



WORD OF WARNING

Actor Urvashi Rautela says being disease-free should be the main aim during Holi celebrations

LEISURE P2



GEHLOT CASTIGATES MODI

Raj CM Ashok Gehlot demanded the Centre withdraw its electoral bonds scheme, as it will promote black money

TWO STATES P7



SERIES-DECIDER TODAY

Virat Kohli & co look to seal series when they take on England in the third and final ODI in Pune

SPORTS P12

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I totally stopped stepping out unnecessarily. The virus is not sparing Gods, forget humans!

HOLIDAY NOTICE

The offices & press of **Orissa POST** will remain closed March 28 & 29 on the occasion of **Dola Purnima** and **Holi**. Hence, there will be no editions of the paper March 29 & 30.

SHORT TAKES

SII likely to launch Covovax in Sept

New Delhi: Serum Institute of India (SII) CEO Adar Poonawalla Saturday said clinical trials of COVID-19 vaccine Covovax have begun in India and the company hopes to launch it by September this year. In August 2020, US-based vaccine maker Novavax, Inc had announced a licence agreement with SII for the development and commercialisation of NVX-CoV2373, its COVID-19 vaccine candidate, in low and middle-income countries and India.

6 held over girl's mysterious death

Puri: Police arrested six family members of a girl for their alleged involvement in her murder in Chandanpur area of Puri district Saturday. Family members of the girl from Naikulasahi village claimed she died by suicide two days back. Without informing the police about the matter, the deceased's family members cremated her body at the village crematorium. The police registered a case against the girl's family members for cremating her body without informing the cops.

WEATHER			
	BHUB	CTK	
TEMP MAX	39.2°C	37.6°C	
TEMP MIN	24.9°C	24.2°C	
Humidity	88%	83%	Forecast
Rainfall	Trace	Trace	Partly cloudy sky

DIGITAL TAX

US proposes action against India's equalisation levy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington/New Delhi, March 27: The United States Trade Representative (USTR) has proposed retaliatory trade actions against India and certain other countries that have imposed or are considering equalisation levy/digital services tax on e-commerce companies.

It has issued notices seeking public comments on proposed trade actions against six countries, including India.

The USTR, in a statement, said it "is proceeding with the public notice and comment process on possible trade actions to preserve procedural options before the conclusion of the statutory one-year time period for completing the investigations."

According to a USTR document pertaining to India, it has requested "written comments re-

garding a potential trade action in connection with the Section 301 investigation of India's Digital Services Tax."

On this, sources in the government on Saturday said India will examine the proposed action with the stakeholders concerned and would take suitable measures, keeping in mind the trade and commercial interest of the country and overall interest of its people.

In June 2020, the US initiated an investigation under Section 301 of the US Trade Act, 1974 against the taxation on digital services adopted or under consideration by India, Italy, Turkey, UK, Spain and Austria.

The report of this investigation in January this year concluded that India's equalisation levy, by its structure and operation, discriminates against US digital companies. It was strongly opposed by India.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 27: At a time when people are facing difficulties due to Covid-19 pandemic coupled with soaring fuel prices, Odisha Electricity Regulatory Commission (OERC) has increased the power tariff by 30 paise per unit for domestic consumers with effect from April 4.

In October, the tariff was hiked by 20 paise per unit and, taken together, the hike translates to 50 paise per unit in just six months.

In response to GRIDCO's pleas, OERC has passed an order in this regard, Saturday. With the hike, the domestic consumers will now have to pay ₹3 per unit for the first 50 units, ₹4.80 per unit above 50 units and up to 200 units, ₹5.80 per unit above 200 and up to 400 units. The tariff has been fixed at ₹6.20 per unit above 400 units. This hike amounts to 5.60 per cent rise in overall retail supply tariff, it said. However, the revised price will not be applicable for farmers and BPL consumers. "There is no change in the monthly minimum fixed charge, demand charge and meter rent," the OERC order said.

As per the decision taken by the OERC, 2 per cent rebate over and above the normal rebate will be given on the bill to the domestic and single phase gen-



With the current hike, the domestic consumers will now have to pay ₹3 per unit for the first 50 units, ₹4.80 per unit above 50 units and up to 200 units, ₹5.80 per unit above 200 and up to 400 units. The tariff has been fixed at ₹6.20 per unit above 400 units

- The new tariff will come into effect from April 4
- The hike will not be applicable to farmers and BPL consumers
- The tariff was hiked by 20 paise in October last

eral purpose category for consumers, who pay through digital means.

Similarly, 2 per cent rebate will be given to all pre-paid consumers, while the rural domestic consumers will get a rebate of 5 paise per unit in addition to all existing prompt payment rebate, the commission said.

There is a rise of 3 paise per unit in transmission tariff raising it to 28 paise per unit from 25 paise per unit.

However, the average tariff of Odisha Hydro Power Corporation (OHPC) has been reduced by 2.3 per cent (from 91.39 paise to 89.28 paise) per unit.

The average annual BSP has been revised to 296.29 paise per unit for fiscal 2021-22 as against 287.70 paise per unit in the financial year 2020-21.

It has approved the distribution loss of 21.24 per cent against the proposed distribution loss of 22.42 per cent by the

'DAY OF SHAME' IN MYANMAR

At least 93 protesters killed

The deaths Saturday, one of the bloodiest days since the coup, would take the number of civilians reported killed to nearly 430

REUTERS

Yangon, March 27: Myanmar's security forces shot and killed at least 93 people - including a young boy - Saturday, news reports and witnesses said, even as the ruling junta's leader said the military would protect the people and strive for democracy.

Protesters against the February 1 military coup came out on the streets of Yangon, Mandalay and other towns, defying a warning that they could be shot "in the head and back", while the country's generals celebrated Armed Forces Day.

"Today is a day of shame for the armed forces," Dr Sasa, a spokesman for CRPH, an anti-junta group set up by deposed lawmakers, told an online forum.

The deaths Saturday, one of the bloodiest days since the coup, would take the number of civilians reported killed to nearly 430.

A boy reported by local media to be as young as five was among at least 13 people killed in Myanmar's second city of Mandalay. The Myanmar Now news portal said 64 people had been killed in total



Demonstrators hurl back tear gas canisters towards police during a protest against the military coup Saturday in Mandalay, Myanmar

PTI PHOTO

across the country by 2.30 p.m. (0800 GMT). Three people, including a man who plays in a local under-21 football team, were killed in a protest in the Insein district of Myanmar's biggest city Yangon, a neighbour told this news agency.

"They are killing us like birds or chickens, even in our homes," said Thu Ya Zaw in the central town of Myingyan, where at least two protesters were killed. "We will keep protesting regardless... We must

fight until the junta falls." Deaths were reported from the central Sagaing region, Lashio in the east, in the Bago region, near Yangon, and elsewhere. A one-year-old baby was hit in the eye with a rubber bullet.

Meanwhile, one of Myanmar's two dozen ethnic armed groups, the Karen National Union, said it had overrun an army post near the Thai border, killing 10 people - including a lieutenant colonel - and losing one of its own fighters.

Snake venom racket busted, seven held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 27: In a significant development, Forest department officials Saturday busted a racket in snake venom smuggling in Bhubaneswar. Seven smugglers, including the son of the kingpin from Bolangir who is still at large, have been arrested in this connection.

The Forest officials Saturday received inputs from reliable sources regarding the illegal deal of snake venom in the capital city. Subsequently, an official of the Forest department the accused is the guise of a customer and collected venom samples from them for testing. Later, the officials tested the sample which proved to be genuine snake venom.

The officials immediately swung into action and carried out raids at different places in the city to nab the accused. Sleuths of the forest department arrested three persons, including a lady from Airport Square, while four more were held from Master Canteen area. They seized the over one liter of snake venom from the possession of the accused.

During interrogation the accused revealed that they had struck a deal with a person to sell one liter of venom at ₹10 lakh.



A Forest department official with two bottles of snake venom seized from the smugglers

PTI PHOTO

Scientists warn of deadly heat waves in India

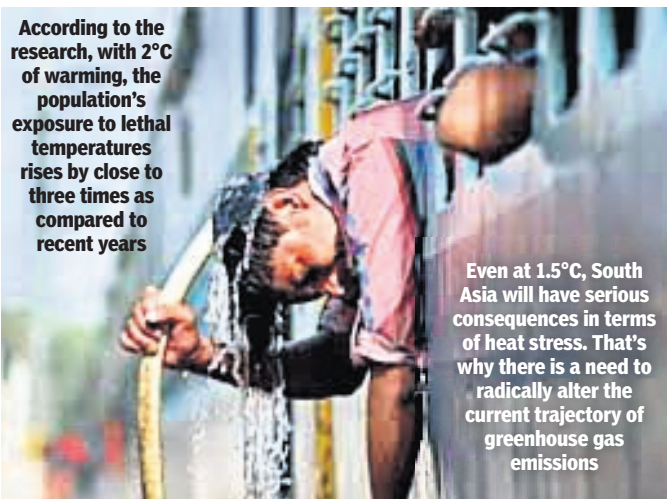
AN INCREASE IN EXTREME HEAT EVENTS CAN CREATE UNSAFE LABOUR CONDITIONS IN MAJOR CROP PRODUCING PARTS OF INDIA, SUCH AS UTTAR PRADESH AND WEST BENGAL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 27: Potentially deadly heat waves will likely become more commonplace in South Asian countries, including India, in the coming decades even if global warming is limited to 1.5°C, according to a new study.

Scientists, including those from Oak Ridge National Laboratory in the US, said such an increase in extreme heat events can create unsafe labour conditions in major crop producing parts of India, such as Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, as well as coastal regions and urban centres like Kolkata, Mumbai, and Hyderabad.

According to the research, published in the journal Geophysical Research Letters, with 2°C of warming, the population's exposure to lethal temperatures rises by close to three times as compared to recent years.



According to the research, with 2°C of warming, the population's exposure to lethal temperatures rises by close to three times as compared to recent years

"The future looks bad for South Asia, but the worst can be avoided by containing warming to as low as possible. The need for adaptation over South Asia is today, not in the future. It's not a choice anymore,"

said Moetasim Ashfaq, study co-author from Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

"Even at 1.5°C, South Asia will have serious consequences in terms of heat stress. That's why there is

a need to radically alter the current trajectory of greenhouse gas emissions," Ashfaq added.

In the study, the researchers used climate simulations and projections of future population growth to estimate the number of people who will experience dangerous levels of heat stress in South Asia at global warming levels of 1.5°C and 2°C. They estimated the wet bulb temperature residents could experience, which is similar to the heat index, as it takes into account both humidity and temperature.

The study noted that a wet bulb temperature of 32°C is considered to be the point when labour becomes unsafe, and 35°C is the limit to human survivability when the body can no longer cool itself.

Based on the analysis, the scientists said 2°C of warming may increase people's exposure to unsafe labour temperatures by more than two-fold, and exposure to lethal

temperatures by 2.7 times, as compared to recent years.

While the planet has warmed by 1°C since the start of the Industrial Revolution, it may reach 1.5°C of warming by 2040, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

"Only half a degree increase from today is going to cause a widespread increase in these events," Ashfaq said.

According to the scientists, densely populated South Asian cities already lack regular access to air conditioning, and about 60 per cent of their populations perform agricultural work and cannot escape the heat by staying indoors.

This deadline leaves little time for South Asian countries to adapt, since the people here are especially vulnerable to deadly heat waves with the area already experiencing very hot, humid summers, the researchers added.



Ruckus in House over paddy procurement



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 27: Stalemate continued in the Assembly for the second consecutive day over alleged mismanagement in the procurement of paddy in the state. Consequently, the House witnessed several adjournments, Saturday.

Following the tactics of the Congress, BJP members Saturday disturbed the businesses of the Assembly. On Friday, the entire proceeding of the House was washed out and no business could be transacted due to unruly protest by the Congress members. Raising the issue during the zero hour, Leader of Opposition Pradipta Kumar Naik alleged that paddy sacks are lying at mandis despite the government's assurance that they would procure the entire paddy from registered farmers by March 31. However, he said, the situation remained unchanged even after they met Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at his residence to discuss the issue few days back.

Subsequently, the BJP MLAs trooped into the well of the House and shouted slogans against the state government. The sloganeering continued even as Speaker SN Patro and state Parliamentary Affairs Minister Bikram Keshari Arokh urged the Opposition members to raise the paddy procurement issue during the Budget discussion of the state Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare department, scheduled for the post-

Stalemate continued in the Assembly for the 2nd consecutive day over alleged mismanagement in procurement of paddy in the state

lunch session.

As noisy situation continued to prevail in the House, the Speaker adjourned the House till 4 pm. The situation remained same in the post-lunch session too as the BJP MLAs continued to raise the issue in the well of the House forcing the Speaker to adjourn the House till 5 pm and later till Tuesday.

Briefing reporters outside, senior BJP MLA Jayanarayan Mishra said, "The state government's assurance in the Assembly that they will lift paddy from mandis has no value at all. Paddy sacks are lying in the mandis across the state. The procurement deadline should be extended till April 15 and lapsed tokens should be revived," said Mishra.

Congress MLA Taraprasad Bahinipati alleged that there was a 'secret' understanding between BJD and BJP to stall the House to avoid discussion on price rise of petrol, diesel and edible oils.

Responding to Opposition allegations, senior BJD MLA Amar Prasad Satpathy said it's not good to stall the Assembly when crucial matters needed to be discussed.



JUSTIN THEROUX OPEN TO WORK WITH EX JENNIFER ANISTON

Justin Theroux has shared he won't mind working with his ex, actress Jennifer Aniston, now that the two are associated with the same streaming service. Theroux has been cast in *The Mosquito Coast*, for the streaming service, Apple TV+.

BEYONCE ROBBED OF MILLION-DOLLAR WORTH GOODS TWICE THIS MONTH

Thieves broke into American pop star Beyonce's storage units in Los Angeles twice this month. Three of Beyonce's storage units in LA were broken into, and burglars made off with more than \$1 million worth of valuables.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

You are likely to remain careful and watchful today, foretells Ganesha. And because you'll be invited to parties and other social events, your enthusiasm will remain buoyant. You will also strike the right balance between business and pleasure, says Ganesha.

TAURUS

In all probability, you will discuss certain sacred issues with your beloved today, predicts Ganesha. In the evening, you will be possibly visiting holy places. You had better make up for the lost time to finish pending work in the afternoon.

GEMINI

You will long for some privacy today, says Ganesha. You may end up earning a large amount of money, mostly through some private venture. The day will be a greatly profitable one for cashiers, money lenders and those in retail business. Keep working hard to achieve success.

CANCER

Today, there is a strong possibility that you may face unexpected job changes. You are likely to spend lavishly to please family and friends. You may feel we make money to spend on loved ones.

LEO

Being good to oneself is not vanity. To Ganesha, it seems as if you take this statement to heart, since it looks quite possible that you make your personal care number one priority today.

VIRGO

A heady mixture of work and partying is on the cards today. The parties may go on well into the night. You will make the right decisions today which will prove to be vital in putting you on the road to success. Ganesha says people will profit by engaging you in their work.

LIBRA

Ganesha has a feeling that today may not be the best day to undertake any government dealings. Call it red-tapism, or bureaucratic procrastination, but it is highly unlikely that such tasks shall be fruitful today.

SCORPIO

Do not get carried away by sentiments and act like an emotional fool, tips Ganesha. Today, you will be in a dilemma as you have to choose between two best things. But, as they say, right choices are always tough to make. Be practical and take the right decision.

SAGITTARIUS

Today, find yourself driving all your thoughts and actions towards your family. You will also spend some superb time with your dearie and discuss intimate matters. A relaxing day today as you spend time with your friends and family, chilling out and having a good laugh or two.

CAPRICORN

Whether you're an artist, performer, professional or an entrepreneur, career issues will take the foreground today, while personal matters will wait in queue for your attention, says Ganesha.

AQUARIUS

Aim. Shoot. Achieve. Today, you will concentrate your energies to execute your plans with precision. Naturally, your work progresses by leaps and bounds. By sundown, you will achieve far more than everyone's estimation. That's the way to go, says Ganesha.

PISCES

Of late, the harder you try, the more it seems you have to do. You are likely to put your foot down today and spend some time taking care of yourself and playing truant with your responsibilities. Recharge your batteries fully while you are at it, says Ganesha.

Holi can be a super-spreader event, cautions Urvashi

Mumbai: Actress Urvashi Rautela has urged for a safe Holi. She says looking after immunity will be important during the festival.

"As Holi is expected to be the next super spreader event, being safe and disease-free should be the main aim during Holi. We should take utmost care and precautions to minimise the chances of contracting the virus. I believe looking after your immunity becomes essential. Social distancing still remains (important)," Urvashi urged.

The actress will next be seen in the web series *Inspector Avinash* along with Randeep Hooda. She will also be soon seen in *Versace*, an international music collaboration, with Egyptian superstar Mohamed Ramadan and will also star in *Black Rose*, a bilingual thriller, and a Hindi remake of *Thiruthu Payale 2*. IANS



Hema wishes fans Holi singing Krishna bhajans

Mumbai: Veteran actress Hema Malini has lent her voice to a couple of bhajans dedicated to Lord Shri Krishna for the festival of Holi.

The bhajans are titled *Phagun mein shyam rang sang* and *Krishna holi mein rang jao*. On the second bhajan, the actress is accompanied by noted singer-composer Shankar Mahadevan.

Addressing her fans, Hema Malini opened up on the songs: "Radhe Radhe! I wish you all a very happy Holi. On the occasion of Holi I have sung two songs, which are written by Kavi Narayan Agarwal and music is by Vivek Prakash. I am more than happy to sing these two beautiful songs, especially the one with Shankar Mahadevan. It is an honour to work with him. I would like to congratulate and thank Zee Music who is releasing the songs. Be safe!" IANS

It is never too late to start martial arts: Vidyut

Mumbai: Action hero and fitness enthusiast Vidyut Jammwal says it is never too late to start anything, including martial arts.

Vidyut made his observation during a chat with actor and parkour specialist Chase Armitage, in a segment titled *X-Rayd By Vidyut*.

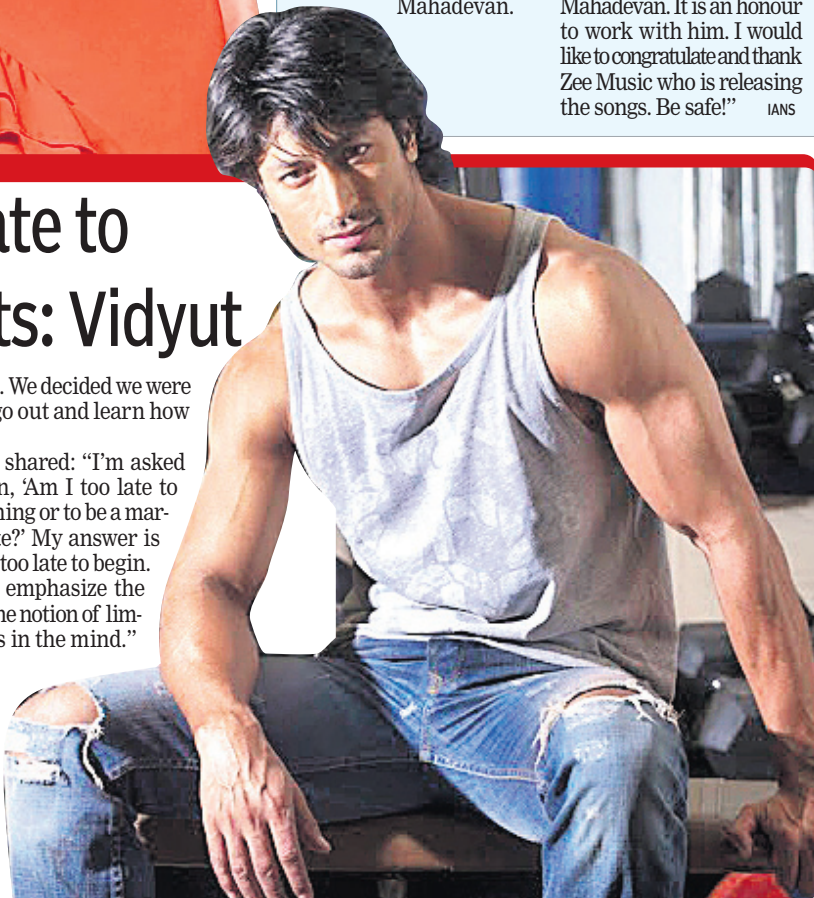
His discussion with the British stunt performer is replete with nuggets for those who would want to test the limits of their body.

Chase shared: "We (Chase and his brother) just found Jackie Chan movies and Power Rangers and all the martial arts movies so exciting when we

were kids. We decided we were going to go out and learn how to do it."

Vidyut shared: "I'm asked very often, 'Am I too late to start training or to be a martial artiste?' My answer is it's never too late to begin. I want to emphasize the fact that the notion of limitations is in the mind."

Vidyut found his conversation with Chase 'awesome'. IANS



FUN post

PEANUTS



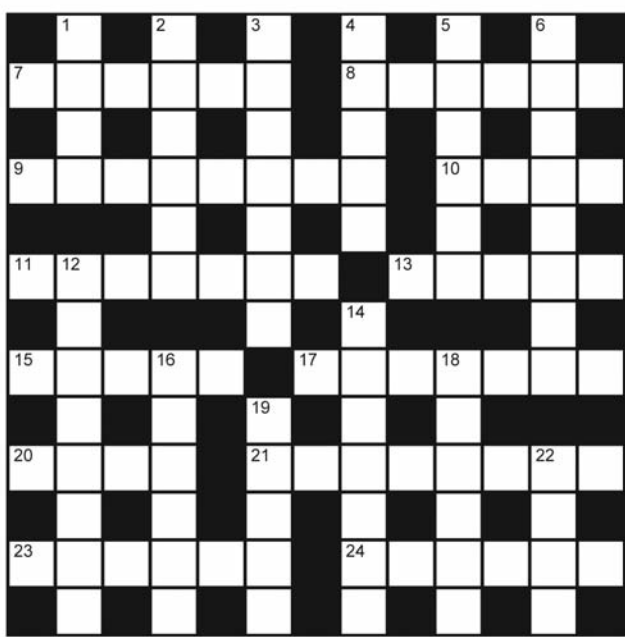
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



CROSSWORD



Across

- 7 Seat of power
- 8 Portuguese islands
- 9 Strong coarse brandy (3,2,3)
- 10 Red-bearded god
- 11 Pride member (4,3)
- 13 Danger
- 15 Venomous snake

Down

- 17 Birds of prey
- 20 Fairy tale villain
- 21 Widespread outbreak of an infectious disease
- 23 Curt
- 24 Advise
- 1 Three-toed bird

- 2 Red Sea kingdom
- 3 Zeal
- 4 Sheikh's bevy
- 5 Chin whiskers
- 6 A kick downstairs
- 12 Impoverished
- 14 Tolerant
- 16 Duty-free
- 18 Dream up
- 19 Shade of green
- 22 Data

SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

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NO NEED OF CBI PROBE INTO PARI CASE: ODISHA POLICE TO SC

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, March 27: Ruling out requirement of a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the murder of Pari, a 5-year-old girl in Nayagarh district, the Odisha police Saturday informed the Supreme Court that the Forensic department of SCB Medical College and Hospital has negated the charges that some organs and bones were missing from the victim's body.

In a counter affidavit, the police informed the apex court that a Special Investigation Team (SIT) had probed the incident in a professional manner. The SIT had been assisted by experts from different fields including DNA test, forensic science and polygraph test. This apart, child counsellor, mental health experts, medico-legal experts and revenue department officials had assisted the SIT.

The police apprised the court that the SIT gathered different evidences such as medico-legal report, forensic reports including polygraph test and DNA report, audio video clip of the child (accused) in conflict with law (CCL) recorded by the expert, extrajudicial confession of the CCL, confession to the crime by CCL before independent witnesses and more vital piece of evidence i.e. recovery of incriminating articles and dis-



'ORGAN MISSING' RULED OUT

The Forensic dept of SCB Medical College and Hospital has negated the charges that some organs and bones were missing from the victim's body

It is, prima facie, established that the child in conflict with law has committed the offence, the affidavit said

The state police also ruled out involvement of Babuli Nayak and a state minister in the crime stating that no evidence was found against them during the investigation

closure of facts U/s 27 of the Indian Evidence Act, at the instance of CCL and 'last seen theory' about the deceased entering the house of CCL

among other factors which prove the culpability of the CCL beyond all reasonable doubts.

"By correlating the opinion of the experts with the statements of different witnesses and circumstances, the SIT submitted the progress of the investigation to the Odisha High Court through the status report and the HC had found the progress satisfactory," said the affidavit.

On the basis of the circumstances and evidences, oral and documentary, collected during investigation, it is, prima facie, established that the child in conflict with law has committed the offence, added the affidavit.

The state police also ruled out involvement of Babuli Nayak and a state minister in the crime stating that no evidence was found against them during the investigation.

The state police pleaded before the apex court to dismiss the writ petition as the investigation into the murder case has been completed and the trial is in progress.

The state police contended that since the investigation was monitored by the High Court, there is no need of transferring the case to CBI.

Significantly, a writ petition was filed by victim's mother, Saudamini Sahu, seeking a CBI probe into the incident. The SC had sought the state government's response on the petition.

Apollo successfully performs TAVR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 27: Doctors at Apollo Hospitals here have successfully performed Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR) in two patients recently.

A team comprising interventional cardiologists, cardiac surgeons, cardiac anaesthetists and cardiac intensivists performed the TAVR.

The first patient was an 81-year-old man who had a bicuspid aortic valve. This was replaced with an Indian valve through the groin. This was the first case of bicuspid aortic valve undergoing a TAVR in Odisha and the eastern part of India especially with a 'Made in India' valve.

The second one was a case of a 70-year-old man, who already had an aortic valve replaced with a bypass surgery done approximately 10 years ago at Apollo Hospitals. This time he was considered a 'very high risk' case for a redo surgery.

He had his valve reimplanted (Valve in Valve procedure) along with stents to both his major coronary arteries which were also blocked critically. This VIV (Valve in Valve) procedure, with a valve from USA, was done for the first time in Odisha. Besides, the coronary artery blocks were dealt in the same sitting.

The team lead by Prasant Kumar Sahoo, Director, Interventional Cardiology, Apollo Hospitals in Bhubaneswar, is of the opinion that such therapies are a boon to many patients who are unable to undergo surgery due to the high risk involved.

BAR ASSOCIATION POLLS



Lawyers cast their votes to elect the office-bearers of Puri Bar Association, Saturday. (Bottom) The election process of Bhubaneswar Bar Association under way

OP PHOTOS

WASSUP TODAY

- BHUBANESWAR**
- Silver Jubilee celebrations of Smrutitilipi, Buddha Mandir, Unit-9, 3.45 pm
 - Book release of Sudhanya Publications, Rotary Bhawan, 6.30 pm
 - Mera Bharat Mahan by Susama Sangita Sadan, Rabindra Mandap, 6.30 pm
 - Drama by Labanya Theatre, Bhanjakala Mandap, 7 pm

- BALIANITA**
- Bhootapada Dola Melan, Bhootapada Ground, Kakarudrapur, 12 noon
- CUTTACK**
- 2nd Mudra Festival by Nritya Jyoti, Town Hall, 6 pm
 - Inauguration of World Theatre Day by Theatre Movement, Kalavikash Kendra, 6.30 pm

- CUTTACK SADAR**
- Conclusion of Atrmaganya Sadhana camp, Twin City Mandap, Telengapentha, 10 am
- BEGUNIA**
- Sankirtan, Raghunath Dev Peeth, Govindpur, 5 am
 - Devotional song programme, Trinath Dev Peeth, Koluahapatna, 4 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.

ANJANA GANGRAPE

CBI raids Biban's house, interrogates his family



FILE PHOTO OF BIBAN

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 27: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) sleuths conducted raid at the house of the prime accused in the infamous Anjana Mishra gangrape case late Friday night. The officials also reportedly seized incriminating material from the residence of the accused, Bibekananda Biswal alias Biban.

Sources claimed that a three-member team of CBI carried out the raid at Biban's house in his native village Naranapur under Barang police limits in Cuttack. They interrogated the family members of Biban to know how the accused used to contact them, how many times he visited the village during the last 22 years. The sleuths also questioned some neighbours and villagers in this regard.

Meanwhile, the CBI officials have reportedly questioned the cops in-

The CBI officials seized incriminating material from the residence of the accused, Bibekananda Biswal alias Biban

involved in the secret operation to nab Biban from Maharashtra.

Earlier, the CBI officials had held a discussion with the victim, Anjana Mishra, at her residence Friday morning. The victim urged the officials to unravel the conspiracy behind the gangrape. The CBI sources revealed that charge-sheet in the case will be submitted before the court soon. Notably, the Commissionerate Police with the help of their Maharashtra counterpart arrested the prime accused from his hideout in Aamby Valley in Lonavala February after 22 years to the incidence.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 27: Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Saturday said that there is no dearth of Covid-19 vaccines with the Union government and that the supply of the shots to Odisha would not be affected.

I have been briefed that Odisha has been provided with 34.46 lakh doses of Covid-19 vaccine so far, out of which only around 23 lakh doses have been administered. Odisha will also receive additional 5.50 lakh doses March 28

DHARMENDRA PRADHAN | UNION PETROLEUM MINISTER



His reaction came after the state government shot off a letter to the Union Health Ministry on the issue citing likely dearth of vaccines in the light of the new vaccination schedule where universal vaccination for people above the age

No dearth of vax doses in state: Pradhan 1 DEATH IN SUNDARGARH TAKES ODISHA'S COVID TOLL TO 1,920

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: Odisha's Covid-19 tally mounted to 3,39,904 Saturday with 210 fresh positive cases, while one fresh fatality pushed the state's coronavirus death toll to 1,920.

After the state government termed the prevailing situation 'critical' following the detection of a new coronavirus strain, the state reported over 200 fresh cases for the third consecutive day. It had reported 234 new cases Friday and 214 Thursday.

Of the 210 new cases in 21 of the 30 districts, 124 were reported in quarantine centres, while 86 were detected during contact tracing.

Khurda district, under which Bhubaneswar falls, reported the highest number of new cases at 51, followed by Nuapada (23) and Cuttack (19).



FILE PHOTO

The Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said that one patient succumbed to the infection in Sundargarh, taking the district's coronavirus death toll to 174.

Also, 53 coronavirus patients have died due to comorbidities so far.

Khurda district reported the highest number of new cases at 51, followed by Nuapada (23) and Cuttack (19)

The state now has 1,449 active cases, while 3,36,482 people have recovered from the disease.

Only Malkangiri district does not have any active case presently.

The state has thus far tested over 89.49 lakh samples for Covid-19, including 28,828 Friday.

group of 45 years would begin.

"Spoke to my senior cabinet colleague Harsh Vardhan ji (Union health minister) regarding the panic being created by Odisha government regarding availability of Covid19 vaccines in Odisha. He assured me that there is no dearth of

availability of doses of the vaccines," Pradhan said.

He also added, "Further, I have been briefed that Odisha has been provided with 34.46 lakh doses of Covid-19 vaccine so far, out of which only around 23 lakh doses have been administered. Odisha will

also receive additional 5.50 lakh doses March 28."

The mainister said that he was informed that Odisha has sufficient balance of Covid-19 vaccine doses. "There will be no shortage of vaccines in Odisha or anywhere in the country," he said.

Unscientific fertilizer use threat to farmlands, humans

MANISH KUMAR, OP

Bhubaneswar, March 27: Unscientific use of fertilizers and pesticides on the agricultural lands in Odisha is now creating new threats to the farming sector, experts claimed.

According to Sanjay Kumar Mohanty, in-charge of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Puri, several farmers in Puri district are going for uncontrolled administration of fertilizers and pesticides.

"The result is that in a rush to sell the crops as early as possible, several of these chemical compounds are entering into the human food chain when they are sold before the resting period. Excess use of chemicals is also affecting the soil fertility," he said.

EXPERTS' TAKE

Several farmers in Puri district are going for uncontrolled administration of fertilizers and pesticides

In a rush to sell the crops as early as possible, several of these chemical compounds are entering into the human food chain when they are sold before the resting period

The need of the hour is to feed fertilizers as per the needs and other conditions of the crops which are often ignored

At the same time, there are also cases where either less or higher doses of fertilizers are applied to



crops leading to unbalanced care and attention to standing crops.

Researchers from the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) said

that uneven distribution of the same can hamper the growth and overall yield from the farmlands.

"Several farmers in the state use different doses of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium evenly for all kinds of crops. This ignores the specific needs of various crops. The need of the hour is to feed fertilizers as per the needs and other conditions of the crops which are often ignored," said Preeti Bharti, an IRRI researcher.

Ajay Kumar Mishra, subject matter expert on farming from IRRI, said that site-specific nutrient management system is needed to promote more yield to cater to the different needs of crops grown in different climate and soil conditions.

Mishra said that the IRRI and

the state government have collaborated for adoption of balanced fertilizer application in the state with the concept of Rice Crop Manager.

"It is based on the principles of Site-Specific Nutrient Management and has been developed to sustain the productivity of rice-based cropping systems and increase the net income of smallholder farmers," Sheetal Sharma, another researcher from the organization said.

The experts claimed that a majority of the farmlands in the state belongs to small and marginal land owners and thus the dissemination of information of site specific administration of fertilizers needed to be given to them to ensure better yield and usage of scientific method of growing crops.

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Bhadrak fisherman
nets rare 22 kg fish



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, March 27: A fisherman from Chandanipal of Dhamra in Bhadrak district had a rare catch Friday.

In what could be a surprise of his lifetime, a rare variety of fish weighing 22 kg was caught alive in his net.

Out of curiosity, he brought the fish back to the village. As the news spread, villagers gathered to catch a glimpse of the fish. At first he was at loss thinking about what to do with the fish. However, he sold it to a trader for Rs 50,000. According to some, such variety of fish is found in the Pacific Ocean.

NOTICE

I Mohan Lal Agrawal age about 59 years, S/o Late Amilal Agrawal, R/o- At/Po-Sohela, Dist.- Bargarh, declare that I had purchased a land of area Ac. 3.28 through RSD No-1042 dt. 26/05/2004 from Santosh Kumar Patra S/o Antaryami Patra of Mouza/PS-Sohela, Dist-Bargarh & now I am recorded owner as Khata No.- 325/1139.

That, I had lost the previous linked document having Original RSD. No.2650 dt. 03.12.1998, RSD. No. 2617 dt. 21.07.1997 & RSD. No. 2569 dt. 09.10.1995 somewhere at Sohela, PS-Sohela, Dist.-Bargarh since five year ago. Further I declared that I had never mortgaged the above land/R.S.D in any Bank/F.I. Now I am applying for a loan from Union Bank of India Bargarh Branch-II, Bargarh by mortgaging the same. If anybody has any objection may kindly draw a notice before Union Bank of India, Bargarh Branch-II within 30 days of publication of this notice. Later on no objection or claim will be acceptable in any circumstances.

Mohan Lal Agrawal
Sohela, Bargarh

Andhra dairy firm lures Gajapati milk farmers

THE COMPANY FROM THE NEIGHBOURING STATE OFFERS DAIRY FARMERS IN GAJAPATI HIGHER PER LITRE PRICE THAN OMFED. AS IF THAT WAS NOT ENOUGH, FARMERS IN GAJAPATI ARE SUPPLIED WITH CATTLE FEED AT LOWER RATES

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paralakhemundi, March 27: The neighbouring Andhra Pradesh has been trying to claim its rights over water, land, and forests on the fringe areas of Koraput and Gajapati districts. Now, it has set its sight on dairy farmers in Gajapati. Andhra dairy companies are buying milk from farmers in several areas by offering them more price, a report said.

According to the reports, a vehicle (registration no-AP39TV5439) with a Covid pass, has been transporting milk from various parts of Kashinagar block for last several days. Hundreds of litres of milk are sent to the neighbouring state every day.

It was learnt that OMFED has formed a milk farmers' cooperative society and was buying milk from farmers in Khandabam Budura, Haripur, Goribandha, Bathaba, Kashinagar, Tata Kashinagar, BN Pur, Kidigam, Kaithapadar, Ranipetha, Minigram and Hatapada. It was also selling cattle feed to farmers.

About 800 to 1000 litres of milk were being sold to the OMFED on



a daily basis.

However, a dairy firm of Andhra Pradesh lured the dairy farmers by offering them prices higher than that of OMFED. It supplied cattle feed at lower prices also.

OMFED was selling cattle feed to farmers for Rs 1200 while Andhra firm sold it to farmers for Rs 1000. The Andhra company also promised loans and bonus to the farmers. As a result, many farmers stopped selling their milk to OMFED.

On the other hand, OMFED has been losing its customers. It is only

A VEHICLE (REGISTRATION NO- AP39TV5439) WITH A COVID PASS, HAS BEEN TRANSPORTING MILK FROM VARIOUS PARTS OF KASHINAGAR BLOCK FOR LAST SEVERAL DAYS. HUNDREDS OF LITRES OF MILK ARE SENT TO THE NEIGHBOURING STATE EVERY DAY

IT WAS LEARNT THAT OMFED HAS FORMED A MILK FARMERS' COOPERATIVE SOCIETY AND WAS BUYING MILK FROM FARMERS IN KHANABAM BUDURA, HARIPUR, GORIBANDHA, BATHABA, KASHINAGAR, TATA KASHINAGAR, BN PUR, KIDIGAM, KAITHAPADAR, RANIPETHA, MINIGRAM AND HATAPADA. IT WAS ALSO SELLING CATTLE FEED TO FARMERS

ABOUT 800 TO 1000 LITRES OF MILK WERE BEING SOLD TO THE OMFED ON A DAILY BASIS

On the other hand, Collector Anupam Shah has directed an OMFED official to look into the matter and submit a report. The Collector said that if any farmer, affiliated to the cooperative society, sells milk to Andhra company, stern action will be taken against him.

NOTICE FOR LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

Notice is hereby given on behalf of my Client LICHFL, IPICOL HOUSE at Bhubaneswar, for advancing construction loan to Shri Ratikanta Mohapatra on his property at Plot No.- 1333, Khata No.-1330/2914, Area- Ac 0.070 decimals and Plot No. 1332/8344, Area Acre 0.13 decimals at Mouza- Pandara, Tahasil- Bhubaneswar, Dist.- Khurda (Odisha).

But it was found that, he has lost the original RoR bearing No. 1330/2914 favour of Shri Ratikanta Mohapatra, which was given to Shri British Mohapatra while he was coming from court to his residence in a Auto Rickshaw on 23 Feb. 2021. Therefore, notice is hereby given to general public that if anybody has got any right, title interest over the property on the missing document, they have to claim before the LICHFL, within 15 days from the date of publication and after that documents will lose its legal force and LICHFL will not be responsible for any claim. What-so-ever on the property after 15 days.

Address for communication.
Branch-LICHFL Balasore
N.C. Pattnaik (Advocate)
Mob-9853311189

100-yr old Pinchhabania
Dola melan halted

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rupsa, March 27: Amid a rise in Covid infection cases, the Balasore district administration stopped century-old Pinchhabania Dola melan in view of possible spread of the pandemic. The Dola festival is observed every year for over a century on the borders of Balasore and Mayurbhanj districts. The halt of the dola melan has left people in the region disheartened.

Over a lakh of people drawn from parts of Odisha, West Bengal, Bihar and Jharkhand throng the dola melan, which is observed for four days. "Only the idols of Radha Krishna will be worshipped at the village temple," said sarpanch Sanjay Sethi. Rupsa OIC Kamalakant Das said it was stopped as per a directive.

2 forests in Handapa range burning



POST NEWS NETWORK

Boinda, March 27: Fire broke out at Guja Pahad and Anadanamunda forests under Handapa range in Angul district Saturday. The blaze is spreading in these forests while the forest department has allegedly not taken up steps to douse the fire,

a report said.

The report said, as the fire spreads, scores of trees and plants have reduced to ashes. Villagers were worried about the protection of valuable trees like mahula.

There are a large number of mahul trees in two forests, which need to be saved from the fires, said villagers.

They also alleged that some cowherds, who collect mahul flowers, set the forest afire.

On the other hand, forest fire had added to the atmospheric temperatures. Villagers demanded that immediate steps should be taken to extinguish the blaze.

Handapa ranger Chaitanaya Behera said that the department is taking step in this direction.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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GOLD AUCTION CUM INVITATION NOTICE

The below mentioned borrowers have been issued notice to pay off their outstanding amount towards the facility against gold ornaments. ("Facility") availed by them from ICICI Bank Limited ("ICICI Bank"). We are constrained to conduct an auction of pledged gold ornaments on **Apr 08, 2021** as they have failed to repay the dues. ICICI Bank has the authority to remove auction / change the auction date without any prior notice. Auction will be held online - <https://jewel-auction.procuretiger.com> between 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm. For detailed Terms and conditions, please log into given website. In case of deceased borrower, all conditions will be applicable to legal heirs.

Loan A/C No.	Customer Name	Loan A/C No.	Customer Name	Loan A/C No.	Customer Name		
Branch Name: Balinga, Odisha			Branch Name: Sundergarh				
305905000205	Sandhya Nag	147105004680	Sabita Nayak	087605001763	Krushnachandra Pradhan		
Branch Name: Baudhgarh, Odisha			147105003730	Pinki Pandey			
368205000339	Jyoti Ranjan Suar	147105004108	Jyoti Rao	087605007675	Arun Kumar Choudhury		
368205000357	Motilal Meher	147105004143	Sabita Nayak	087605003722	Kailas Sarma		
368205000374	Manoj Mahakud	147105004165	Phakir Mohan Barha	087605005723	Kailas Sarma		
Branch Name: Bonaigarh			147105004193	Arujun Badaik			
306205000328	Prasanna Kumar Behera	147105004199	Bhudhabari Majhi	087605008672	Saubhagya Bag		
306205000441	Dharanidhar Kalas	147105004232	Dhiren Badaik	087605004142	Shibaneel Patel		
306205000549	Rajesh Mahant	147105004273	Anjali Tanty	087605005072	Shibaneel Patel		
306205000589	Surendra Guru	147105004278	Gausia Bano	087605005413	Rutu Patel		
306205000592	Niranjana Nayak	147105004305	Binoti Prabha Dumdung	087605005736	Nabin Das		
306205000758	Rasmilata Sethi	147105004339	Sapna Sharma	087605005914	Jayadev Ghasi		
306205000766	Bisalya Patra	147105004341	Banita Lakra	087605005984	Prasanta Amat		
306205000852	Bedabays Pradhan	147105004386	Jaydev Behera	087605006467	Mana Pujhari		
306205000871	Dhoroj Kumar Pradhan	Branch Name: Raurkela - Chhend			087605006759	Susanta Dansana	
306205001190	Manoj Dehuri	189105000927	Sabitri Behera	087605006805	Baisnaba Kachharia		
306205001277	Sabita Kalendi	189105001344	Ricky Bajaj	087605006813	Santosh Swain		
306205001283	Surendra Pruthan	189105000976	Baisali Kolait	087605007894	Santosh Swain		
306205001339	Bimala Patra	189105000994	Bidyut Kumar Barik	087605007043	Sunil Kumar Pruseth		
306205001365	Sitaram Pal	189105001003	Amareeswari Pati	087605007468	Devki Naik		
306205001389	Abhimanyu Behera	189105001007	Nirada Kumar Patra	087605007543	Harishar Patra		
306205001390	Sebati Mahanta	189105001030	Susanta Kumar Pradhan	087605007638	Sudesh Bhittia		
306205001408	Hemanta Kumra Sahu	189105001037	Susanta Kumar Pradhan	087605007650	Jagyandatta Sahoo		
Branch Name: Brajarajinagar			1891050010775	Devki Naik			
434805000320	Brarajesh Singh	189105001358	Kanti Patra	087605008261	Ranjita Patel		
434805000114	Jitendra Yadab	189105001347	Shyamsundar Sankhua	087605008453	Sunita Garia		
Branch Name: Darilipali			189105001359	Shyamsundar Sankhua			
216305000326	Dinesh Kumar Patel	189105001393	Bhagya Shree Mahapatra	087605008278	M D Sanaul Haq		
Branch Name: Hemgir			Branch Name: Raurkela - Koel Nagar				
272205000202	Sakul Argal	252105000430	Akhaya Kumar Siya	087605008280	Jugeswar Dila		
272205000270	Prema Gupta	Branch Name: Raurkela - Udit Nagar			087605008295	Bodhansu Naik	
Branch Name: Jharsuguda			756105000037	Biswajeet Biswal	087605008448	Tejaraj Rohidas	
046805001480	Sunil Kumar Giri	Branch Name: Rourkela			087605008462	Rabindra Behera	
046805001787	Panchunath Mallick	019505007654	Ratna Manjari Rath	087605008475	Suchinta Perua		
046805002079	Waqar Alam	019505011015	Wasim Aslam	087605008516	Rasananda Kalo		
046805002097	Mahboob Khan	019505008922	Bibhudatta Mishra	087605008576	Rasananda Kalo		
046805002098	Ajit Kumar Gartia	019505010887	Manorama Mohanty	087605008552	Uttam Kisan		
046805002542	Ravi Kumar Sharma	019505010892	Manorama Mohanty	087605008556	Afsar Ahmad		
046805003114	Jadab Dutiyachanda	019505009761	Sonu Behera	087605008611	Jogendra Dash		
Branch Name: Rajagangapur			019505009906	S Karuga Rao	087605008615	Ashok Kalo	
147105001671	Binod Bihari Chakra	019505009907	Abdul Hamid Khan	087605008642	Mohammed Niaz		
147105001872	Binod Bihari Chakra	019505010537	Anil Kumar Choudhary	087605008660	Kajal Mahanandia		
147105002108	Krushna Buda	019505010730	Anil Kumar Choudhary	087605008681	Mad Islam Ansari		
147105004133	Sinu Rao	019505010537	Anil Kumar Choudhary	087605009753	Jyoti Sahu		
147105002438	Santosh Kumar Behera	019505010537	Anil Kumar Choudhary	087605009620	Shibaneel Patel		
147105004209	Rudra Sahoo	019505010553	Ramesh Sahu	087605009701	Nilambar Dalei		
147105002676	Kumarsen Amat	019505010703	Janmajay Pal	087605009794	Dhananjay Patel		
147105002877	Punam Devi Ray	019505011435	Mid Jabbar Khan	Branch Name: Telelpali, Odisha			
147105003002	Binod Prajapati	019505011374	Banamali Nanda	367905000152	Deepak Kumar Mishra		
147105003086	Krushna Buda	Branch Name: Rourkela-Civiltownship			367905000380	Jayaram Ganik	
147105004106	Jahida Khatun	150305000356	Manash Ranjan Jena	367905000419	Upendra Sa		
147105003523	Mahammad Asaphuk Ansari	150305001284	Radha Kanta Sethy	367905000434	Braja Mohan Khamsi		
147105003566	Arif Ahmed	150305001288	Malaya Bhola	367905000438	Jayaram Raudia		
147105003681	Surendra Lakra	150305001671	Manoj Mahal	367905000440	Akash Podh		
147105003503	Mid Karim	150305001587	Biswakalyani Rath	367905000707	Inayat Khan		
147105004331	Bibhuti Bhusan Satpathy	150305001798	Suresh Sha	367905000708	Inayat Khan		
		150305002308	Binaya Bhusan Pradhan	367905000755	Chandrama Netti		
				367905000775	Jagannath Reddy		
				367905000764	Nalini Jagat		
				367905000766	Satte Kumar Nirala		

Date : 28.03.2021
Place : Jharsuguda, Sundergarh, Boudh

S/1
Authorised Officer
For ICICI Bank Limited

As Covid infections rise, VIMSAR
mulls increasing number of beds



POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, March 27: Even as Covid infections are increasing in various parts of Odisha and the neighbouring states, more patients are gradually coming to VIMSAR, the only Covid hospital in Sambalpur. The VIMSAR authorities have expressed concern over treatment of patients whose number may likely go up, given the spread of the infections.

The authorities have sought to increase the number of beds at the Covid hospital. The number of beds was 120. In March, the state government had issued a directive to decrease its number to 30 by March 16. This proposal is under consideration of the district administration. VIMSAR authorities have

discussed the issue at a recent meeting. They have sought reconsideration of the government on its proposal to bring down the number of beds.

According to reports, in view of the rise in Covid infections, the state government had directed the district administration to take up necessary measures to tackle the situation. Various restrictions have been imposed.

At a meeting, VIMSAR director Lalit Meher, Principal Prof. Lala Mohan Nayak, the dean and heads of departments deliberated on possible measures on tackling the increasing number of Covid patients.

Dr Sudarshan Pothal, the nodal officer of the Covid management said, "The government will be proposed to increase the number of beds. Earlier,

Earlier, three to four patients were under treatment. For over a week, their number is increasing. By Thursday, 24 Covid patients were under treatment. There is a need for increasing the number of beds. All necessary facilities are here. There are 100 beds and 20 beds in ICU. If the government gives permission for increasing the number of beds, there will be no problem

Patients from other districts like Bargarh, Bolangir, Sonepur, Boudh, Jharuguda and Deogarh could benefit

NIT-R to conduct semester
tests through online mode

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, March 27: In view of the surge in COVID-19 infections in the state, the National Institute of Technology (NIT) in Rourkela Friday decided to conduct its semester examinations in online mode.

The decision was taken in Saturday afternoon after a large number of students protested against the NIT authorities' plan to conduct the final examinations in an offline mode this year.

In a notification in this regard, the premier technical institute stated that it would not be held responsible for any kind of glitches in internet connection at the time when candidates will be appearing for the year-end semester examinations in online mode.

A detailed schedule of the examinations will be declared well ahead of time, a senior NIT official expressed.

Notably, NIT Rourkela had earlier issued a notification stating that the upcoming semester examinations will be held in an offline mode, in two phases starting from April 5 and ending July 29.



Pala artistes roped in by the forest department create awareness on forest fires in Boinda area of Angul district, Saturday

OP PHOTO

Woman dies, 3 critical in road mishap

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, March 27: In a road mishap, a woman was killed and three others, including a minor girl, were critically injured after the car they were travelling in collided against a truck near Rengali College Square in Sambalpur district in the wee hours of Saturday.

According to a source, they were

heading towards Sambalpur in a car. At Rengali College Square, the driver lost control over the wheels and the car ran into a truck moving in the same direction.

A female occupant died on the spot. Hearing the commotion, local people rushed to the spot, rescued the other occupants and shifted them to VIMSAR, Burla. Police recovered the body for post mortem.

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The path is long, but self-surrender makes it short; the way is difficult, but perfect trust makes it easy.

THE MOTHER



Our Hindu Rashtra

I wrote a book that came out a few months ago. The problem with writing books in India, especially non-fiction and related to history, is that not many read such books. The quality of the book and the fame of the author are not important for the most part. The print run, meaning the number of copies of such books printed, is limited to a few thousand. Usually that print run lasts for years and it is not uncommon to see books that were published years ago still on the shelves. I wrote a book translating the Urdu non-fiction writing of Saadat Hasan Manto in 2014.

Manto is a very famous name in literature but even that book is still in its first print run. The new book is called 'Our Hindu Rashtra' and it examines where India stands today with respect to its Constitutional promise of being a secular and democratic state.

We are a democracy if you consider democracy to be free and fair elections. The rest of the world does not. In the Freedom House rankings, which recently demoted India to 'partly free', only 40% weightage was given to political rights of citizens, dealing and full marks were given for free and fair elections. It was on civil liberties and fundamental rights that India scored so badly that the good work done by free elections was negated.

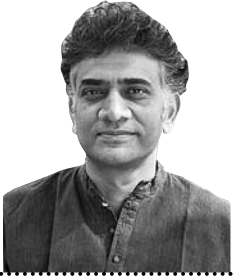
My book examines this same process but over a longer timeframe. The book is called 'Our Hindu Rashtra' because in my opinion we have already become one. No Constitutional or other major change is required for India to continue doing what it has been doing since 2014. In Pakistan, the exclusion of minorities has been done by law, and in India it has been done by practice. That is the only difference between the two nations. We have become as much of a religious State as Pakistan and this is a fact. Pakistan has no Hindu chief minister in its 4 states and India has no Muslim chief minister in its 28 states. Of India's ruling party's 303 Lok Sabha members, there is no Muslim, and in 15 Indian states there is no Muslim minister. In 10 other states there is only 1 usually given the minority affairs portfolio. Laws that specifically gave rights to religious minorities, such as propagation and occupation have been undone by India. The various, deviously named 'Freedom of Religion' laws that Indian states have passed actually take freedom away from us. The bans on cattle slaughter go against the right to occupation which is a Fundamental Right only in name.

As a nation we do not have a problem with these things and this is why they are not a political issue (only some columnists keep whining about them all the time). This is why I say we are already a Hindu Rashtra structurally.

The other thing is that this marginalising of India's minorities and writing of laws and policies that inconvenience them appears to be a very large part of why Indians vote the way they do. India is an economy that is in its fourth year of slowing in terms of GDP growth. But there is not much media around this fact. India is the only economy in South Asia to be in recession but we do not seem concerned by this either else it would be an election issue and a media subject. Similarly unemployment which is at historic highs and has been since 2017, is not apparently as important as laws that stop women from marrying outside their religion, or who is allowed to enter temples and such things.

We are told we are being led by a nationalist party but we are also informed that Ladakh's situation is no different today than it was last year. The fact that newspaper reports have said that about 1,000 sq km of land that we could patrol earlier we cannot today has not led to a questioning of the idea that this is a nationalist government. Its nationalist credentials have been established and bolstered by the actions it has taken against its own citizens, the minorities and not externally. This is the other reason I believe that we are already living in a form of Hindu Rashtra.

The question is what comes after this. My view is that it will be more of the same. It appears that many Indians are not voting mostly on the basis of issues like the economy and their own well-being as measured by data provided by the government. They seem to be as concerned and perhaps more concerned about other things, especially those that have to do with the harassment of India's minorities. The media has joined them in this and avoids issues like jobs and economic decline even if a leader of Rahul Gandhi's stature raises them. This is quite remarkable in a nation that is democratic and gets offended by the word saying that it is headed in the wrong way. But every fact on the ground shows that we are headed in the wrong way and that there is no mechanism we appear to have to correct our course.



Aakar Patel

In Pakistan, the exclusion of minorities has been done by law, and in India it has been done by practice. That is the only difference between the two nations. We have become as much of a religious State as Pakistan and this is a fact



George Magnus

TO MEET THE CHALLENGES AHEAD, CHINA IS BANKING ON ITS 14TH FIVE-YEAR PLAN, WHICH WAS OFFICIALLY APPROVED AT THE RECENT MEETING. THE PLAN IS SUPPOSED TO ENSURE THAT CHINA IS ON TRACK TO MEET ITS GRANDIOSE LONGER-TERM GOAL

SPECTRUM EDUCATION

Navigating the 'New Normal' for African Schools



Hanan Morsy

PROLONGED SCHOOL CLOSURES CARRY AN EVEN MORE IMMEDIATE DANGER. WHEN THEY AREN'T ATTENDING SCHOOL, POOR AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN DO NOT RECEIVE SCHOOL MEALS - OFTEN A CRITICAL NUTRITION SOURCE

WISDOM CORNER

- I always did something I was a little not ready to do. I think that's how you grow. When there's that moment of 'Wow, I'm not really sure I can do this,' and you push through those moments, that's when you have a breakthrough.

MARISSA MAYER
- If you hear a voice within you say 'you cannot paint,' then by all means paint and that voice will be silenced.

VINCENT VAN GOGH
- How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.

ANNE FRANK

WORDSWORTH

Callithumpian

Callithumpian refers to a band of discordant instruments or a noisy parade. It was first noted in America in 1836. It's possible it may have its origin in a southern English dialect word gallithumpian; the English Dialect Dictionary says this could refer to a heckler or someone who disturbs order at Parliamentary elections. This probably derives from gally, "to frighten", which turns up in another dialect word gallicrow for a scarecrow. But it's also been said to be a blend of calliope and thump, which sounds plausible as an evocation of a noisy fairground atmosphere, except that unfortunately calliope, in the sense of the steam-driven musical instrument, is not recorded before 1858. The word survives, though it's now rather regional even in the US, for example in the Callithumpian Parade on 4 July every year in Biwabik, Minnesota, and in the names of the Callithumpian Consort, which performs avant-garde music, and Jack Maheu's 'Fire In The Pet Shop' Callithumpian Jazz Band.

LOL

Benefits of marriage

On their 25th wedding anniversary and during the banquet celebrating it, Joseph was asked to give his friends a brief account of the benefits of a marriage of such long duration. "Tell us Joseph, just what is it you have learned from all those

wonderful years with your wife?" Joseph responds, "Well, I've learned that marriage is the best teacher of all. It teaches you loyalty, meekness, forbearance, self-restraint, forgiveness -- and a great many other qualities you wouldn't have needed if you'd stayed single."

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

FOCUS NEIGHBOURHOOD

CHINA'S FIVE-YEAR PLAN

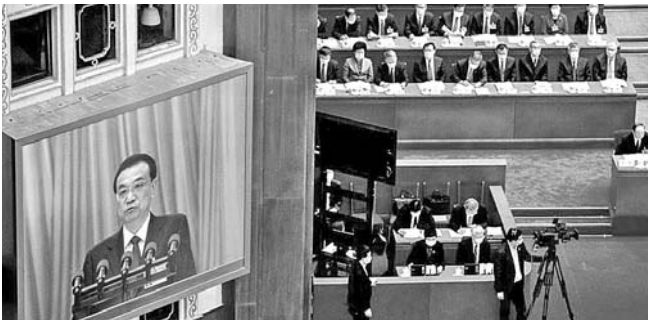
This year's meeting of China's legislature, the National People's Congress, was one of the most important in recent times. China is facing its most hostile external environment in decades, with a growing number of countries pushing back against its political repression and coercive diplomacy. And the imperative of reshaping its economic development model is more urgent than ever. While China's leaders now shun all mention of the so-called middle-income trap, their determination to avoid this looming threat is clear.

To meet the challenges ahead, China is banking on its 14th Five-Year Plan, which was officially approved at the recent meeting. The plan is supposed to ensure that China is on track to meet its grandiose longer-term goal, also affirmed at the meeting, of becoming a "modernized socialist country" - with an OECD-level per capita income - by 2035.

The phrase "Five-Year Plan" might conjure thoughts of production targets and coal, steel, or grain quotas. But China hasn't issued that kind of document in more than 20 years. Running over 140 pages, the 14th Five-Year Plan comprises a broad set of economic, social, technological, and environmental objectives and targets, intended to shape the behaviour of local governments, enterprises, institutions, and citizens.

To be sure, this does include grain-production targets. Yet that is but one part of a far more comprehensive strategy that reflects a growing emphasis on the link between the economy and national security. For Chinese President Xi Jinping, national security requires not only a modernized military (which China plans to build over the next decade) and internal "social stability" (which has been central to Xi's leadership). It also demands action in areas like food and natural resources, commerce, supply chains, and technology.

That is why the new Five-Year Plan includes binding targets not only for military spending, but also for grain production, invest-



The phrase "Five-Year Plan" might conjure thoughts of production targets and coal, steel, or grain quotas. But China hasn't issued that kind of document in more than 20 years. Running over 140 pages, the 14th Five-Year Plan comprises a broad set of economic, social, technological, and environmental objectives and targets, intended to shape the behaviour of local governments, enterprises, institutions, and citizens

ment in research and development, and digital-sector growth. Moreover, it sets ambitious goals for Chinese leadership in cutting-edge sectors, such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, semiconductors, neuroscience and genetics, and space, sea, and polar exploration.

As for the environment, the Plan includes binding targets for reducing CO2 emissions and energy intensity per unit of output. Here, however, the targets lack ambition, casting doubt on China's ability to fulfill its previously announced pledge to reach peak greenhouse-gas emissions by 2030 and achieve net-zero emissions by 2060.

What the Five-Year Plan does not include, for the first time ever, is a target for overall GDP growth for the period. Instead, the government has pledged to keep annual growth "within a reasonable range as appropriate" - which, according to Prime Minister Li Keqiang, means "above 6%" for 2021- while aiming to meet non-binding targets for a range of other economic variables.

China will focus on implementing its "dual-circulation strategy," ac-

cording to which it will reduce its reliance on external demand, in favor of increased self-reliance. While the government will continue to emphasize exports, it will also increase import substitution and introduce supply-chain safeguards, especially where American firms are closely involved. Most important, China plans to boost domestic consumption of the goods it produces. National-security concerns undoubtedly lie at the heart of this strategy.

One factor underlying inequality that China's government does plan to address is its household registration (hukou) system. By tying people to their "hometowns," this system has often blocked migrant workers' access to education, health care, and other social services. The new Five-Year Plan aims to abolish or ease restrictions in small and medium-size cities, and introduce a points system in large cities.

China's government also wants to encourage an "appropriate birth rate" to address the looming economic drag caused by population aging. And there are proposals to raise the low statutory retirement

ages "in a phased manner." Both of these reforms are long overdue. But plans to implement them lack detail. Ultimately, China's government is going to give priority to its \$1.4 trillion science and technology strategy, aimed at achieving self-reliance in advanced technologies. Semiconductors, which form the core of such technologies, are vital to achieving this goal.

Here, China is not starting from a strong position. It can currently meet just 16% of its own, mostly low-end, chip requirements through domestic production, and the value of its semiconductor imports exceeds that of its crude oil imports. With the United States leading an economic-pressure campaign against China - including sanctions, export controls, and investment scrutiny - this is a cause for growing concern.

China's problem is that, although it is the world's leading manufacturer, it has embedded weaknesses in foundational areas, such as basic parts, materials, and advanced technologies. As former Industry and Information Technology Minister Miao Wei noted earlier this month, these weaknesses mean that the country is at least 30 years away from being a manufacturing economy of "great power."

Progress toward self-reliance on semiconductors will be an important test of China's ability to reach its broader goals. Its success will depend significantly on the extent to which its leaders recognize the limits of authoritarianism, top-down directives, and social control. These approaches, which are central to Xi's governance style, worked well to contain the COVID-19 crisis. But, at a time when the digital and information economies are becoming increasingly important, a country at China's level of development has only one way forward: transparency, openness, and institutional flexibility.

The writer is a research associate at the University of Oxford's China Centre and SOAS University of London.

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Bangladesh looking up

Sir, This refers to the article, "Bangladesh at 50", Orissa POST, March 27. Many had wondered about Bangladesh's chances of success at the time of its birth when it was seen as an 'international basket case'. But today Bangladesh's emergence as a vibrant nation has pitched it as South Asia's contemporary rising star. Under the leadership of current PM Sheikh Hasina it has registered steady economic growth and is on target to leave the list of least developed countries by 2026. It, in fact, overtook India in per capita GDP last year and, as per World Bank estimates, the country is projected to post positive GDP growth for 2020-21. Thus, Bangladesh has managed to grow its economy despite the pandemic while simultaneously registering lower Covid deaths per million than India. Moreover, Bangladesh is actually ahead of India in several human development indicators such as immunisation, hunger mitigation and fertility rate. That much of Bangladesh's surge happened in Hasina's time, even as she dramatically improved relations with India, shows how much regional cooperation can be achieved in South Asia which mostly has a sorry history of the opposite kind - of regional antagonism or at least neglect. Credit should go to both the Modi and Hasina regimes for working to revive bilateral connectivity and transit - long neglected by previous governments. India and Bangladesh share a special chemistry now. Let's focus on building on that fact by improving the trade, connectivity and people-to-people relationship. N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Punish the vigilantes

Sir, The recent Jhansi incident where two nuns traveling to Rourkela by the Utkal Express were harassed by self-proclaimed "Vigilantes" on the suspicion of conversion should trouble all right thinking Indians. There is no doubt that unwarranted "vigilantism" by such right wing elements is wreaking havoc in our society which hitherto basked under a pluralistic outlook. What happened in Jhansi only goes to show that such incidents may get repeated in the days ahead, be it in the name of conversion, choice of meat consumed, inter-community marriages, dress worn by women or even art and culture. That such obscurantist elements get a shot in the arm is due to lack of action. After the infamous Akhlaq lynching case, the Prime Minister merely sent out an innocuous warning which, later went largely unheeded. Hence there is not much hope that the Home Minister's assurance in the Jhansi incident will be carried to its logical conclusion. And the mayhem will continue unabated. Bhaskar Roy, NEW DELHI

of the day quote

NIA not carrying out inquiry against Waze's seniors and Param Bir Singh gives rise to suspicion. The agency is deliberately suppressing some evidence

SACHIN SAWANT | CONGRESS SPOKESPERSON

The BJP is bringing in goons from outside Bengal to places where the party has some foothold. I will urge the women of the state to come out with 'hata and khunti' (ladle and spatula) and confront the hoodlums

MAMATA BANERJEE | CHIEF MINISTER OF WEST BENGAL

The incumbent BJP government in Assam worked well. After a long period, the people of Assam witnessed peace, development and a sense of security under this government. The BJP will come to power again in that state

NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR | UNION AGRICULTURE MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

■ BJP worker found dead

Patna: A BJP worker was found dead inside his ancestral home in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district Saturday. The incident in Unshar village came to light around 9 am when the victim, Sachidanand Singh's domestic help arrived at the house, said Bochaha police station official. "He found that Sachidanand Singh was lying on the bed and both his hands, mouth and nose were tied with cloths. The domestic help informed the village head (Mukhiya) about the incident who in turn communicated us," said Rajesh Ranjan, SHO of Bochaha police station.

■ Speeding truck mows down 3

Chitrakoot: Three persons were crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck, while two others were left injured in Uttar Pradesh's Chitrakoot district. All victims were car mechanics. Rajapur Police station Head, Jaishankar Singh, said the mechanics were busy taking care of punctured tyres near Pandey Purwa village late Friday when suddenly a loaded truck came from behind and ploughed them down. The injured were admitted to the hospital while the deceased were sent for autopsy. The truck that caused the accident has been confiscated but the driver is absconding.

■ 500 shops gutted

Pune: Around 500 shops were gutted in a massive fire at the famous Fashion Street market in Camp area of Pune, officials said Saturday. The fire had broken out around 11 pm on Friday, they said, adding that nobody was injured in the incident.

■ Tigress bears four cubs

Panna: A 10-year-old tigress has given birth to four cubs in Madhya Pradesh's Panna Tiger Reserve (PTR), an official said Saturday. With the latest births, the tigress identified as T-6 has so far given birth to 17 cubs in six litters, field director of PTR Uttam Kumar Sharma said. "The tigress was captured on camera with four cubs recently. The cubs look two to three months old," he said. The big cat was brought here from Pench Tiger Reserve in 2014 under tiger repopulation plan in the reserve, the official said, adding that all the cubs are healthy.



With the country seeing a second spike of COVID infections vaccine diplomacy has come at a cost. These vaccines could have been put to good use domestically

OMAR ABDULLAH | NATIONAL CONFERENCE VICE-PRESIDENT

Mamata's audio clip seeking BJP member's help stirs row in Bengal

A BJP delegation, met the state's chief electoral officer and handed over the tape, claiming Banerjee was using her official position to influence the outcome of the bitterly contested assembly poll

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, March 27: A huge controversy erupted Saturday amid the polling for 30 assembly seats in West Bengal, with the BJP releasing an audio clip where Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is purportedly heard cajoling a BJP leader from Nandigram to rejoin the TMC and help her win the seat.

Banerjee is pitted against her former protege and now the BJP candidate Suwendu Adhikari in Nandigram, the spring board that propelled her to power in 2011, dislodging the Left Front from power after a 34-year unbroken rule.

A BJP delegation, led by party general secretary and Bengal minister Kailash Vijayvargiya, met the state's chief electoral officer and handed over the tape, claiming Banerjee was using her official position to influence the outcome of the bitterly contested assembly poll. The ruling TMC questioned the genuineness of the audio tape, but asserted that since Pralay Pal was



a former TMC leader who switched over to the BJP, there was nothing wrong with Banerjee trying to woo him back. Pal, who pledged his allegiance to the Adhikari family, whose two members are still TMC Lok Sabha members, claimed Banerjee personally called him up and asked him to help her win the Nandigram seat. "You should help us win Nandigram. Look, I know you have some grievances, but that's due mostly to the Adhikaris who never allowed me to get into Nandigram or East Midnapore. I will take care of everything henceforth," Banerjee purportedly told Pal, a BJP official in East Midnapore, the district where the Adhikari family holds sway. Pal, however, was not game.



Over 79% polling in Bengal, 72% in Assam



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, March 27: As many as 79.79 per cent voters exercised their franchise in ten hours of polling for 30 Assembly seats in West Bengal on Saturday while the voter turnout was around 72.14 per cent in Assam in the same period.

More than half of the 73-lakh electorate in Bengal's 30 Assembly constituencies have cast their ballot and sealed the fate of 191 candidates who are in the fray on the first day of the eight-phase elections in West Bengal where polling is underway in five districts.

At least 21 female aspirants are contesting elections in West Bengal while 23 in Assam.

In Bengal, the serpentine queues showed people are aware of the importance of the crucial poll that is seeing a bitter battle between the ruling Trinamool Congress-led by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and the BJP that has pitched every high-profile leader into campaigning in West Bengal.

As per the latest figures from Bengal, the approximate voter turnout trend till 5 pm in Bankura was the highest at 80.03 per cent, Jhargram at 80.55 per cent, Purbo Medinipur at 82.42 per cent, Paschim Medinipur at 80.16 per cent and Purulia at 77.13 per cent, according to the Election Commission's voter turnout App.

In Bengal's East Midnapore, two security personnel were reportedly injured in a firing incident that took place early Saturday at the Satsatmal, Bhagwanpur Assembly constituency ahead of voting. Tension prevailed in the Tulsidi village where the incident took place. Security forces are keeping a close vigil in the area, surrounded by forests that were once Maoist hideouts. There were reports of EVM malfunctioning at 20 booths in Bankura district, eight in Jhargram and 39 in Purulia. EVMs in various booths had stopped working temporarily due to a technical glitch. People said they had to wait for more than two hours to cast their ballot.

In Assam, voting began across 11,537 polling stations mostly covering eastern Assam's 12 districts at 7 am. The balloting will continue till 6 p.m as the Election Commission extended the time by an hour in view of the Covid-19 induced situations.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, March 27: Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu Saturday expressed concern over frequent disruption in Legislatures and Parliament as also decline in standards of debates.

Observing that disruption means derailing debate and derailing democracy and the nation, he cautioned that people will get disillusioned if the same trend continues. Naidu, who was speaking at the centenary celebrations of former parliamentarian and educationist Nookala Narotham Reddy here, said recent incidents in certain state legislatures were disheartening.

He stressed that conduct in parliament and legislatures should be in pursuit of the 3 D's- Discuss, Debate and Decide.

The House should, at no point, become a platform for disruption. Obstructing the House only hurts the cause of public interest, he said.

Reflecting on the exemplary quality of debates in Parliament during Narotham Reddy's time, Naidu suggested that representatives' actions in the legislatures should reflect people's aspirations and sought a more constructive and meaningful use of time in legislatures.

The Vice President also expressed concern over the declining atten-



dance of parliamentarians and legislators in respective Houses.

He stressed the need for them to be regular and contribute meaningfully in the discussion.

He appealed to the people to elect representatives who possess the 4Cs- Calibre, Conduct, Capacity and Character.

Emphasizing the role of education in inculcating moral values, patriotism and probity in public life, Naidu said education should produce well-rounded holistic individuals. Pointing to India's demographic dividend, he said no other country has this kind of advantage and stressed the need to fully leverage it for the nation's progress.

In this context, he called for upskilling the younger generation in tune with the 21st century needs.

Naidu also suggested that in the spirit of New Education Policy, institutes should restructure them-

HOSP DEPLOYS ROBOTS

Meenakshi Mission Hospital and Research Centre (MMHRC) in Madurai has deployed as many as 16 mobile Teladoc Health robots for clinical examinations, diagnosis and monitoring of health parameters of patients. "MMHRC is the first and only healthcare institution in India to deploy them," it claimed



SKILL SHOW



Army soldiers during an exercise in Agra, Saturday. The event was organised to show military skills of the Para Regiment

Kin of migrants crushed by train await death certificates

The family members have told the Shahdol district officials that they are unable to carry out tasks related to bank accounts and are unable to avail the benefits of government schemes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shahdol, March 27: An apparent bureaucratic delay has deprived families of 16 migrant labourers, crushed by a train in Maharashtra during the coronavirus-induced lockdown in May last year, from getting their death certificates.

They have been demanding the certificates from Shahdol district administration, which says these documents have to be issued by authorities in Maharashtra's Aurangabad district where the

tragedy took place.

Shahdol district officials said they have sent letters to the authorities in Aurangabad requesting them to give the death certificates of the deceased to their families.

The family members, devastated due to the death of their dear ones, have told the Shahdol district officials that they are unable to carry out tasks related to bank accounts and are unable to avail the benefits of government schemes.

The 16 migrant workers- 11 from

Shahdol district and 5 from neighbouring Umaria district of Madhya Pradesh- were walking to Bhusawal from Jalna on way to their state.

They were sleeping on rail tracks due to exhaustion near Karmad, around 30 km from Aurangabad, when they were run over by the train early in the morning of May 8. The family members of the deceased in Shahdol said they had applied for the death certificates before the then Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) of Jaisingh Nagar.

Junior engineer and 2 policemen booked

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ballia (UP), March 27: "A case of culpable homicide not amounting to murder was registered here against eight people, including a junior engineer of the power department and two policemen, following the death of a person who was allegedly beaten up by them for refusing to pay Rs 20,000 during an inspection," police said on Saturday.



Additional Superintendent of Police Sanjay Yadav said a complaint was filed by victim Ram Pravesh's father Mudrika Gond of Rigvan village under Maniyanur police station area, following which the case was registered on Friday.

Gond claimed that he had taken a legal electricity connection and was operating a wheat flour machine. On Friday afternoon, a team of the power department reached his shop and after an inspection, they demanded Rs 20,000.

Upon his refusal, the team threatened to cut the power connection and frame him in false cases. Ram Pravesh was badly beaten up and was later declared dead.

India, B'desh want stability, love and peace in world: Modi

Prime Minister Modi made the remarks while speaking to the Matua community members after offering prayers at their temple in Gopalganj's Orakandi

AGENCIES

Dhaka, March 27: India and Bangladesh want stability, love and peace instead of instability, terror and unrest in the world, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Saturday as he underlined that the two friendly neighbours want to see the world progressing through their own development.

Prime Minister Modi made the remarks while speaking to the Matua community members after offering prayers at their temple in Gopalganj's Orakandi- the birthplace of Hindu mystic figure and community's spiritual guru Harichand Thakur.

"Both India and Bangladesh want to see the world progressing through their own development. Both the countries want to see stability, love, and peace instead of instability, terror, and unrest in the world," Modi said that he was waiting for this opportunity for many years and during his visit to Bangladesh in 2015, he had expressed desire to visit Orakandi, which has come true now. This place is a pilgrimage site for the spiritual relationship between India and Bangladesh, he said.

"I was speaking to some people here. They were saying who could have thought that India's Prime Minister would visit Orakandi," Modi said, adding that he was feel-



ing the same emotions as felt by the Matua community members in India after coming to Orakandi, from where Harichand Thakur disseminated his pious message.

Orakandi is the abode of Hindu Matua community, a large number of whom are residents of neighbouring West Bengal.

Prime Minister Modi announced that India will upgrade one girls' middle school and set up a primary school in Orakandi. "My visit to the Orakandi Thakurbari is an experience I will remember for life. This is a very sacred place, which is closely associated with the Matua Community," Modi later tweeted.

Analysts said Modi's planned temple visits carry a political significance at the time of the ongoing assembly elections in West Bengal.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by BJP MP from West Bengal Shantanu Thakur during his visit to Orakandi. The Matua community's vote may determine the winner in some seats in the elections to the West Bengal state assembly, the first phase of which began Saturday.

In his speech, Modi said the Matua community celebrates 'Baroni Shanan Utshab' every year on the auspicious occasion of the birth anniversary of Harichand Thakur and a large number of devotees from India come to Orakandi to

participate in this festival.

"To make this pilgrimage easier for citizens of India, efforts will be made on behalf of the Government of India," he said.

"We are also committed to grand events and various works reflecting the glorious history of the Matua community in Thakurnagar (West Bengal)," Modi said. "I have always been very close to the family members of the Thakurbari," he added.

"The way India and Bangladesh governments are working towards strengthening their ties; Harichand Thakur and Thakurbari have been doing this for ages. This place symbolises the spiritual trust of India and Bangladesh," he said.



Today, the first phase of polling is being held in Assam. I appeal to the people of Assam, especially the youth and my sisters, to go to the polling booths today and vote in large numbers. Vote for progress and golden future of Assam

PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA | CONGRESS LEADER

PREZ REFERRED TO AIIMS

President Ram Nath Kovind has been shifted to All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Saturday for further treatment. His condition is stated to be stable. He was admitted the Army's Research and Referral Hospital in New Delhi on Friday morning after a chest discomfort.

of the day uote

The first phase of elections begins in Assam. Urging those eligible to vote in record numbers. I particularly call upon my young friends to vote.



Those who stand for foreign infiltrators can never be the country's well-wishers. If the Congress-AIUDF comes to power, its government will endanger Indians living in the state and strengthen illegal infiltrators. If this alliance wins, it will work for them



Modi govt wants to run the country in a fascist manner. Electoral malpractices, horse trading of elected MLAs, and when failing in both, it resorts to passing such a dictatorial bill on the strength of its majority in Parliament. This is how the Modi govt rules



ASHOK GEHLOT | CHIEF MINISTER OF RAJASTHAN

4 BJP leaders killed in accident

Agartala: At least four BJP leaders, including three women were killed and eight others injured when a vehicle overturned in southern Tripura's Gomati district, police said Saturday. Police officials said that the three women and a man accompanied by other workers of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party returning home in a Maxi truck suddenly lost control and overturned killing the four local leaders at Chellagang late Friday.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 27: India saw 62,258 new coronavirus infections in a day, the highest single day rise so far this year; taking the nationwide COVID-19 tally to 1,19,08,910 according to Union health ministry data updated Saturday.

Registering a steady increase for the 17th day in row, the active cases have increased to 4,52,647 comprising 3.80 per cent of the total infections, while the recovery rate has further dropped to 94.85 per cent, the data stated.

The 62,258 new cases were reported in a span of 24 hours, the highest since October 16, 2020, while the death toll increased to 1,61,240 with 291 daily new fatalities, the highest in around three months, the data updated at 8 am showed.

As many as 63,371 new infections were recorded in a span of 24 hours October 16.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 1,12,95,023, while the case fatality rate has further dropped to 1.35 per cent, the data stated.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark August 7, 30 lakh August 23, 40 lakh September 5 and 50 lakh September 16.

It went past 60 lakh September 28, 70 lakh October 11, crossed 80 lakh October 29, 90 lakh November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark December 19.

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research, 23,97,69,553 samples have been tested up to March 26 with 11,64,915 samples being tested Friday.

The 291 new fatalities include 112 from Maharashtra, 19 Punjab, 22 from Chhattisgarh, 14 from Kerala and 13 from Karnataka.



A total of 1,61,240 deaths have been reported so far in the country including 53,907 from Maharashtra, 12,650 from Tamil Nadu, 12,484 from Karnataka, 10,987 from Delhi, 10,320 from West Bengal, 8,779 from Uttar Pradesh and 7,203 from Andhra Pradesh and 6,576 from Punjab.

The health ministry stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities.

"Our figures are being reconciled with the Indian Council of Medical Research," the ministry said on its website, adding that state-wise distribution of figures is subject to further verification and reconciliation.

HIGHEST THIS YEAR

India records 62,258 cases in a single day

6 states account for 79.57 pc of new cases

New Delhi: Six states -- Maharashtra, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh continue to report a high surge in daily COVID-19 cases and account for 79.57 per cent of the new infections reported in a span of 24 hours, the Health Ministry said Saturday.

India's total active cases have reached 4,52,647 and currently comprise 3.8 per cent of the country's total infections, it said. The country saw 62,258 new cases being registered in the last 24 hours, the highest single day rise so far this year, according to the ministry. Maharashtra has re-

ported the highest daily new cases at 36,902 followed by Punjab (3,122) and Chhattisgarh (2,665), the ministry said. Ten states are displaying an upward trajectory in daily new cases, it said.

Fourteen states and union territories have not reported any COVID-19 deaths in the last 24 hours, the ministry said. These are Assam, Odisha, Puducherry, Ladakh, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Lakshadweep, Manipur, Tripura, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.

'No possibility of lockdown in Delhi'

New Delhi: Health Minister Satyendra Jain Saturday dismissed any possibility of imposing another lockdown in Delhi, saying it was not a solution to check the spread of the coronavirus that is again surging rapidly. Jain said there was a logic behind the lockdown enforced earlier as nobody knew then how the virus propagates. "It follows a 14-day cycle -- between a person catching the infection and recovering from it. Experts said the virus will die if a lockdown is imposed for 21 days," Jain told reporters. "Authorities kept on extending the lockdown, but the virus did not die. I don't think lockdown is a solution," he said. There is "no possibility" of imposing another lockdown in the city, Jain said

Maha bans gatherings, curbs timings of malls

Mumbai: Struggling to arrest the fresh surge in COVID-19 cases, the Maharashtra government Saturday announced a complete ban on holding of all types of gatherings, including political and religious. The government also ordered that restaurants, gardens and malls will remain shut between 8 pm to 7 am beginning Saturday night. People will also not be allowed to visit beaches during 8 pm to 7 am, an official order said. Drama theatres will also remain shut from Saturday night. However, the government has exempted delivery of food in night hours in its new set of guidelines.

2013 MUZAFFARNAGAR RIOTS

Court allows withdrawal of case against BJP leaders

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Muzaffarnagar, March 27: A local court allowed to withdraw a case of inciting violence against 12 BJP leaders, including Uttar Pradesh minister Suresh Rana, BJP MLA Sangit Som, former BJP MP Bhartendu Singh and VHP leader Sadhvi Prachi, in connection with the 2013 Muzaffarnagar riots case.

Judge of the special court, Ram Sudh Singh Friday allowed the government counsel to withdraw the case.

According to district government counsel Rajiv Sharma, the accused were booked under various sections of the Indian Penal Code for violating prohibitory orders deterring public servants from discharging their duties and wrongful restraint.

It is alleged that the accused participated in a mahapanchayat and incited violence through their speeches in the last week of August 2013.



The state counsel had moved an application in the court stating that the Uttar Pradesh government has decided in public interest not to proceed further with the prosecution of the BJP leaders and that the court should allow its plea to withdraw this case.

At least 62 people were killed and more than 50,000 displaced in the communal clashes in Muzaffarnagar and its neighbouring districts in 2013.

MANY COMMUTE DURING SILENCE HOUR IN PUNJAB

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, March 27: Many people kept moving in their vehicles in Punjab from 11 am till noon Saturday as they say they were unaware of the state government's decision to observe an hour's silence in memory of those who succumbed to COVID-19.

Police stopped intra city traffic at some places and it led to long queues of vehicles, causing inconvenience to commuters.

The Punjab government had announced observing an hour of silence from 11 am every Saturday starting March 27 in memory of all those who lost their lives to the contagion.

During that hour, the traffic movement would not be allowed, except on state and national highways. Intra-city vehicular traffic should not be plied during this hour, as per orders.

Sirens were sounded in the districts to indicate the start and end of the silence period.



In Ludhiana, a commuter in a car said he was unaware of the state government's decision of observing the silence hour, adding that he was going to meet some patient at a local hospital. A two-wheeler rider in Hoshiarpur said he also did not know about the silence period.

People at many places including Ludhiana, Sangrur, Mansa and Moga, were commuting during 11 am till noon.

A police official in Hoshiarpur said they were appealing to people to stop

56 'missing' women reunited with kin

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Raigad, March 27: Fifty-six young women, who had gone missing in separate incidents in Maharashtra's Raigad district in 2020, have been reunited with their families, police said Saturday.

Apart from them, 14 boys from this coastal district, who had run away from home, were found and reunited with their kin, the Raigad police said.

"A total of 57 young women had run away from their homes in different parts of the district in 2020. Since all of them were above 18 years of age, missing person's reports had been filed," the police said in a statement.

Majority of them had eloped with their boyfriends, they said.

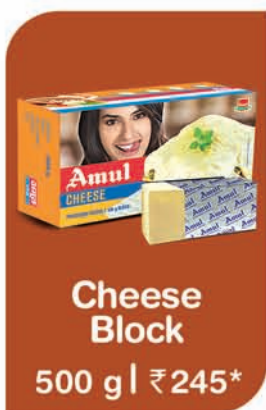
During the investigation, police found 56 of them and handed them over their families. But one young woman is yet to be traced, they added.

In the last three years, as many as 230 young women had gone missing in the district, the statement said.

PUBLIC NOTICE	
ICICI Bank ICICI Bank Limited	
Registered office: Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodra 390 007. Corporate office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Mumbai 400 051.	
GOLD AUCTION COM INVITATION NOTICE	
The below mentioned borrowers have been issued notice to pay off their outstanding amount towards the facility against gold ornaments. ("Facility") availed by them from ICICI Bank Limited ("ICICI Bank"). We are constrained to conduct an auction of pledged gold ornaments on Apr 08, 2021 as they have failed to repay the dues. ICICI Bank has the authority to remove account / change the auction date without any prior notice. Auction will be held online - https://jewel-auction.procuretiger.com between 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm. For detailed Terms and conditions, please log into given website. In case of deceased borrower, all conditions will be applicable to legal heirs.	
Loan A/C No.	Customer Name
Branch Name: Angul	
046005002388	Santosh Kumar Das
046005002759	Sarat Kumar Dalai
046005004674	Ashok Sahu
046005004973	Prashant Pradhan
046005005295	Sarat Kumar Pradhan
046005005487	Mohammad Samse Shiraj
046005005627	Prashanta Kumar Sahu
046005005653	Pradipta Ray
046005005669	Ratan Kumar Pradhan
046005005692	Biswaranjan Mohanti
046005005726	Biswaranjan Mohanti
046005006152	Partha Sarathi Dutta
046005006195	Anjana Malik
046005006140	Shamshad Miya
046005006000	Sanjeeb Kumar Nanda
046005006050	Diptiranj Dasmohapatra
046005006116	Mohan Kumar Roul
046005006186	Dhiren Sahu
Branch Name: Angul - Fci Chowk	
755305000036	Dillip Kumar Swain
Branch Name: Asika	
149805002994	Rita Polai
149805003032	Debaraj Gouda
149805003472	Ganesh Behera
149805004667	Kuni Parida
149805003914	Pramod Kumar Gouda
149805003982	Banita Gouda
149805003985	Rajendra Sahu
149805004710	Mangulu Jena
149805004024	Basanta Gouda
149805004094	Rita Gauda
149805004096	Rita Gauda
149805004549	Prakash Sethi
149805004725	Rashmita Sahu
149805004810	Rina Das
149805004813	Tutu Behera
Branch Name: Athamalik	
304405000877	Chitta Ranjan Karnna
304405000203	Mohan Charan Nayak
304405000824	Subrat Kumar Sahu
304405000510	Rajesh Bhukta
304405000702	Shobhakaranta Sahoo
304405000739	Bhakta Charan Majhi
304405000749	Bishikesan Ksheti
304405001064	Bhaskar Amanta
304405001074	Susil Behera
304405001103	Kumati Behera
304405001168	Swagatika Samanta
304405001173	Badala Biswal
304405001194	Ashok Kumar Pradhan
304405001214	Ranjan Kumar Behera
304405001215	Dilip Kumar Pradhan
304405001218	Anima Mishra
304405001235	Sambit Rana
304405001237	Sebati Mahakud
304405001606	Shankar Kheti

Date : 28.03.2021
Place : Anuhul, Ganjam

S/d
Authorised Officer
For ICICI Bank Limited



*MRP (incl. of all taxes), Conditions apply.

of the day quote

The US sanctions imposed on the Islamic Republic over its nuclear programme are continuing to hamper the import of coronavirus vaccines. We order the vaccines, also pay for them, but before importation we are told that the manufacturers are still afraid of the US sanctions



HASSAN ROUHANI | PRESIDENT, IRAN

The attack against police officers in Bristol is disgraceful. Our officers should not have to face having bricks, bottles and fireworks being thrown at them by a mob intent on violence and causing damage to property



BORIS JOHNSON | PRIME MINISTER, BRITAIN

The government is trying to keep a balance between protecting the livelihood and containing the virus at the same time. However, if the increase continues at this rate then in the next few days or next week, we will go beyond the level and peak



ASAD UMAR | CHAIRMAN, NCOC, PAKISTAN

SHORT TAKES

'Variant booster to be ready by Sept'

London: Britain's vaccines minister says booster shots designed to fight new variants of the coronavirus should be ready for distribution to people over 70 by September. Nadhim Zahawi said that the government is expecting up to eight different shots to be available by the autumn, including some that may protect against variants. He said booster shots would be given first to the frontline health workers and the elderly.

Hundreds protest against 'racism'

Auckland: Hundreds of people gathered for a protest in New Zealand's largest city of Auckland Saturday to demonstrate against anti-Asian racism and hate. The protest started at the Aotea Square in Auckland CBD where protesters spoke out against racism towards Asians in the US and New Zealand, before marching along the Queen Street, reports Xinhua news agency.

10 arrested in Bristol

London: At least 10 arrests were made as British police officers faced a barrage of eggs and glass bottles from hundreds of protesters in yet another anti-lockdown protest dubbed "Kill the Bill" in the south-west England city of Bristol. After a stand-off between police and protesters on Friday evening, officers in riot gear and mounted on horses attempted to disperse the crowds after several warnings were made through a loudspeaker.

5,000 to attend rock concert

Barcelona: Five thousand music lovers are set to attend a rock concert in Barcelona on Saturday after passing a same-day Covid-19 screening, to test its effectiveness in preventing outbreaks of the virus at large cultural events. The show by Spanish rock group Love of Lesbian has the special permission of Spanish health authorities. While the rest of the country is limited to gatherings of no more than four people in closed spaces, the concertgoers will be able to mix freely.



The new Chinese wine tariffs set to last for five years were "not ok" and deemed them as retaliation for Canberra standing up for its values

SCOTT MORRISON | PRIME MINISTER, AUSTRALIA

PAK SC FINDS ENTIRE EVIDENCE 'DOUBTFUL'

In a 2-1-majority judgement in the 2002 murder case of American journalist Daniel Pearl, the Pakistan SC held that the entire evidence is shrouded with doubts, with prosecution failing to prove the four accused guilty. Giving out the judgement, the court acquitted prime suspect, Omar Sheikh of all the charges



New attempts to free giant vessel stuck in Suez Canal

AGENCIES

Suez, March 27: A giant container ship remained stuck sideways in Egypt's Suez Canal for a fifth day Saturday, as authorities prepared to make new attempts to free the vessel and reopen a crucial east-west waterway for global shipping.

The Ever Given, a Panama-flagged ship that carries cargo between Asia and Europe, ran aground Tuesday in the narrow canal that runs between Africa and the Sinai Peninsula.

The massive vessel got stuck in a single-lane stretch of the canal, about six kilometers (3.7 miles) north of the southern entrance, near the city of Suez. Peter Berdowski, CEO of Boskalis, the salvage firm hired to extract the Ever Given, said the company hoped to pull the container ship free within days using a combination of heavy tugboats, dredging and high tides.

He told the Dutch current affairs show Nieuwsuur Friday night that the front of the ship is stuck in sandy clay, but the rear "has not been



completely pushed into the clay and that is positive because you can use the rear end to pull it free."

Berdowski said two large tugboats were on their way to the canal and are expected to arrive over the weekend. He said the company aims to harness the power of the tugs, dredging and tides, which he said are expected to be up to 50 centimeters (20 inches) higher Saturday. "The combination of the (tug) boats we will have there, more ground dredged away and the high tide, we hope that will be enough to

get the ship free somewhere early next week," he said.

If that doesn't work, the company will remove hundreds of containers from the front of the ship to lighten it, effectively lifting the ship to make it easier to pull free, Berdowski said.

A crane was already on its way that can lift the containers off the ship, he said.

An official at the Suez Canal Authority said the authority planned to make at least two attempts Saturday to free the vessel when the high tide goes down.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief journalists. Egyptian authorities have prohibited media access to the site.

The salvage mission was turning its focus to the ship's lodged bow, after some progress was made towards freeing the ship's stern, the canal service provider Leth Agencies said Saturday.

Egypt Prime Minister Mustafa Madbouly called the ship's predicament "a very extraordinary incident," in his first public comments on the blockage in a press conference in Cairo.

Exporters' bodies to identify cargo for priority movement

As efforts are underway to free the giant container ship stuck in the Suez Canal, the Indian government in discussion with the stakeholders has decided that the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) and Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) will jointly identify cargo, particularly perishable cargo, for priority movement. The exporters' bodies will also work with the shipping lines for the priority movement. The government has come up with a four-point plan to deal with the situation arising from the blockage of Suez Canal. The plan was chalked out in a meeting convened by the Logistics Division, Department of Commerce, Government of India Friday.

Iran, China sign 25-year 'strategic cooperation pact'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Tehran, March 27: Iran and China signed a 25-year "strategic cooperation pact" Saturday in the latest expansion of Beijing's flagship trillion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative as the US rivals move closer together.

Negotiations for the deal, launched five years ago, sparked controversy in Iran last year and virtually no details of its contents have been released.

China is Iran's leading trade partner and was one of the biggest buyers of Iranian oil before then US president Donald Trump reimposed sweeping unilateral sanctions in 2018 after abandoning a multilateral nuclear agreement with Tehran.

The China-Iran pact, which Tehran said included "political, strategic and economic" components, was signed by the two countries' foreign ministers, Wang Yi and Mohammad Javad Zarif, an AFP correspondent reported.



"We believe this document can be very effective in deepening" Iran-China relations, Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said, recalling that the pact had first been proposed during a visit to Tehran by Chinese President Xi Jinping in January 2016.

Xi and his Iranian counterpart Hassan Rouhani agreed then to establish a roadmap for "reciprocal investments in the fields of transport, ports, energy, industry and services."

"Iran's government and people are

striving as they always have to broaden relations with trustworthy, independent countries like China," supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said at the time, describing the proposed cooperation agreement as "correct and reasonable".

Xi has championed the Belt and Road Initiative, a plan to fund infrastructure projects and increase China's sway overseas.

"Nothing secret" In July last year, controversy erupted over the proposed deal after former president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad charged that negotiations were being held for a "new, 25-year agreement with a foreign country" without the knowledge of the Iranian people.

The foreign minister was heckled in parliament when he assured lawmakers there was "nothing secret" in the proposed deal, which he promised would be publicly announced "once it has been finalised".

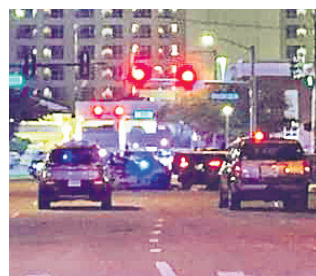
Police: Two dead in Virginia Beach oceanfront shootings

AGENCIES

Virginia Beach, March 27: Two people are dead and eight people were wounded in shootings along Virginia Beach's oceanfront, police said Saturday. Eight people were shot just after 11 p.m. Friday, Virginia Beach police said in a news release. All eight were taken to local hospitals, with some of their conditions ranging from serious to life-threatening.

One woman died of a gunshot wound on the scene, the release said. At an earlier news conference, police Chief Paul Neudigate said the death possibly stemmed from an unrelated shooting.

The release also said one officer suffered minor injuries. Neudigate had said the officer was struck by a vehicle during the investigation.



A different officer fatally shot a man at the shooting scene. While officers were investigating the original shooting, shots were fired nearby, Neudigate said. The officer confronted the man, leading to the deadly gunfire.

The officer has been placed on administrative leave. He has been with the department for five years and is assigned to its special operations division.

The original shooting and the officer shooting were being investigated concurrently, the release said.

LEADERS' SUMMIT ON CLIMATE

Biden invites 40 world leaders including Modi



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, March 27: US President Joe Biden has invited 40 world leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to the Leaders' Summit on Climate to underscore the urgency and the economic benefits of stronger climate action, the White House said.

The two-day summit will be held virtually April 22-23 and will be telecasted live for public viewing. "It will be a key milestone on the road to the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) this November in Glasgow," the White House said Friday.

Besides Modi, other leaders invited for the summit include Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Saudi Arabia King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Bhutanese Prime Minister Lotay Tshering are the other two leaders from South Asia to be invited for the two-day mega conference on climate change.

The summit will look into the economic benefits of climate action, with a strong emphasis on job creation, and the importance of ensuring all communities and workers benefit from the transition to a new clean energy economy

Transformational technologies will also be on cards that can help reduce emissions and adapt to climate change

modi

The White House said a key objective of both the Leaders' Summit and the COP26 will be to catalyse efforts to keep limiting warming 1.5 degree Celsius' goal within reach. The summit will also highlight examples of how enhanced climate ambition will create good paying jobs, advance innovative technologies and help vulnerable countries adapt to climate impacts, it added.

By the time of the summit, the United States will announce an ambitious 2030 emissions target as its new Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement, the White House said.

In his invitation, Biden urged leaders to use the summit as an opportunity to outline how their countries also will contribute to stronger climate ambition, it said.

HOPE AMID THE RUINS



A Rohingya refugee boy sits on a stack of burned material after a massive fire broke out in a Rohingya refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh recently. The blaze left over 300 people missing, according to the United Nations, with tens of thousands left without shelter in the world's largest refugee camp, where more than a million Rohingya live after fleeing persecution in their native Myanmar

REUTERS

Shots and a musical serenade at NYC vax centre

FOR PEOPLE ON THE ROAD TO IMMUNITY FROM THE CORONAVIRUS, EXPERIENCING LIVE MUSIC IN THE SAME SPACE THAT SERVED AS A FIELD HOSPITAL AT THE HEIGHT OF THE PANDEMIC WAS A FITTING ACCOMPANIMENT ON A DAY OF HOPE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, March 27: On a recent weekday, the sounds of Vivaldi, Mozart and Bach greeted hundreds of just-inoculated New Yorkers as they entered a medical observation area at one of the city's biggest Covid-19 vaccination sites, the Jacob K Javits Convention Center. Hearing the music, many stopped to record videos of the five musicians in a piano and string ensemble gathered onstage, performing live.

For people on the road to immunity from the coronavirus, experiencing live music in the same space that served as a field hospital at the height of the pandemic was a fitting accompaniment on a day of hope. For some of the musicians, it was something more.

Pianist Barbara Podgurski said her recent performances at the vaccination site were her first in public since the pandemic battered the



city last spring.

"There were three months where I didn't play the piano because I felt hopeless," she said.

"The reaction ... I haven't heard in a year. You realize how much people need music in their lives, to

feel beauty and magic. It gives them hope."

The music is part of a series of daily, two-hour midday concerts from a collaboration between the nonprofit group Sing for Hope and violinist Victoria Paterson, who

started her own nonprofit, Music and Medicine.

Paterson said many of her fellow musicians have been out of work since the city's music and performance scene shut down last spring.

The musicians who perform at the Javits Center are paid to play. There's a tip jar, too, but contributions go to Sing for Hope so the music can continue.

"We can't be buskers with family obligations at this stage in our careers," Paterson said.

Podgurski, who is also a music professor at the City University of New York, said that with the city's live entertainment scene still largely shut down, any paying job is extremely welcome.

Some friends, she said, had to sell beloved instruments to pay bills.

Another recent performer at the Javits Center was violinist Katie Kresek, concertmaster and co-orchestrator for the Tony-nominated Broadway musical "Moulin Rouge."

Before the pandemic, her schedule was full, including performances in New Zealand and Australia. But after the pandemic hit, "within two weeks, all of my coming year bookings were cancelled."

Reflecting on playing at a vaccination center, Kresek said, "Emotionally, I felt it was contributing to this massive effort. It felt very gratifying to help out."



The Indian agro-chemical sector has a market size reaching more than ₹43,000 crores, out of which ₹23,000 crore worth pesticides are exported to the global markets.
PRADIP DAVE | PRESIDENT, PMFAI

GLOBAL FAIR

FICCI Alliance for Re-imagining School Education (ARISE) is going to organise its first global universities' fair called "FICCI Arise International Uni Fair" March 31



of the day quote

The automotive lighting industry is witnessing a gradual shift in technology into more LED-based lighting products. With strengthened technical capabilities in next level of lighting technologies, we are well positioned to benefit from these technological shifts and to achieve leadership in the segment

NK MINDA | CHAIRMAN AND MD, UNO MINDA

The acquisition of WKTL will bolster ATL's pan-India presence, consolidating further its position as the largest private sector transmission company in India. This strategic West to South 765 KV interconnector with Substation in Southern India, completes ATL presence in all regions of the country

ANIL SARDANA | MD AND CEO, ADANI TRANSMISSION LTD

Covovax trials finally begin in India; the vaccine is made through a partnership with Novavax and Serum Institute India. It has been tested against African and UK variants of Covid-19 and has an overall efficacy of 89%. Hope to launch by September 2021

ADAR POONAWALLA | CEO, SERUM INSTITUTE OF INDIA

Media & entertainment industry may grow by 25% in 2021: Report

Though the media and entertainment sector has been largely impacted by the pandemic, the positive news is that the digital subscription has grown by 49% and the online gaming industry has grown by 18%

DILIP CHENOI | SECRETARY GENERAL FICCI

AGENCIES

New Delhi, March 27: The Indian media and entertainment (M&E) sector is expected to grow by 25 per cent in 2021 and is expected to reach ₹1.73 lakh crore (\$23.7 billion), according to a FICCI-EY report. Titled 'Playing by new rules', the report said that with its current trajectory, the M&E sector in India is expected to reach ₹2.23 lakh crore (\$30.6 billion) by 2023 at a CAGR of 17 per cent. In 2020 while the television continued to remain the largest segment, digital media has overtaken print, and online gaming has overtaken a disrupted filmed entertainment segment. The Indian media and entertainment sector has de-



IN 2020 WHILE THE TELEVISION CONTINUED TO REMAIN THE LARGEST SEGMENT, DIGITAL MEDIA HAS OVERTAKEN PRINT, AND ONLINE GAMING HAS OVERTAKEN A DISRUPTED FILMED ENTERTAINMENT SEGMENT

Digital media and online gaming were the only segments that grew in 2020 adding an aggregate of ₹2,600 crore

The Indian media and entertainment sector has de-grown by 24% to ₹1.38 trillion (\$19 billion) in 2020

grown by 24 per cent to ₹1.38 trillion (\$19 billion) in 2020. Digital media and online gaming were the only segments that grew in 2020 adding an aggregate of ₹2,600 crore. Other segments have de-grown by an aggregate of ₹46,700 billion. Dilip Chenoy, Secretary General FICCI, said that though the media and entertainment sector has been largely impacted by the pandemic, the positive news is that the digital subscription has grown by 49 per cent

and the online gaming industry has grown by 18 per cent. He further mentioned that different sectors of the media and entertainment industry will take different time to recover and this makes the report more crucial. Ashish Pherwani, Partner and Media & Entertainment Leader, EY India, said the M&E sector witnessed a shift in demand patterns as consumers actively sought alternatives and had the time to try new things.

Gugnani Motors inaugurates new showroom



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 27: Gugnani Motors Pvt. Ltd inaugurated new showroom for the Honda motor cycles and scooters in Nayagarh. The showroom was inaugurated by Odisha Agriculture and Higher Education minister Arun Kumar Sahoo. HMSI Odisha zonal manager Ajit Panda Area In charge (HMSI-sales) Abhishek Behera and Odisha High Court Advocate Abdul R Khan were also present at the inaugural ceremony. It is Gugnani's seventh showroom in Odisha spread across an area of 7,000 sq ft. The showroom will provide two-wheelers, after sale service and also available spare parts of the vehicles. Managing Partner of Gugnani Honda Rajan Gugnani, highlighted on customers' satisfactions. Rajan said that the showroom will provide best service to the customers as it has been doing since its inception.

Samsung expands Curd Maestro range

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 27: Samsung, India's consumer electronics and refrigerator brand, expanded its proprietary Curd Maestro technology to its large capacity refrigerators, including the IoT-enabled Family Hub, SpaceMax Side-by-Side refrigerators, building on strong demand for the Curd Maestro range of refrigerators that were launched last year. Curd Maestro will now be available in 673 litre premium Curd Maestro Family Hub refrigerators and also in 692 litre Space Max series.

FORMAT C-7

Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates

(As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition© no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party: BIJU JANATA DAL

*Name of the Election: Bye-Election to 110-Pipili Assembly Constituency, 2021

Name of State/UT : Odisha

(1) Name of the Constituency- 110-Pipili Assembly Constituency

Name of the candidate- RUDRA PRATAP MAHARATHY

Sl. No.		
1.	Criminal antecedents	
a.	Nature of the offences	1. Simple Rioting. 2. Simple rioting attempt to murder, with explosion of bombs and use of firearms. 3. Simple rioting, with explosion of bombs and use of firearms. 4. Wrongful restraint causing simple hurt and abusing in obscene language with explosion of bombs and use of firearms on members of SC and ST community.
b.	Case no.	1) Pipili PS Case No.321 Dt. 03.10.2008 U/S 147/341/323/294/379/506/109/149 IPC (Case returned as F.R. false). 2) Pipli PS Case No.398, dtd.12.10.2012 U/S 147/148/341/323/294/307/354/395/427/435/506/149 IPC/9(b) I.E. Act/25/27 Arms Act. (Case was charge sheeted against Jogendra Pradhan and others delecting the name of Rudra Pratap Maharathy from Charge sheet). 3) Pipli PS Case No.399 Dt. 12.10.2012 U/S 147/148/294/427/506/435/149/IPC/9 (b) I.E. Act/25/27 Arms Act. (Case returned as F.R. mistake of fact). 4)Pipli PS Case No.400 Dt. 12.10.2012 U/S 341/323/294/379/506/34 IPC/9(b) I.E. Act/25/27 Arms Act/3(1)(X) SC & ST (PA)Act. (Case returned as F.R. false).
c.	Name of the Court	1. Court of JMFC, Pipili 2. Court of JMFC, Pipili 3. Court of JMFC, Pipili 4. Court of JMFC, Pipili
d.	Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	No, Not in any case.
e.	Date of conviction,if any	Not Applicable
f.	Details of punishment undergone, if any	Not Applicable
g.	Any other information required to be given	Nil.
2.	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	The candidate, with a MBA degree, is a young and dynamic leader of the masses, who is entirely devoted to the cause of Dalits and the marginalised in his constituency. As a student leader he led many social movements, and has done enviable social services during covid 19 by way of organizing free kitchen for the poor and migrant labours, orphan and even for the stray animals. He took active part in empowering women by organizing self help groups. His dedication to public welfare and his outstanding leadership in times of crisis are clear reasons for his selection as a candidate.
3.	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	Considering his above merits along with his dedication to the cause of the marginalized, women and the minority, he has an edge over others as a contesting candidate. He is deeply involved in sensitizing people on Covid guidelines, taking care of the patients and their families during the unprecedented pandemic, providing gainful employment to the labourers of his area have endeared him with the people. His head and heart and commitment to the service of the people are obvious reasons for selecting him as a candidate.


(2) Name of the Constituency- 110-Pipili Assembly Constituency

Name of the candidate- RUDRA PRATAP MAHARATHY

.....and so on

*In the case of election to Council of States or States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of Constituency.

Signature of office bearer of the Political Party
Name: MANAS RANJAN MANGARAJ
Designation: General Secretary,



GRIDCO Limited

(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
Janpath, Bhubaneswar- 751022
CIN : L40109OR1995SGC003960

No. CAD-I

NOTIFICATION

BULK SUPPLY PRICE EFFECTIVE FROM 4th APRIL, 2021

In exercise of powers conferred under Section 86 (1) (b) and other related provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003, the Odisha Electricity Regulatory Commission has passed an order on 26.03.2021 in Case No.72 of 2020 with regard to Aggregate Revenue Requirement and determination of Bulk Supply Price of GRIDCO Ltd. effective from 04.04.2021 for purchase of power by TPCODL, NESCO Utility, TPWODL and TPSODL strictly for use by the State consumers.

The GRIDCO Ltd. hereby notifies the schedule of Bulk Supply Price as given below:

Bulk Supply Price

The Bulk Supply Price, as under, shall be applicable for sale of power by GRIDCO Ltd. to the Distribution Utilities (TPCODL, NESCO Utility, TPWODL and TPSODL) which is strictly meant for supply of power by the Utilities to the State consumers and not for resale to any other utility / trader under Open Access. The total charges payable by a Distribution Utility shall be calculated by summation of the following charges mentioned in Para (A) to (F) below and applicable for supply of power with effect from 04.04.2021 until further order.

(A) **Energy Charges:** The charges on the scheduled energy supplied by GRIDCO Ltd. to the Distribution Utilities shall be as follows:

TPCODL	-	283.00	paise per kWh
NESCO Utility	-	320.00	paise per kWh
TPWODL	-	337.00	paise per kWh
TPSODL	-	207.00	paise per kWh

(B) **Adjustment for Overdrawal / Underdrawal of Energy:** Any over or under drawal of energy by the Distribution Utilities will be billed by GRIDCO Ltd. and paid by the Distribution Utilities at the above Bulk Supply Price till Intra-State DSM Regulations comes into force in the State. Thereafter, overdrawal/underdrawal of energy by the Distribution Utilities shall be regulated under the provisions of Intra-State DSM Regulations.

(C) **Demand Charges:** There shall not be any levy of separate maximum demand charges upto the permitted SMD in a month for the distribution utilities for the FY 2021-22. Permitted SMD would mean monthly SMD recorded upto maximum of 10% over the approved SMD in the current tariff order to take care of monthly variations. Any excess drawl over the permitted SMD will have to be paid by the Distribution Utilities @ Rs.250 per KVA per month. This is again subject to the condition that the annual average SMD shall be limited to the SMD approved in the order. This is necessary to maintain the load planning and system stability. In case the annual average SMD is more than the approved SMD, then overdrawal quantum shall attract the penalty @ Rs.250 per KVA per month, notwithstanding the fact that a utility might have paid the SMD charges for exceeding the permitted SMD in any month.

(D) **Rebate:** For payment of bills through letter of credit or by cash or by RTGS/NEFT within two working days (excluding holidays under the N.I. Act., 1881), a rebate of 2% shall be allowed on current dues. If the payments are made by the Distribution Utilities by a mode other than through a letter of credit but within a period of thirty days of presentation of bills, a rebate of 1% shall be allowed.

(E) **Late Payment Surcharge:** In case payment of bills by the distribution utilities is delayed beyond a period of thirty days from the date of presentation of bill, a late payment surcharge at the rate of 1.25% per month shall be levied by GRIDCO Ltd. on the unpaid amount.

(F) **Duty and Taxes:** The statutory levy/duty/tax/cess/toll etc. imposed under any law from time to time shall be charged over and above the Bulk Supply Price fixed by the Commission.

The detailed order of the Commission shall be available in the Commission's website www.orienc.org as well as in the website of GRIDCO Ltd. www.gridco.co.in

Sd/-
Managing Director
GRIDCO Ltd.

Bhubaneswar
Dt. 27.03.2021

OIPR-04056/11/0001/2021

STRATEGIC SHIFT ON CARDS

India take on England in the ODI series-decider today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, March 27: Indian cricket team may like to revisit its 50-over template while picking up pieces from the Friday carnage with an aim to complete a hat-trick of series wins against England in the third and final ODI here, Sunday.

On batting belters that's been on offer at the Gahunje Stadium, England hit an astounding 20 sixes in a 337-run chase which became a cakewalk, thanks to inept bowling from spinners Kuldeep Yadav and Krunal Pandya.

Never before has captain Virat Kohli missed Ravindra Jadeja as much as he would have Friday when Jonny Bairstow and Ben Stokes took the mickey out of India's left-arm wrist and orthodox spinners.

In the bowling department, Kuldeep scripted an unwanted record when he conceded eight sixes, most by an Indian bowler. He leaked 84 runs in the second game after giving 64 runs in the first. And, so did Krunal Pandya, who gave 72 runs in six overs with an embarrassing average of 12 per over.

So, in all probability, the duo could be replaced by leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal and Washington Sundar, who can also chip in with the bat, if needed.

From team's perspective, it would be impossible to ignore Yuzvendra Chahal's inclusion in the playing XI even though the Haryana leg-spinner hasn't been in the best of forms.

Pandya senior would still make it to the team because of his batting skills but the apology of left-arm spin has certainly ensured that he won't be considered as a long term option.

In terms of batting, a total of 337 is certainly not bad by any standards but perhaps India can now

look to have strategic shift in terms of innings building process.

The Men In Blue are the only team that always believes in accelerating in the last 15 overs, a template that was set by their illustrious former captain MS Dhoni.

It has worked on most occasions but of late, England with a world title has shown the world that attacking up front on batting tracks is the way forward.

It might just help Rishabh Pant and Hardik Pandya with their brand of power-hitting change the course of the innings in the back-10.

Skipper Virat Kohli, who hit two successive 50 plus scores, would be keen to carry his form and convert the start into a really big total and end the century drought. The skipper has however made it clear that he is not looking at milestones.

"I never played for 100s in my life, that's probably why I ended up getting so many in such little time. It's all about contributing to the team cause. If the team doesn't win when you get three figures it doesn't mean anything. You're not going to sit back at the end of your career and look at numbers, it's more about how you played the game."

For the record, his last century came in August 2019 in this format. Hardik would continue to play his role of a finisher but question mark remains on what kind of workload management is happening considering that he has rarely bowled save a few overs in the recently concluded T20I.

On the pace front, while India would go-ahead with spearhead Bhuvneshwar Kumar; they could try going in with left-arm pacer and yorker specialist T Natarajan, in case they want to rest Shardul Thakur for the game.

Also, there could be a choice be-



Virat Kohli would look to stop Jonny Bairstow onslaught as early as possible in the series-decider as the in-form England opener has scored 94 & 124 in first and second ODIs respectively

PRASIDH KEEN TO LEARN FROM HIS MISTAKES IN FIRST TWO ODIs

'Need to improve my new ball performance'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, March 27: Prasidh Krishna has impressed one and all with his pace and bounce but Team India's newest pace sensation admitted that he needs to work hard on trying to be more economical with the new ball.

In both ODIs, Prasidh got wickets in his second spell with semi-new ball (as two new balls are used) and got a bit of stick from England batsmen during his opening overs.

"Personally, I would like to start better. I would like to improve on how I have been starting with the (new ball). Otherwise, all the runs that I gave away were scored off bad balls. So I would go back and work on those aspects," Prasidh said after India lost the second ODI by six wickets.

While Indian bowlers had a poor day in office, Prasidh said that they could have hardly done anything in the face of an onslaught from Jonny Bairstow and Ben Stokes.

"We could have bowled better; am not denying the fact but we need

to give credit to the way they played as well. It was an onslaught, we got hit quite bad."

With only four fielders outside the circle during the second Powerplay (between 11-40 overs), it is always difficult to stop the batsmen on a flat deck.

"That's the game of white-ball cricket today. With four outside for the 11 to 40 overs, that's bound to happen. It was a very good wicket to bat on, no doubt. The score says it all. We scored 330-plus and they chased it down in the 44th over. It says it all. It was a flat wicket, challenging wicket for bowlers where the margin of error was very, very less," he noted.

The execution part went all awry and Prasidh seemed a trifle irritated with repeated references. "Our executions could have been slightly better, personally for me. Other than that, it is a repetitive question, the third time I am being asked. Yes, we did make mistakes, we could have done better but they batted well too," the Karnataka pacer reiterated.



Indian openers Rohit Sharma and Shikhar Dhawan would look to provide India a good start

Saina out, Krishna-Vishnu in final

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, March 27: Saina Nehwal bowed out in straight games in the women's singles semifinals but unheralded duo of Krishna Prasad Garaga and Vishnu Vardhan Goud Panjala kept India in the title hunt by storming into men's doubles final at the Orleans Masters here, Saturday.

London Olympic bronze medalist, Saina lost 17-21, 17-21 to Denmark's Line Christophersen in 28 minutes, while women's duo of Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki

Reddy also faltered 18-12, 9-21 to top seeded Thai pair of Jongkolphan Kititharakul and Rawinda Prajongjai at the semifinals.

However, Krishna and Vishnu cheered up the Indian camp with a 21-17, 21-17 win over English pair of Callum Hemming and Steven Stallwood in a 35 minute semifinal clash to reach their maiden final of a Super 100 event.

The Indian duo, playing their first event together this year, will take on either Indonesian pair of Sabar Karyaman Gutama and Moh Reza Pahlevi Isfahani or fourth

seeded English combination of Ben Lane and Sean Vandy in the title clash Sunday.

Krishna and Vishnu had a slender 4-2 early on but the English pair soon jumped to a 11-8 lead at the break. However, the Indian pair soon caught up at 13-13 and marched on to seal the opening game.

In the second game, Krishna and Vishnu slowly moved ahead to a 11-7 advantage at the interval and even though their rivals narrowed down the gap to 15-17, the Indian duo ensured there was no hiccup.

Krishna, 21, is India's No.1 ranked doubles player and used to pair up with Satwiksairaj Rankireddy in his junior days.

After Satwik and Chirag Shetty were paired together, Krishna started playing with Dhruv Kapila since November, 2016. The duo continued for two and a half years before separating in 2019.

The 20-year-old Vishnu also played with a few other Indian doubles players in his junior days. He and Ishaan Bhatnagar had reached the finals at the 2019 Bulgarian Junior international.

Gokulam claim maiden I-League title

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, March 27: Gokulam Kerala FC Saturday clinched their maiden I-League title in spectacular fashion as they came back from a goal down to beat TRAU 4-1 in the final match of the season here.

Bidyashagar Singh's 23rd minute strike did little to stop the Gokulam juggernaut as goals by Sharif Mohamed (69th), Emil Benny (74th), Dennis Antwi (77th) and Mohammad Rashid (90+6) handed them the trophy.

With Churchill Brothers winning 3-2 against Punjab FC in the day's other match held simultaneously at another venue here, Gokulam shared points (29) with the Goan side but were crowned champions on head-to-head record.

In the two matches the two sides had played in the season, Churchill



had won 3-2 once while Gokulam had emerged 3-0 victorious in the other.

Gokulam thus qualified for the group stage of the AFC Cup next season, Asia's second tier club competition, as I-League champions. They also became the first side from

Kerala to win the I-League title.

The winning team's coach Vincenzo Alberto Annese could not hide his joy at his players' achievement. "This is the best day of my life. I feel so happy and I feel amazing to be crowned a champion. I

am immensely proud of my team and we deserved to be champions. We outscored all teams and we have played like champions in this season," Annese said.

"This means everything to me. This is my first season in India and it has already been a very special one. We have a very special team and nobody plays the style of football that we play," he added.

Gokulam pocketed ₹1 crore as prize money while the second, third and fourth-placed teams in the table received ₹60 lakh, ₹40 lakh and ₹25 lakh respectively.

Bidyashagar Singh (TRAU) won the highest goal scorer award (₹2.5 lakh) along with Hero of the League Award (₹5 lakh). The Best goalkeeper award (₹2.5 lakh) went to Kiran Limbu of Punjab FC. Syed Abdul Rahim Award for best coach went to Nandakumar Singh of TRAU.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 27: India's Vijayveer Sidhu and Tejaswani claimed the gold medal in the 25m rapid fire pistol mixed team event to extend the country's dominant run in the ISSF World Cup here, Saturday.

In an all-Indian gold medal match, Sidhu and Tejaswani comfortably beat the duo of Gurpreet Singh and Ashok Abhidnya Patil 9-1 at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range.

In the Qualification 2, Gurpreet and Patil finished at the top with a total score of 370 while the team of 16-year-old Tejaswani and 18-year-old Sidhu aggregated 368.

Sidhu won the individual silver medal Friday in the 25 rapid fire pis-

tol event ahead of Anish Bhanwala and Gurpreet.

However, the Indian pair of Kynan Chenai and Shreyasi Singh missed out on a podium finish as they settled for the fourth place in the trap mixed team final of the prestigious tournament. The home team lost to Turkey's Safiye Sariturk and Yavuz Ilnam 35-38.

Kynan, who finished fourth in the individual men's trap Friday, began badly but improved as the mixed final progressed, even as Shreyasi too missed a few shots while finding the target on other occasions.

The Indian duo shot 141 in the qualifications to qualify in the fourth place for the bronze medal match behind Sariturk and Ilnam (143), who made up for his part-

ner's off-colour outing with his consistent showing.

The Italian team of Alessia Iezzi and Valerio Grazini topped the qualifications with 145 while the Slovakian pair of Zuzana Rehak Stefecekova and Adrian Drobny was second with 143. In the final, Iezzi and Grazini prevailed over the Slovaks Stefecekova and Drobny 39-36 on the shotgun range.

The medal-less outing in trap notwithstanding, a dominant India continued to lead the standings with 13 gold, eight silver and six bronze for a total of 27 podium finishes.

Three finals are lined up on the last competition day Sunday – men's 25m rapid fire pistol team, trap team women and trap team men.



MARCH 28-APRIL 3, 2021

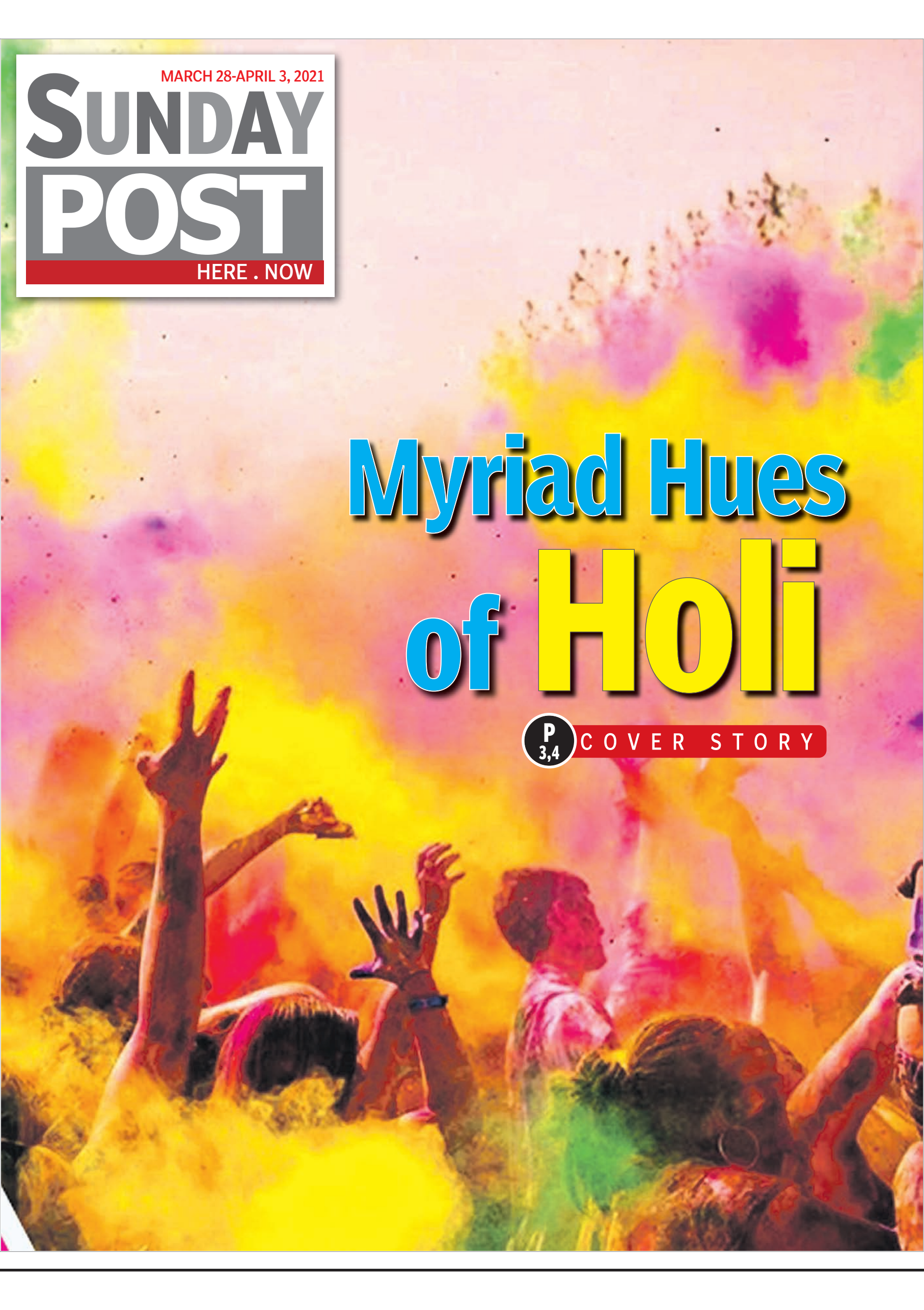
SUNDAY POST

HERE . NOW

Myriad Hues of Holi

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COVER STORY





RASHMI REKHA DAS, OP

Music video director Biren Biren, who has more than 50 albums including 'To Pain Dil Mora', 'Tip Tip Barsha Pani', 'Punei Janha' and an award-winning short-film 'Kupi' to his credit, loves to wake up late and chill on non-working Sundays.



With friends

Doing Chores

Staying alone means managing a whole lot of stuff. I wash my clothes and other belongings. Besides, I make sure to clean the house on Sundays if I am not working.

Love for Parents

As I live in Bhubaneswar, the first thing I do on a Sunday is to make a phone call to my parents who stay in Kendrapara and talk to them for hours. It makes my Sunday worthwhile.

Greenhorn in Kitchen

Sundays are reserved for my friends. I catch up with some of my close friends and help them in cooking at their places as I am a bit of a greenhorn in the kitchen. Later, we hang out together and have fun.

Movie Buff

Watching latest movies on streaming platforms is something I enjoy the most in my free time. More often than not, it helps me add quality to my job.



WhatsApp This Week

Only on **Sunday POST!**

Send in your most interesting Whatsapp messages and memes received to: features.orissapost@gmail.com
And we will publish the best ones

THE BEST MEMES OF THIS ISSUE

- The problem isn't that obesity runs in your family. It's that no one runs in your family.
- A recent study has found that women who carry a little extra weight live longer than the men who mention it.
- People who take care of chickens are literally chicken tenders.
- If a parsley farmer gets sued, can they garnish his wages?



IDEAS FOR GOOD WRITING

Sir, I was delighted to read the interview of essayist Chandrasekhar Hota, the Kendra Sahitya Akademi Yuva Purashkar winner for 2020. It highlights how Hota, as a police officer, has been able to strike a fine balance with writing which is his passion. His ideas for good writing holds true for one and all as he has rightly said that one has to first conceive an idea and then read a lot to give it a proper shape.

DILLIP KUMAR DAS, TALA TELENGA BAZAAR, CUTTACK

POWER OF POETRY

Sir, The cover story 'Capturing Creative Spirit' published last week to mark World Poetry Day was worth reading. Nikhilesh Mishra's quote on the purpose of poetry and what is that poetry and poetry alone can do was quite impressive. I too believe that poetry can change the outlook of a person and create harmonious ambience to live in. Needless to say, this is also a powerful medium which can influence people in a positive as well as negative way.

ASHUTOSH PATNAIK, DHENKANAL

LETTERS



A WORD FOR READERS

Sunday POST is serving a platter of delectable fare every week, or so we hope. We want readers to interact with us. Please send in your opinions, queries, comments and contributions to features.orissapost@gmail.com
B-15, Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar - 751010, Orissa.
Phone (0674) 2549982, 2549948



Apart from ancient Hindu literatures, the festival of colours has got a mention in the book by the great 4th century poet Kalidas and 7th century Sanskrit drama Ratnavali

BUDDHADEV NANDI

One of the most popular Hindu festivals observed all over Indian subcontinent is Holi, the festival of colors. Holi, as per Vikram Samvat Hindu Calendar, is celebrated with pomp and grandeur on the full moon day of the month of Phalgun. This boisterous Hindu festival Holi befittingly equates Rituraj Basanta (King of Seasons) marked by a riot of colors in nature with blooming palash, simul and krushnachura. Therefore, Basantosav, another name of Holi, is the eponym of 'Basanta Ritu' in Odia and Bengali almanacs.

Days of Festival

The festival of Holi is generally observed for two days. The celebration of 'Holika Dahan' (Incineration of an Ogress called Holika) is observed on the full moon evening. It is also popular as 'Chhoti Holi'. It is followed by the celebration of 'Rangwali Holi' and 'Fagua' on the very next day. In some parts of our country especially in Bengal and Orissa, 'Holi Purnima' is also observed as the birthday of Shri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.

Holika Dahan

There are a number of mythological stories surrounding the festival of Holi. According to Hindu scriptures the name of the festival Holi is derived from Holika, the sister of demon king Hiranyakashipu who was killed by Narshinma (semi-man-semi-lion), one of the ten incarnations of Lord Vishnu. Though Lord Vishnu was the sworn enemy of Hiranyakashipu, his young son Prahalad was an ardent devotee of Vishnu. The demon king made several attempts to kill his son to get rid of him. But all his efforts were in vain.

Finding no other way, King Hiranyakashipu invoked his ogress sister Holika and entrusted

her with the onus of killing Prahalad. Holika was empowered by a strange boon. She could enter the fire unscathed. Holika entered a blazing pyre with Prahalad in her lap. But her sinister desire backfired because she was unaware of the fact that the boon would work only if she entered the blazing fire alone. So, the magical cloak that had so far protected Holika from the rage of fire flew away from her body and instead wrapped Prahalad leaving him unhurt. But Holika was burnt to death. As a mark of the great triumph of a true devotee of Lord Vishnu, the effigies of Holika are burnt in huge bonfires in many parts of Northern India. Therefore, 'Holika Dahan' symbolises the victory of good over evil.

Krishna's Jealousy

There is also a legend that tells that Holi originated when Lord Krishna with dark complexion was extremely jealous of Radha's fair complexion. He often lamented why Radha was so fair. His doting mother Yashoda advised him to smear Radha's face with variety of colors. In a mischievous mood

Krishna played pranks and smeared her skin. Therefore, Holi is a festival that removes the pride of skin complexion.

Dhundi Episode

Another legend tells that there was an Ogress named Dhundi in the kingdom of Prithu. She troubled little children. But no one could suppress her as she was endowed with a boon bestowed upon her by Lord Shiva. The boon made her almost invincible. However, the boon also entailed that her defeat could be possible only by the crazy group of boys. Therefore, on the day of Holi, in some parts of the country boys hurl abuses and play pranks to chase away Dhundi.

References of Holi

Historically, Holi dates back to several centuries before the inception of the Gregorian calendar. In ancient Hindu literatures and Puranas there are references of Holi festivals. Besides, the celebration of Holi is mentioned in the book by the great poet Kalidas in the 4th century and 7th century Sanskrit drama

Ratnavali. The reference of Holi festival is engraved and painted in sculptures and murals of ancient Indian temples.

Dola Yatra in Odisha

The festival of colour is popular as Dola Yatra in Odisha which is celebrated for five days here. It starts from celebration of Fagu Dashami on the 10th day of the bright fortnight of the month Falguna. People smear one another with coloured powder and circumambulate the idol of Madanmohan installed in a richly decked palanquin called Veemana. Processions participated by village folks, musicians and singers move around the villages with the deities for four days. This four-day itineration is called Chachery. On the day of full moon Dola Yatra or Swing Festival carrying the idols in palanquins with devotional songs in chorus in villages is celebrated. Besides, the idols of Jagannath, Balabhadra and Subhadra are installed on the podium called Dolamandapa. Then the important events round the year according Odia almanac are read.



Festival in Bengal

In Bengal, the idols of Radha and Krishna are placed on well decorated palanquins. In this regard Basanta Utsav in Shantiniketan deserves special mention. Famous Bengali poet Rabindranath Tagore introduced the occasion in his Vishva Bharati University. There the students celebrate the occasion singing, dancing and throwing colour powders. Many tourists from our country and abroad turn up to become the part of Basanta Utsav. Bishnupur, the city of temple in Bankura district of West Bengal also has a rich tradition of celebrating Holi in the precinct of famous Madanmohan Temple.

Prime Venues of Holi

Holi is celebrated in different ways in different parts of India. Lath mar Holi is celebrated at Barsana, a town near Mathura in Uttar Pradesh. Women with sticks run after and



beat men who protect themselves with shields. In Mathura, Vrindavan and other parts of the Braj region Holi is celebrated almost in the same manner. Holi lasts for more than two weeks there. Holi in Gujarat is called Dhuleti which is celebrated with Rangoli or color dusts. In Bihar, Fagua or Fagu Purnima is the name of the festival of Holi. Huge bonfire is lit with cow dung cakes, 'araad' and 'redi' creepers and even grains from the fresh harvest. 'Abir' i.e. coloured powders and water



colours are applied to observe Holi. Besides, Holi is known as Dulandi Holi in Haryana, Rangpanchami in Maharashtra, Hola Moholla in Punjab, Kama Dahanam in Tamil Nadu and so on. Transcending the boundary of our country, Holi is celebrated in Nepal, Indonesia, Fiji, the USA, the UK and even in Pakistan.

Ingredients of Colours

In the past the hues and colours used to imbue one another would be derived from herbal and organic origins. Green was obtained from mehendi and dried leaves of neem, gulmohar and other leaves. Yellow, red and orange were extracted widely from turmeric, whereas, indigo plants were the basic sources of the colour blue. Besides, variety of fruits, flowers and vegetables including grapes, beetroot, tea, amla, hibiscus, palash and krishnachura were widely used to prepare color dust and gual of different hues. But in this modern synthetic age, herbal colors have been replaced by cheap and bright chemical colors prepared with toxic metal-based pigments including mercury sulfide, lead oxide, aluminum bromide, copper sulphate and so on. It is heartening to note, with the ever increasing sense of health-consciousness the



use of organic and herbal colors are gaining ground.

Multiple Perspectives

Needless to say, various legends and historical events associated with Holi mainly recognise the ultimate victory of good over evil. It is also the harvest time when Holi is celebrated. Nature turns into a collage of colourful pastel landscapes. The festival of colors plays the role of a mighty leveler to do away with discriminations and differences among people irrespective of cast, creed, complexion, sex, age and social status. However, Holi is a vibrant festival containing multifarious aspects.

Essence of Holi

There is a popular song that expresses the true essence of Holi, the festival of colors.

Pyar ke rang se bharo pichkari
Sneh ke rang do duniya sari
Ye rang na jane koi jaat na koi boli
Aapko mubarak ho aapno ki holi

It may roughly be translated into English:

Fill the syringe with colour of affection
And sprinkle it without discrimination
For the color is ignorant of language and sect
Let your holi be hailed with deep respect.



Holi in Times of Pandemic: Unlike most other festivals, it is quite impossible to observe Holi wearing masks, using hand sanitiser and maintaining social distance. As almost all the rituals of this festival involve physical contact, people have little option before them to enjoy Holi avoiding the glare of the spread of COVID -19.



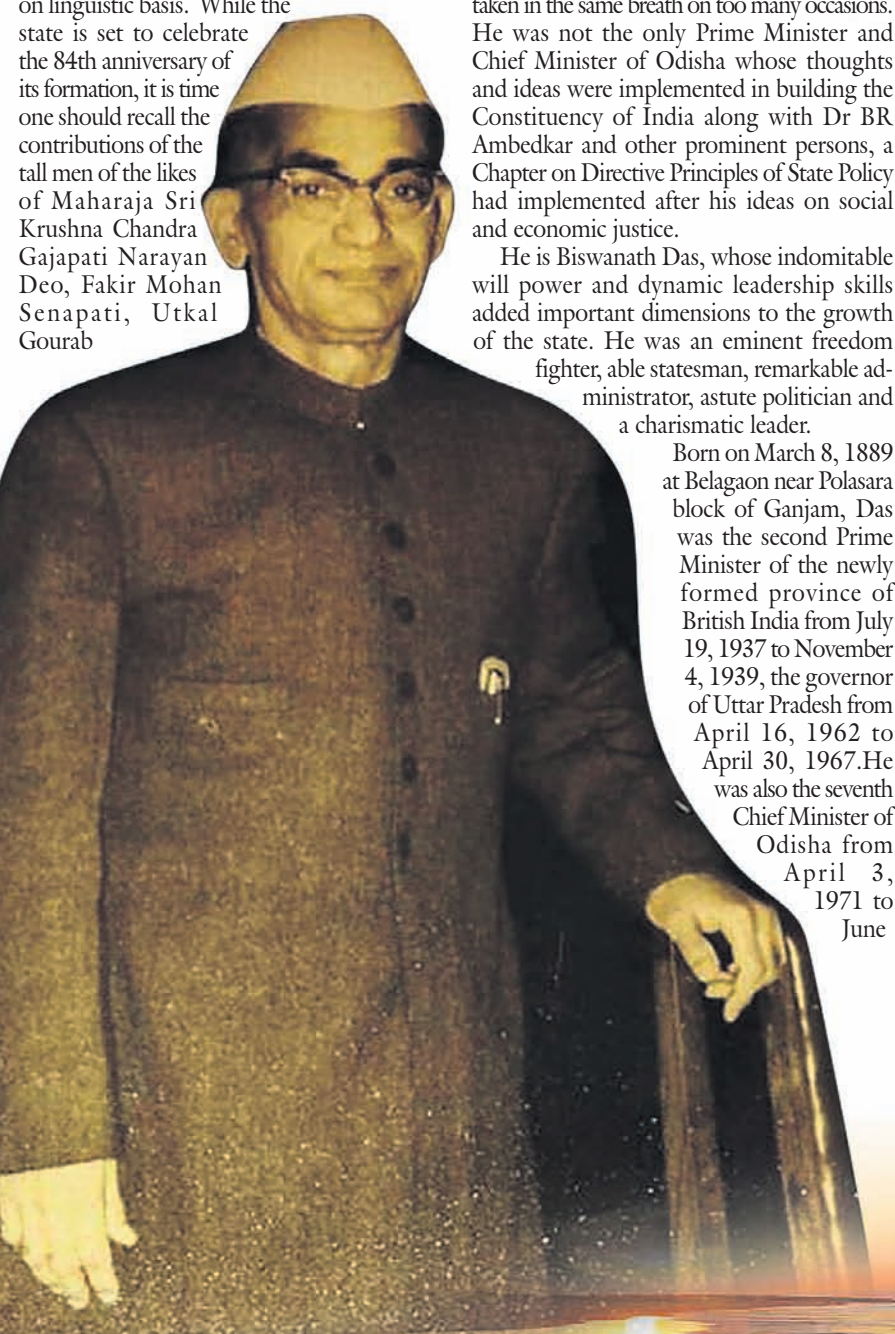
UTKAL DIVAS SPECIAL

Biswanath Das: An ardent socio-political leader

The thoughts of Odisha' second Prime Minister were not only implemented in building the Constituency of India along with Dr BR Ambedkar, a Chapter on Directive Principles of State Policy was implemented on his ideas on social and economic justice

PRAFULLA CHANDRA MOHANTY

Carved out of Bengal-Bihar-Orissa province, known as Bengal presidency, the present day Odisha was born as a separate state on April 1, 1936, on linguistic basis. While the state is set to celebrate the 84th anniversary of its formation, it is time one should recall the contributions of the tall men of the likes of Maharaja Sri Krushna Chandra Gajapati Narayan Deo, Fakir Mohan Senapati, Utkal Gourab

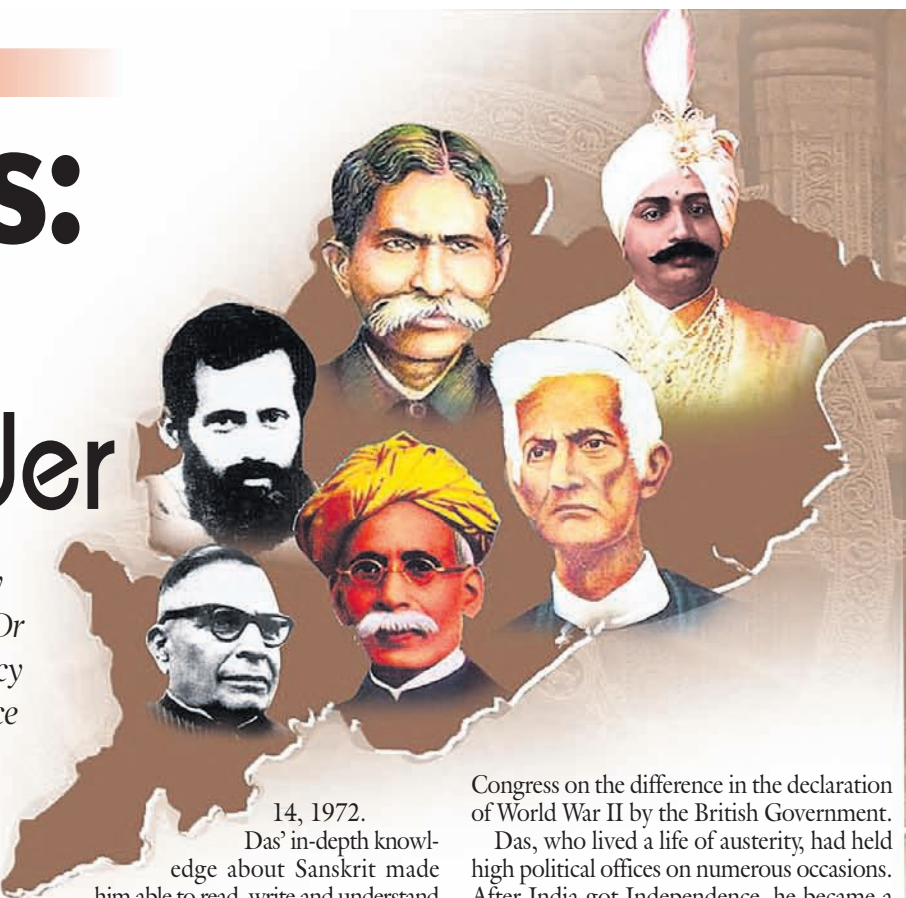


Madhusudan Das, Gangadhar Meher, Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo, Utkalamani Gopabandhu Das, Harekrushna Mahtab and Pandit Nilakantha Das who once fought valiantly and shaped the destiny of a vibrant Odisha.

However, there is one name that is not taken in the same breath on too many occasions. He was not the only Prime Minister and Chief Minister of Odisha whose thoughts and ideas were implemented in building the Constituency of India along with Dr BR Ambedkar and other prominent persons, a Chapter on Directive Principles of State Policy had implemented after his ideas on social and economic justice.

He is Biswanath Das, whose indomitable will power and dynamic leadership skills added important dimensions to the growth of the state. He was an eminent freedom fighter, able statesman, remarkable administrator, astute politician and a charismatic leader.

Born on March 8, 1889 at Belagaon near Polasara block of Ganjam, Das was the second Prime Minister of the newly formed province of British India from July 19, 1937 to November 4, 1939, the governor of Uttar Pradesh from April 16, 1962 to April 30, 1967. He was also the seventh Chief Minister of Odisha from April 3, 1971 to June



14, 1972.

Das' in-depth knowledge about Sanskrit made him able to read, write and understand the ancient Indian Sanskrit verses mostly the Vedas, Upanishadas and Bhagwat Geeta. After formal education, he went to Cuttack and joined Victoria High School later known as Bhakta Madhu Vidya Peetha and then joined Ravenshaw Collegiate to complete his schooling. He joined Ravenshaw College and completed graduation in arts stream. Later, he went to obtain a law degree from Calcutta University in 1918. While studying he came in contact with freedom fighters. He came to know about the oppressive majors taken by British rulers on Indians to suppress the unity and raising voices against the foreign rule. He practiced law for sometime as an advocate at Berhampur under Madras presidency. Not happy with advocacy business, Das sincerely got into the freedom struggle to free his motherland from the clutches of British government. He joined Indian National congress as a member and took leadership in uniting the peasants of the district. He then started a drive against the middle men who were exploiting the innocent farmers. Later he joined politics and was elected president of Chhatarpur Taluk Board of the district Ganjam. His experience in the peasants' movement helped a lot in acquiring popularity for his representation in the Taluk Board. He was also elected to Madras council for three terms from 1920 to 1929, but resigned from the membership under the call given by Congress. His tireless effort in amalgamating Odia speaking tracts helped to actualize the formation of the new state Odisha April 1, 1936 in collaboration with the members of Utkal conference (Utkal Sammilani).

Being the first elected Prime Minister of the newly formed state Odisha in 1937, he initiated three important tenancy legislations during his tenure such as Madras Estates land (Orissa Amendment Act) Bill, Orissa Tenancy (amendment) Bill and Money Lenders Bill.

He, however, resigned in 1939 in obedience to the directives of the Indian National

Congress on the difference in the declaration of World War II by the British Government.

Das, who lived a life of austerity, had held high political offices on numerous occasions. After India got Independence, he became a member of constituent Assembly from 1947 to 1952. His ideas and ideals are reflected in many provisions of the constitution. He was very much optimistic about the working of the new constitution usually with constituent assembly names like BR Ambedkar, AK Ayyar, N Gopalswamy Ayyangar, Hridaynath Kumzur, K Santhanam, Satichidananda Sinha, KM Munshi and Tej Bahadur Sapru came to occupy the memories of the students of Indian government and politics.

Besides being a member of the state congress executive committee 1947-1952, he was the president of Pradesh congress committee for a number of years. He was elected to the state Assembly in 1962, but he resigned from the post to accept the governorship of Uttar Pradesh. He was working for a period of five years as the Governor from April, 1962. He returned to the state politics of Odisha once again to hold the post of chief minister constituted by the Utkal congress, Swatantra and Jharkhand parties during the year 1971 and 1972. He had set a high standard in social service by getting involved with the Servants of the People's Society of India in which he became the president after the demise of the former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri. Besides, he was one of the founding trustees of Chaturdhamveda Bhavan, Puri and instituted Biswanath Trust Fund to cater to the needs of poor students.

Even as he breathed his last June 3, 1984, there shouldn't be any doubt that the study of his life will continue to help generations in understanding the growth of society and legislative system in Odisha and constitutional system of India.



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Views are personal



Kriti on playing Sita in Adipurush

With great roles, comes great responsibility. Kriti Sanon is aware that all eyes are on her as she portrays the role of Sita, one of the most revered characters of Ramayana, in the magnum opus, *Adipurush*. "I am overwhelmed and grateful that I am playing such an iconic character. The role comes with a lot of pressure because we don't want to (portray anything that is not (true to) the part. People's sentiments are attached to the character," she begins.

The Om Raut-directed spectacle features South sensation Prabhas in the

titular role with Saif Ali Khan essaying the role of Raavan.

The bilingual marks Sanon's second-period drama after Ashutosh Gowariker's *Panipat* (2019).

Noting that being authentic to the story is half the battle won, she says, "When you're telling a story that is not set in today's times, you have to keep a check on your body language and dialogue delivery. With Om, I am in safe hands. I like his clarity on the film, and he is technically sound. This is the first time I am shooting a film that demands such extensive chroma work. It is a pan-India film, so I had to work on my Telugu." AGENCIES



Grand trailer launch for Oyee Guitar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Appu Kanungo directorial *Oyee Guitar* had a grand trailer launch recently in Bhubaneswar in the presence of film's cast and crew.

Talking to the media, producer B Chandrapriya Subudhi of Srihaan Cinecreations said, "Oyee Guitar, a content-driven film, is my first foray into Ollywood and I hope it will get viewers' acceptance."

The musical drama features Aman, Aahana, RJ Guddy, Debu

Pattnayak, Guddu, Namita Das, Ch Jayprakash Das, Ranu Padhi, Jiban Panda and others.

"Behind every successful man there is a woman. But *Oyee Guitar* sends a message that she may not be your mother, sister, wife or girlfriend," said director Kanungo and added that the release date will be announced shortly.

The production house will present *Mama Weds Papa* to the viewers in forthcoming Durga Puja which will be a joint venture with producer Anup Singh, revealed Subudhi.

'Anurag is a mischievous kid on the set'

Actress Shilpa Shetty Kundra, who judges the dance reality show *Super Dancer: Chapter 4* alongside filmmaker Anurag Basu, says the latter is fun to be with on set.

"Dada is fun to be around with. He is like a mischievous kid on the set. He is always making us laugh and has a peculiar style of speaking which is entertaining and endearing," she says.

She adds that he is a big prankster.

"He is always up to some prank and looks for an opportunity to pull our leg. But, on a serious note, Dada is warm and affectionate and playing pranks is his way of expressing that affection. Both Geeta and I

enjoy his company," she says.

Choreographer Geeta Kapur also judges the show. *Super Dancer: Chapter 4* will air on Sony Entertainment Television from March 27.

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Anu, Sukanta team up for Atithi

The muhurat of new Odia film *Atithi* was held last week at the Hanuman Temple near CRP Square in Bhubaneswar. The entire cast of the movie including Anu Choudhury, Sukant Rath, Manoj Mishra, Divya, Chinmay Mishra and Aviskeh Giri were present during the launching ceremony.

Written by Manash Padhiary, the film is being directed by Ajay Padhi while Rabinarayan Das will take care of the dialogues, said the producers.

Not divulging much about the movie, veteran actor Sukant Rath,

who has been cast opposite Anu, said, "The movie tells how a couple's married life is messed up when three unexpected guests suddenly appear at their place and how they deal with the situation. This is an original script and I'm sure viewers will identify themselves with the characters of the movie."

The film is being produced by Sthita Patnaik while the music will be scored by Somesh Satpathy. Humane Sagar, Kuldeep Patnaik, Arpita Choudhury and Sanchita Subhadarshini will lend voice to the songs of the film.

PNN



Safety tips on Festival of Colours

Apart from harmful UV radiation, exposure to sun during Holi also dries the skin by causing depletion of moisture and results in tan

Holi festival which marks the onset of spring season will be celebrated across India amid coronavirus scare for the second successive year. Traditionally spring flowers, berries, spices and other plants were used in the past as source of Holi colours. During the last few years expensive artificial bright and vibrant colours have started making their way into markets which contain chemical solvents and toxic agents like lead oxide, mercury sulphide and copper sulphate which may damage eyes, skin and lungs.

But Holi without the use of coloured water, water balloons, colours, dye is incomplete. You can enjoy fun and frolic of the festival by playing with organic, home-made colours available in markets. You can also take some precautions to prevent your skin, hair from getting damaged.

The dry Gulal and the wet colours of today are not manufactured from natural sources. They contain chemicals, shiny particles of mica and even lead, which not only irritate the skin, but get collected on the scalp. Since Holi is played outside, sun-exposure can have a detrimental effect on the skin. Apart from harmful UV radiation, sun-exposure makes the skin dry by causing depletion of moisture and also tans the skin. The skin can become dry and dull after playing Holi.

Here are few tips to protect your skin and hair before playing Holi:

Remember to apply a sunscreen 20 minutes before going out in the sun. Use a sunscreen of SPF 20 and above. If your skin is prone to pigmented patches, select a higher SPF. Most sunscreens have built-in moisturisers. If your skin is very dry, first apply the sunscreen, wait for a few minutes and then apply a moisturiser. Apply moisturising lotion or cream on the arms and exposed areas.

Apply leave-in conditioner or hair serum on hair before playing Holi. This protects the hair from the effects of sun exposure and dryness caused by the colours. Hair Cream containing sunscreen is also available.

Take very little, spread on both palms and massage light into the hair, or smooth palms over the hair. Or, apply pure coconut oil and massage it lightly into the hair. This also provides protection against colours.

Apply transparent nail varnish on the nails. This helps to protect the nails from absorbing Holi colours.

The real problem is removal of colours after playing Holi. Rinse the face with plenty of plain water and then use a cleansing cream, or lotion. Apply and massage it on the face. Then wipe off with moist cotton wool. Remember to cleanse the area around the eyes too, using a light touch. A cleansing gel helps to dissolve the colours and facilitates their removal.

To make your own cleanser, take half a cup of cold milk and add one teaspoon of any vegetable oil, like ‘til, olive or sunflower oil. Mix well. Dip cotton wool into this mixture and use it to cleanse the skin.

Sesame seed (til) oil can be used to remove colours from the body, massaging it on the skin. This not only helps to remove the colours, but gives added protection to the skin. Sesame seed (til) oil actually helps to counteract sun-damage. While bathing, scrub the body gently with a loofah or wash cloth. Immediately after your bath, apply a moisturiser on the face and body, while the skin is still damp. This helps to seal in moisture.

If there is itching, add two tablespoons of vinegar to a mug of water and use it as a last rinse. This helps to reduce itching. However, if the itching continues, and there is rash and redness, there may be an allergic reaction to the colour. Consult a doctor as soon as possible.

While washing the hair, first rinse with plenty of plain water to wash away the dry colours and tiny particles of mica. Then apply a mild herbal shampoo, working it into the hair with the fingers. Massage the scalp gently and rinse thoroughly with water again.

Beer can be used as a last rinse. In fact,

it will soften and condition the hair. Add the juice of a lemon to the beer. Pour over the hair after shampoo. Leave on for a few minutes and rinse off with plain water.

The day after Holi, mix two tablespoons honey with half a cup of curd. Add a pinch of turmeric. Apply this on the face, neck and arms. Leave it on for 20 minutes and wash off with water. Helps to remove tan and soften the skin.

Within the next few days give your hair a nourishing treatment. Mix one tablespoon pure coconut oil with one teaspoon castor oil. Heat and apply on the hair. Then dip a towel in hot water, squeeze out the water and wrap the hot towel around the head, like a turban. Keep it on for five minutes. Repeat the hot towel wrap 3 or 4 times. This helps the hair and scalp absorb the oil better. Wash your hair after an hour.

The pandemic has brought the world to a halt. Various state governments have already put reasonable restrictions relating to festival rituals.

Please celebrate this festival with full zeal and enthusiasm with your family members in your home taking precautionary measures



SHAHNAZ HUSAIN





**Sasmita
and
Janhavi**

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