



HEALTHY COMPETITION

Kirti Kulhari feels OTT's increasing viewership has forced Hindi film industry to come out of its comfort zone

LEISURE **P2**



IMRAN TESTS COVID +VE

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan tested Covid positive, two days after he got the first shot of a Chinese vaccine

INTERNATIONAL **P10**



SINDHU BOWS OUT

Indian shuttler PV Sindhu suffers yet another semifinal defeat at the prestigious All England Championships

SPORTS **P12**

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Celebrating spirit of local entrepreneurship

THE BUSINESS EMINENCE AWARDS PROGRAMME HONOURED SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LEADERS FROM THE STATE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 20: Inaugurating the first edition of the Business Eminence Awards function here Saturday, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik lauded the efforts of the business leaders in maintaining a positive business climate even during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The programme jointly organised by **Orissa POST** and **Dharitri** aimed to celebrate the spirit of indigenous entrepreneurship and appreciate the efforts of business persons in Odisha in creating wealth for the state overcoming all odds, especially the COVID pandemic.

Inaugurating the event in a virtual mode, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik talked about the hand-holding support given by the state government to all sectors of the industry in the last one year. "Though the post pandemic situation has put the global economy into tailspin, sparing none in the process, these inspiring stories of success have contributed to the growth of a business climate in the state. I wish all the best to these award winners who have helped bring back focus to business and economy through their personal examples of success."

The CM also said that an enabling industrial policy supported by Odisha government brought about massive progress in the industrial eco-system of the state. "We continued to be a top investment destination even during the pandemic. Recent data on various



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik addressing the audience after inaugurating the Business Eminence Awards function Saturday and (R) Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel Dharmendra Pradhan lights the ceremonial lamp in the company of Tathagata Satpathy, Editor of Dharitri and Orissa POST, Adyasha Satpathy, CEO of both the publications and Vishal Dev, Principal Secretary, Tourism department



OP PHOTO

business parameters also indicate a revival of the economy. Repeated lockdowns and COVID-related protocols to contain the pandemic being the priority, the economic impacts have not gone unnoticed," he said.

Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who was the chief guest, also urged the industrialists to utilise the scope of value addition to raw materials and

reap the benefits of the diverse repository of minerals in the state.

"The potential of Odisha should not be confined to fulfillment of the needs of the local population. We need to work to cater to the demands of others, especially the north-east. Bihar has now also approached Odisha to start a port in the state, which is likely to increase the business prospects of Odisha," he said.

Pradhan said, "In the next 20 years Odisha can reach a new height with collaborative approach by different stakeholders. Odisha has a long maritime history – sailing to several parts of the world for trade and commerce and still has its presence in many regions."

Even today, people in and beyond Odisha still remember Biju Patnaik, Harekrushna Mahtab and Nandani Satpathy and the good work done by them, he said.

In his key note address, Vishal Dev, Principal Secretary of Tourism Department, said once Odisha was considered a backward state, but it has transformed to "the best investment destination" in the last two decades.

"Around 2000, Odisha had an image of a backward state but over the last two decades we have been recognised as one of the model states vis-à-vis good governance. We are a leading

state in several sectors, including disaster management," he said.

Welcoming the guests and awardees, Editor of **Dharitri** and **Orissa POST** Tathagata Satpathy said that Business Eminence Awards are meant to recognize the industrialists who didn't lower their guards during the pandemic and continued to remain role models for the state.

Talking about the concept behind the awards, Satpathy said, "This is a very critical phase in global history, COVID has been a great leveler. It made us conscious of our commonalities. While many in the world failed and collapsed, the awardees are the brave warriors who not only overcame the difficulties, but succeeded and grew. We consider them as social and economic leaders of the state."

Adyasha Satpathy, CEO of the two publications, delivered the vote of thanks.

Though the post pandemic situation has put the global economy into tailspin, sparing none in the process, these inspiring stories of success have contributed to the growth of a business climate in the state



NAVEEN PATNAIK | ODISHA CHIEF MINISTER



DHARMENDRA PRADHAN | UNION MINISTER FOR PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND STEEL

In the next 20 years Odisha can reach a new height with collaborative approach by different stakeholders. Odisha has a long maritime history – sailing to several parts of the world for trade and commerce and still has its presence in many regions

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



No, this is illegal. You can only pay in freebies for his vote!

Massive quake rocks Japan

TOKYO: An earthquake measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale struck north-eastern Japan Saturday, prompting authorities to issue a tsunami warning for Miyagi prefecture. The Japan Meteorological Agency warned of up to a 1-metre high tsunami in Miyagi and the first tsunami wave has already swept ashore in the city of Ishinomaki. The warning prompted some residents in Miyagi to rush to higher ground ahead of the possible arrival of tsunami, NHK footage showed. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage to property. The quake also shook buildings in Tokyo. The tremor occurred at 6.09 p.m. (local time), with its epicentre located at latitude of 38.4 degrees north and a longitude of 141.7 degrees east, and at the depth of 60 km, the agency said. **P10**

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
MAX	38.9°C	37°C
MIN	22.5°C	22.2°C
Humidity	68%	57%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast		
Partly cloudy sky		

MAHANGA DOUBLE MURDER CASE

Oppn seeks Law Minister's scalp

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 20: Raising the Mahanga double murder case in the state Assembly Saturday, Opposition BJP and Congress demanded the resignation and requisite action against Minister Pratap Jena for his alleged involvement in the crime.

During the Zero Hour, Leader of Opposition Pradipta Naik said that an FIR has been lodged against the Jena for his alleged involvement in the double murder case. "Though the FIR has been lodged against a minister in the Mahanga double murder case, action is yet to be taken against him," Naik alleged.

According to Naik, the law and order situation has deteriorated in the state. Meanwhile, BJP chief whip Mohan Charan Majhi appealed to the Chief Minister to initiate necessary action against the

Leader of Opposition Pradipta Naik said that an FIR has been lodged against the Jena for his alleged involvement in the double murder case

minister if the government has any evidence against him.

Congress member Santosh Singh Saluja also raised the issue and demanded resignation of Pratap Jena. Alleging that the Mahanga double murder is a fall-out of corruption in housing schemes, Saluja said that Pratap Jena should resign.

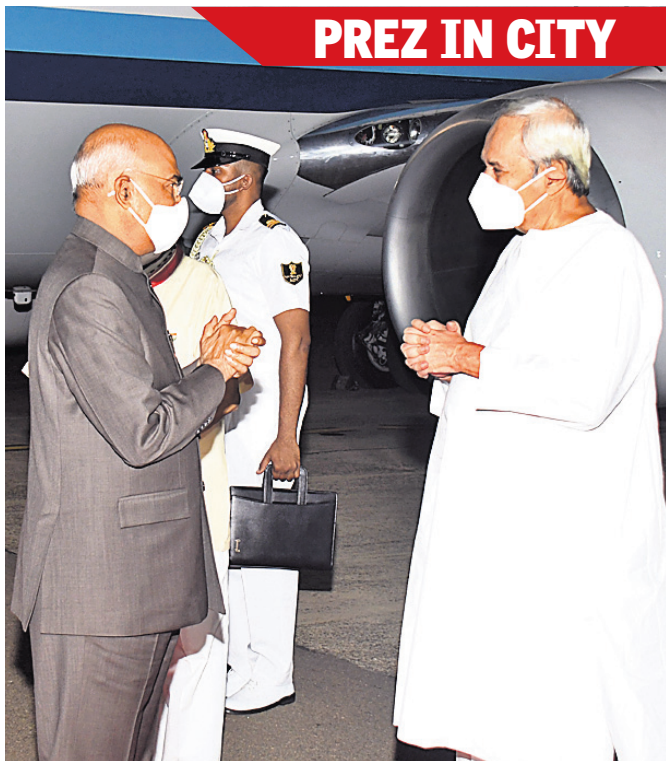
Congress Legislature Party leader Narasingha Mishra too criticized the government for the political murder case. Mishra said it is very unfortunate that an FIR has been lodged against a minister.

Countering the allegations, BJD lawmaker Byomakesh Ray questioned as to why the BJP leader from Mahanga, Sarada Pradhan, has not been arrested though he is allegedly involved in several crimes.

"He (Pradhan) is facing several criminal cases, including dacoity and attempted murder. He had also served a jail term for 22 days earlier. In 1957, his name was in the BPL list but in the next 3 to 4 years he became the owner of property worth crores," Ray alleged.

Reacting to this, BJP MLA Majhi said that no one has stopped the government from arresting Pradhan if he has committed any crime.

Meanwhile, BJP took out a big rally in the city Saturday and staged protests in front of the Assembly demanding strong action against Jena. On the other hand, a BJD delegation submitted a memorandum to the twin city Police Commissioner:



CM Naveen Patnaik welcomes President Ram Nath Kovind upon the latter's arrival at Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar, Saturday OP PHOTO

Over 8.83L youths unemployed in state: Minister

48,138 persons have been given placement during the period between 2000 and January 31 this year

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 20: As many 8,83,639 unemployed youths have registered themselves with different employment exchange offices in the state till January 31 this year, Skill Development and Technical Education Minister Premananda Nayak said in Assembly, Saturday.

In a written reply to MLA Suresh Kumar Routray, the minister said, out of the total unemployed youths, 23,422 have not completed matriculation (under matric) while 1,95,514 youths have registered for job after completing their matriculation (Class X).

The unemployed youths comprised 3,23,238 intermediates, 1,80,822 graduates, 33,938 diploma holders, 37,861 ITI holders, 9,670 post-graduates, 37,114 trained teachers and 42,060 others with different qualifications, the minister said.

On placement of the registered youths, Nayak said a total of 48,138 persons have been given placement during the period between 2000 and January 31 this year. Highest 6034 youths got placement in the year 2009 while only 83 persons recruited in the year 2020 and January of this year.

Similarly, 2421 youths got placement in 2000 while 1412 got jobs in 2001, 2601 in 2002, 1529 in 2003, 1760 in 2004, 1908 in 2005, 586 in 2006, 4189 in 2007, 3638 in 2008 and 4481 in 2010.

Besides, as many 3775 youths have been recruited in the year 2011, 3850 in 2012, 2646 in 2013, 1144 in 2013, 1825 in 2015, 770 in 2016, 759 in 2017, 1674 in 2018 and 1053 in 2019.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 20: Eminent economist Raghuram Rajan has said free speech suffered a "grievous blow" in India with the resignations of Pratap Bhanu Mehta and Arvind Subramanian from the Ashoka University and that the varsity's founders have bartered away its soul.

Earlier this week, the Sonapat-based Ashoka University – a leading varsity that offers courses in liberal arts and sciences – found

itself at the centre of a controversy after political commentator Mehta and economist Subramanian resigned.

In a LinkedIn post, former RBI governor Rajan said that free speech has suffered a "grievous blow" in India this week as professor Mehta, one of India's finest political scientists, resigned from the Ashoka University.

"The reality is that professor Mehta is a thorn in the side of the establishment. He is no ordinary thorn because he skewers those

in government and in high offices like the Supreme Court with vivid prose and thought-provoking arguments," he said.

On the recent developments at the varsity, Rajan – who is a professor at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business – said, "Free speech is the soul of a great university. By compromising on it, the founders have bartered away its soul."

He further said, "And if you show a willingness to barter your soul, is there any chance the pressures will

go away? This is indeed a sad development for India," Rajan said.

Mehta's exit from the varsity was followed by the resignation of professor Subramanian, also a former chief economic advisor of the Narendra Modi government.

Rajan also quoted a few lines from Subramanian's resignation letter which said, "That even Ashoka – with its private status and backing by private capital – can no longer provide a space for academic expression and freedom is ominously disturbing."

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
No matter what you do, today you are not going to have your way. The times when you have been selfish are finished. Besides, you are likely to solicit trouble today. It may actually turn out to be good for you, says Ganesha, provided you change the focus of your actions.

TAURUS
This is a productive day to deal in money matters, foresees Ganesha. You will probably enjoy both money and muscle power in the afternoon. A necklace or pendant is awaiting your sweetheart, so surprise her. Caution: There is a risk of your money being swindled.

GEMINI
You will feel some measure of loneliness today. You will need the company of someone close to you for reassurance. The evening will see you plagued by rapid mood swings. Meditative techniques can help calm your mind, says Ganesha.

CANCER
With healthy financial condition, your focus will be more on your social commitments, says Ganesha. Though till afternoon you may have only yourself to give you company, you will be central to a conversation with like-minded people.

LEO
You will be so scheming and calculating today that you can even give the vixen in a soap opera a run for her money. With such stars on the horizon, it becomes imperative that you find a way to keep your temper, especially at work.

VIRGO
You will focus on your finances today and work towards consolidating your profits, says Ganesha. You may also make provisions for any crisis that may arise in future. Ganesha strongly feels that you may sign some agreements and documents that will become milestones in your future business life.

LIBRA
There is a very high probability of legal disputes receding and going your way due to out-of-court settlements that go in your favour. The afternoon may see you being unyielding when it comes to interacting with people.

SCORPIO
It is highly likely that you will be on the move today, predicts Ganesha. You will be actively shuttling from one location to the other for work or social purposes. Business meetings and conversations will be the basis of all your thoughts. Business proposals may take shape later in the day, feels Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS
Your life is full of mysteries that have plagued you for the past few days. Unless you confess your karma and do penance you will continue to suffer. Be careful of what you say and do today, says Ganesha. Be kind to all and behave in a humble way. You never know what is next in store for you.

CAPRICORN
You may get bogged down with work, and experience enormous stress today, says Ganesha. But, an adept professional, you will not give up easily. Your opponents will take a beating and will start to acknowledge your potential and abilities.

AQUARIUS
Today, the slump in energy will beat the daylight out of you! Yes, the day does improve later and a sudden good news will take you by surprise. But be careful about meeting deadlines, says Ganesha, as you need to maintain your niche in the scheme of things.

PISCES
Indications are that you will be busy partitioning your time equally between business and family today. Make sure that means something a bit more meaningful than going home for lunch. You will encounter a little variety and excitement at the workplace today, possibly in the form of a new secretary.



WHY MULLIGAN HAS TO WAIT FOR GOOD ROLES

Actress Carey Mulligan feels since she is not into film production, she has to wait for good roles to come her way. "It's still hard now, and it's still a waiting game for me, because I'm not in a producing role," she said, according to *femalefirst.co.uk*.

GRINT SLAMS ROWLING FOR HER COMMENT ON TRANSGENDERS

Harry Potter actor Rupert Grint, has spoken up against author JK Rowling's comment on transgender people. Rowling reportedly tweeted against transgender people. She used the phrase 'people who menstruate' rather than 'women'.



Sonu Sood gets aircraft livery



Mumbai: A domestic airline has honoured Sonu Sood's social activism with special livery on its planes. As a mark of acknowledgement to the social service that the actor has been committed to, SpiceJet Boeing 737 aircraft recently wrapped a number of its aircraft in special livery, which includes an image of the actor along with

a line that reads: "A salute to the saviour Sonu Sood". The actor got to know through pictures he received on social media from fans. An emotional Sonu said: "I felt really honoured when I saw those images. The aircraft was parked at different airports and people were sending me different images from Leh, Hyderabad, Punjab and

Delhi. I feel blessed. I miss my parents more, I wish they could see this." The actor, contributed immensely during lockdown when he arranged transportation for migrants stuck in the cities, to go back to their home towns. IANS

Huruda stands up against religious exploitations

Bhubaneswar: Prayas, a theatre troupe from Rourkela, presented Odia play *Huruda* here at Bhanja Kala Mandap, Saturday, on the second day of *Ranga Sangam*, a state level drama festival.

The event is being organised by Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi (OSNA) in collaboration with the Department of Odia Language, Literature and Culture, Government of

Odisha. The 100-minute play was written by Nivedita Jena and directed by Prafulla Chandra Sethy. It expressed how religion, since ages, has been a tool in the hands of corrupted village heads to exploit the poor. Pujari Nana and Mishra Babu, a sarpanch-zamindar duo of a village, want to fill up their coffers by misleading the innocent people in the name of religion. However,

Sania, a young farmer, becomes a stumbling block in their plans. But Sania's unfortunate death in an accident gives the two and their associates a shot in their arms. The rest of the story tells about the struggle of the poor against feudalism mindset. The artistes who performed the play included Prafulla Sethy, Ramesh Sahoo, Gangadhar Rout, Gouranga Dalai, Nita Goswami, Santoshini Barik and Manisha.

Eminent theatre personalities Manoj Patnaik, Antaryami Panda and OSNA Secretary Prabodh Kumar Rath attended the programme as guests while Odisha Natya Sangh vice-president Prakash Maharana conducted a short meeting before the play. PNN



Mumbai Saga: An attempt to celebrate clichés

John Abraham lives up to his action star billing, though he could have toned down the tendency to ham in the drama scenes.



cinema is being drastically reorganised, *Mumbai Saga* needed to have some sort of a USP. At the core of the story is Amartya

Rao (John Abraham), a made-to-order cinema hero who stands up against the goons of a local tough, Gaitonde (Amol Gupte), when they

harass local shopkeepers for 'hafta'. As Amartya goes for the big bash-up he catches the eye of a local politician, Bhau (Mahesh

Cast:
John Abraham, Emraan Hashmi, Suniel Shetty, Kajal Aggarwal and Anjana Sukhani
Direction:
Sanjay Gupta

Manjrekar), who realises Amartya could be moulded into an essential ally in his bid to rule the city.

Following template, there is a cop 'hero' to take on John's gangster antihero. Emraan Hashmi as Inspector Vijay Savarkar takes up the challenge of thwarting Amartya's formidable rise, but not before half the film is through.

The film adheres to the textbook of yore while setting cop hero-versus-Robinhood antihero tussle between Emraan and John.

John lives up to his action star billing, though he could have toned down the tendency to ham in the drama scenes.

In contrast, Emraan Hashmi is mostly left tackling a role that pales in the swagger-strutting contest.

Sanjay Gupta has smartly cast two filmmakers with proven acting credentials in pivotal supporting roles.

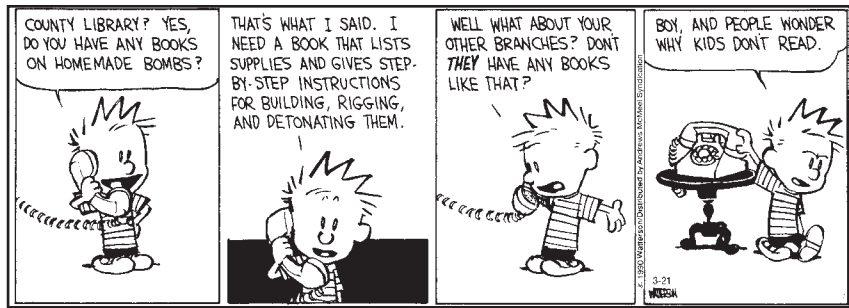
Both Mahesh Manjrekar and Amol Gupte approach primarily clichéd characters with a certain fresh approach, which is definitely an asset for the film. The remaining cast has little to do. AGENCIES



PEANUTS



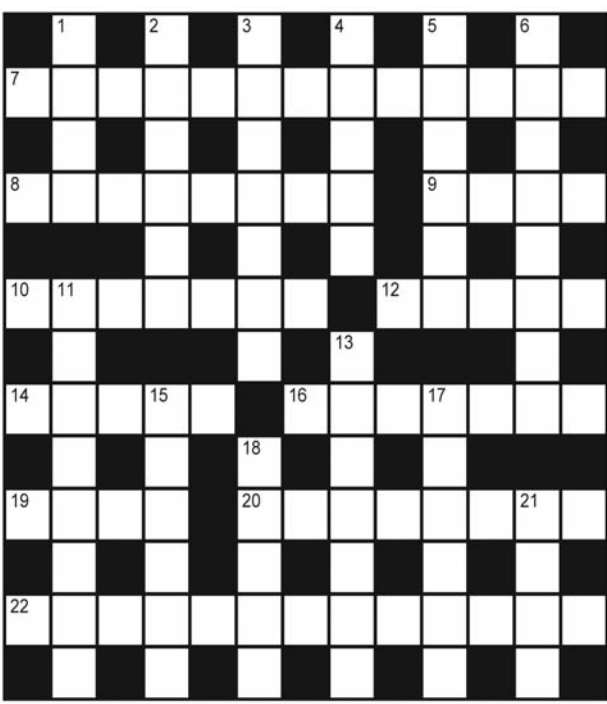
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



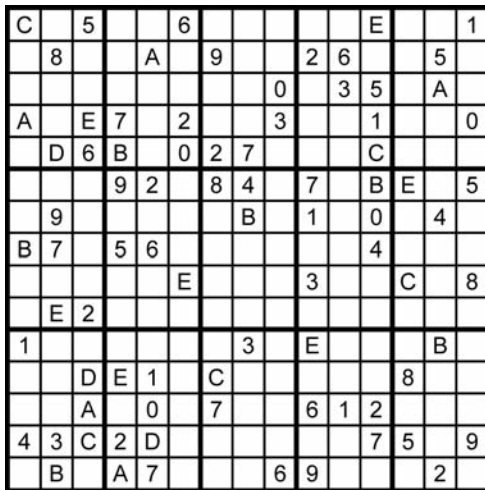
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Ophthalmologist's prescription (7,6)
 - 8 Lances
 - 9 Domestic
 - 10 Snubs
 - 12 Chiggers
 - 14 Like helium
 - 16 Flaw
 - 19 Dire fate
 - 20 Bakery buys
 - 22 Floor plan feature (6,7)
- Down**
- 1 Decant
 - 2 Artist's workshop
 - 3 Like some candles
 - 4 Bored
 - 5 Nail polish
 - 6 Big-mouthed sea birds
 - 11 Venice sights
 - 13 Barber's tool
 - 15 Out in the boonies
 - 17 Deficient in amount
 - 18 Close call
 - 21 English prep school

SUDOKU

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

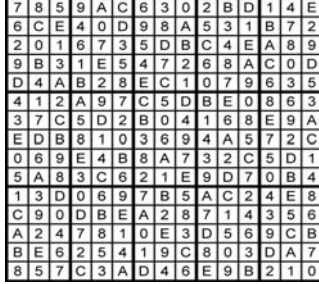


SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



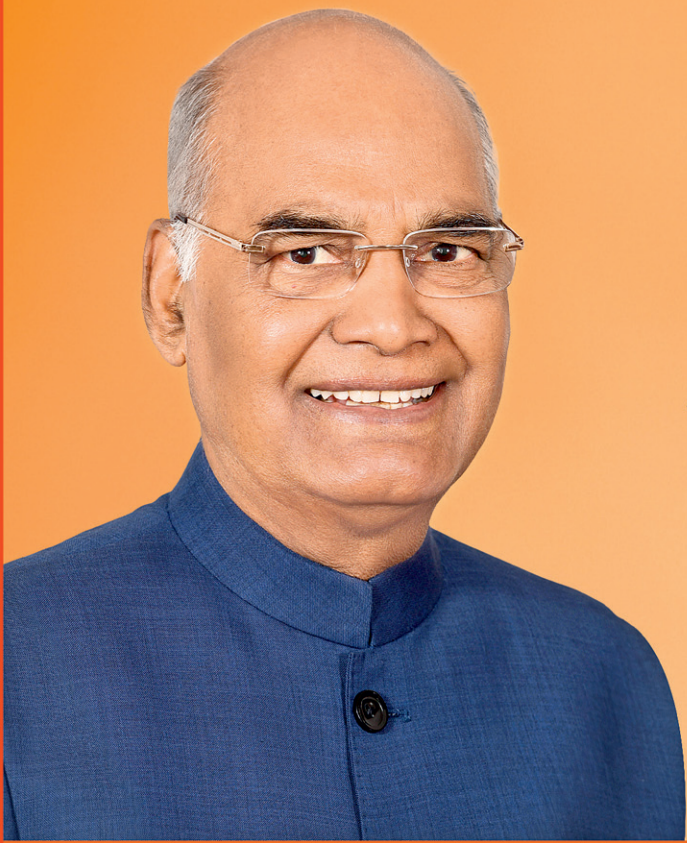
SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



Ministry of Steel
Government of India



Purvodaya

A Prosperous East is Making a New India

**Steely Resolve Ensuring
Quality Healthcare for All**



~ Dedication to the Nation of ~

ISPAT POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE and SUPER SPECIALTY HOSPITAL of SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant

by

Shri Ram Nath Kovind
Hon'ble President of India

Benefits

- The hospital has several super specialty facilities and sophisticated equipment which are unique in this region
- Apart from catering to 6 lakh people residing in Rourkela, the hospital will be a boon for the lakhs of people inhabiting adjacent districts and neighbouring states
- Patients from this part of the country will no longer have to travel to big cities or metros to avail of these modern medical interventions

Super Specialty Facilities

The 200 bed hospital has Super-Specialty facilities for:

- Neurology • Neuro-Surgery • Cardiology • Cardio-thoracic & Vascular Surgery • Nephrology

This hospital is also adorned with avant-garde medical equipment like MRI 3 Tesla, CT scan 256 slice, 2 Cath Labs (uniplane & biplane), CRRT machine besides having five modular Operation Theater laced with sophisticated technology

In the august presence of

Prof. Ganeshi Lal
Governor, Odisha

Dharmendra Pradhan
Union Minister of Petroleum and
Natural Gas & Steel

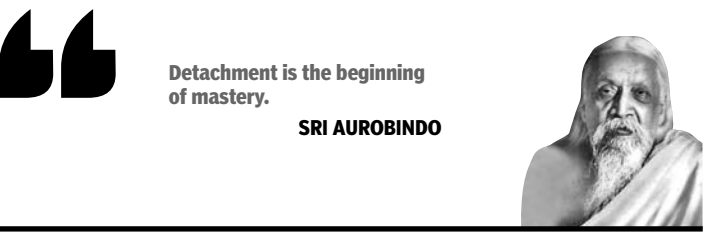
Faggan Singh Kulaste
Union Minister of State
Ministry of Steel

Naba Kishore Das
Minister of Health & Family Welfare
Govt. of Odisha

Jual Oram
Member of Parliament

21st March 2021, 3:30 PM, Rourkela





Facts don't matter

One of the problems of writing in these times is that little makes sense. There is no real connection to reality with news and therefore commenting on it, which is the work I am doing here, is useless. There is no role for an analyst because there is nothing to analyse in the absence of logic and reason. To illustrate what is meant consider these four news items.

The first is from Sunday, March 14. The headline is: "India vs England: Record crowd post Covid-19 in 1st T20 International". The news item says that in the match played at the world's largest Narendra Modi Stadium the attendance was 57,000 people. The second headline is from 14 March and it says "Covid-19 scare: Remaining T20I in Ahmedabad to be played without spectators". The report says that the BCCI came to the conclusion that having tens of thousands of people in close proximity was not good during the pandemic. The second wave of Covid had begun at the end of February so the question is why spectators were allowed into the world's largest Narendra Modi Stadium. That the news reports did not explain but daily Covid cases in Gujarat went up by 40 per cent in these four days.

The third headline is from this morning, Saturday March 20. It reads: "Alarmed over Covid-19 surge MHA writes to states, asks for compliance with norms". The report says that the Union home secretary Ajay Bhalla has written to the chief secretaries of all states on the second wave of Covid. He says that large gatherings are a problem and that they should take "necessary measures" for "strict enforcement".

The fourth headline is also from today and it says "Explained: Why new Uttarakhand CM wants no 'rok-tok' on Kumbh crowds". The report says that the BJP government in the state wanted the Kumbh Mela to be "open for all". As of March 11, some 32 lakh people had already gathered and more were on their way. The shahi snans were to be held on April 12, 14 and 27. Daily cases had doubled in Haridwar over the last two weeks. It was unclear what the connection of this activity had to do with the Union government's instruction which also came on the same day.

The second last headline, this again from today, reads: "Assembly Election 2021: PM Modi to address rally in Kharagpur today, four rallies scheduled in 10 days". This follows from another story which said Modi would hold 20 rallies and Amit Shah 50 rallies in Bengal. Modi's 'Brigade Chalo' rally in Kolkata on 7 March had between 5 and 10 lakh people in the crowd. Cases had doubled since that day in Bengal also.

The last headline we should look at is "Covid count tops 40k after 111 days, biggest rise in active cases since September". On Friday India recorded 40,000 new cases. One year ago, on March 24, 2020, when Modi decided that there would be a 21-day national lockdown, India had added less than 100 new cases.

Why did we go into nationwide lockdown when we were adding 100 cases a day and why are we not going into lockdown but allowing cricket stadiums, political rallies and kumbh melas when we are adding 40,000 cases a day?

What is the science here? I do not know. I do not think anyone knows. Why is the Modi government sending letters to states saying they should have strict enforcement of crowd control when Modi is himself holding giant rallies? Why is the government saying there should be necessary measures taken urgently to stop the spread of the virus when it is allowing 32 lakh people to gather in one place for a month? These are rhetorical questions. They do not have any answers because there is no logic and no sense to the way that India operates.

The prime minister's latest slogan is that in Bengal he will not allow khela but only vikas. His record, according to his own data, says that India's GDP growth has been in constant decline since January 2018. It fell from 8% to 7% to 6% to 4% to 3% at the end of 2019 and then fell into the negative. Unemployment according to government data was at its highest in 2019 before Covid in India's independent history. There are 20% fewer adult Indians in the workforce than in China or the United States.

This means that there will be no demographic dividend in India and we have squandered the moment when we could have had the maximum number of people in the workforce. This will not happen because there is no work for them. Is this vikas? I do not know. But the prime minister says it is so there must be some truth to it.

Analysts in India have become irrelevant because the facts do not matter any longer. This is a strange statement to make, but it is true.

WISDOM CORNER

- Not only does God play dice, but... he sometimes throws them where they cannot be seen. **STEPHEN HAWKING**
- If you carry your childhood with you, you never become older. **TOM STOPPARD**
- You can have everything in life you want, if you will just help other people get what they want. **ZIG ZIGLAR**

WORDSWORTH

Metoposcopist

A metoposcopist is a person who practices metoposcopy. So far so good. Metoposcopy is the art of judging a person's character and fortune from his face, principally his forehead. This is not so strange an idea, since that part of the face is prominent and expressive. Persons with high foreheads are considered brainy; those with short ones are sometimes thought to be almost Neanderthal. The play of the muscles on the forehead in concentration or contemplation is an expressive reflection of the mind working beneath the skin. Metoposcopy was a medieval method of assessment, together with such related techniques as chiromancy (divination using the hand) and podomancy (which is prognostication from the condition of one's feet). The more general term that refers to the whole face is physiognomy. Metoposcopy is said to have been invented in the sixteenth century by Gerolomo Cardano, a man better known for his pioneering work in medicine and mathematics. The word comes via Late Latin from Greek and derives from the Greek word metopon, forehead.

LOL Jump frog, jump

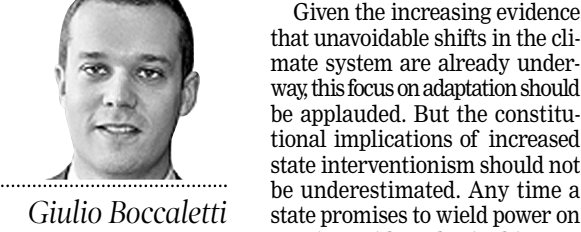
There was this biologist who was doing some experiments with frogs. He was measuring just how far frogs could jump. So he puts a frog on a line and says "Jump frog, jump!" The frog jumps 2 feet. He writes in his lab book: 'Frog with 4 legs - jumps 2 feet'. Next he chops off one of the legs and repeats the experiment. "Jump frog, jump!" The frog manages to jump 1.5 feet. So he writes in his lab book: 'Frog with 3 legs - jumps 1.5 feet'. He chops off another and the frog only jumps 1 foot. He writes in his

book: 'Frog with 2 legs - jumps 1 foot'. He continues and removes yet another leg. "Jump frog, jump!" And the frog somehow jumps a half of a foot. So he writes in his lab book again: 'Frog with one leg - jumps 0.5 feet'. Finally he chops off the last leg. He puts the frog on the line and tells it to jump. The frog doesn't move. "Jump frog, jump!" Again the frog stays on the line. "Come on frog, jump!" But to no avail. The biologist finally writes in his book: 'Frog with no legs - goes dead.'

FOCUS SUSTAINABILITY

CLIMATE CONSTITUTIONALISM

In January, the Netherlands hosted a digital Climate Adaptation Summit where representatives of governments from around the world discussed their post-pandemic recovery plans. To take advantage of remarkably cheap public finance, many emphasised state-directed investments in green infrastructure to promote climate adaptation and stimulate the economy.



Giulio Boccaletti

BECAUSE MODERN CONSTITUTIONALISM DEVELOPED ALONGSIDE SMALLPOX AND YELLOW FEVER CRISES, PUBLIC HEALTH OFFERS A HELPFUL ANALOGY FOR HOW SUCH ARRANGEMENTS ARISE



Although efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change have been informed by scientists and led by technocrats, their success will depend on ordinary citizens. It is the people and their representative institutions that must decide where individual rights end and collective responsibility begins

century, the human population tripled with the shift from rural, agricultural societies to urban consumer economies. As a result, expectations changed. A wealthier, enfranchised population could no longer tolerate risks (namely, floods and droughts) that previously had been an accepted part of life.

When the Great Depression arrived, governments responded with infrastructure-led modernisation programmes designed to control an unruly environment and prevent it from threatening economic growth and stability. The proliferation of dams, embankments, and canals amounted to an extraordinary display of sovereignty. The essence of this technocratic crusade against economic insecurity was similar to what some would like to see in the state's response to climate change today.

In the United States, the Tennessee Valley Authority became the archetype of state-led modernisation. Wielding extraordinary executive power as a federally owned corporation, the TVA could expropriate land in the name of the public interest and command substantial federal resources. Yet despite its success in transforming one of the poorest regions of the US, the TVA faced such strong opposition from those who saw it as federal overreach that no project of its kind has been replicated in the US. Indeed, the

response to the TVA sowed the seeds of an anti-infrastructure, anti-dam movement that swept the world in the second half of the twentieth century.

Without a shared understanding of where individual rights end and collective responsibility begins, any systematic transformation of the landscape will be an uphill battle, whatever the intent. Climate-adaptation projects cannot become a staple of public policy if they are merely technocratic in nature. Rather, they must embody a new contract between the state and its citizens. There must be a constitutional arrangement that defines the risks a society is willing to endure, and that sets a threshold for taking collective action against intolerable threats.

Because modern constitutionalism developed alongside smallpox and yellow fever crises, public health offers a helpful analogy for how such arrangements arise. In its 1905 decision in Jacobson v. Massachusetts, the US Supreme Court ruled that a community's right to protect itself against a deadly epidemic allowed it to take action against individuals who refused to be vaccinated against smallpox – including by legislating compulsory inoculation.

In most democracies since then, a century of judicial review has produced a large body of constitutional doctrines conferring legit-

imacy on state policies to manage public health. These prerogatives have been on full display during the COVID-19 pandemic: government-ordered lockdowns have curtailed individual freedoms in ways that rarely happen without trial.

Citizens have largely accepted these interventions not just because of past jurisprudence, but because of all the social and political history that the legal system has metabolised to get to where it is today. We are the beneficiaries of decades of debate on the importance of public health; of large bodies of epidemiological data, which have won the confidence of both courts and politicians; and of huge investments in a complex web of institutions – government agencies, universities, regulators – that have built trust over time. These and other factors have helped citizens converge on a set of principles making public health a top collective priority.

Humanity has now reached the critical juncture where climate change is acquiring normative value. The evidence justifying concerted state action continues to grow. But while climate adaptation is as urgent and salient an imperative as public health, it has yet to gain the same level of broad-based acceptance.

For climate policy to become more than a technocratic project, governments will need to invest not just in infrastructure and land-use changes, but also in intellectual capital, regulatory institutions, research, and education. Now is the time to drive public engagement in the debates that will define the boundaries between individual rights and collective responsibility in the era of climate change. Insofar as limits on the exercise of state power are the bedrock of modern constitutionalism, the societal embrace of climate adaptation represents a significant constitutional moment.

The writer is an honorary research associate at the Smith School of Enterprise and Environment, University of Oxford.

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SPECTRUM PERSONAL FINANCE

Teach millennials responsible borrowing



Bhaskar Nath Biswal

MILLENNIALS ARE NOT GIVEN PROPER FINANCIAL EDUCATION WHICH HAMPERS THEM FROM TAKING PRUDENT FINANCIAL DECISIONS

As per an S&P survey, more than 75 per cent of Indian adults do not understand basic financial concepts like compound interest, budget, retirement planning, responsible borrowing, etc. Around 80 per cent of women lack financial education. A Morgan Stanley report of 2019 revealed that 46 per cent of India's workforce consisting of millennials contributes around 70 per cent of the household income of the country, yet not given proper financial education which hampers them from taking prudent financial decisions to improve their financial wellbeing and protection. A thrust on financial education has become essential to make financial inclusion meaningful and sustainable.

The Reserve Bank of India is conducting Financial Literacy Week (FLW) every year, since 2016, to popularise financial education with specific themes every year. This year, the financial literacy week was observed from 8th February to 12th February with the theme 'Credit Discipline and Credit from Formal Institutions'. Credit which is understood as debt in general, is discouraged by

most of us. Elders in a house advise the next generation not to go for credit as it may ruin or disrupt their economic life. Providing loans is a basic function of the banks and they can discharge this function properly when there is awareness among people about various facilities of credit offered by them. Banks organised various programmes during the FLW to reach out to larger number of masses to spread awareness.

Also, the campaign was made at a right time as more and more fraudulent loan apps that emerged in the aftermath of Covid-19 to target the vulnerable borrowers went up to threatening, abusing and harassing them to recover the loans. News of suicides of borrowers from these loan apps who failed to withstand the pressure of repayment was highlighted by the press across the country. The FLW theme of credit discipline is a step in the right direction.

Let us understand some of the important points regarding loans. Every loan comes with a cost. The principal amount is to be repaid along with interest and other additional charges, if any. Hence one has to plan in advance how he will

repay the loan to be availed. The purpose of the loan should be genuine and productive. Loan should always be a last resort. Do not get tempted to take a loan as others around you are taking loans. Also avoid easy loans offered by aggressive lenders who discourage borrowers from reading and understanding the terms and conditions mentioned in the loan documents. It is essential to read and understand the loan documents and ask for explanations wherever necessary before signing the agreement. It is the responsibility of the lender to provide all necessary information and clarify the doubts of the borrower.

One must be cautious about the security offered for obtaining the loan. It may be the house, land, ornaments or any other property. The borrower should realise that he may lose the security, if he is unable to repay the loan. Not only the security is lost, but also the image and credit worthiness of the borrower will be lost in case of default.

It is always better to compare the loan offers by various financial institutions related to interest, period, penalties, processing

charges, type of security needed, repayment terms, processing fee, insurance, stamp duty, guarantee, etc. This will help in choosing the right institutions where the borrower will pay less with better terms and conditions. A wrong decision will result in more payment and extra burden financially and psychologically.

The last caution is not to take a loan to repay another. This may lead to a vicious circle from which the borrower cannot escape and finally succumb to the pressure. Repayment of the loan should become the top priority and after total settlement, one can go for another. This will enhance his image and credit score which helps in getting a higher loan.

The efforts of our financial regulators and National Centre for Financial Education in providing financial education to the people will help in achieving their long-term financial wellbeing as well as economic wellness of the country.

The writer is Head, Department of Commerce, Nowrangpur College, Nabarangpur. 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

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

Punish culprits

Sir, Farmer leader Rakesh Tikait and his supporters were attacked near a Gurudwara in Shikharpur, Cuttack. The vehicle was pelted with stones while Tikait was being welcomed near the Gurudwara. The farmer leader had a narrow escape. Not only that, the attackers chased and beat up Tikait's supporters. One of the accused, Abinash Mohanty, who was arrested when the police arrived, is said to be the provincial chairman of an outfit named 'Devsena'. The police should investigate which political party the 'Devsena' is affiliated to and give appropriate punishment to the culprits. The United Farmers' Front held a farmers' mahapanchayat at Singuda playground near Chandikhol Friday. Tikait briefed the farmers on the three farm laws. The farmers have been campaigning for 119 days against the laws on the Delhi border. On one hand, the government says agriculture is the basis of the Indian economy, and on the other hand, such injustices on farmers have worried and distressed the public. Such misconduct is a direct attack on the very essence of democracy. It is the constitutional right of every person to agitate.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

Maiden call

Sir, Prasidh Krishna getting his maiden call for the three-match ODI series against England, must cheer Bangloreans. The Karnataka 'speed merchant' has been knocking on the doors of international cricket for a while with some stirring performances in domestic cricket. But getting the India cap will be no piece of cake with pacers Jaspreet Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, T Natarajan, Shardul Thakur and Bhuvneshwar Kumar proving their mettle.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

Ensure safety

Sir, Union Railway Minister Piyush Goyal has given instructions to take strict measures regarding the safety of passengers in trains. He stated that safety remains the focus area of railways operations and no one should let the guard down on that front. A thorough review of all safety measures in the running of trains needs to be taken up by all concerned. The minister has also advised to focus on remedial measures for safety hazards like fire and ensuring alertness for signals and crossings. He asked the officers to focus on root cause analysis of breaches in safety and advised them to launch a safety drive. Indian Railways is the lifeline of the people. The authorities concerned should ensure safe and convenient journey of people.

Amit Singh Kushwaha, SATNA (MP)

MANY MOODS AND FACES



- 1- Orissa POST and Dharitri Editor Tathagata Satpathy, Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Principal Secretary to Tourism, Sports & Youth Services dept, Vishal Dev are on the dais
- 2, 6 & 10- The awardees and audience at Business Eminence Awards ceremony organised at Hotel Swosti Premium in Bhubaneswar
- 3, 4 & 5- Chief Guest Pradhan addressing the gathering, Dev giving the keynote address & Satpathy delivering his introductory speech
- 7- Satpathy sharing a light moment with Mitesh Khimji
- 8- Orissa POST and Dharitri Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy with Pradhan
- 9- Mrs Satpathy with dignitaries



Biswa Narayan Mohanty, CEA & Nalini Ranjan Patnaik (R), MGM Minerals

Sudhi Ranjan Mishra, Head of Corp Communication, Paradeep Phosphates Ltd

Kishore Mohan Mohanty, Head of Corp Communication, Imfa

Animesh Biswal, Cluster Head, HDFC Bank, Bhubaneswar

Sushil Patnaik, Sales Head, News 18 Odia

Sidharth Agrawal, Director, 91.1 Sarthak FM

Camel Milk
200 mL | ₹ 25*

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500 mL | ₹ 33*

Taaza
200 mL | ₹ 14*

Gold
1 L | ₹ 68*

Taaza
1 L | ₹ 64*

Gold
500 mL | ₹ 35*

Slim 'n' Trim
1 L | ₹ 75*

Lactose Free Milk
250 mL | ₹ 25*

BUSINESS EMINENCE AWARDEES

PAGE
6&7

Even as the fact remains that Covid-19 acted as a great leveller and there was an unexpected kind of unity amidst despair in the air, there were a few entrepreneurs in Odisha who relentlessly pursued their goals to become achievers. **Orissa POST** and **Dharitri** had the honour to felicitate these business leaders at a mega event at Hotel Swosti Premium in Bhubaneswar...



MITESH KHIJMI, Khimji Group



AJAY BAHADUR SINGH, Aakash Institute, with the Minister



ARSHDEEP SINGH, Sunny Motors



ABINASH SAMAL of Tata Motors (Commercial Vehicle Division), MG Motors, JLR, receiving the Business Eminence Award from Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in the presence of Orissa POST and Dharitri Editor Taghagata Satpathy and Principal Secretary, Tourism, Sports and Youth Services Vishal Dev in Bhubaneswar, Saturday



ACHYUTA SAMANTA, KIIT University & KISS founder, receiving the award from Pradhan



AVINASH SINGHANIA, Sky Automobiles



BADRI NARAYAN SAMANTARAY, Trupti Group



BIJAY KUMAR SAHOO, Sai International School



BISWAJEET PATTANAYAK, ASBM University



BRAHMANANDA MEHER, Arundhati Jewellers



DEVIJYOTI PATNAIK, Jyote Group



DEBRAJ RATHA, Spectra Vision



DURGA PRASAD RATHA, Padma & Sri Durga Group



JAY PRAKASH DIDWANIA, Bharat Group



JK MOHANTY, Swosti Group



KAMAL S AGARWAL, PGL Group



ADITYA PATRA, Aditya Group



NISHITHA RANJAN NANDA, Samasti Infrastructure



POLY PATNAIK, Mother's Public School, with the Minister



PRADEEP AGARWAL, JMG Automobiles



PRAKASH KUMAR BISWAL, Raj Electronics



PRAHANT AGRAWAL, WEFE Internet



DR PRIYABRATA DHIR, Sparsh Hospital



RABINDRA KUMAR LENKA, Jayaram Lenka & Sons



RAJAN GUGNANI, Gugnani Auto Group



RAJINDER SINGH, Kalamandir, with the Minister



RAJIV DUBEY, Rohan Autoriders Pvt Ltd



SANJEEV KUMAR PATRA, Sandy's Tower



SANJIB KUMAR ROUT, CV Raman Global University



SARAT KUMAR SAHOO, Ruchi Masala



SATWIK SWAIN, OASME



SATYABRATA MINAKETAN, ODM Educational Group, receiving the award from Pradhan while Taghagata Satpathy and Vishal Dev look on



SHARAD BAID, Utkal Builders Ltd



SHAUNAK RAJ PARIKH, Utkal Automobiles Pvt Ltd



SHIBA PRASAD PANDA, Panda Travel Mart



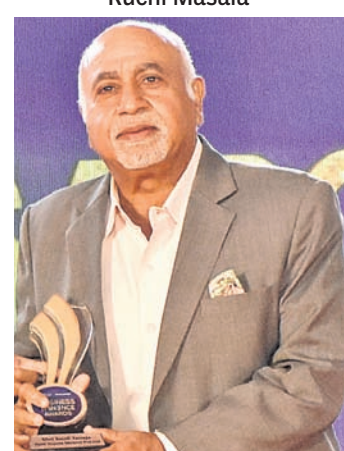
SIDDHARTH GARG, Gargson Group



SIKATA DAS, BMPS Takshila School



SOFIA FIRDIOUS, Metro Group



SUNIL TANEJA, Field Toyota Motors Pvt Ltd



SUSHANTA KUMAR PANDA, Bharat Masala



VISHAL DHAWAN, Consortium Automobiles Pvt Ltd, receiving the award from the Minister

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452 SAM children in Odisha, says minister

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 20: A total of 452 children in Odisha are suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM), Women and Child Development Child Minister Tukuni Sahu informed the Assembly, Saturday.

She gave a written reply to a question asked by Congress legislator Santosh Singh Saluja and said that Nabarangpur district with 57 SAM children has the largest number of kids suffering from the disease. Sahu also informed that Dhenkanal district has not reported a single SAM case.

Similarly, 26 severe acute malnutrition children are there in the Jajpur district. Notably, 20 children from Juang tribe had died of malnutrition within a short span of time in 2016 in Nagada area of the district.

As per the minister's statement, Keonjhar district has 45 SAM children. Other districts which have reported SAM cases are Sundargarh and Mayurbhanj districts (29 each), Koraput (28), Balasore (24), Kalahandi, Malkangiri and Kandhamal (21 each), Rayagada (18), Bhadrak and Nuapada (17 each), Sambalpur (16), Cuttack (14), Bolangir (10), Bargarh (9), Angul and Kendrapara (seven each),



SAHU SAID THE ODISHA GOVERNMENT IS IMPLEMENTING VARIOUS STEPS FOR SAM CHILDREN

Ganjam, Jagatsinghpur, Khurda, Nayagarh (five each), Jharsuguda, Gajapati and Puri (four each), Deogarh (two) and Boudh and Sonepur (one each).

Sahu said the Odisha government is implementing various steps for SAM children. Among them are early identifica-

tion of such children and shifting them to NRC for their nutrition and health care.

The anganwadi workers are also regularly visiting children suffering from this disease to monitor their health conditions. Supplementary nutrition food is being served to the children under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), she said.

The families of SAM children have been earmarked as highly sensitive and included under various social welfare schemes of different departments, added the minister.



No consensus on WODC office shifting to W Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 20: The office of the Western Odisha Development Council (WODC) could not be opened shifted to the western region due to lack of consensus, Planning and Convergence Minister Padmanabha Behera told the state Assembly Saturday.

Replying to a debate on the admissibility of an adjournment motion on WODC, Behera said the posts lying vacant in Council would be filled up and the council would be constituted soon.

He said Rs 1682.52 crore grant has been given to the Council since its inception in 1998. This apart the

state government is also providing a special grant of additional Rs 50 crore to the council.

Behera said there is a proposal to hike the annual grant to the council to Rs 200 crore during the financial year 2021-22 and presented detailed agricultural and irrigation projects completed in the council area.

However, expressing their displeasure over the minister's statement, Opposition BJP and Congress and walked out of the House in protest. They alleged that the Council has become a rehabilitation centre for the ruling party.

Whenever a leader lost election, he/she has been rehabilitated in

the WODC, alleged Santosh Singh Saluja (Congress). He also alleged large scale corruption in the WODC and said a big racket of the agents was going on. Saluja further said the project proposals of the MLAs are not being approved whereas the projects submitted by the agents are being approved as the proposal of common people.

The Congress MLA further said in place of six MPs only two are nominated as members of the council. The Council has only one expert member out of ten.

Another Congress legislator Adhiraj Panigrahi said Bolangir office of the Council has only one data entry operator and one peon.

It shows the sincerity of the government, he said.

Though the Council has been formed for 21 years now it has no vision, Panigrahi said adding that fund is being provided only for the construction of roads. He also alleged that the council is being used as a centre for the rehabilitation of retired officers and BJD workers.

Mukesh Mahalinga (BJP) said there is no plan for migrant workers as a result people have moved out of the village in search of work during Covid. The villages, he said were a deserted look. He said the fund is provided to develop blocks of BJD MLAs, but not the underdeveloped blocks.

CM greets Odias on 'Pakhala Divas'

Bhubaneswar: 'Pakhala' and Odia life are inseparable. On the occasion of 'Pakhala Divas' Saturday, many city hotels and restaurants offered several Odia cuisines along with a bowl of 'Pakhala', while many relished the delicacy at their homes. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik took to his Twitter handle to greet Odias on 'Pakhala Divas'. "It is always a pleasure to relish Pakhala, especially my favourite Pakhala which I have a special liking for. Remember fondly the appreciation of guests from outside the state and country whenever we served them Pakhala. Wishing you all a happy Pakhala Dibas," read the tweet.

WASSUP TODAY

- BHUBANESWAR**
- 13th Kalinga Herbal Fair, Idco Exhibition Ground, 10 am
- Anna Seva Camp, Narayan Seba Sansthan, Odisha Blind Association premises, 11 am
- International Day of Forests, Jaydev Vatika, 11.30 am
- Unveiling of Debasish Panigrahi's book, Oxford Book Store, Hansapal, 5 pm
- Samarpan by Bhubaneswar Music Circle, Rabindra Mandap, 6.30 pm
- State-level Drama Festival, Rangasangam, Bhanjakala Mandap, 6.30 pm
- Second Kanchan Corporate Award Ceremony, Hotel Excellency, Master Canteen Square, 7 pm

CUTTACK

- Golden Jubilee celebration of 1970 batch of Peary Mohan Academy, Gardes Resort, Nuapada, 10 am
- 17th biennial conference of Odisha Sales Executive Association, Town Hall, 12 noon
- Saraswat Samman Utsav by Utkal Sahitya Samaj, Satabdi Bhawan, 6.30 pm

Programmes/announcements for **wassup** today may be sent to **opwassup@gmail.com** for record, it must also carry the sender's mobile number for our verification, but not for publication.

High Court directs cops to use uniform font size

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, March 20: Irritated by the small size of letters and improper spacing between words and lines, the Orissa High Court asked the Director General of Police (DGP) to instruct all police stations in the state to use a proper pattern while writing chargesheets and FIRs.

A bench of Justice SK Panigrahi advised the state police to use Times New Roman font with size of at least 12 points and maintain 1.5 cm space between the lines while preparing chargesheets and FIRs. Justice Panigrahi said in an oral observation that he could not comprehend a chargesheet submitted by the police in connection with a murder case even after using a magnifying glass.

WRITING OF CHARGESHEETS, FIRs



"I had to use a magnifying lens to read the chargesheet and still I failed to comprehend a single line of the copy. It becomes very irritating for the judges to read the chargesheets due to improper font and letter size," Justice Panigrahi

said during the hearing.

The high court also directed the DGP to file a compliance affidavit within two weeks, failing which the DGP will have to appear before the court personally.

The bench observed that a proper and uniform pattern of writing for chargesheets and FIR copies will be helpful for all stakeholders. He said during the hearing that not only judges but sometimes prosecution and defense lawyers also find it difficult to comprehend chargesheets. A uniform font size and proper spacing between words and lines will be helpful for judges, prosecution and defense counsels, the bench said in oral observation.

The high court made these observations during the hearing of murder case.

Magarnaka hot spring development on cards



POST NEWS NETWORK

Khamar, March 20: Everybody knows about the hot springs at Atri in Ganjam district. However, there is another hot spring which lies undetected from prying eyes at Magarmuhan under Pallahara block of Angul district. The hot spring is known as 'Magarnaka'.

This scenic place has caught the attention of Pallahara MLA Mukesh

3,00,000 for its restoration.

A team of officials at the request of Pal visited the spot and conducted a survey. They have suggested certain modifications to develop the place. Among them is construction of stairs, digging a pond and developing other infrastructure.

Chakradhar Satpathy, a priest of Magarnaka temple, said that this natural scenic spot is far from the sight of people. "Efforts to develop the place are welcome. Two to three ponds need to build for storing hot water," he said.

Sanatan Pradhan, a local resident said that the hot spring has been lying neglected over the years. However, now the steps to develop it are a matter of joy for locals.

Jagannath land issue reverberates in House

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 20: The row over selling of Jagannath temple land echoed Saturday in the House as BJD MLA PK Deb raised the issue during zero hour.

Deb targetted the BJP members for politicising the issue even after clarification was issued by the temple administration. He said maximum amount of temple land is located in Puri and about 50 per cent of land is being used by the Sevayats. "Will the BJP members say this standing before the Sevayats?" he asked.

Deb admitted that about 300 acres of Jagannath land has been used for development of public infrastructures like road, hospitals, etc. The BJD leader also claimed that the report about selling of 35,000 acres of temple land is not correct. Commenting on this issue outside the House, BJD MLA Bishnu Sethi said, "They have already used 300 acres of land across the state. We are not blaming the revenue department, so it is the responsibility of the state government to negotiate with the Sevayats. Why we will stand before them (Sevayats)?"

Sethi slammed the BJD for terming the media report as rumor or incorrect and said, "If we will treat minister's reply as rumor, then whom will we believe?"

Congress leader Suresh Routray alleged that a patch of temple land in his constituency has been recently given for construction of a petrol pump. Law Minister Pratap Jena chose to remain silent on the issue.



Members of a forest protection committee observing World Sparrow Day at Pabla in Angul district, Saturday

TRAFFIC RULE VIOLATIONS

16,820 DLs scrapped in 2 months

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 20: Officials of the Regional Transport Offices (RTO) throughout Odisha have suspended the driving licenses of 16,820 persons found flouting various traffic rules between January and February, 2021. The State Transport Authority (STA) revealed Saturday on its official Twitter handle. As per the STA, the driving licenses have been suspended for a period of three months for violations of various rules like drunk driving, over speeding, jumping of red lights and rash driving.

"DLs are suspended for a period of three months as per directions of Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety for violations like over speeding, drunk driving, red light jumping, using mobile phones while driving, overloading, carrying pas-



sengers in goods vehicle and for two wheelers where the driver or the pillion rider is not wearing helmet. The DL is suspended even in the first instance of violation of these rules," informed the STA.

The RTOs suspended the licenses of 11,613 persons for not wearing helmets. Similarly, 1,922 driving licenses have been can-

celled for over speeding. Over speeding has been the major cause for fatal road accidents in Odisha. Licenses of 1,322 persons have been suspended for using mobile phones while driving.

The tweet also informed that 282 DLs have been suspended for jumping red lights, 387 for overloading, 313 for carrying passengers in goods vehicle and 316 for drunk and driving during the last two months.

RTO-I in the state capital has suspended 3,016 DLs while in Cuttack the figure stands at 3,003. The RTO in Rourkela suspended 1,483 DLs in January and February. RTOs across Odisha have suspended 7,960 DLs in January and 8,860 in February respectively.

The STA also warned that traffic rule violators will face strict disciplinary measures in the days to come.

Police, protesters clash near Nalco site in Damanjodi

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jeypore, March 20: Tensions flared up Saturday near a Nalco site at Damanjodi in Koraput district following a scuffle between local police and villagers who had been displaced.

According to a source, the displaced villagers have been on dharna for the last four days demanding employment for their family members. They staged a road block in the morning and halted vehicular movement. They even prevented the staff from entering into the Nalco premises to join their duties.

On being informed by Nalco authorities, local police reached the spot. Initially they tried to pacify the agitators. However, soon the situation turned ugly as protestors started pelting stones at the police. It prompted the police to fire teargas shells at the agitators.

In the skirmish, one police personnel sustained injuries while a vehicle and the magistrate's car were damaged. Police took 20 protesters into custody.

Keeping in mind the palpable tension in the area, the district administration has imposed prohibitory orders under Section 144 of CrPc at Anlabadi-Nalco mines. Eight platoons of police force have been deployed to avoid any untoward incidents.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE PUBLIC AT LARGE that **M/s Orissa Stevedores Limited**, a Company having its registered office at Link Road, P.O.-Arunodaya Nagar, P.S.- Madhupatana, Dist.- Cuttack, Pin- 753012, State- Odisha (**"the Borrower/Mortgagor"**) proposes to mortgage its Immoveable property, more particularly mentioned in Schedule A, together with all existing buildings and structures thereon and buildings and structures as may be erected/constructed there upon any time from / after the date of respective mortgages and all additions thereto and all fixtures and furniture's and plant and machinery attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth, both present and future (**"Said Property"**) as Security in favour of my client i.e. **Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.** to secure the loan to be availed by the Borrower.

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Notice under Sec. 13(2) of The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002

Sent on 12.03.2021 by Regd. Post to :

(1) **Mr Panchanana Pattnaik (Borrower / Mortgagor)**, S/o: Lokanath Pattnaik, Present Address: MIG-2/362, Satyasai Enclave, Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar-751019, Permanent Address: Boxi Street, Jeypore, Koraput, Odisha-764001, (2) **M/s PR Panchadev Enterprises (Borrower)**, Proprietor: Mr Panchanana Pattnaik, S/o: Lokanath Pattnaik, Unit Address: MIG-2/362, Satyasai Enclave, Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar-751019 (3) **Mr Durga Prasad Pattnaik (Guarantor)**, S/o: Lokanath Pattnaik, Present Address: D-3/12, Madhusudan Nagar, Bhubaneswar- 751022, Permanent Address: MIG-2/362, Satyasai Enclave, Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar-751019 .

Sub: Loan Account Mr Panchanana Pattnaik (Housing Loan) with Indian Bank (Erstwhile Allahabad Bank) Bapuji Nagar Branch, Bhubaneswar and M/s PR Panchadev Enterprises (Cash Credit Loan) with Indian Bank (Erstwhile Allahabad Bank) Infocity Branch, Bhubaneswar .

You committed default in repayment of loan to the tune of **Rs.75,69,003/-** as on 09.03.2021 with further interest at the agreed rate from 10.03.2021 till date of repayment .

The Bank issued notice under the Act on 10.03.2021 calling upon you to repay the outstanding amount of **Rs.75,69,003/-** as on 09.03.2021 with further interest . The notice was sent to you by Regd. Post has been returned unserved .

You are called upon to pay **Rs.75,69,003/-** together with interest from 10.03.2021 till date of payment within 60 days from the date of this notice failing which Bank will be constrained to exercise its rights of enforcement of Security interest against the Secured assets given in the Schedule hereunder . This notice is without prejudice to any other right remedy available to the Bank .

SCHEDULE

The specific details of the assets in which security interest is created are enumerated hereunder :

Mortgaged Assets: All that part and parcel of flat bearing Flat No. 408, Fourth Floor, 'BASERA HARMONY', having super built up Area of 1200 sqft and undivided share of land of Ac.0.010 decimal, constructed over Plot No. 277, Khata No. 108, Mouza: Bhubaneswar Sahar, Unit No.40 (DAMANA), under Jurisdiction of DSRO/Tahasil : Bhubaneswar, PS: New Capital, Hal PS: Chandrasekharpur, District: Khurda . The property registered in the name of **Mr Panchanan Pattnaik**, S/o: Lokanath Pattnaik vide Document No. 11081316738 dated 16.12.2013 and bounded by North- Open Space, South- Staircase, East - Open Space, West - Open Space .

Hypothecated Assets: Stocks and Book debts of firm, M/s PR Panchadev Enterprises situated at MIG-2/362, Satyasai Enclave, Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar- 751019 .

Place : Bhubaneswar
Date : 20.03.2021

Authorised Officer, Indian Bank (Erstwhile Allahabad Bank)

of the day quote

The BJP is attacking Assam's culture, language, history and brotherhood... We will protect you and your culture and identity, eliminate hatred and bring peace. It is your state and it cannot be run from Nagpur

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

Thank God, the 'Mir Jafars' have left TMC. I am relieved. It has saved us. They never used to allow me to come to Khejuri, Nandigram or Kanthi whenever I wished to visit these places. As if this was their 'zamindari'. Now, nobody can stop me from coming here

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

Perhaps they had objection over 'Mukhya Mantri' word. We are not doing this to take credit or promote our names. So now the scheme will have no name

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

23 held in raid for prostitution

Noida: Twenty-three people, including 12 women, were arrested for an alleged prostitution racket in a raid by the police at a hotel in Greater Noida Saturday, officials said. Involvement of local police officials is also suspected in the operation of the racket, Greater Noida Deputy Commissioner of Police Rajesh Kumar Singh said. The officer said the role of the local police has also come under the scanner and some personnel have been found guilty in the initial investigation.

2 naxals killed in encounter

Raipur: Two Naxals, collectively carrying a reward of Rs 4 lakh on their heads, were killed in an encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district Saturday, a police official said. The skirmish took place around 1.30 pm at a forest near Bade Gudra village under Kuakonda police station limits when a team of District Reserve Guard (DRG) was out on anti-Naxal operation. After the exchange of fire ended, the bodies of two Naxals along with one 9 mm pistol, one country-made revolver and a 5 kg IED, were recovered from the spot, Pallava said.

Chemical factory blasts claim 4

Mumbai: Four workers were killed and one of their colleagues suffered injuries in two blasts at a chemical factory in Khed taluka of Maharashtra's Ratnagiri district Saturday morning, a police official said. Around 40 other workers were rescued by the fire department staff and the police personnel following the blasts that triggered a blaze, he said.

6 tigers missing at Ranthambore

Jaipur: Six tigers are missing nearly for the past one year from the Rajasthan's Ranthambore National Park, according to an official. Two of them are cubs, national park's Field Director T C Verma said, adding that they were last seen March and April last year. Since there is no evidence of natural death or poaching, it is most likely that the tigers moved out to other forest areas," he said. Verma said that the tigers were from different ranges.



Who can understand the problems of tea workers better than a 'chaiwala'? A conspiracy was hatched against Assam tea. You must have heard about a toolkit. It sought to destroy the tea gardens of Assam. No Indian will allow that

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA

'Eight states show rising COVID trends'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 20: A rising trajectory of daily new cases is visible in eight states and UTs, including Delhi and Maharashtra, while Kerala is showing a declining trend, the Health Ministry said Saturday.

The ministry said Maharashtra, Kerala and Punjab cumulatively account for 76.22 per cent of India's total active caseload, with Maharashtra contributing to 62 per cent of such cases, while Kerala and Punjab account for 8.83 per cent and 5.36 per cent of active cases respectively.

The top five districts in Maharashtra recording the highest number of cases are Pune (37,384), Nagpur (25,861), Mumbai (18,850), Thane (16,735) and Nashik (11,867). The top five districts in Kerala recording the highest number of cases are Ernakulam (2,673), Pathanamthitta (2,482), Kannur (2,263), Palakkad (2,147) and Thrissur (2,065). The top five districts in Punjab recording the highest number of cases are Jalandhar (2,131), SAS Nagar (1,868), Patiala (1,685), Ludhiana (1,643) and Hoshiarpur (1,572).

"A rising trajectory of daily new cases is visible in eight states. These are Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Gujarat, Karnataka and Haryana. Kerala is showing a consistently declining trend," the ministry said in a statement. The ministry further said that five states account for 81.38 per cent of the new deaths. Maharashtra saw the maximum casualties at 70, Punjab followed with 38 daily deaths and Kerala reported 17 deaths in the last 24 hours.

Maha board exams to be held offline

Mumbai: The written examinations of HSC (Class 12) and SSC (Class 10) of the Maharashtra education board that commence next month, will be held through offline mode only, state School Education Minister Varsha Gaikwad announced Saturday. She made the announcement amid speculations that these exams could be held online considering the rise in coronavirus cases of late. But if any student fails to appear for a particular written paper or multiple papers due to COVID-19 or because any member of the family is infected or due to lockdown at local level, then he or she will get a grace period of 15 days to give the test, the minister said. The Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) exam will start from April 23, while the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) will begin from April 29.

'Mizoram can't be indifferent to Myanmar refugees fleeing coup'

The CM said the MHA's March 10 advisory to Mizoram, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur was not acceptable to his state

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Aizawl, March 20: Urging the Centre to review its order to four Myanmar-bordering northeastern states including Mizoram to prevent illegal immigration from the neighbouring country and ensure expeditious deportation, Chief Minister Zoramthanga has asserted that the people of his state, who share ethnic ties with the refugees from Chin communities, can't remain indifferent to their plight.

The Mizo National Front (MNF) chief, in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi March 18, requested him to personally intervene in the matter to provide asylum to the political refugees on humanitarian grounds, an official at the Chief Minister's Office said Saturday.



He said the MHA's March 10 advisory to Mizoram, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur was not acceptable to his state.

Though the MNF is a part of the BJP-led North East Democratic Alliance (NEDA), it does not have an alliance with the saffron party

US-India defence partnership priority of Biden admin: Austin

He called India a "central pillar" in Washington's approach towards the region

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 20: India and the US Saturday resolved to further expand their robust defence ties through deeper military-to-military engagement and logistic support, with the US describing the partnership as a "stronghold" of a free and open Indo-Pacific amidst China's growing assertiveness in the region.

After holding wide-ranging talks with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin said elevating the Indo-US defence partnership is a "priority" of the Biden administration, and that India is an increasingly important partner amid rapidly shifting international dynamics and a "central pillar" in Washington's approach towards the region.

"I reaffirmed our commitment to a comprehensive and forward-look-



ing defence partnership with India as a central pillar of our approach to the region," he said, in a clear indication of the new US administration's foreign policy priorities.

Describing the talks as "comprehensive and fruitful", Singh said they agreed to enhance cooperation between Indian military and the US Indo-Pacific Command, Central Command and Africa Command, and that both sides are keen to work together to realise the full potential of the India-US comprehensive global strategic partnership. It is understood that China's aggressive behaviour in eastern Ladakh figured the talks.

'Remote voting' may start by next LS elections: CEC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 20: Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora Saturday expressed hope the concept of remote voting will see "the light of day" by the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, and said that a pilot project could begin in the next two-three months.

Addressing an event here, he said, the EC had early this year started a research project for enabling remote voting, in consultation with IIT Madras and eminent technologists from IITs and other leading institutions.

Over the last few months, a dedicated team has been working hard for giving shape to this project, he said, adding the concept would hopefully "see the light of day" by 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

SUV CASE

'Deshmukh asked Vaze to 'collect' ₹100 cr p/m'



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, March 20: In a sensational twist to the SUV case, former Mumbai Commissioner of Police Param Bir Singh Saturday hit out at Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh by virtually alleging that the minister wanted his team member, arrested cop Sachin Vaze, to 'collect' Rs 100 crore per month from bars and hookah parlours.

Taking strong umbrage at Deshmukh's remarks that Singh's transfer as Commandant-General of Maharashtra Home Guards was not for administrative purposes but for "unpardonable lapses" by his team, the ex-Mumbai top cop shot off an eight-page missive to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, saying he was made a "scapegoat" for "extraneous and vindictive reasons".

Hitting back at Singh, Deshmukh tweeted that the ex-Mumbai police chief was leveling false allegations against him to save himself from action in the SUV case and the case related to the death of Mansukh Hiran.

"The former Commissioner of Police, Parambir Singh has made false allegations in order to save himself as the involvement of Sachin Waze in Mukesh Ambani & Mansukh Hiren's case is becoming clearer from the investigation carried out so far & threads are leading to Mr Singh as well,"

Referring to Indo-US foundational agreements on defence co-operation, Singh said both sides discussed steps to be taken to realise the full potential of pacts such as LEMOA (Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement), COM-CASA (Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement) and BECA (Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement).

Singh also said the recent summit of leaders of India, the US, Japan and Australia under the Quad framework emphasised the resolve to maintain a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region.

"India is committed to further consolidate our robust defence partnership with the US. I look forward to working with you closely to make the India-US relationship one of the defining partnerships of 21st century," Singh said.

Deshmukh threatens defamation

Mumbai: Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh said Saturday evening that he will file a defamation case against former Mumbai police commissioner Param Bir Singh for accusing him of corruption. Deshmukh, an NCP leader, had tweeted earlier refuting Singh's allegation that he had asked police officers to collect money from bars, restaurants and other establishments. In a statement, Deshmukh also asked why Singh was keeping silent for so long, and alleged that the IPS officer, shunted out from the post of city police commissioner Wednesday, was only trying to save his own skin in the Sachin Waze case.

Deshmukh tweeted.

The SUV case refers to the explosives-laden Scorpio that was found near industrialist Mukesh Ambani's residence in Mumbai last month. Thane-based businessman Mansukh Hiran, who was in possession of the Scorpio, was found dead under mysterious circumstances March 5.

But even as the latest revelations by Singh threatens to shake the foundation of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government of Shiv Sena-Nationalist Congress Party-Congress, top leaders remained incommunicado.

India setting stage to attract international students

Under the 'Study in India' programme, around 7,500 students from over 50 countries have come to Indian institutions so far

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, March 20: The Ministry of Education has informed that it is deliberating on measures to increase the number of international students coming to India for higher studies.

The changes will be done through 'Study in India' -- a programme being run by the central government aimed to attract international students to higher education institutions in India. Select 117 institutions are partners under the programme that was launched 2018.

In the move, the Ministry said that no distinction will be made between private and public institutions in matters of supporting internationalization.



In a review meeting of the Ministry's 'Study in India' programme with partner institutions Friday, Secretary Higher Education Amit Khare said that the criteria for institutions partnering under it will soon be revised so that more institutions that have the necessary infrastructure and academic quality can join the programme.

Under the 'Study in India' programme, there is merit based admission through a common portal. Around 7,500 students from over 50 countries have come to Indian institutions so far under this programme.

The government has also recognized the importance of creating a conducive, on-campus ecosystem for the international students, where

they not only get quality academic inputs but can also feel safe, welcome, happy and hassle free.

In this regard, the Secretary called upon all partner institutions to set up world class hostels for international students. There is a provision for financial assistance for this under the Champion Services Sector Scheme that supports SII, which can be provided

to some institutions.

In addition, the secretary said, there is an urgent requirement of setting up International Students' Offices in every institution that takes in international students.

"This office should work as a single window support for anything that the international students may need, right from the day they get selected to join the institution," Khare said. Besides this, avenues like networks of families and mentors should be developed, who can help the students to socialize so that they feel welcome in the country and have an enjoyable stay here, with memories that they can cherish, and positive experience to share with others.

In addition to this, the Ministry

has also asked institutions that they should consider organizing orientation for international students when they join, as well as orientation for the faculty to sensitize them to teach using contexts that these students can relate to.

The Ministry is also looking towards enhanced academic collaborations between Indian and international institutions under Twinning, Joint and Dual degrees with credit transfer mechanism. UGC has already brought out draft regulations in this regard that have currently been put up for stakeholder consultation.

There regulations will give a boost to student exchange programmes and short programmes of one or two semesters



of the day quote

As Secretary of Commerce, combating the semiconductor shortage and investing in American manufacturing of semiconductor technology is going to be a priority of mine and I look forward to working alongside leaders like the Semiconductor Industry Association

GINA RAIMONDO | US SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

The strict COVID prevention measures have impacted humanitarian operations in (North Korea), causing reduced operational capacity, stock out of essential humanitarian supplies, and delayed delivery of humanitarian programme

STEPHANE DUJARRIC | UN SPOKESMAN

In an effort to ensure that more people have an opportunity to serve the public, we worked in coordination with the security service to ensure that more people have the opportunity to serve than would not have in the past with the same level of recent drug use

JEN PSAKI | WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

SHORT TAKES

Police clash with protesters

Berlin: Protesters in a central German city clashed with police on Saturday over coronavirus measures, with officers using water cannons, pepper spray and batons against people trying to break through police barriers, the German news agency dpa reported. Around 10,000 people participated in the protests in Kassel, and in addition to clashes with police there were also several scuffles with counter-protesters.

Two get death penalty in rape case

Lahore: An anti-terrorism court in Pakistan on Saturday handed down death sentence to two accused involved in the gangrape of a French woman in Lahore. The incident, which took place at Lahore-Sialkot motorway in September last year, had sparked countrywide outcry with a demand for public hanging of the perpetrators of the crime.

14 killed in bus accident

Colombo: At least 14 people were killed and 30 others injured after a passenger bus veered off a road and plunged down a precipice on Saturday in the hilly district of Badulla in central Sri Lanka. The private bus was travelling from Lunugala in Badulla to capital Colombo when the accident took place this morning, police said.

Paris begins lockdown

Paris: A month-long coronavirus lockdown went into effect in Paris and other French regions on Saturday as the country is struggling to contain a third wave of the pandemic. About one in three of the 67 million people living in the country is affected by the tougher measures, reports dpa news agency.

5 cops killed in fight with rebels

Manila: Five policemen were killed in a clash with suspected rebels in the Philippines, a top official said Saturday. Two officers were also wounded in the fighting late Friday.



The UK and India have an invaluable partnership, including tackling COVID-19, with the Serum Institute of India manufacturing doses of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vax drawing our brightest minds together to save lives as a global force for good

LORD TARIQ AHMAD | MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOUTH ASIA & THE COMMONWEALTH

BRITAIN HITS MILESTONE

Half of all adults in Britain have now received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, becoming the world's first major economy to hit that milestone



EU threatens AstraZeneca with export ban

Most countries in the EU resumed giving shots of AstraZeneca again Friday as infection numbers were spiking again across the continent and AstraZeneca's vaccine, too, is seen as critical to ending the coronavirus pandemic

AGENCIES

Berlin, March 20: The European Union's executive arm is increasing its pressure on pharmaceutical companies to speed up their vaccine delivery to the continent as virus numbers are rising again in many member countries.

The European Commission said Saturday that AstraZeneca in particular could face export bans to countries outside the EU if it didn't quickly deliver the promised amount of vaccines to the 27-nation bloc. "We have the possibility to ban planned exports," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said Saturday.



"This is a message to AstraZeneca: You fulfill your part of the deal toward Europe before you start to deliver to other countries," von der Leyen said in an interview with German media group Funke. Von der Leyen said the contract between the EU and AstraZeneca clearly regulates how much vaccines the EU gets from AstraZeneca's plants inside the EU and in Britain. However, von der Leyen added, "we didn't get anything from the Brits while we are delivering vaccines to them."

She said the commission had sent a "formal reminder" to

AstraZeneca regarding this issue. AstraZeneca's coronavirus vaccine is one of three vaccines that's approved in the EU.

However, its usage has been overshadowed by several problems, including a slow start, recurring delivery problems and a temporary ban for several days earlier this week in many of the bloc's member countries after reports of blood clots in some recipients of the vaccine.

Most countries in the EU resumed giving shots of AstraZeneca again Friday as infection numbers were spiking again across the continent and AstraZeneca's vaccine,

Finland suspends the 'vax'

Helsinki: The Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) announced a one-week suspension of the AstraZeneca's Covid-19 vaccine in the country despite the previous day's recommendation by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) which said that the vaccine was safe for use. Meanwhile, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who was hospitalised last year with a severe bout of Covid-19, has received his first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine against the virus.

too, is seen as critical to ending the coronavirus pandemic. European countries hastily suspended AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine, amplifying safety concerns around the world despite endorsement of the jab by regulators and experts. While Indian authorities have backed the vaccine, some experts say the government should be more transparent with information on adverse effects.

Prepared for worst over US ties: Kremlin

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Moscow, March 20: The Kremlin said that it hoped for the best regarding relations between Russia and the US, yet it was also "prepared for the worst".

President Vladimir Putin has already made it clear that Russia wished to maintain its relations with the US as this would be of advantage for the rest of the world, Xinhua news agency quoted Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov as saying Friday.

Nevertheless, "we cannot fail to take into account" US President Joe Biden's words, Peskov added.

The Kremlin's remarks came amid escalating Moscow-Washington tensions after a US intelligence report Tuesday, accusing Russia of "denigrating" Biden's candidacy during the elections to increase support for former President Donald Trump.

Peskov has stressed once again that those claims of Russia's alleged meddling in the 2020 US elections were baseless and regretful, calling them just another pretext for additional sanctions.

On Thursday, Putin told local media that he would like to invite Biden to an online meeting to continue their discussions of bilateral ties.

"I want to invite President Biden to continue our discussions, but on the condition that we do this actually live, as they say, online," he said.

The discussions could be held soon, and the Kremlin is ready at any time convenient for the White House, Putin said, adding that he would give relevant instructions to the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Earlier that day, Putin said that the US has to take into account Russia's interests and Moscow is capable of protecting them.

Strong quake shakes Japan

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Tokyo, March 20: An earthquake measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale struck north-eastern Japan Saturday, prompting authorities to issue a tsunami warning for Miyagi prefecture.

The Japan Meteorological Agency warned of up to a 1-metre high tsunami in Miyagi and the first tsunami wave has already swept ashore in the city of Ishinomaki, dpa news agency quoted the national broadcaster NHK as saying.

The warning prompted some residents in Miyagi to rush to higher ground ahead of the possible arrival of tsunami, NHK footage showed.

There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage to property. The quake also shook buildings in Tokyo. The tremor occurred at 6.09 p.m. (local time),



Representative image

with its epicentre located at a latitude of 38.4 degrees north and a longitude of 141.7 degrees east, and

at the depth of 60 km, the agency said. On March 11, Japan marked the 10th anniversary of a magnitude-9.0 quake and resulting tsunami that struck the same region in 2011, leaving about 18,400 dead or missing.

The twin natural disasters caused a triple meltdown at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, which spewed radioactive substances into the environment.

The nuclear emergency prompted hundreds of thousands of residents to flee their homes. A month ago, a magnitude-7.3 quake also rocked the north-east, killing one person and injuring about 190 others.

Japan sits at the convergence of four tectonic plates, making it especially prone to seismic activity. The country is also home to 100 active volcanoes.

Turkey withdraws from women's rights convention

Established in 2011, the Istanbul Convention, a treaty developed by the non-EU organisation Council of Europe, aims to create a legal framework to prevent and fight against violence against women and domestic violence

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Istanbul, March 20: Turkey has withdrawn from a landmark European treaty protecting women from violence that it was the first



to sign 10 years ago and that bears the name of its largest city.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's decree early Saturday annulling Turkey's ratification of the Istanbul Convention is a blow to women's

rights advocates, who say the agreement is crucial to combating domestic violence. The Council of Europe's Secretary General, Marija Pejcinovic Buric, called the decision "devastating." "This move is

a huge setback to these efforts and all the more deplorable because it compromises the protection of women in Turkey, across Europe and beyond," she said.

The Istanbul Convention states that men and women have equal rights and obliges state authorities to take steps to prevent gender-based violence against women, protect victims and prosecute perpetrators. Some officials from Erdogan's Islam-oriented party have advocated a review of the agreement, arguing it encourages divorce and undermines the traditional family, which they say are contrary to the country's conservative values. Critics also claim the treaty promotes homosexuality through the use of categories like gender, sexual orientation and gen-

der identity. They see that as a threat to Turkish families. Hate speech has been on the rise in Turkey, including the interior minister who described LGBT people as "perverts" in a tweet. Erdogan has rejected their existence altogether. Women's groups and their allies who have been protesting to keep the convention intact immediately called for demonstrations across the country Saturday under the slogan "Withdraw the decision, implement the treaty."

They said their years-long struggle would not be erased in one night. Rights groups say violence against and killing of women is on the rise in Turkey but the interior minister called that a "complete lie" on Saturday. A total of 77 women have been killed since the start of the year,

according to the We Will Stop Femicide Platform. Some 409 women were killed in 2020, with dozens found dead under suspicious circumstances, according to the group.

Advocacy group Women's Coalition Turkey said the withdrawal from a human rights agreement was a first in Turkey.

"It is clear that this decision will further encourage the murderers of women, harassers, rapists," their statement said. Turkey's minister for family, labor and social policies tweeted that women's rights are still protected by Turkish laws and the judicial system is "dynamic and strong enough" to enact new regulations. Zehra Zumrut Selcuk also tweeted the government would continue to have "zero tolerance" for violence against women.



on a street. On Saturday, dozens of demonstrators gathered in the second city of Mandalay.

Several were injured when a vehicle drove into them and when police fired rubber bullets, a city news portal reported. It was not clear why the vehicle hit the protesters.

ASIAN ANGER

Western countries have repeatedly condemned the coup and the violence. Asian neighbours, who have for years abided by a code of not criticising each other's problems, have also begun speaking out.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo, in some of the strongest comments yet by a regional leader, said he would ask Brunei, the chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), to call an urgent meeting.

Hindu journalist killed in Pakistan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Karachi, March 20: A 31-year-old Hindu journalist in Pakistan has been shot dead by some unidentified assailants while getting a haircut at a barber shop in the country's Sindh province, the police said Saturday.

Ajay Lalvani, a reporter with a private Royal News TV channel and an Urdu language newspaper Daily Puchano, died Thursday after he sustained bullet injuries in stomach, arm and knee.

He was sitting in the barber shop in Sukkur city when assailants on two bikes and a car drove by and opened fire. Lalvani was rushed to a nearby hospital where he died. His father Dileep Kumar said that the family did not have any enmity, dismissing the police's claim of the murder being the result of a personal enmity, according to The News International.



Condemning the killing, Hindu member of Pakistan's National Assembly (MNA) Lal Chand Malhi said that it is a "matter of great concern". "Strongly condemn D killing of yet another journalist Ajay Kumar at Saleh Pat, Sindh. It is a matter of great concern that media persons are increasingly feeling unsafe in Sindh. Offered condolence to the heirs of the victim. Police should (go) beyond forming comtes. (sic)," he said on Twitter.

A group of journalists, holding the police responsible for the incident, protested against Lalvani's killing and carried out a march, claiming that it was a targeted killing.

of the day uote

For any market, big inflows and outflows of hot money would be detrimental to healthy development, and must be severely controlled



YI HUIJIAN | CHAIRMAN, CHINA SECURITIES REGULATORY COMMISSION

In Asia Pacific, Vivo, Xiaomi and OPPO will become top three players driven by aggressive marketing, expanding channel footprints and competitive pricing



LINDA SUI | SENIOR DIRECTOR, STRATEGY ANALYTICS

China was undisputedly the largest single market for Porsche, which delivered 88,968 vehicles to customers in China in 2020, an increase of 3% y-o-y. The Asia-Pacific, Middle East and Africa regions also continued to show positive growth overall last year



OLIVER BLUME | CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE BOARD, PORSCHE AG

SHORT TAKES

GoAir creates history

New Delhi: Low cost carrier GoAir operated the first night flight from Srinagar to New Delhi, thus becoming the first airline in the history of Indian aviation to achieve this feat. The GoAir flight G8 7007 took off at 7.35 pm Friday. It was an Airbus A320neo aircraft. Going forward, GoAir will operate daily scheduled flight from Srinagar that will depart at 8.30 pm. GoAir was also the first airline to operate morning flights to-and-from Srinagar.

ED probe can continue

New Delhi: The Bombay High Court has ruled that investigation by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, can be continued "even if the base offences are closed, compounded or quashed", Taxscan reported. The accused, promoters of Omkar Realtors and Developers, had sought their release on bail on the ground of closure of the scheduled offence. They moved the high court after the special PMLA court in Mumbai rejected their plea February 15, 2021.

Taxpayers can use ICT to release dues

New Delhi: The Finance Ministry Saturday said GST taxpayers can utilise the ICT available in their credit ledger to discharge their GST dues for the month of March. "Taxpayers are free to utilise the Input Tax Credit available in their credit ledger, as permissible in law, to discharge their GST dues for the month of March, 2021 – the last month of this financial year," the CBIC said.

CG to see 10 to 15% growth

Coimbatore: Crompton Greaves Consumer Electricals Ltd, the market leader in ceiling fans segment in Tamil Nadu, will continue to witness an annual growth of 10 to 15% this fiscal also, a top company official said. With its most significant range of ceiling fans CG Highspeed fans called, "Crompton Highspeed is celebrating 20 plus years of being a stronghold in Tamil Nadu. This summer will prove that the company continued to be number one choice of customers.



Strengthening our portfolio through organic and inorganic growth opportunities is in integral part of our vision to build a capacity of 25 GW by 2025 and become the largest renewables company in the world

VNEET S JAAN | MD AND CEO, ADANI GREEN ENERGY

DRUGS & COSMETICS ACT

CAIT ALLEGES VIOLATION BY E-PHARMACIES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 20: Trader's body CAIT has written to the government alleging violation of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act by sale of pharmacy through e-commerce channels, saying it is adversely affecting the business of lakhs of medicine retailers and chemists.

The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) wrote to Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, Health Minister Harshvardhan and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on the issue.

"It is important to note that sale of prescription drugs and medicines through online medium is illegal. The legal regime, under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940, does not permit home delivery of prescription medicines for which a



The trader's body alleged that e-pharmacies like Medlife and 1mg indulged in predatory pricing immediately after the lockdown by offering a 25% discount on medicines and an astronomical 75% discount on wellness products

prescription "in original" is required," CAIT said in the letter to Goyal sent Friday.

The traders' body claimed that mushrooming of e-pharmacy is causing huge hardships to the retail chemists and distributors in

the wake of anti-competitive practices like capital dumping and deep discounting, leading to predatory pricing.

"As soon as the markets started reopening in October 2020, after the lockdown, e-pharmacies like

'Tesla may shut down if its cars spied in China'

REUTERS

Beijing, March 20: Tesla Inc chief executive Elon Musk said Saturday his company would be shut down if its cars were used to spy, his first comments on news that China's military has banned Teslas from its facilities.

"There's a very strong incentive for us to be very confidential with any information," Musk told a prominent Chinese forum during a virtual discussion. "If Tesla used cars to spy in China or anywhere, we will get shut down."

Sources told Reuters Friday that the Chinese military has banned Tesla cars from entering its complexes, citing security concerns over cameras installed on the vehicles.

Those restrictions surfaced as the top Chinese and US diplomats were holding a contentious meeting in Alaska, the first such in-person



There's a very strong incentive for us to be very confidential with any information. If Tesla used cars to spy in China or anywhere, we will get shut down

ELON MUSK | CEO, TESLA INC

interaction since U.S. President Joe Biden took office in January.

Musk urged greater mutual trust

ALARM BELLS RINGING

According to sources, the Chinese military has banned Tesla cars from entering its complexes, citing security concerns over cameras installed on the vehicles

In China, the world's biggest car market and a key battleground for EVs, Tesla sold 147,445 vehicles last year, 30% of its global total

In 2019, Musk discussed Mars and artificial intelligence with Alibaba's outspoken founder Jack Ma

between the world's two biggest economies, in his remarks to the China Development Forum, a high-level business gathering is hosted

EPFO's net new enrolments up 28% to 13.36 lakh in Jan

AGENCIES

New Delhi, March 20: Net new enrolments with retirement fund body EPFO grew 27.79 per cent to 13.36 lakh in January compared to the same month in 2020, according to the payroll data released Saturday, providing a perspective on formal sector employment amid the pandemic.

"The provisional payroll data of EPFO published on 20th March, 2021 highlights a growing trend of subscriber base with the addition of 13.36 lakh net subscribers during January 2021," a labour ministry statement said.

It stated that the data reflects growth of 24 per cent for January 2021 over December last year.

"Year-on-year comparison of payroll data indicates an increase of 27.79 per cent in net subscribers as compared to the corresponding period last year (January 2020), indicating return to the pre-Covid levels of subscriber growth for EPFO," it said.

Despite the pandemic, EPFO added around 62.49 lakh subscribers



during the first tens month of the ongoing fiscal year; the data showed.

During 2019-20, the number of net new subscribers rose to 78.58 lakh as compared to 61.12 lakh in the preceding fiscal.

The number of net enrolments with the body was revised downwards to 10.81 lakh for December 2020 from earlier provisional estimates of 12.53 lakh for the month released in February 2021.

Since April 2018, EPFO has been releasing payroll data covering the period September 2017 onwards.

According to the latest data, net new enrolments in April were in the negative zone at (-) 2,55,559 against the figure of (-) 2,35,911 released in

February. This means that the number of members who exited the EPFO subscription was more than those who joined or rejoined the scheme.

In July, provisional showed that net new enrolments for April stood at 1 lakh, which was revised down to 20,164 in August and further lowered to (-) 61,807 in September; (-) 1,04,608 in October; (-) 1,49,248 in November; (-) 1,79,685 in December 2020 and (-) 2,11,073 released in January 2021.

The number of net new enrolments in May was also revised downwards to (-) 2,47,991 from (-) 2,19,810 estimated last month and from (-) 1,86,659 estimated in January 2021 and from (-) 1,43,540 estimated in December 2020.

As per the data, the net new enrolments for June 2020 were also revised to 1,65,607 from 1,90,411 for the month released in February 2021.

The net new enrolments for July 2020 were also revised downwards to 5,35,720 from 5,55,254 for the month released in February 2021. For August it was revised to 6,67,325 from 6,91,921.

Mining reforms will increase employment, GDP: Ficci

The industry body said it has always advocated for increasing the contribution of mining industry to the national GDP; focusing upon increasing mineral exploration, production & domestic supplies, attracting investments into the sector and enhancing EoDB Quotient

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 20: The mining reforms will play a fundamental role in enhancing the sector's contribution to the employment and GDP of the country, contributing immensely to the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, industry body Ficci said. The statement comes a day after the Lok Sabha passed a Bill to amend the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act.

The industry body said it has always advocated for increasing the contribution of mining industry to the national GDP; focusing upon increasing mineral exploration, production & domestic supplies,



reducing financial stress for the miners, attracting investments into the sector and enhancing Ease of Doing Business Quotient.

Tuhin Mukherjee, Chair, Ficci Mining Committee and MD, Essel Mining & Industries termed the amendments a step forward for enabling the mining sector's contri-

bution to the nation's economic growth.

"With these reforms in the Indian mining and mineral sector, the government has embarked on increasing the sectoral contribution to the Indian GDP and also to increase the competitiveness, ease of doing business and creating a

favourable investment environment for the sector," he added.

Mukherjee said these amendments would increase the mine development and mineral production in the country and enhance the self-reliance for mineral-based industries. He also thanked the government for considering many of Ficci's representations and recommendations on the subject.

Rahul Sharma, Co-Chair, Ficci Mining Committee and CEO, aluminium and power; Vedanta said: "Amendments in the MMDR are reflective of the fact that the government considers mining sector as a key contributor to the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat."

These amendments shall result

20 STATES WITH EoDB TO BORROW ₹39K cr

Twenty states who have successfully completed the "Ease of Doing Business" (EoDB) reforms have turned eligible for additional borrowing of 0.25% of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). Five more have completed the EoDB reforms stipulated by the Department of Expenditure

forms connect the existing brick and mortar pharmacies with customers using technology. This improves accessibility, availability and ensure there is complete track and trace of medicine movement across the supply chain.

"It is time to adopt digital tools and platforms in order to bring in efficiencies and transparency in the ecosystem and enable better consumer experience," Sheth said.

The CEO and co-Founder of 1 mg, Prashant Tandon, said: "We enable licensed pharmacies to connect with and serve consumers seeking medicines, and all our pharmacy partners have the required licences under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act.

"Our nascent industry is just 2-3% of the large and growing Indian Pharma market."

Student biotech startup gets \$10mn project from UAE

AGENCIES

Kochi, March 20: A student biotech startup has bagged an investment of \$10 million from UAE-based TCN International Commerce L.L.C for its project 'AlgaeSeaweed Technology' under the brand B-lite Cookies. Fostered under the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Centre (IEDC) scheme of Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM), the startup's product was showcased in the GITEX 2020 international conference held in Dubai, a press release from KSUM said Saturday.



The student startup was part of the international startup delegation led by KSUM. Zaara Biotech, which focuses on research in energy and food crisis using micro-algae, got the funding for its research and development, production, distribution and marketing under TCN International Commerce to reach the global arena.

Najeeb Bin Haneef, founder-CEO of Zaara Biotech, and Dr Mohamed Shafi Abdulla, Chairman and Managing Director, TCN International Commerce L.L.C, signed a MoU in this regard in Sharjah Saturday.

Dr George Ninan, Principal Scientist, Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR)-CIFT (Central Institute of Fisheries Technology), Kochi; Tapan Rayaguru, CEO, KSUM; and Dr Nixon Kuruvila, Principal, Sahrdaya College of Engineering and Technology, Thrissur; among others, were present on the occasion. Zaara Biotech was founded by Haneef when he was a biotechnology engineering student of Sahrdaya College of Engineering and Technology in 2016.

The biotech startup, which was incubated in Sahrdaya Technology Business Incubator, has collaboration with ICAR-CIFT and it has helped the company to become India's first algal-seaweed food product designer.

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Impressive India seal series

Explosive batting display, quality bowling help Men in Blue script 36-run win in fifth & final T20I against England in Ahmedabad



DEADLY COMBO: Skipper Virat Kohli (L) and Rohit Sharma have something to smile for during their partnership against England



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, March 20: Dishing out a dominating all-round show, India topped England in the high-scoring fifth T20I to not only claim the series 3-2 but also prove that their preparations for the T20 World Cup are moving in the right direction.

Rohit Sharma's sensational 64 off 34 balls and skipper Virat Kohli's unbeaten 80 off 52 balls powered India to a massive 224/2, their best ever total against England, after the visitors won the toss for the fourth time in the series and opted to field, Saturday.

In the run chase, Jos Buttler (52 off 34) and Dawid Malan (68 off 46) kept India on the edge with a threatening 130-run stand but England's challenged fizzled with the fall of the wicketkeepers batsman in the 13th over bowled by Bhuvneshwar Kumar. England's innings eventually ended at 188/8 as they lost match by 36 runs.

Bhuvneshwar was impressive in his comeback series and saved his best for the decider. Apart from Bhuvneshwar's successful return from injury, the big plus for India was the emergence of Suryakumar Yadav and Ishan Kishan. Hardik Pandya was back to bowling regularly, marking another positive for Kohli's team which proved in the series that it can win while chasing as well as batting first.

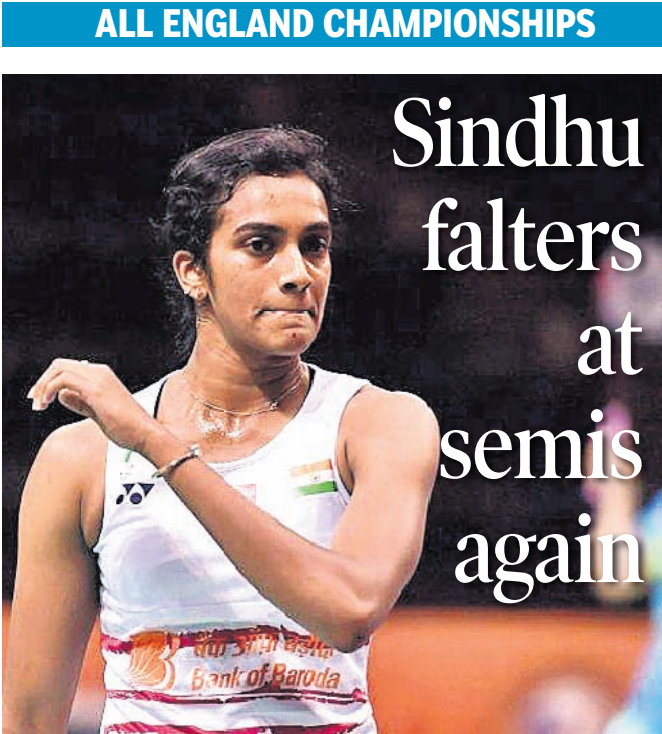
England were dealt a big blow at the start of the daunting chase with Bhuvneshwar casting Jason Roy's stumps with an inswinger. However, incoming batsman Malan ensured the required big hits kept coming and in the company of the dangerous Buttler, took England to 104/1 in 10 overs.

The momentum shifted decisively in India's favour when Buttler holed out at long off with Bhuvneshwar conceding only three runs in that over. Three more wickets, including Malan's, in quick succession effectively sealed the game for India.

Earlier, preparing themselves for success in all conditions ahead of the World Cup, India thrived under the pressure of a series-decider to produce their batting performance of the series.

Jofra Archer and Mark Wood had troubled the Indians with their extra

Scorecard				
INDIA INNINGS	R	B	4s	6s
Rohit Sharma b Stokes	64	34	4	5
Virat Kohli not out	80	52	7	2
Suryakumar Yadav c Roy b Rashid	32	17	3	2
Hardik Pandya not out	39	17	4	2
Extras: (lb-3, w-6)	9			
TOTAL: (20 overs, 2 wickets)	224			
Fall: 1/94 (Rohit), 2/143 (Yadav).				
Bowling: Adil Rashid 4-0-31-1, Jofra Archer 4-0-43-0, Mark Wood 4-0-53-0, Chris Jordan 4-0-57-0, Sam Curran 1-0-11-0, Ben Stokes 3-0-26-1.				
ENGLAND INNINGS	R	B	4s	6s
Jason Roy b Kumar	0	2	0	0
Jos Buttler c Pandya b Kumar	52	34	2	4
Dawid Malan b Thakur	68	46	9	2
Jonny Bairstow c Yadav b Thakur	7	7	1	0
Eoin Morgan c (sub) b Pandya	1	4	0	0
Ben Stokes c Pant b Natarajan	14	12	2	0
Chris Jordan c Yadav b Thakur	11	10	0	1
Jofra Archer run out	1	2	0	0
Sam Curran not out	14	3	0	2
Adil Rashid not out	0	0	0	0
Extras: (lb-9, w-11)	20			
Total: (20 overs, 8 wickets)	188			
Fall: 1/0 (Roy), 2/130 (Buttler), 3/140 (Bairstow), 4/142 (Malan), 5/142 (Morgan), 6/165 (Stokes), 7/168 (Archer), 8/174 (Jordan).				
Bowling: Bhuvneshwar Kumar 4-0-15-2, Hardik Pandya 4-0-34-1, Washington Sundar 1-0-13-0, Shardul Thakur 4-0-45-3, T Natarajan 4-0-39-1, Rahul Chahar 3-0-33-0.				



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Birmingham, March 20: Reigning World Champion PV Sindhu suffered yet another semifinal defeat at the prestigious All England Championships as she went down tamely in straight games to Pornpawee Chochuwong of Thailand in the women's singles here, Saturday.

Sindhu couldn't match the pace, power and precision of her younger World No.11 rival Chochuwong and lost 17-21, 9-21 in a match that lasted 43 minutes. The World No.7 Indian had also lost at the semifinal at the 2018 edition as well.

Sindhu came into the semifinal contest with an overwhelming 4-1 head-to-head lead over the 23-year-old Chochuwong, whom she had beaten at the HSBC BWF World Tour Finals in January.

But all that statistics didn't matter as Chochuwong showed immaculate defence and played at a searing pace to outclass the Indian.

The fifth seeded Indian had defeated Japan's third seed Akane Yamaguchi 16-21, 21-16, 21-19 in an

intriguing quarterfinal match Friday to make it to the last eight stage. Sindhu had battled for an hour and 16 minutes to eke out her first win over World No.5 Yamaguchi in last four meetings.

Sindhu, who had reached the finals at Swiss Open, played an aggressive game, matching Yamaguchi with her speed and retrieving skills but unforced errors allowed the Japanese to jump to a 11-6 lead, a deficit she couldn't erase as the Japanese pocketed the first game.

After an error-prone start to the second game, Sindhu moved to 6-2 with some superb shots. She then led 8-4 with the Japanese missing the lines twice. Sindhu got five game points and won the game easily.

In the decider, Yamaguchi came back to make it 15-15 and then grab the lead with another superb return at 18-17. Sindhu then made it 19-18 with a couple of points and then grabbed the match points with Yamaguchi going wide. The Japanese then hit the net as Sindhu won the match.

Rameswari sixer secures Odisha's dictating victory

Bhubaneswar, March 20: Rameswari Naik (6/26) spelled doom for Gujarat as she helped Odisha register a comprehensive six-wicket win in their match of the Women's Senior (One Dayer) Trophy at the Kholvad Gymkhana Ground in Surat, Saturday.

After winning the toss, Odisha opted to field first and the decision proved to be accurate as they bundled the home team out for a paltry 70 in 29.2 overs. In response, Odisha, despite some hiccups, pulled off a



RAMESWARI NAIK

scintillating win in 23 overs.

Gujarat never looked like in the game from the very beginning of the match. They failed to build partnerships and kept losing wickets at regular intervals before Odisha finally ended their miserable batting show in the 30th over.

Rameswari was the wrecker-in-chief for Odisha and she was ably supported by Sujata Mallik (2/23), Priyanka Priyadarshini (1/2) and Sushree Dibyadarshini (1/6).

In response, Sushree (34 n o) led the run chase and comfortably took Odisha home. Anjali Singh (15) and Sarita Meher (15) made useful contributions as well. For Gujarat, Muskan Vasava (2/7) and skipper Renuka Chaudhari (2/21) shared all the four Odisha wickets between them.

TT: Sharath, Manika seal Olympics berth



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Doha, March 20: India got its best shot at a maiden table tennis medal at the Olympics Saturday when Sharath Kamal and Manika Batra became the first Indian pairing to qualify for the mega event in Tokyo, beating World No.8 duo of Sang-Su Lee and Jihee Jeon 4-2 in the final of the Asian Qualification Tournament here.

The 2018 Asian Games bronze medallists staged a remarkable comeback after being two sets down to outwit the top seeded Korean pair 8-11, 6-11, 11-5, 11-6 13-11, 11-8 in a thrilling final to seal their Tokyo qualification in mixed doubles.

Only the winner of the event qualified for the Games.

The Indian pairing had beaten the Koreans en route to a historic medal in Asian Games before losing to them on the pro tour the following year.

Sharath, who has also qualified for the singles event alongside G Sathiyan, has now set sights at reaching at least the mixed doubles quarterfinals at the Games.

The unprecedented result in mixed doubles means India will now have five entries in Tokyo (two each in men and women singles besides mixed). The delayed Tokyo Games will be held from July 23 to August 8 this year.

Russian Lopsan ends Vijju's unbeaten run

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Panaji, March 20: The unbeaten run of star Indian boxer Vijender Singh in the professional circuit ended Friday night after he was defeated by his Russian opponent Artshy Lopsan in the 'Battle on Ship' here.

Vijender, a bronze medallist at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games and who had turned professional in 2015, entered the bout with a 12-0 record.

In the opening round, Vijender was cautious in his approach as the Russian outplayed the Haryana boxer and used his height to perfection.

The Russian, who was fighting his seventh bout, out-punched Vijender on the rooftop of the 'Majestic Pride Casino' ship on the waters of the Mandovi River, which resulted in a heart-break for the partisan crowd. The referee, after one minute and nine seconds in the fifth round, declared the Russian as the winner as the eight-round game ended in a knockout.

In the co-main event, seasoned campaigner and pugilist Neeraj Goyat defeated his rival Sandeep Kumar in the welterweight division by a knockout.

Deswal shoots gold in ISSF World Cup

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 20: India's Yashaswini Singh Deswal personified consistency and calmness on her way to winning the gold medal in the women's 10m air pistol ahead of the more celebrated Manu Bhaker in the ISSF World Cup here, Saturday.

Deswal shot 238.8 to comfortably finish on top of the podium in the eight-woman final while Bhaker managed 236.7 to settle for the silver medal. Viktoria Chaika of Belarus bagged the bronze medal with 215.9 at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range. The other Indian in the final, Shri Nivetha, started well but had to eventually settle for the fourth place with 193.5.

Earlier, the 23-year-old Deswal also topped the qualifications with qualifications with 579, her sequence of scores reading 99, 96, 97, 97, 98, 92. Bhaker, 19, shot a total of 577 for second

SOHINI MISSES OUT ON DOUBLE CROWN

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 20: Sohini Mohanty of Odisha became the first tennis player from the state to reach the finals of the Nationals before losing to a superior player Saturday. Sohini Mohanty, 12, reached the finals of the singles and doubles in the under-14 segment at the Nationals which concluded Saturday in Mumbai. While reaching the finals, the Farhan Ali coached youngster beat second and sixth seeded players in India in the under-14 category.

In the singles final, Sohini currently ranked No. 51 in India lost to Asmi Adkar of Maharashtra 6-1, 4-6, 2-6. In doubles Sohini partnered Mansi Singh from Delhi. They fought valiantly but lost to a pair from Maharashtra 7-5, 4-6, 1-10. It was clear from the match that the singles final had taken a toll on Sohini as she faded away in the super tie-breaker. In spite of just being 12, Sohini has so far won over 59 titles in various age group tournaments. It is the highest by any tennis player from Odisha.



Nikhat, Gaurav secure bronze medals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 20: Indian boxers Nikhat Zareen (51kg) and Gaurav Solanki (57kg) settled for bronze medals after going down in their respective semifinals at the Bosphorus boxing tournament in Istanbul.

Asian Championship bronze medallist Nikhat, who defeated world champions Paltceva Ekaterina of Russia and Nazym

Kyzaibay of Kazakhstan in her last two bouts, suffered a 0-5 loss to 2019 Worlds silver medalist Busenaz Cakiroglu of Turkey in the semifinal, Friday.

The opening round had both the boxers playing the waiting game but the subsequent rounds saw them attack a lot in an intense bout. However, the home favourite landed more punches and secured a unanimous win.

Commonwealth Games gold medallist Solanki, who notched up impressive wins in the previous rounds, lost 0-5 to Argentina's Nirco Cuello.

The Indian fought hard and displayed his attacking prowess from the start but conceded clear punches in the dying minutes to lose and bow out of the tournament. India ended their campaign with two bronze medals.

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