Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation.

## DEAF, MUTE GIRL GANGRAPED IN BIHAR, 3 HELD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Madhubani (Bihar), Jan 13:** A 15-year-old deaf and mute girl has been allegedly gangraped in Bihar's Madhubani district and her eyes were damaged with a sharp object so that she couldn't identify the perpetrators, police said Wednesday.

Both her eyes were damaged but it is yet to be ascertained whether she has completely lost her eyesight, doctors attending to the girl, who is in a critical condition, said. Three persons have been arrested in connection with the incident that took place in Kauwaha Barhi village in Harlakh police station area Tuesday when she took her goats for grazing, Superintendent of Police Satya Prakash said, adding all the accused hail from the same village.

Village head Ram Ekbal Mandal said that the girl had taken her goats for grazing to a field outside the village with some other children. One of the children informed the girl's family about the incident. They found her lying unconscious in a barren field in neighbouring Manoharpur village.

## SHORT TAKES

### Grenade attack on CRPF party

**Srinagar:** Militants hurled a grenade at a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) party in the city Wednesday but it exploded without causing any injury or damage, police said. The attack occurred in Rainawari area. "The grenade exploded on the road without causing any damage. The area is being searched to trace the militants," a police officer said.

### Naidu burns AP gov orders

**Amaravati:** Giving a political twist to 'Sankranti' festivities, TDP chief Nara Chandrababu Naidu Wednesday burned copies of some Andhra Pradesh government orders in a 'Bhogi' bonfire. "Naidu participated in 'Bhogi' event at Paritala in Krishna district. He joined the locals who burned draconian, anti-people, and anti-farmers orders issued by the Jagan Mohan Reddy government," said a TDP statement.

### Shripad taken off ventilator

**Panaji (Goa):** Union Minister Shripad Naik, who is currently under treatment at Goa Medical college after meeting with an accident, has been taken off from ventilator support and shifted to high flow nasal oxygen, Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant informed Wednesday.

### Naxal killed

**Raipur:** A Naxal carrying a reward of Rs 5 Lakh on his head was killed in an encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district Wednesday, a police official said. The rebel was wanted in connection with several Naxal incidents, Dantewada's Superintendent of Police Abhishek Pallava told PTI.

# Karnataka Cabinet expansion: Seven ministers sworn-in

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bangalore, Jan 13:** Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa Wednesday expanded his 17-month old cabinet, inducting seven ministers and indicated that excise minister H Nagesh would be dropped.

Governor Vajubhai Vala administered the oath of office and secrecy to the Ministers at a ceremony at the Raj Bhavan. The new Ministers are MLAs Umesh Katti (Hukkeri), S Angara (Sullia), Muruges Nirani (Bilgi) and Arvind Limbavali (Mahadevapura), and MLCs R Shankar, M T B Nagaraj and C P Yogeshwar.

Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa, his cabinet colleagues, BJP leaders and office bearers, including General Secretary in-charge of Karnataka Arun Singh, state unit President Nalin Kumar Kateel, senior state government officials, family members and supporters of the new Ministers, among others, were present.

This is the third expansion of the cabinet since Yediyurappa assumed charge in July 2019 after the collapse of the Congress-JDS government in the wake of revolt by 17 MLAs of the coalition partners. It's a mix of the old guard

and new entrants from Congress and JDS who made it into the cabinet.

Keeping up the promise, Congress-JD(S) rebels-turned BJP MLCs R Shankar and M T B Nagaraj, who helped the saffron party come to power, were inducted by Yediyurappa. Both of them had served as Ministers in the coalition government.

Another MLC Yogeshwar, who is said to have played a key role by managing Congress-JD(S) rebel MLAs during the political turmoil in the state in 2019, was also inducted into the Ministry.

He too was a Minister in the previous BJP government. Among the BJP old guard who made it to the cabinet were Katti, Angara, Nirani and Limbavali. While Katti (eight time MLA), Nirani and Limbavali (state BJP Vice President) were Ministers in the previous BJP government, for Angara (six times MLA), this will be his first stint as the Minister. While announcing the induction of seven new ministers earlier in the day, Yediyurappa indicated that Excise Minister H Nagesh will be dropped from the Ministry, thereby keeping one berth vacant in the state cabinet, which can have a maximum strength of 34 members.



## CHILLING OUT



People at RK Beach during sunrise, amid coronavirus pandemic, in Visakhapatnam

PTI PHOTO

# GOVT DEFERS NATIONAL POLIO IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 13:** The National Polio immunisation programme, as part of which children in the age group of 0-5 years are administered polio drops, has been deferred "till further notice" by the Centre citing "unforeseen activities".

The National Immunisation Day (NID), commonly known as Pulse Polio Immunisation programme, was scheduled for January 17 across India. The Union Health Ministry has communicated the decision to defer the polio immunisation programme to all states through a letter January 9

"This is to inform that due to unforeseen activities, it is decided to



Representative image

postpone the scheduled Polio NID (National Immunisation Day) round from January 17, 2021 till further notice," according to the letter sent to the Principal Secretary in the Health department of all states. Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Harsh Vardhan had said on January 8 that polio immunisation

will be carried out January 17. "We have decided that January 17, we are going to have our national immunisation days for polio which will run for two to three days," he had said adding the drive covered aspects like identifying and immunising children left out from vaccination.

The vaccination is very essential to ensure that the nation maintained overall immunity levels against polio virus, he had said. The country will launch its COVID-19 vaccination drive from January 16 in what Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called the world's largest inoculation programme with priority to be given to nearly three crore healthcare and frontline workers.

## MP HOCH TRAGEDY

# Morena Collector, SP removed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhopal, Jan 13:** Six more people have died after consuming spurious liquor in Madhya Pradesh's Morena district, raising the toll to 20, a police official said Wednesday. Taking serious cognisance of the incident, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan ordered the removal of Morena's collector and superintendent of police, after holding a review meeting on the situation on Wednesday, another official said.

Police said they have registered a case against seven people in connection with the incident and launched a search for them. "The death toll is now 20 as six more people died after consumption of spurious liquor by villagers in Morena," Deputy Inspector General, Chambal range, Rajesh Hingankar told PTI.

Besides, 21 other people are currently undergoing treatment in Morena and Gwalior, he said. "An initial autopsy report revealed the cause of death as consumption of excess liquor which damaged vital body parts. The viscera have been sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory in Sagar for examination," Morena's in-charge Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr R C Bandil said.

The forensic science lab's report will reveal the exact nature of poison in the liquor, he said. Meanwhile after chairing a high-level meeting at his residence in Bhopal, CM Chouhan directed for the removal of Morena collector and SP, a public relations department official said.

# 'Novel coronavirus may resemble common cold in future'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 13:** SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, may resemble the mild cold-causing coronaviruses that currently circulate in humans if it becomes endemic and most people are exposed in childhood, according to a study.

The modelling study, published on Tuesday in the journal Science, is based on research of the four common cold coronaviruses and SARS-CoV-1. The analysis of the immunological and epidemiological data for these viruses helped the researchers to develop a model to predict the trajectory of SARS-CoV-2 as it becomes endemic, when the virus circulates in the general population.

The researchers noted that four common cold-causing coronaviruses



Representative image

have been circulating in humans for a long time and almost everyone is infected at a young age.

Natural infection in childhood provides immunity that protects people later in life against severe dis-

ease, but it doesn't prevent periodic reinfection, said Jennie Lavine, from Emory University in the US, first author of the study. The research suggests that endemic SARS-CoV-2 may become a disease of early

childhood, where the first infection occurs between 3 and 5 years old, and the disease itself would be mild. Older individuals could still become infected, but their childhood infections would provide immune protection against severe disease, according to the researchers.

How fast this shift comes depends on how fast the virus spreads and what kind of immune response the SARS-CoV-2 vaccines induce, they said. The model suggests that if the vaccines induce short-lived protection against becoming reinfected but reduce the severity of the disease, as is the case with other endemic coronaviruses, SARS-CoV-2 may become endemic more quickly.

The model predicts that the infection fatality ratio for SARS-CoV-2 may fall below that of seasonal in-

fluenza (0.1 per cent), once an endemic steady-state is reached.

A safe and effective vaccine against COVID-19 could save hundreds of thousands of lives in the first year or two of vaccine roll-out, but continued mass vaccination may be less critical once SARS-CoV-2 becomes endemic, the researchers said. Targeted vaccination in vulnerable subpopulations may still save lives, they said.

The researchers also noted that if primary infections of children are mild when the virus becomes endemic, widespread vaccination may not be necessary. However, if primary infections become severe in children, as in the case of more deadly but contained coronaviruses such as MERS, childhood vaccinations should be continued, they added.

# business

## of the day quote

We are driven by our core purpose to enable access to reliable power while minimising the impact on climate change. As India targets 450 GW of renewable energy by 2030, we will contribute towards this noble cause by creating the required transmission infrastructure

PRATIK AGARWAL | MD, STERLITE POWER

The acquisition of Hindawi enables Wiley (Global research and education giant) to move farther and faster toward our goal of meeting the world's urgent and escalating need for new knowledge

BRIAN NAPACK | PRESIDENT AND CEO, WILEY

The fast spread of Covid-19 and initial nationwide lockdowns posed serious challenges and uncertainties in our supply chain network. Our technology stack acted as a significant differentiator during the time, enabling us to answer critical questions

KAPIL BHARATI | CO-FOUNDER AND CTO, DELIVERY

## SHORT TAKES

### Wipro logs 21% growth, Infy 16.6%

Mumbai: IT major Wipro Wednesday reported 20.85% growth in its consolidated net profit for the October-December quarter at ₹2,968 crore. The company had reported a net profit of ₹2,455.9 crore during the corresponding period of the last fiscal (FY2019-20). Meanwhile, Infosys reported a 16.6% y-o-y growth in its consolidated net profit for October-December period at ₹5,197 crore. Its net profit during the corresponding period of the previous fiscal (FY2019-20) stood at ₹4,457 crore.

### China's auto sales fall, then recover

Beijing: China's sales of SUVs, minivans and sedans fell 6% last year compared with 2019 after demand in the industry's biggest global market first plunged due to the coronavirus pandemic and then rebounded in the second half, an industry group reported Wednesday. In December, sales rose 7.2% over a year earlier to 2.4 million, down from November's 11.6% growth, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers. Sales of trucks and buses rose 2.4% to 456,000.

### DLF-Hines JV to invest ₹1,300cr

New Delhi: Realty major DLF and US-based Hines will invest around ₹1,300 crore to construct the first phase of a premium commercial project, largely office space, in Gurugram, a senior company official said. The construction of this project, comprising 2.55 million sq ft area in the first phase, has started, MD of DLF Rental Business Sriram Khattar said. DLF and Hines had formed a joint venture (JV) in March last year to develop this project on a 11.76 acre land parcel bought by DLF in 2018.

### M&M cuts job roles

New Delhi: Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) Wednesday said it has cut redundant job roles at its North American unit due to de-prioritising of non-core work amid a challenging business environment. Mahindra Automotive North America (MANA), which till early 2020 employed around 500 people, is reported to have slashed over half of the workforce.



Australia is a strategic market for Infosys and the company has enjoyed strong and consistent growth serving marquee clients across a range of industries from telecom and financial services, to utilities and the public sector

ANDREW GROTH | SENIOR VP AND REGION HEAD (AUS & NZ), INFOSYS

## RESIDENTIAL SALES GROW IN DELHI-NCR

The National Capital Region (NCR) witnessed a q-o-q growth of 43% in the sale of housing units during the October-December period on the back of festive discounts, low interest rates and some premium launches by established developers, said a JLL report



# FINALLY, TESLA DRIVES INTO INDIAN MARKET

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 13: American electric car maker Tesla has registered its Indian arm amid indications that the company is set to enter the country's automobile market. According to a regulatory filing, the firm has registered Tesla India Motors and Energy Pvt Ltd with RoC Bangalore.

The company has been registered as an unlisted private entity with a paid up capital of ₹1 lakh.

Vaibhav Taneja, Venkataram Sreeram and David Jon Feinstein have been appointed as directors of Tesla India, as per the Registrar of



Companies (RoC) filing. Last month, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari had said Tesla is set to

start its operations in the country in 2021 and would also look at setting up a manufacturing unit based

on demand. Earlier Tuesday, auto major Tata Motors denied tying up with the company for its India foray

"Tata Motors has not taken any decision regarding a strategic partner for its PV business and categorically denies any and all rumours suggesting the same," the company said in a regulatory statement.

In November last year, replying to a Twitter user who asked about the progress of the company's India plans, Tesla CEO Elon Musk had said, "Yea...Next year for sure". Musk had, however, in the past too tweeted about Tesla's entry into India. In 2019, replying to a Twitter

query, Musk had said he "would love to be there this year. If not, definitely next!"

In 2018, Musk had cited the country's challenging regulatory environment as among the reasons for not foraying into India.

Earlier, the Maharashtra government had said it is looking for potential investment from Tesla in the state and held discussions with the company.

Maharashtra is already home to a host of domestic and foreign automobile manufacturers, with the Chakan industrial belt near Pune being a major automobile hub.

These reforms will be implemented through an amendment to the Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 for which a bill will be placed in Parliament in the upcoming session, highly placed sources said.

With the approval of the proposal for reforms, legacy issues related to the mines will be resolved, making a large number of mines available for auctions. It will help strengthen the auction-only regime and boost transparency in the system.

"It will require an amendment in section 10A (2)(b) and 10A (2)(c) of the MMDR Act," a source said.

The reforms include removing the distinction between captive and non-captive mines and introduction of an index-based mechanism by developing a National Mineral Index (NMI) for various statutory payments, among others.

In order to boost exploration, there will be review of functioning of the National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET). NMET will be made an autonomous body.

Private entities will also be engaged in exploration works now. Simplification of exploration regime will also be done to facilitate seamless transition from exploration to production.

Approval has also been given for amendments to be made in the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) guidelines. The amendments are aimed at spending DMF funds on people living in directly affected areas.

# GDP MAY CLIP AT 6% IN FY22 IF VACCINE DISTRIBUTION DELAYED

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Jan 13: A delay in COVID-19 vaccine distribution could impact GDP growth prospects in the next fiscal year and the Reserve Bank may cut policy rates by 50 basis points by June as inflation cools down, a foreign brokerage said Wednesday.

BofA Securities said it expects GDP growth at 9 per cent in 2021-22 if the vaccine distribution is done in the first half of the new fiscal year but may be just at 6 per cent if the distribution is deferred to the second half (October-March).

For the current financial year, it expects GDP to contract by 6.7 per cent as against the government's estimate of 7.7 per cent contraction. It can be noted that a slew of policy measures have been taken in the recent past including deep rate cuts, which had to be halted because of a surge in inflation to beyond the upper end of the range set for RBI.

Speaking to reporters a day after official data suggested a sharp cool-down in the consumer price inflation to 4.6 per cent in December after being consistently above 6 per cent, its India economist Indranil Sen Gupta said BofA expects the RBI to cut rates by 50 basis points by June before it starts hiking them again.

He said the pressure on the inflation has been driven more be-



For the current financial year, it is expected that the GDP will contract by 6.7% as against the government's estimate of 7.7% contraction

cause of supply-side issues and expected the same to ease going forward, explaining that over 1.60 per cent impact on the price rise number is only because of such constraints.

The gap between the headline inflation and wholesale price inflation or the core consumer inflation points to the supply side constraints affecting the overall situation at present, he said.

From a growth perspective, the brokerage said India will be the third biggest economy in the world

in the next decade. Growth will be driven by a demographic dividend which will be driving investment, rising financial maturity and emergence of mass markets, it said.

Gupta pitched for a fiscal stimulus in the budget to address the demand side concerns, and keeping the fiscal deficit at 5 per cent of the GDP for FY22.

Specific measures can include a cut in excise duty on oil products, he said, adding that even though there has been a rally in oil prices lately, the commodity will stabilise eventually.

Other measures which the budget can look at will be a recapitalization of the state-owned banks who can in turn use the capital for lending to productive purposes in the economy and also issuance of ₹1 lakh crore of PSU infrastructure bonds, he said.

## EMERGENCY USE APPROVAL

# 'Govt wants Pfizer to do local study'

Serum Institute of India, the local manufacturer of the vaccine developed by AstraZeneca Plc and Oxford University, has done a similar study on more than 1,500 people over months before seeking and receiving emergency approval in India

REUTERS

New Delhi, Jan 13: Any vaccine maker, including Pfizer Inc, which has sought emergency-use authorisation for its Covid-19 shot in India, must conduct a local "bridging" safety and immunogenicity study to be considered for the country's immunisation programme, a senior government official told Reuters.

Serum Institute of India, the local manufacturer of the vaccine developed by AstraZeneca Plc and Oxford University, has done a similar study on more than 1,500 people over months before seeking and receiving emergency approval in the country.

Local media have reported that Pfizer had sought an exception when last month it became the first company to seek emergency-use approval in India for its vaccine already in use overseas. The company has not attended subsequent meetings called by India's drugs regulator.

"As of now, the pre-condition for any vaccine to be implemented in



India is that you have to do a bridging trial," Vinod K Paul, who heads a government panel on vaccine strategy, said in an interview in his office near the parliament building.

A Pfizer spokeswoman did not immediately respond to a request seeking comment. Paul also said Russia's Sputnik V, a shot undergoing last-stage trials in India, will soon apply for emergency-use approval in the country.

No vaccine maker will be given indemnity by the government should something go wrong, Paul said. Serum Institute had written to the government seeking indemnity. AstraZeneca has said it has received such indemnity in many other countries. India has also approved for emergency use a vaccine developed locally by Bharat Biotech.

# Polycab launches India's first anti-virus ceiling fans

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 13: With an aim to provide a healthy living, Polycab India Limited, one of the largest manufacturers of Wires and Cables in India, launched Purocoat Antivirus Fans, India's first anti-virus ceiling fan. These anti-virus fans are manufactured with Nanova Technology under its Purocoat Antivirus Range.

Polycab Purocoat Antivirus fans are available at ₹3300 to ₹4300 with 8 colour variant—Eleganz Floral, Eleganz D'Ziner, Eleganz, India Glory, Crystal, Regalia, Ambiance and Woodart. The nanova coating on these fans increases the life span of the fans and makes them durable and lasts longer than the regular fans.

The Polycab's Purocoat Antivirus Range of products are lab tested and it has been found that the Purocoat Antivirus Fans through the Nanova Technology used over it are capa-



Pulak Pati, Vice President

ble of neutralizing the contaminating microorganisms like germs, bacteria, virus etc. The ranges of fans are BTS certified, which is one of the most prominent quality on testing certification for Anti-microbial Testing.

Company's Vice President Pulak Pati said, "There is always threat at the back of our minds about the germs lurking around us which could pose an imminent threat to our health and well-being.

# Vedanta Aluminium wins 'Innovative Practice' award

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 13: Vedanta, India's largest producer of Aluminium and value-added products, bagged the 'Most Innovative Best Practice' Award at the Digital Transformation (DX) Summit & Awards 2020.

Organised by CII - Centre for Digital Transformation (CDT), the DX Award provides a prestigious platform for the industry's best to showcase superlative efforts and achievements in the realm of digital transformation, offering unparalleled exposure and valuable recognition to the practitioners.

Vedanta Aluminium has bagged this coveted award in the 'Most Innovative Best Practice' category, as India's first and the world's third smelter to deploy the Digital Smelter Technology at its Jharsuguda plant.



Themed on leveraging digital infrastructure & technological innovation for a resurgent 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', the DX summit witnessed participation from over 300 companies.

Vedanta Aluminium outshone the competition by showcasing its Digital Smelter project which is being deployed at its Aluminium smelter in Jharsuguda, Odisha. It uses digital twin technology with predictive & prescriptive analytics, which allows for remote monitoring and control of potline op-

erations, enhances energy efficiency, reduces raw material consumption and arrests wastage of material through remote advisory system.

Ajay Kapur, CEO - Aluminium & Power Business, Vedanta Ltd., said, "We strive to make our operations future-ready by integrating best-in-class digital solutions, building in efficiencies, and optimizing costs and raw material consumption in our quest to become the world's leading producer of the 'green metal' or Aluminium."

## PART OF RACIAL JUSTICE EFFORT

# Apple invests \$100mn to back 'entrepreneurs of colour'

AGENCIES

New York, Jan 13: Apple Inc Wednesday said it was putting \$60 million into a fresh round of projects aimed at challenging systemic racism, including its first foray into venture capital funding to back entrepreneurs of colour.

Apple said it would invest \$10 million in a fund with Harlem Capital, a New York-based early-stage venture firm, with the goal of helping fund 1,000 companies over 20 years. Apple will invest \$25 million in Siebert Williams Shank's Clear Vision Impact Fund, which provides financing to small- and mid-sized businesses, with an em-

phasis on minority-owned firms. Apple will become a limited partner in funds at both.

"There's a lack of diversity among venture capital and banking funders," Lisa Jackson, Apple's vice president of environment, policy and social initiatives, told Reuters. "We looked for where we thought there was opportunity for our resources to do good things."

The efforts are part of Apple's \$100 million racial equality and justice initiative announced last year after the killings of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd, two Black people killed by police.

Apple is contributing \$25 million to the Propel Center, a 50,000-square-



foot facility in Atlanta where historically Black colleges and universities will collaborate on programs

in entrepreneurship, app development and other topics. The iPhone maker is establishing two grant pro-

grams to help design curriculum in silicon and hardware engineering for historically Black schools. Apple will also establish an app

development academy in Detroit, its first in the United States. The academy provides a free 10-to-12-month course and will aim to teach 1,000 students a year skills in coding, design and marketing. The facility in Detroit will work with Michigan State University.

"We wanted to see more Black and brown developers," Jackson said, noting that Apple has long worked with historically Black schools. "They tend to be focusing on the southeastern part of the United States. But Detroit has over 50,000 small businesses that are owned by Black and brown people. And so it seemed to us that there was an entrepreneurial opportunity"

# international



**We must do everything we can to increase nuclear war deterrence even further as we build the strongest military capability**  
KIM JONG UN | SUPREME LEADER, NORTH KOREA

## EU COURT OPINION LEAVES FB EXPOSED

Any EU country can take legal action against Facebook over cross-border violations of data privacy rules, and not just the main regulator in charge, said a top court advisor. The opinion is part of a long-running legal battle between Facebook and Belgium's data protection authority



## SHORT TAKES

### WB approves cash assistance

**Beirut:** The World Bank (WB) approved a \$246 million loan to Lebanon to provide emergency cash assistance to nearly 800,000 Lebanese reeling under the country's compounded economic and health crises. The World Bank said in a statement late Tuesday the loan would also support the development of a national social safety net in Lebanon.

### Pak court sends 3 accused to jail

**Nankana Sahib:** An anti-terrorism court in Pakistan on Wednesday sentenced three out of the eight accused to at least two years imprisonment along with fine in the case of forced kidnapping, conversion and marriage of a Sikh girl in Pakistan's Nankana Sahib in 2019. As per the court's judgment, Muhammad Ehsan has been sentenced to jail for two years, while Muhammad Salman and Muhammad Ahmed were awarded six months imprisonment along with a fine of Rs 10,000 each.

### Plane crash: Black box recovered

**Jakarta:** Indonesian search teams have retrieved one of the two "black boxes" from the ill-fated Boeing 737 plane that crashed into the Java Sea on Saturday, killing all 62 people on board. The flight data recorder was brought ashore, but the teams are still trying to locate the cockpit voice recorder, the BBC reported Tuesday citing officials.

# 'US college campuses are Covid superspreaders'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New York, Jan 13:** College campuses are at risk of becoming Covid-19 superspreaders for the entire country, a new US study suggests. Looking at 30 campuses across the US with the highest amount of reported cases, researchers saw that over half of the institutions had spikes, at their peak, which were well above 1,000 coronavirus cases per 100,000 people per week within the first two weeks of classes.

"Our results confirm the widespread fear in early fall that col-

leges could become the new hot spots of Covid-19 transmission. But, at the same time, college administrators should be applauded for their rapid responses to successfully manage local outbreaks," said researcher Ellen Kuhl from Stanford University in the US.

For the study, published in the journal Computer Methods in Biomechanics and Biomedical Engineering, the research team used advanced modelling, which assesses the real-time epidemiology of the Covid-19 outbreak using an SEIR (susceptible, exposed, in-



fectious, and recovered) model to map how the disease spread across the campuses.

They drew Covid-19 case reports from 30 publicly available college dashboards across the US throughout the fall (autumn, September to December) of 2020. These institutions were either teaching in person,

online or a hybrid of both.

They selected colleges for which case numbers are reported on a daily basis and the total cumulative case number exceeded 100. During this time window, the nationwide number of new cases had dropped below 50,000 per day.

All reported campuses pursued regular surveillance testing, weekly or even twice per week, combined with aggressive test-trace-isolate strategies.

"The majority of colleges and universities were able to rapidly manage their outbreaks and sup-

press campus-wide infections, while the neighbouring communities were less successful in controlling the spread of the virus," said Hannah Lu from the varsity.

"As a result, for most institutions, the outbreak dynamics remained manageable throughout the entire fall of 2020 with narrow spikes of less than 300 cases per day," Lu added. The team believes that this methodology, in combination with continuing online learning, is the best way to prevent college sites from becoming the major hub of the disease.

## Macron announces over \$600mn investment

**PARIS:** France will invest 500 million euros (\$609.5 million) in boosting innovation in the space industry in an attempt to battle outgrowing US and Asian competition, President Emmanuel Macron has said. During his visit to ArianeGroup aerospace company in Vernon in northern France Tuesday, Macron said the two-year investment plan "will cover innovations related to carrier rockets, speed up our projects and allow us to go faster in global competition," Xinhua news agency reported. He said that 30 mn euros will be invested in the development of new rocket engine and hydrogen propulsion technologies.

# 'UK Covid strain now in 50 countries'

AGENCIES

**Geneva, Jan 13:** The coronavirus mutation first found in Britain has now spread to 50 territories, according to the World Health Organization, while a similar South African-identified strain has now been found in 20.

The UN body also noted a third new coronavirus "variant of concern" found in Japan may impact upon immune response and needs further investigation.

"The more the SARS-CoV-2 virus spreads, the more opportunities it has to change. High levels of transmission mean that we should expect more variants to emerge," said the WHO.

SARS-CoV-2 is the virus which causes Covid-19 disease.

Since first being reported to the WHO on December 14, the British-identified variant VOC 202012/01 has been found in 50 countries, territories and areas, the agency said.

Test results showed the age and sex distribution was similar to that of other circulating variants, while contact tracing data revealed "higher transmissibility (secondary attack



rates) where the index case has the variant strain".

The South African-identified variant 501Y.V2, first reported on December 18, has now been detected in 20 countries, territories and areas.

"From preliminary and ongoing investigations in South Africa, it is possible that the 501Y.V2 variant is more transmissible than variants circulating in South Africa previously," the WHO weekly report said.

"Moreover, while this new variant does not appear to cause more severe illness, the observed rapid increases in case numbers has placed health systems under pressure."

## China pandemic control goes rural

AGENCIES

**BEIJING:** China is concentrating its pandemic prevention efforts in the rural areas as officials urge people to not travel home for the Lunar New Year festival while the country combats its most serious latest outbreak of COVID-19. Authorities said Wednesday local clinics and hospitals in villages need to strengthen their vigilance for any new COVID-19 cases, and local governments must take responsibility at every level - from county to town to village. The government is bracing for the world's largest annual migration in which hundreds of millions travel home for Lunar New Year break in February, many of them workers from cities going back to their home villages. "In the period leading up to Lunar New Year, we urge the public that those who do not need to travel, should not travel, and if one must travel, please observe all travel information and try to stagger travel to off-peak times," Wang Bin, an official with the National Health Commission, told a news conference.

# TRUMP FACES HISTORIC IMPEACHMENT VOTE

With eight days remaining in his term, the House will vote Wednesday on an article of impeachment accusing the Republican of inciting insurrection in a speech to his followers last week before a mob stormed the Capitol, leaving five dead

AGENCIES

**Washington, Jan 13:** With at least five Republicans joining their push to impeach President Donald Trump over the storming of the US Capitol, Democrats in the House of Representatives stood poised for a history-making vote to try to remove the president from office.

With eight days remaining in Trump's term, the House will vote Wednesday on an article of impeachment accusing the Republican of inciting insurrection in a speech to his followers last week before a mob of them stormed the Capitol, leaving five dead.

That would trigger a trial in the still Republican-controlled Senate, although it was unclear whether enough time or political appetite remained to expel Trump.

Democrats moved forward on an impeachment vote after a effort



to persuade Vice President Mike Pence to invoke the 25th Amendment of the US Constitution to remove Trump was rejected by Pence on Tuesday evening.

"I do not believe that such a course of action is in the best interest of our Nation or consistent with our Constitution," Pence said in a letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Despite the letter, the House passed

## YouTube suspends Trump's channel

**HONG KONG:** YouTube has suspended US President Donald Trump's channel for at least a week amid concerns over "ongoing potential for violence," making it the latest platform to limit the president's online activities. The Google-owned platform said it removed content that was uploaded on January 12 from the Donald J Trump channel for inciting violence, although it was not immediately clear which videos in question were in violation.

a resolution formally calling on Pence to act. The final vote was 223-205 in favour. While that was occurring, Trump's iron grip on his party was showing further signs of slipping.

## sports

# ESMAEL BRACE SINKS ODISHA



Esmael Goncalves scores from the spot against Odisha FC

AGENCIES

**Goa, Jan 13:** A brace by Esmael Goncalves (15th & 21st minutes) helped Chennaiyin FC eke out a 2-1 victory over Odisha FC in their ISL encounter, Wednesday. Diego Mauricio pulled one back for the Bhubaneswar-based side in the second half.

Chennaiyin dominated the game from the word go as they continuously troubled the Odisha backline creating few good chances. And it didn't take them long to break the deadlock.

Just outside his own box, Gaurav Bora failed to defend a cross-field ball by Rahim Ali from the left flank and his poor touch placed the ball into the of Esmael who ran into the box and slotted past the keeper.

Bora was also the culprit in conceding the second goal. Anirudh Thapa performed a one-two with Esmael, got into the box with the ball and was brought down by Bora. Referee pointed to the spot without having any second thought and Esmael coolly slotted the ball to-

wards the keeper's right.

Odisha had a wonderful chance to pull one back before the break, but Manuel Onwu missed it. Jerry Mawihmingthanga flicked the ball in behind the Chennaiyin defence. Onwu got the ball at his feet but dragged his shot wide from inside the box. He had time to place his effort into the corner of the net but the striker took it quickly and missed.

Stuart Baxter then introduced Mauricio in the second half and it paid off. Mauricio gave his side some hope of salvaging a draw pulling one back in the 64th. It was a Brazilian flair on display as Mauricio collected a flick from Cole Alexander, took a touch just outside the box and used his marker as a shield to curl a delightful effort into the net.

It was a spirited second-half display from Odisha but Chennaiyin hold on to their lead to claim the three points. The Machans have ended their four-game winless run to climb to the fifth spot on the league table. Odisha remain the bottom-placed side in the league table.

# HI, Odisha govt aim to host memorable event

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Jan 13:** With exactly two years to go, Hockey India (HI) and the Odisha government are gearing up to host the 2023 Men's Hockey World Cup. In 2023, India will host the competition for a record fourth time since its inception in 1971. The tournament is slated to be played in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela, January 13-29.

When India hosted the 14th edition of the World Cup in 2018, all the matches of the competition were held at the Kalinga Hockey Stadium

in Bhubaneswar, but two venues will be utilised for the 2023 event.

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, December 24 last year, announced a new world-class stadium to be constructed in Rourkela city which would be the biggest stadium for hockey in the country with a sitting capacity of 20,000.

The stadium is set to have all the modern facilities and will offer a unique experience to players and the fans during the 2023 World Cup. The work to develop synthetic hockey turf in each of the 17 blocks of Sundargarh district

## 2023 FIH MEN'S WORLD CUP

has already begun.

"It will be a challenge and an opportunity for us to organise the 2023 World Cup in two venues - Bhubaneswar and Rourkela. Since the World Cup in 2018 was held in Bhubaneswar, most of the arrangements are in place there, while a new world-class Hockey stadium is being built in Rourkela," said Tusharkanti Behera, Minister for Sports and

Youth Services, Odisha.

"World-class infrastructure at both venues will enable Odisha to once again deliver a successful and memorable tournament and leave behind a valuable and lasting legacy," he added.

The 2023 World Cup being hosted in India holds great significance since the country will be completing 75 years of independence that year.

The host federation Hockey India did not want to miss out on the opportunity to showcase the growth of the sport in the country in this

landmark year and give the country another reason to celebrate 75 years of independence.

Speaking on the preparations for the World Cup, Hockey India president Gyanendra Ningombam said: "It's an absolute honour for us to host the Men's Hockey World Cups back-to-back. After hosting a successful World Cup in 2018, we are going to ensure that the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup in 2023 will have even better facilities for the players and the fans. It's very exciting to note that we are exactly two years away from the 2023 World Cup."

# Pogba helps Man Utd go top of EPL



Paul Pogba wheels away in celebration after scoring

**Burnley, Jan 13:** Paul Pogba sent Manchester United to the top of the Premier League by scoring with a deflected volley in a 1-0 win at Burnley.

United came into the match at Turf Moor knowing at least a point would move the team into first place for the first time at this stage of the season since Alex Ferguson was in charge of the title-winning 2012-13 side.

Pogba met a cross from Marcus Rashford with a first-time effort

from the edge of the box that deflected off Burnley defender Matt Lowton and through the legs of goalkeeper Nick Pope in the 71st. It gave United a three-point lead over Liverpool heading into their meeting at Anfield Sunday.

The video assistant referee provided the main talking point of a tense opening period, with Burnley's last man, Robbie Brady, avoiding sanction for bringing down Edinson Cavani outside the area because of a foul by United left back Luke Shaw moments earlier at the other end.

# Australian Open Qualifiers: Ankita loses final round

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Melbourne, Jan 13:** Ankita Raina's bid to qualify for a Grand Slam singles main draw failed yet again when she lost the final round of the Australian Open qualifying event to Serbian Olga Danilovic Wednesday.

In the women's singles qualifiers being held in Dubai, Ankita lost the third and final round 2-6, 6-3, 1-6 to her Serbian opponent in almost two hours.

Not being able to win points on her first serve hurt Ankita. It was the Indian's sixth attempt to qualify for a competition at the grand stage.

Her defeat means that Sumit Nagal will be the only Indian to compete in the singles event of the first Grand Slam of the season. Ramkumar Ramanathan had lost in the first round of the men's singles event while Prajnesh Gunneswaran lost his second round to French player Constant Lestienne 2-6, 3-6.

# Saina, Srikanth advance, Kashyap retires midway



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bangkok, Jan 13:** Star India shuttler Saina Nehwal and former World No.1 Kidambi Srikanth entered the second rounds of their respective events but Parupalli Kashyap made an early exit from the Thailand Open Super 1000 tournament, here Wednesday.

Saina got the better of Selvaduray Kisona of Malaysia 21-15, 21-15. Earlier in the day, Srikanth took just 31 minutes to prevail over compatriot Sourabh Verma 21-12, 21-11, but Kashyap was forced to retire midway in his match against Jason Anthony Ho-

Shue of Canada. Kashyap was trailing 8-14 in the third game when he chose to retire after pulling his calf muscle. He had lost the first game 9-21 before making a comeback to take the second 21-13.

Among others, HS Pronnoy and Sameer Verma lost their men's singles matches. In the men's doubles, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty came from behind to defeat the South Korean pair of Kim Gi Jung and Lee Yong Dae 19-21, 21-16, 21-14.

Another Indian men's doubles pair of Manu Attri and B Sumeeth Reddy also lost their opening round match.



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

# KALAHANDI

## A Tale of Transformation



**SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha will dedicate 54 Projects of Cost 1064 Cr. and lay foundation stone of 52 Projects of Cost 1020 Cr.**

Inauguration of Projects	in. Cr		in. Cr		in. Cr
<b>Irrigation Development</b>					
• Construction of Bisamguiri MIP in Th. Rampur Block	1.92	• Construction of Mission shaktiGruha of Rengsapali	0.05	• Building , Boys and Girl's' Common Room for Govt Autonomous College Bhawanipatna in the district of Kalahandi under World Bank Assistance Programme	
• 13 Check Dam	4.83	• Construction of Mission shaktiGruha , Golamunda	0.05	Phase - I Civil EI and PH	3.12
		• Construction of new PDS Godown of Bordi GP	0.06	• Construction of Academic Block for Govt Autonomous College, Bhawanipatna in Kalahandi under World Bank Assistance (O HEPEE)	2.15
				• Construction of Academic Block for Panchayat College Dharamgarh in Kalahandi under World Bank Assistance (OHEPEE)	1.89
<b>Child Protection</b>		<b>Laying of Foundation Stone Projects</b>		<b>Drinking Water</b>	
• Observation Home and Special Home at \Bhawanipatna	3.5	<b>Irrigation Development</b>		• Mega Pipe Water Supply to Golamunda Block covering 28 gram panchayats	177.84
		• Mega lift irrigation project at Salebhata	59.08	• 40 single village Pipe Water Supply Schemes	116.73
<b>Infrastructure Development (Connectivity)</b>		• Megalift irrigation project at Champadeipur	40.87		
• Improvement to Pokharibandha Lanjigarh road from 13/800 Km to 18/020 Km.	4.985	• Megalift irrigation project at Gopinathpur	68.32	<b>Agriculture Marketing</b>	
• Improvement to Rampur-Risida-Karlamunda Road from 8/0 to 18/900 KM for the year 2018-19	5.607	• Megalift irrigation project at Teran gasil	42.05	• Model Market Yard at Bandigaon	2.5
• Improvement to Road from Golamunda to Borda (via-Kegaon) from Ch. 0/0 to 7/800 KM in the District of Kalahandi for the year 2018-19	5.839	• Sandul Irrigation Project	227.89	• Upgradation of Model Mandi, Bhawanipatna	3.5
• Widening & strengthening to multilane standard of Bhawanipatna-Rayagada road from 0/0 to 2/300Km for the year 2018-19	5.546			• Upgradation of Model Mandi, Kesinga	3.5
• Improvement to Balipada-Rupra Road (ODR) from 0/0 to 8/0 KM under State Plan for the year 2018-19	4.824	<b>Infrastructure Development (Connectivity &amp; Building)</b>		• Establishment of Multi Purpose Godown- Biswanathpur LAMPS-(RMC Bhawanipatna)	0.26
• Construction of H.L. Bridges over Matul Nallah at 4th Km & 6th Km on Balipadar-Rupra Road	3.273	• Construction of H.L. Bridge over Indravati Reservoir on 1st Km of Mahulpatna-Kenduguda-Gopinathpur road in the District of Kalahandi	38.42	• Establishment of Multi Purpose Godown- Kamthan PACS-(RMC Bhawanipatna)	0.26
• Construction of H.L. Bridge over Sidingi padajore at 3rd Km on Pajibahal-Mohangiri Road	3.525	• Widening and Strengthening of Malagaon to SH-16 (Podmundi) canal embankment service road from 0/00 km to 7/500 km in the district of Kalahandi for the year 2019-20	8	• Establishment of Multi Purpose Godown- Sikerkupa LAMPS-(RMC Bhawanipatna)	0.26
• Construction of H.L. Bridge over Raja padaJore at 1/400 Km on Tundla-Karlamunda Road	3.676	• Widening and Strengthening of (NH - 26) Singhjharan to SH (Kamthana) canal embankment service road from 0/00 km to 7/000 Km in the district of Kalahandi for the year 2019-20	7	• Establishment of Multi Purpose Godown – Tundla PACS (RMC Kesinga)	0.26
• Construction of H.L. Bridge over Bhangamunda Nallah at 6th Km on Tundla Karlamunda Road under Kalahandi Dist	4.083	• Extension of HL Bridge over river Tel including provision of release vents and approach road at 15th Km near Bandhgaon on Jaring - Nandol-Brundhabahal Road in the District of kalahandi under NABARD assistance RIDF-XXV	16.94	• Establishment of Multi Purpose Godown – Mohangiri PACS (RMC Kesinga)	0.26
• Construction of Bridge over local Nalah on NH-201 to Themra Road under BSY	2.62	• Construction of H.L. Bridge over River Tel at 7/800 Km on Dharamgarh	9.94		
		• Construction of H.L. Bridge at Kumarkeni Nallah at 5/800 Km and Dumerpadar Nallaha at 11/800 Km on Th Rampur - Kashipur Road	9.859	<b>Sports Development</b>	
<b>Infrastructure Development (Building)</b>		• Improvement such as widening and strengthening of Jaipatna Dhansulin Nabarangpur Border Road via Dulughati from 0/0 Km to 5/0 km under State Plan (Normal)	5	• Extension of Gymnasium cum Indoor Hall, Bhawanipatna	1
• Forest Rest House, Bhawanipatna	0.36	• Improvement such as widening and strengthening of Jaipatna to Mukhiguda Road (ODR) from 0/0 to 8/120 Km under State Plan (Normal)	9.96	• Sports Indoor Hall at Kesinga NAC	3.5
<b>Urban Infrastructure</b>		• Improvement to Koksara Behera via Dahagaon Road (ODR) such as widening and strengthening from 0/0 to 9/0 Km under State Plan (Normal)	8	• Sports Indoor Hall at Dharamgarh NAC	3.5
• "Parichaya" at Gopabandhunagar (ward no.13), Dharamgarh NAC	0.056	• Improvement to Palam Belkhandi Road (ODR) such as widening and strengthening from 0/0 to 9/700 Km under State Plan (Normal)	9	• Sports Complex, Hostel, Kitchen, Gymnasium, Development of playfield at Sports Hostel, Bhawanipatna	3.72
• Parichaya" at RCMS PADA Hinjili Bahali Slum at Junagarh NAC	0.053	• Construction of Bridge on Boria to malpada road under Kesinga aBlock	2.5		
• "Open Space Development" at Gopabandhunagar (ward no.13) Dharamgarh NAC	0.034	<b>Urban Infrastructure</b>		<b>Infrastructure for Employment</b>	
• "Mission Shakti Gruha" (ward no.10), Dharamgarh NAC	0.062	• Completion of Town Hall - Ongoing Town Hall Project at Bhawanipatna is an aspirational project for the people of Kalahandi , being the most preferred destination for all kinds of citizen engagement in the town	2.3	• Multisectoral MSME Park, Kurlupada, Kesinga	26
• "Mission Shakti Gruha" (ward no.12), Dharamgarh NAC	0.062	• New Liveable Habitat, Kesinga	0.954	• Food Park, Kurlupada, Kesinga	21
• Material Recovery Facility (MRF) opposite side of Eye Hospital, NAC Junagarh	0.067	• Smart Park at Bhawanipatna Municipality	2		
• Micro Composting Centre MCC opposite side of Eye Hospital, NAC Junagarh	0.5	• Smart Park at Kesinga NAC	0.75	<b>Health Facility</b>	
		• Smart Park at Dharamgarh NAC	0.75	• Construction of Attendant Rest Shed at DHH Bhawanipatna	3.32
<b>Drinking Water</b>		• Smart Park at Junagarh NAC	0.75	• Construction of 30 bedded MCH building at SDH Dharamgarh	9.8
• 10 Drinking Water Projects	20.02	• Model Crematorium at Bhawanipatna Municipality	1	• Construction of OPD building at CHC, Pastikudi	0.87
		• Model Crematorium at Kesinga NAC	0.75	• Construction of Modular Kitchen at DHH, Kalahandi	0.394
<b>Agriculture Marketing</b>		• Model Crematorium at Dharamgarh NAC	0.75		
• New Market yard / Mandi at Gambhariguda	0.69	• Model Crematorium at Junagarh NAC	0.75	<b>Infrastructure Development (Energy)</b>	
• New Market yard / Mandi at Dalguma	0.71			• Alternate new 33KV feeder from Chandragiri (Kashipur) 220/33KV Grid Substation to Th. Rampur 33/11 KV Substation (25km)	4.43
<b>Rural Infrastructure</b>				• Brundabahal 132/33 KV Grid Sub-Station	52
• Construction of KalyanMandap at Sirol, GP-Sirol in Kesinga Block	0.35	<b>Development of Educational Infrastructure</b>		• Errection of 11KV agricultural feeder from Daspur to Makhla (45 Kms)	4.69
• Construction of Mission Shakti Gruha at Balsi GP, GP-Balsi in Kesinga Block	0.05	• Construction of 150 seated Library (GF) , 150 seated Reading Room (1st Floor) and 96 seated computer room (2nd Floor)			
• Construction of Bedagaon GP building of Lanjigarh Block	0.35				
• Construction of Mission Shakti building of Lanjigarh Road GP	0.05				
• Construction of GP office building of Bordi GP Golamunda Block	0.35				

**Dedication of 54 Projects cost 1064.862 Cr. and Laying Foundation Stone of 52 projects cost 1020.347 Cr.**