

BJP AT IT AGAIN: GEHLOT

Raj CM Ashok Gehlot claims BJP is once again playing the game of trying to topple the state government

**BHUBANESWAR | SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6 | 2020** 

TWO STATES



#### FIRST QUANTUM COMPUTER

Chinese scientists 'have created' world's first lightbased quantum computer; far faster than a classical supercomputer INTERNATIONAL

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# Children's fate lost in files

#### THE CASES OF MISSING CHILDREN FILED AT VARIOUS POLICE STATIONS IN THE STATE SOARED BY 75% BETWEEN 2015 AND 2019

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: The alleged kidnap and murder of Pari, a 5-year-old girl in Nayagarh district, has sparked widespread protests across the state, forcing the government to set up a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to find out the real culprit(s) of the ghastly crime. However, the cases of many other Paris have been gathering dust at various police stations across the state.

The murder of Pari grabbed public attention following the self-immolation bid by her parents before the Assembly building.

A perusal of data reveals the pathetic performance of the state police in tracing out the missing minors. As per National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, the state has been witnessing a steady rise in the number of missing children every year.

The number of such cases filed at various police stations in the state spiraled by around 75 per cent between 2015 and 2019.

The reports suggest that as many as 1,807 missing cases reported in 2015 rose to 3,151 till the end of 2019.



■ IN 2016. THE TRACING RATE IN THE STATE WAS 10.2 PC— LOWEST IN THE COUNTRY

#### THIS YEAR, DUE TO COVID NO TRACING OPS **COULD BE UNDERTAKEN**

In 2018, the state cops cracked 1,139 cases out of a total of 3,491 untraced children; success rate of 32.6 pc, again the lowest in comparison to other states

■ The rate plummeted to 27.1 pc in 2019again the lowest in the country

However, the police failed to achieve success in tracing out the children who went missing from 2015 to 2019, with 2017 as an aberration.

In 2015, the state police was tasked with a target to trace out 4,588 missing children including 2,781 untraced children of previous years. But, the police managed to find out only 698 kids.

As many as 1,901 children went missing in 2016. Meanwhile, the police succeeded in tracing out only 589 minors in 2016 out of a total of 5,791 cases that also included untraced 3,890 from the previous years. The tracing rate was 10.2 per cent - lowest in the country. The cops performed really well in 2017 registering a success rate of 84.4 per cent. The police managed to recover 6.281 kids including 1,747 boys and 4.534 females

However, the success rate of Odisha Police started slowing down after 2017. As many as 2,326 cases in connection with missing of minors were reported in 2018. The cops cracked 1,139 cases out of a total of 3,491 untraced children registering a success rate of 32.6 per cent, again the lowest tracing rate in comparison to other states.

The rate plummeted to 27.1 per cent

in 2019 which was the lowest in the country. The state police managed to find out 1,490 missing kids out of 5,503 including 3,151 missing children in

Speaking on the issue, a top police official said that police will intensify their operations to trace more children after the slowing down of Covid-19 effect. "We will try to bring more awareness among people and urge them to inform about missing kids to the police force. This year, due to Covid no tracing operations could be undertaken.'

The data indicated that Odisha Police has failed to achieve the desired results under schemes like 'Operation Muskan' and 'Operation Smile' to trace out missing children. In 2019, states like Kerala achieved tracing rate of around 94 per cent while Odisha has continuously been remaining at the lowest position in the country.

Various surveys by NGOs and other agencies sound an alarm that during the Covid-induced lockdown child trafficking could have increased. As families lost jobs, kids from the marginalised section were bound to work in unorganised sector, reports said.



1800 266 266 1 (tollfree)

## Oppn leaders meet Pari's parents in Nayagarh dist

**BJP REMAINS ADAMANT ON CBI PROBE** 

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: Leaders of the BJP and the Congress party Saturday thronged the village of the deceased minor girl in

Nayagarh, who was allegedly

abducted and murdered.

National spokesperson of the BJP Sambit Patra and Congress' Odisha incharge A Chellakumar met the parents of the victim and demanded justice.

While the BJP reiterated its demand for a CBI probe into the matter, the Congress party asked for the SIT probe to be monitored by a sitting judge of

the Orissa High Court. Patra also demanded removal of state Higher Education minister Arun Sahoo. "We demand a CBI inquiry into the case. The SP and Collector must be summoned in the case," said Patra. Chellakumar said, "The SIT has to be constituted and monitored by a sitting High Court judge otherwise the state gov-

ernment may misuse it. BJD spokesperson Lenin Mohanty said, "Odisha didn't see Sambit Patra and Chellakumar earlier in such sensitive cases. The government is committed to give justice to the victim. The SIT is working in good pace.'

#### RREGULAR by MANJUL



No water cannon on these protesters... only lathi charge

## Seeing red over Saffron

Uproar over naming new RGCB campus in Kerala after RSS ideologue Golwalkar

AGENCIES

Thiruvananthapuram, Dec 5: A controversy has erupted in Kerala over the naming of the second campus of Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (RGCB) here after late Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) ideologue MS Golwalkar. Both ruling CPI-

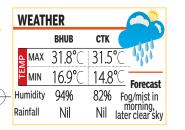
M and opposition Congress have criticised the move.

"What MSG's contribution to science, other than pro-

moting the disease of communalasked a peeved Thiruvananthapuram Lok Sabha MP and Congress leader Shashi Tharoor. Senior CPI-M politburo member

and former Kerala minister MA Baby said, "The development is most unfortunate and cruel." "This has been done purposely to drive a wedge in the Kerala society." LoP Ramesh Chennithala wrote

to PM Modi, stating that it was most painful and it should not be allowed. State BJP spokesperson said it has now become fashionable for the opposition parties to come out with stock statements like communal and what not.



#### **MAHANADI DISPUTE**

## Odisha wants to resume talks for interim relief

New Delhi, Dec 5: The state of Odisha Saturday informed the Mahanadi water dispute Tribunal that it wants to restart negotiation with Chhattisgarh, in the interim application filed by it. Odisha is seeking 1.74 million acre feet (MAF) of Mahanadi water during nonmonsoon months.

According to officials, Chhattisgarh had released around 1.9 MAF water to Hirakud dam during non-monsoon months in 2019. While between 2014 and 2019, Chhattisgarh had reduced the flow to Hirakud to 0.8 MAF. Odisha has been demanding 2.0 MAF flow of water to Hirakud dam from November to May.

The state has submitted in the Tribunal that it wants to hold another round of talks with Chhattisgarh to explore further possibilities of amicable settlement. The three-judge bench of the Tribunal, headed by Chairperson AM Khanwilkar and comprising Justices Indermeet Kaur and Ravi Ranjan, adjourned the matter for hearing January 16.

During the hearing, the Tribunal was also apprised by both states that the common format with regard to



Odisha seeks 1.74 million acre feet of Mahanadi water during non-monsoon months

■ Next hearing January 16

information related to Mahanadi basin has not been finalised by the assessor yet. It has been submitted that the assessor has fixed further meetings of engineers of both states from December 14 to 18.

Significantly, Odisha had earlier pleaded the Tribunal to pass order in the interim application.

It is to be mentioned here that Odisha in 2018 filed an interim application in the Mahanadi Tribunal seeking directions to Chhattisgarh to maintain 1.74 million acre feet flow of Mahanadi river water during the non-monsoon months, starting from November to May. The state had also urged the Tribunal to order stay on the operation and construction of barrages built by Chhattisgarh on Mahanadi till the adjudication of main petition.

## Victim's body bore 16 injury marks

Puri, Dec 5: Giving startling revelations, the post-mortem report of K Ramesh, who allegedly died

POST NEWS NETWORK

in the custody of Baselisahi police November 18, has stated that the victim's body bore as many as 16 injury marks.

Ramesh was allegedly beaten to death around two weeks ago by the Baselisahi police, a few hours

#### **CUSTODIAL DEATH CASE** ■ Ramesh died due to severe

injuries on his head

A clot of around 250ml of blood was found in the brain of the victim

after he was picked up in connection with a case under investigation. The allegation is being probed in strict adherence to guidelines of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

"The body of Ramesh bore as many as 16 injury marks. Ramesh had died due to severe injuries on his head. A clot of around 250ml of blood was found in the brain of the victim," said the postmortem

Doctors who conducted the postmortem described the victim's

## PETROL, DIESEL **PRICES ON FIRE**

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Dec 5: Petrol price Saturday breached the ₹83 per litre-mark in Delhi for the first time in more than two years after a rally in international oil prices forced the 13th increase in rates in the last fortnight. Petrol price Saturday was raised by 27 paise per litre and diesel by 25 paise, according to a price notification of oil marketing companies.

Petrol price in Delhi rose to ₹83.13 per litre from ₹82.86. Diesel rates went up from ₹73.07 to ₹73.32 per litre. This is the highest rate for petrol and diesel since September 2018. In 16 days, the petrol price has gone up by ₹2.07 per litre and diesel rate has risen by ₹2.86.

PRICES IN BHUB PETROL: ₹83.76 (+0.27) DIESEL: ₹79.87 (+0.27)

### Haryana Min, who participated in vax trial, tests +ve



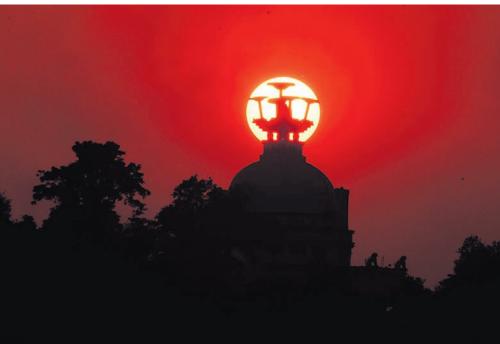
New Delhi, Dec 5: Just hours after Haryana Health Minister Anil Vij confirmed he has developed Coronavirus symptoms, the Union Health Ministry clarified that Vij took only the first dose of the two-dose vaccine. Vij was administered a dose of Covaxin last month.

"The antibodies against the infection build up in a human being only after a specific number of days pass after the second dose of the vaccine is taken. Since, this is a two-dose vaccine. Minister in question has taken only one dose of the vaccine," the Ministry said in a statement, Saturday.

In the case of this vaccine, trial volunteers receive two intramuscular injections approximately 28 days apart.

Participants are randomly assigned to receive Covaxin or placebo. The trial is double-blinded, such that the investigators, the participants and the company arenot aware of who is assigned to which group.

# FEAST FOR YOUR EYES



The White Peace Pagoda of Dhauli stupa is a sight to behold against the backdrop of a setting sun in Bhubaneswar,

#### **FARMERS' PROTEST**

## People have a right to demonstrate peacefully: UN

INDIA HAS CALLED THE REMARKS BY FOREIGN LEADERS ON PROTESTS BY FARMERS AS "ILL-INFORMED" AND "UNWARRANTED"

AGENCIES

United Nations, Dec 5: People have a right to demonstrate peacefully and authorities should let them do so, spokesperson for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said on the farmers' protests in

India has called the remarks by foreign leaders on protests by farmers as "ill-informed" and "unwarranted" as the matter pertained to the internal affairs of a democratic country. "As to the question of India, what I would say to you is what I've said to others when raising these issues is that people have a right to demonstrate peacefully, and au-



farm laws at Singhu border, in New Delhi, Saturday

thorities need to let them do so," Stephane Dujarric, Spokesman for

the Secretary-General, said Friday. Dujarric was responding to a

question on the farmers' protest

Reacting to the comments by the foreign leaders, External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava Tuesday said, "We have seen some ill-informed comments...relating to farmers in India. Such comments are unwarranted, especially when pertaining to the internal affairs of a

democratic country." In a terse message, the Ministry further added that "it is also best that diplomatic conversations are not misrepresented for political purposes." Friday, India summoned Canadian High Commissioner and told him that the comments made by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

country's internal affairs and these actions, if continued, will have a "seriously damaging" impact on the bilateral ties. Thousands of farmers from Punjab, Haryana and several other states have been protesting for the last nine days at the borders of Delhi against three farm laws.

and others in his Cabinet on the

farmers' protest constituted an "un-

acceptable interference" in the

Dubbing these laws as 'anti-farmer' these farmers claim that the newly enacted legislations would pave the way for dismantling of the minimum support price system, leaving them at the 'mercy' of big corporations.



# leisure



#### **BILLIE EILISH CALLS OFF HER UPCOMING TOUR**

Singer Billie Eilish has officially cancelled her upcoming When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go tour, saying she tried to explore many ways to make it possible, but could not find a way. It was postponed after just three shows due to the Covid pandemic.

#### **SELMA DIRECTOR DUVERNAY** TO CREATE SUPERHERO SERIES

Filmmaker Ava DuVernay is working on her next television project, an adaptation of the teen superhero story Naomi. She will team up with Jill Blankenship, executive producer of series Arrow, to develop Naomi, a title for DC Comics, reports variety.com.





accuracy • reliability • trust 🚨

Joining a yoga class will be a good decision. You should try ayurvedic foodstuffs too. You may expect a lot of new things to happen today. Ganesha advises you not to worry as there is a good

#### **TAURUS**

Your monetary problems will continue to bother vou, predicts Ganesha You will not let small expenses get in the way of things. You may make money from different sources. If you stay independent at the workplace, hopes Ganesha.

#### **GEMINI**

You will propose, or get married today. Your family will be with you, trying to make sure that you don't let this opportunity go. You will look fantastic today, and nobody in his/her right mind would be able to say no to your proposal.

#### **CANCER**

Your natural talents will be rewarded at work. in the day, your peers will fully co-operate to help you achieve leaps and bounds. But you should not le success get to your head

#### **LEO**

With your penchant for being almost surgical in vour tasks, it seems there isn't a single blunder that escapes your trained eye. This fact comes to the fore today and helps you step into the limelight, especially

#### **■ VIRGO**

The day will bring in today. Expect a probable visit to a museum or a historical place, says Ganesha. Being frisky wil help shape that body up a bit. Entertainment will work as a wonde ful remedy to cure the wounds of an estranged relationship, says Ganesha

ter half of the day, foresees Ganesha. After that, those financial troubles will make way for lucrative opportunities. Expect to make money from all quarters later in the afternoon.

#### **SCORPIO** You may be at your cre-

ative best today. You may all the creative activities and even solve your troubles with much ease. Personally, you are a good soul and may help someone in the evening by a doing a good deed.

#### SAGITTARIUS

Interaction and exchange of ideas with rejuvenate you today, says Ganesha. You may be express yourself better in front of them. Planning and execution of ideas at work may not be in svnc today. Be practical and move on, look forward to a better tomorrow

#### CAPRICORN

Scepticism and lack of faith in others may have prevented you from entering into a partner ship, but you are likely to do so today, in

keeping with the interest of your enterprise. For those engaged in jobs, truckloads of appreciation will come your way for your exceptional performance.

#### **AQUARIUS** You have worked hard, and now you want to

party harder. You catch up with some old friends hang out with them and relax your mind.

#### **PISCES**

A good day for investments and speculations. especially in the real estate markets. Your gains

will outweigh the risks associated with your transactions. However, maintain some monetary reserves to invest in other opportunities. as even better times are round the corner.







## Tisca's jibe at people wearing mask on chin

Mumbai: Actress Tisca Chopra Saturday had a sarcastic take on people who wear their masks in an improper way, on their chin while their nose and mouth stays un-

Tisca shared a few photographs of men wearing masks on their chin. Along with the images, she wrote: "Breaking news! #Covid19 in India has mutated to a form that no longer affects you through the mouth & nose, it enters through your chin., #ChinCorona is very dangerous, make sure to always wear your masks on your chins! #Seriously #MaskUp #MaskOnChin #ChinCorona."

The actress has just made her debut as a director with the short film Rubaru, which she has co-written with her husband, Captain Sanjay Chopra. The short film stars Tisca with Arjun Mathur and Chitrashi Rawat.



## Making digital art accessible to the visually-impaired

people

AltMuseum is world's first digital art museum that helps bridge the gap between art and its accessibility for specially-abled people using technology

nstagram is one of the most popular social networks worldwide. This visual medium is not just a photo gallery anymore it has transformed into a platform for creative expression, engagement and even a source of income for many. The AltMuseum, a digital art museum, enables a simple functionality of alt-text available on Instagram to introduce a creative experience for the visually impaired. With the talk-back setting on Androids and Voiceover feature in iOS enabled, a creative coded in Alt-text helps in describing the visual through an audio narrative.

Leading personal care product brand Vivel, in an inclusive step forward, enables the visually impaired to explore a visual social medium like Instagram with AltMuseum. With its *Voice of Art* initiative, it has become the first brand to partner with the platform to make the message of empowerment more inclusive.

AltMuseum is the world's first digital museum that helps bridge the gap between art and its accessibility for specially-abled people with the use of technology.



The content on the platform has also been made available to the students under the aegis of the National Association for the Blind (NAB). Provisions have also been made for smart phones to be provided to a set of visually impaired students at NAB, ensuring that nothing holds them back from accessing quality education and lead their lives in an empowered manner.

According to Pradnya Upadhye, Director Education, National Association for the Blind, India, "This is simple but so powerful! It not only helps explore creativities but also enables an inclusive experience of a visual medium like Instagram.'

Schbang for Good, the impact communications wing of Schbang, focused on driving social change, launched the Alt Museum handle on Instagram earlier this year.

Riya Parekh, Group Creative Manager, Schbang for Good, said, "With the world getting locked into their homes, we witnessed a rise in consumption of content across dig ital platforms, but why should entertain ment and art be restricted to the abled population of the world? The Alt-Museum was the outcome of this simple question. We identified the Instagram feature and latched onto the most visually-celebrated, World Photography Day to talk to the visually impaired. We are grateful to have progressive partners like Vivel who are constantly striving to use arts to push the world in a better direction.

SUDOKU

0 to 9 and the letters A to E.

9 6

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

SU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, each row,

column and box must contain the numbers

#### **PEANUTS**



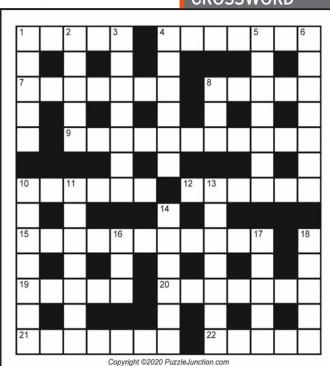
#### CALVIN AND HOBBES



#### **BREVITY**



## **CROSSWORD**



#### Across

- 1 Winter pear 4 Get hot under
- the collar?
- 7 Listlessness 8 Leaps 9 Hang out
- awhile (5,6)
- 10 Trumpeter, in
- the military
- 12 Piglets 15 Scolded
- 1 Acknowledge 2 Shocks

Down

19 Manicurist's

21 Raw fish dish

22 Part of an act

board

20 Romantic

- 3 Employ 4 Butchers

offerings

- - 16 Frigid 17 Pilotless plane
  - 18 Outmoded

condiment

5 Japanese dish

8 Cookie holder

6 Lives

10 Casks

11 Burrowing

rodents

13 Repulsive

14 Hot

SUDOKU

N PERS

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



# downtown



**PLAYFUL MOOD** 

A girl playing on the swing alongside the NH-16 near Jayadev Vihar Square in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

So Il tiem 3	COVID-19 TRACKER				
		INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD	
	World	6,64,85,034	4,60,05,769	15,28,794	_
	India	96,08,211	90,58,822	1,39,700	
	Odisha	3,20,803	3,15,270	1,765	
	1111111111	: 		: 	

## SCB GOES GLOBAL DIGITALLY State to assess rice bran oil demand

THE STATE-OF-THE-ART WEBSITE LAUNCHED BY CHIEF MINISTER NAVEEN PATNAIK IS EXPECTED TO ENHANCE THE STATURE AND SERVICE DELIVERY CAPABILITY OF SCBMCH

POST NEWS NETWORK

art website will sig-

nificantly enhance

the stature and the

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday launched the state-of-the-art website of SCB Medical College and Hospital, Cuttack through videoconferencing.

SCB Medical College would now have a world-class digital presence through its website and a formal alumni association with its own website. "In today's digital world, the state-of-the-

man in the service delivery remotest parts of the capability of state it is 'Bada the medical, **Medical'** the ultimate Naveen said. hope

NAVEEN PATNAIK I

the common

Stating that the medical college is a shining example of medical care for the poor and the needy, he said, "It is

ent. SCB is one of the oldest med-



Launching of **World Class Website of SCB** www.scbmch.in &

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launches the World Class Website of SCB through videoconferencing, Saturday

ical institutions in the country, even older than many medical institutions in the world, with a glorious history of serving humanity for over 76 years.

During the current Covid-19 crisis, it has helped in building also the cradle of great medical talinstitutional capacity for the entire state. To the common man in the remotest parts of the state, it is 'Bada Medical' the ultimate hope, he said.

True to its name in the folklore, it has served millions over the last 76 years and an astounding 17 million in the last decade. Every day, more than 20,000 people come to the hospital for their medical needs, he pointed out.

The Chief Minister further said his government has initiated the process of transformation under 5T

initiative to make it a world-class institute, an Ecosystem that will attract everyone to comeback and work in SCB.

He hoped that many of alumni

members who have branched out globally to spread its message of service will return to build a greater future for this great institution. You will all have a major role to play

in transformation of SCB into a world class institution," he told the alumni members

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: Rice bran, once considered not of much use beyond cattle feed and fuel in Odisha, is emerging as boon for the farmers because of the agri-technology popularisation initiatives of the government.

Therefore, Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy has asked the officials concerned to make demand assessment of rice bran oil and present availability of the raw material for promotion of small and medium enterprises in this sector.

Tripathy gave this direction while holding a high-level meeting in this regard, recently.

Considering the potential for production of rice bran oil in the state, Tripathy said, "Since rice bran oil contains immune supporting nutrients and unsaturated fat, it can be an attractive enterprise for young entrepreneurs."

Proper assessment of market demand and economy involved in the trade will be a reliable guide for the young entrepreneurs, he said.

Outlining the Covid response revised policies, Micro, Small and FILLIP TO SMES



Since rice bran oil contains immune supporting nutrients and unsaturated fat, it's production can be an attractive venture for

ncentives like interest subsidy at 5 per cent per annum for 5 years on term loan from the date of commercial production, 75 per cent net SGST reimbursement for 5 years up to the limit of 100 per cent investment on plant and machinery are now available

Medium Enterprises (MSME) secretary Satyabrata Sahu said incentives like interest subsidy at 5 per cent per annum for 5 years on term loan

from the date of commercial production, 75 per cent net SGST reimbursement for 5 years up to the limit of 100 per cent investment on plant and machinery are now available. Further, exemption of electricity duty up to contract demand of 500 KVA for 5 years, assistance for quality certification, employment cost subsidy and technical knowhow are also made available for the sector.

According to Industries Director Reghu G, "At present, 12 rice bran units are operating in the state. Out of them, seven are in Bargarh district while two are in Koraput district and one each in Jajpur, Khurda and Balasore districts." Altogether ₹11.15 crore incentives/subsidies have been provided to the eligible units, he said.

Industries department's assistant director MM Patra said this type of enterprise is quite rewarding. Around 800 mg healthy edible oil can be extracted from the bran generated from one quintal of paddy. This oil is sold at higher price in market than that of the normal refine oil. There is potential for more such units through local entrepreneurs in paddy rich districts, Patra added.

## 'Akash was never a Tata Motors employee'





Suspended IFS officer AK Pathak and his son Akash being taken to jail, Saturday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: The TATA Motors authorities Saturday said that Akash Pathak, son of suspended IFS officer Abhay Kant Pathak, was never an employee of the company.

A Commissionerate Police official claimed before the media here that the company has sent a clarification to the Vigilance directorate in this regard.

The Commissionerat Police has been probing the cheating allegations against Akash of around ₹65 lakh. Akash impersonated the Managing Director of TATA Motors, booked rooms in luxury hotels and tickets for chartered flights worth around ₹2.78 core. However, he paid ₹2.13 crore out of the total bill while denying payment of the remaining ₹65,16,233.

The father-son duo was produced before the court here by the Vigilance after the end of their three-day remand Saturday. The Vigilance officials said that they have collected enough evidence regarding the illegal activities of Abhay Kant and his son Akash.

The Vigilance sleuth also conducting verification at Patna in Bihar to unearth assets and investments of Abhay Kant and his family

Meanwhile, speaking to media, Akash claimed all the allegations against him are false and he would bring it before everyone after coming out of the jail.

In another development, the Crime Branch investigating into the job fraud involving Akash and Gopalpur MLA Pradeep Panigrahi has been interrogating David Peter, the personal assistant of Akash in this connection.

Notably, Akash has duped several job aspirants from Gopalpur of lakhs of rupees on the pretext of employing them in TATA Motors. He identified himself as the MD of TATA Motors, Passengers Division, to cheat the gullible aspirants. Police have already arrested Panigrahi in the case for collecting money from the victims on behalf of Akash.

## **Helmet must for**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: Bikers, think twice next time when you come out with a helmetless pillion rider. A two-wheeler rider's driving licence would be suspended if he and the riding pillion are found without helmets. The State Transport Authority (STA) said this

"Driving licence will be suspended if both the rider and person sitting do not wear helmets. Please wear helmets for your

Saturday said on Twitter.



"In a joint check with Olatpur police, on 4th December, 92 MC rid March 1, 2020.

# biker, pillion rider

in a tweet, Saturday.

safety," the tweet read.

In Cuttack, 92 two-wheeler riders were penalised for not wearing helmets December 4, RTO Cuttack

ers penalised for not wearing helmets. 42 DLs suspended and ₹1,34,000 penalty imposed. Please wear helmet, save your life and escape from penalty," the tweet read. Notably, the STA has implemented the amended Motor Vehicles Act in the state

#### Don't commercialise **BEd course: AISEC**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Dec 5: The Cuttack district chapter of All India Save Education Committee (AISEC) Saturday urged the state government not to commercialise BEd course in Odisha. "Immediate steps should be

taken to start admission process for 14 government BEd colleges in Odisha. The state government should desist from providing BEd course through self-financing mode," said office-bearers of AISEC at a press conference here. AISEC Cuttack district chap-

ter president Akhava Das said 14 government BEd colleges in state. including Radhanath Institute of Advanced Studies in Education in Cuttack, have been facing acute shortage of teaching staff and infrastructure for the last several years. As a result, the National Council of Teachers Education (NCTE) has withdrawn recognitions to these colleges. "The 14 government BEd colleges have been barred from enrolling students for this academic year." Das claimed. According to him, the government BEd colleges had 1,650 seats and 217 teaching staff. However, the staff strength has come down to below 50 in recent years.

"Some lecturers had been recruited for the BEd colleges in 1999. The state government has planned to commercialise the course in Odisha. Some universities and colleges have already launched BEd course through selffinancing mode," Das said.

## Cong to support Bharat Bandh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: The state unit of Congress Saturday extended its support to the Bharat Bandh called by the farmers protesting at Singhu Border against the new farm laws brought by the Centre.

"Farmers are our

'Annadata' and backbone of our economy. They have called for a Bandh opposing Modi government's anti-

farmer laws. Our party will support them to make the Bandh a success. I urge the people of Odisha to make the Bandh a grand success," said Pradesh Congress

Committee (PCC) president,

Niranjan Patnaik.

The protesting farmers from various parts the country have called 'Bharat Bandh' December 8 to put pressure on the Union government to accept their demands. Many left parties have also came together to extend support to

## Miraculous escape for 3 as car hits bull, catches fire

POST NEWS NETWORK

Choudwar, Dec 5: In a miraculous escape from the jaws of death, three persons including a woman were marked safe after the car they were traveling in caught fire on National Highway-16 here Saturday.

According to eyewitnesses, the car hit a stray bull and caught fire.

The occupants of the illfated vehicle have been identified as Nasima Khatun, her son and the driver. Nasima is a resident of Soro area in Balasore district. They were on their way to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack when the mishap occurred.



The occupants were on their way to SCB **Medical College and** Hospital when the mishap occurred

According to Nasima, they were heading towards Cuttack when a bull suddenly came in front of their car near Sardal, leaving little time for the driver to control the vehicle. As a result, the vehicle dashed against the animal and

caught fire. Seeing smoke and then flames coming out of the bonnet, the trio immediately got down from the car, narrated Nasima. The incident disrupted traffic on the NH for some time. Later, a team of fire

fighters reached the spot

and doused the blaze. But the vehicle had by then reduced to ashes. According to Krupasindhu

Behera, an official of Tangi-Choudwar Fire Station, "It was a patrol-run car and the collision may have created a spark, leading to the mishap.'



## भारतीय रिज़र्व बेंक www.rbi.org.in

# भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक द्वारा विनियमित संस्थाओं / भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक के किसी विभाग के विरुद्ध शिकायतों के निवारण

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक(भारिबैंक) ने देश भर में अपने कार्यालयों में शिकायत निवारण हेतु विभिन्न मंचों की स्थापना की है।

कोई भी व्यक्ति जिसे भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक द्वारा विनियमित सस्थाओं, यथा- वाणिज्यिक बैंक, क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण बैंक, सहकारी बैंक अथवा कोई गैर बैंकिंग वित्तीय कंपनियां (जो भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक अधिनियम, 1934 की धारा 45 झक के अधीन पंजीकृत हो), भारिबैंक द्वारा विनियमित गैर-बैंकिंग संस्थाओ द्वारा किए गए डिजिटल लेनदेन (भुगतान और निपटान अधिनियम 2007 के अधीन),निक्षेप बीमा और प्रत्यय गारंटी निगम (डीआईसीजीसी) की सेवाओं में कमी अथवा भारिबैंक के किसी विभाग के विरुद्ध शिकायत है, तो वह अपनी शिकायत को पूर्ण विवरण/ संपूर्ण तथ्यों और उसके समर्थक दस्तावेज़ों सहित हमारे वेबसाइट में https://cms.rbi.org.in>>**भाषा च्**निए >>**हिन्दी >>शिकायत दर्ज करे >>हिन्दी में उपलब्ध शिकायत प्रबंध प्रणाली (सीएमएस) के** लिंक द्वारा ऑनलाइन प्रस्तुत कर सकते हैं।

अगर किसी व्यक्ति को उपरोक्त कोई शिकायत है और वे ऑनलाइन शिकायत दर्ज नहीं कर सकती/ सकती है तो वे निम्नलिखित मंच में डाक/ दस्ती सुपुर्दगी/ ईमेल द्वाराअपनी शिकायत दर्ज कर सकते /सकती हैं।

1. उपभोक्ता शिक्षण और संरक्षण कक्ष (उशिसं कक्ष)

(भारिबैंक के लोकपाल योजना के तहत न आने वाली शिकायतों के निवारण हेत)

पता: उपभोक्ता शिक्षणऔर संरक्षण कक्ष,भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक,दूसरी मंजिल, पंडित जवाहर लाल नेहरू मार्ग, भुवनेश्वर, ओडिशा - 751001 टेलिफोन नं.0674-2390074, ई-मेल आईडी:cms.cepcbhubaneswar@rbi.org.in कार्यालय समय: पूर्वाह्र 09:50 से अपराह्र 05:35

बैंकिंग लोकपाल योजना, 2006 (बीओ योजना) 2006

(बीओ योजना के खंड 8 के अधीन दिए गए आधारों के अनुसार शिकायतों के निवारण हेतु)

बैंकिंग लोकपाल के कार्यालय(भुवनेश्वर)

पता: भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक,तीसरी मंजिल,पंडित जवाहर लाल नेहरू मार्ग, भुवनेश्वर,ओडिशा - 751001

टेलिफोन नं. 0674-2396207

ईमेल आईडी : cms.bobhubaneswar@rbi.org.in कार्यालय समय: पूर्वाह्न 09:50 से अपराह्न 05:35

गैर बैंकिंग वित्तीय कंपनियों के लिए लोकपाल योजना 2018 (एनबीएफसी के लिए लोकपाल योजना, 2018) (एनबीएफसी के लिए लोकपाल योजना, 2018 के तहत आनेवाले एनबीएफसीयों के विरुद्ध और एनबीएफसी लोकपाल योजना के खंड 8 के अधीन

आने वाली शिकायतों के निवारण हेत्) एनबीएफसी लोकपाल कोलकता केंद्र (पूर्वी क्षेत्र)\*

द्वारा: भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक

पता: 15 नेताजी सभाष मार्ग, कोलकाता – 700001

टेलिफोन नं. 033-22304982 ईमेल आईडी:cms.nbfcokolkata@rbi.org.in

कार्यालय समय: पूर्वाह्न 09:45 से अपराह्न 05:30

टिप्पणी- \*कोलकाता पूर्वी ज़ोन के लिए एनबीएफसी के लिए लोकपाल के क्षेत्राधिकार में पश्चिम बंगाल, सिक्किम ,ओडिशा, असम ,अरुणाचल प्रदेश, मणिपुर, मेघालय, मिजोरम, नागालैंड, त्रिपुरा, बिहार और झारखंड शामिल हैं।

डिजिटल लेनदेन के लिए लोकपाल योजना, 2019 (ओएसडीटी 2019)

ओएसड़ीटी के अधीन आनेवाले भुगतान और निपटान प्रणाली अधिनियम 2007 के तहत परिभाषित प्रणाली सहभागियों के विरुद्ध ओएसडीटी के खंड 8 में वर्णित आधार पर शिकायतों के निपटान हेत्।

डिजिटल लेनदेन के लिए लोकपाल (भवनेश्वर केंद्र)

द्वारा: भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक

पताः भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक,तीसरी मंजिल,पंडित जवाहर लाल नेहरू मार्ग, भुवनेश्वर,ओडिशा - 751001

टेलिफोन नं. 0674-2396207 ईमेल आईडी : cms.odtbhubaneswar@rbi.org.in

कार्यालय समय: पूर्वाह्र 09:50 से अपराह्र 05:35

निक्षेप बीमा और प्रत्यय गारंटी निगम (डीआईसीजीसी) के विरुद्ध शिकायतें डीआईसीजीसी के विरुद्ध शिकायतों के लिए कोई भी व्यक्ति निम्नलिखित पते/ ईमेल आईडी पर शिकायत दर्ज कर सकते/ सकती हैं:

निक्षेप बीमा और प्रत्यय गारंटी निगम (डीआईसीजीसी)

महाप्रबंधक डीआईसीजीसी, शिकायत निवारण कक्ष भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक भवन, दूसरी मंजिल

मुम्बई सेंट्रल रेलवे स्टेशन के सामने, मुम्बई –400 008.

शिकायतकर्ता श्री दिलावर कसम नलबंद,उप महाप्रबंधक से टेलीफोन क्रमांक. 022-23026400, विस्तार सं. 8205अथवा ई-मेल dicgc@rbi.org.in के माध्यम से भी संपर्क कर सकते/ सकती हैं।

टिप्पणी 1: बैंकिंग लोकपाल योजना, 2006 अथवा एनबीएफसी-लोकपाल योजना, 2018 या डिजिटल लेनदेनों के लिए लोकपाल योजना, 2019 अथवा उशिसं कक्ष के अंतर्गत शिकायत दर्ज कराने के लिए शिकायतकर्ता कृपया यह नोट करें कि वे अपनी शिकायत के निवारण के लिए सर्वप्रथम बैंक शाखा, एनबीएफसी/ प्रणाली सहभागी से संपर्क करें।यदि किसी बैंक/ एनबीएफसी/ प्रणाली सहभागी के विरुद्ध संबंधित लोकपाल योजना के खंड 8 में वर्णित सेवा में कमी से जुड़ी शिकायत का निवारण 30 दिनों के भीतर नहीं होता है, अथवा यदि शिकायतकर्ता संबंधित बैंक/ एनबीएफसी/ प्रणाली सहभागी द्वारा दिए गए उत्तर से संतुष्ट नहीं है, तो वे बैंक/ एनबीएफसी/ प्रणाली सहभागी से उत्तर प्राप्त होने के एक वर्ष के भीतर किसी भी समयअथवा कोई उत्तर प्राप्त न होने की स्थिति में बैंक/ एनबीएफसी/ प्रणाली सहभागी को अभ्यावेदन देने की तिथि से एक वर्ष और एक माह के भीतर किसी भी समय संबंधित लोकपाल से संपर्क

टिप्पणी 2: बैंक / एनबीएफसी / प्रणाली सहभागियों के खिलाफ लोकपाल को तथा बैंक एवं प्रणाली सहभागियों के खिलाफ उशिसं कक्ष को शिकायत संबंधित शाखा या कार्यालय के स्थान के आधार पर दर्ज की जा सकती है। केन्द्रीकृत परिचालानों तथा एनबीएफसी के विरुद्ध उशिसं कक्ष को शिकायत

ग्राहक के बिलिंग / घोषित पता जिस मंच के भौगोलिक क्षेत्राधिकार में आता है, के आधार पर की जा सकती है। लोकपाल के निर्णय के विरुद्ध अपील

बैंकिंग/ एनबीएफसी या डिजिटल लेनदेन के लिए लोकपाल द्वारा दिए गए निर्णय के विरुद्ध अपील, संबंधित लोकपाल का निर्णय प्राप्त होने के 30 दिनों के भीतर सीएमएस के https://cms.rbi.org.in>>भाषा चुनिए >>हिन्दी >>अपील दर्ज करें>> के लिंक द्वारा ऑनलाइन दर्ज कर सकते हैं याअपील प्राधिकारी, भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक, उपभोक्ता शिक्षण और संरक्षण विभाग, केंद्रीय कार्यालय, अमर भवन, सर पी.एम. रोड, फोर्ट, मुंबई 400 001 को भेज सकते /सकती हैं, बशर्ते कि शिकायत को संबंधित योजनाओं के अपील-योग्य खंडों के अधीन बंद किया गया हो।

टिप्पणी: शिकायतकर्ता अपनी शिकायत में अपना नाम, पता और संपर्क क्रमांक. का उल्लेख करना जरूरी है।

# **COVID TOLL RISES TO** 1,765; TALLY 3,20,803

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: The state's Covid-19 caseload mounted to 3.20.803 Saturday after 409 fresh people tested positive for the virus, while five more fatalities pushed the death toll to 1,765, a health department official said.

five Covid-19 patients while under treatment in hospitals," the health and family welfare department said on Twitter. The deaths were reported from Khurda, Jagatsinghpur. Navagarh and Puri districts.

A total of 53 other Covid-19 patients have also died so far, but the state government attributed the

The fresh cases were detected in 27 of 30 districts, of which 234

came from quarantine centres and

the remaining were local-contact

Sundargarh district recorded the highest of 53 positive

Angul (35)

cases, followed by Khurda (44) and

The state has thus far conducted

cause of their deaths to comor-

bidities. Khurda alone has ac-

counted for 301 fatalities, followed

by Ganjam (245), Sundargarh (149),

over 61.02 lakh sample tests,

including 41,860 Friday

#### **FACT FILE**



State has 4,320 active cases, while 3,14,665 patients have

recovered from the disease so far

The fresh cases were detected in 27 of the state's 30 districts, of which 234 came from quarantine centres and the remaining were local-contact infections.

the highest of 53 positive cases, followed by Khurda (44) and Angul (35). Three districts - Gajapati,

Kandhamal and Subarnapur – did not register any fresh coronavirus case during the last 24 hours, he said.

"Regret to inform the demise of

Cuttack (134) and Puri (105), the Sundargarh district recorded Odisha now has 4,320 active cases while 3,14,665 patients have recovered from the disease so far.

The state has thus far conducted over 61.02 lakh sample tests, including 41,860 Friday. The positivity rate stands at 5.26 per cent.

## Government forms panels for vaccination

BHUBANESWAR: The state government has formed state and district level committees to monitor adverse events following Covid immunization programme to maintain confidence on the safety of vaccines.

Health and Family Welfare Department has issued a notification to this effect. "With around 250 vaccines in various stages of development, it is likely that vaccine against Covid-19 will be the earliest available intervention to protect the citizens of our country. Preparations are underway for conducting Covid-19 vaccinations in states and districts, starting with certain priority groups, the notification said.

Director family welfare has been appointed as the chairman of the state-level committee while the state immunization officer is the member secretary of the panel. The committee will hold review of cases and make field visits to inspect vaccination sites and cold chain stores, as per need. It will also make causality assessment, review the data periodically and share the minutes of meetings with the Centre

Similarly, chief district medical officer will head the districtlevel panel which will investigate each adverse case within the timeframe and document the relevant information. The panel will ensure post modem/verbal autopsy in case of deaths are

#### SCINTILLATING PERFORMANCE



Dancers performing on the concluding day of Konark Festival, Saturday

### Tusker mowed down by express train

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Dec 5: A tusker was mowed down by a moving train on railway tracks near Hatibari on Sambalpur-Talcher rail route Saturday evening.

The tusker, part of a herd, was crossing the railway track when it was run over by the approaching Bhubaneswar-Rourkela intercity express train at around 6.30 pm, Saturday.

As a result, the elephant was thrown off the track and died soon after. On being informed, divisional forest officer Sanjit Kumar rushed to the spot with forest officials and started an investigation. The pachyderm is aged about 15, forest officials said. With this, four elephants have died due to various reasons this year.

## Second wave of Covid 'unlikely' in state

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: "Odisha is unlikely to witness a second wave of Covid," said technical spokesperson of Health and Family Welfare

department Jayant Panda, Saturday. "There is no possibility of a second wave because we are being very cautious and observing the guidelines strictly. All the festivals, including Dussehra and Diwali, were held without much fanfare while several other festivals were porters in Cuttack.

Panda further said, "We had anticipated that the state may witness a second wave of Covid-19 in the month of December. But, now we think that it is unlikely.

However, he appealed the citizens to follow Covid norms and be cautious till February. Vaccine against the virus may also be available within a few weeks. After vaccination, herd immunity can be

We had anticipated that the state may witness a second wave of Covid-19 in

the month of December but, now we think that it is unlikely to happen JAYANT PANDA TECHNICAL SPOKESPERSON.

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPT

The daily Covid-19 cases have been decreasing from 5,000 to 400

while the daily death cases also decreased to four-five from 17-18. This shows that the efforts of government to flatten the Covid curve, which began some eight months back, have been successful, said Panda

"Our training, testing and treatment policy was also completely successful. Due to successful implementation of the policy, Odisha is able to control the spread of Covid in comparison to many states of the country," he claimed

## Basudevpur EO, JE suspended

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: The state government Friday suspended Executive Officer (EO) Tapas Ranjan Jena and junior engineer (JE) Debakanta Nayak of Basudevpur municipality in Bhadrak district for dereliction in duty.

The Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) department has issued two different orders in this regard. The department said Jena was suspended for disobedience to government order, poor performance, non attainment of target and dereliction in government duty. Navak has been suspended over poor governance and dereliction of duty.

During the period of suspension, the officials will be headquartered at the office of the project director, District Urban Development Authority (DUDA), Bhadrak.

#### Ganja plants worth over ₹5.4cr destroyed

MUNIGUDA: A joint team of Rayagada police and excise officials destroyed cannabis plants worth over ₹5.4 crore in Siripur village and forest areas under Chandrapur police limits, Saturday morning. According to sources, the team raided Siripur village and its nearby areas. Police felled cannabis plants cultivated on 45 acres. Later, the plants were torched under active supervision of officials to make those unusable. The destroyed cannabis plants were worth around ₹5.4 crore. Massive ganja cultivations of more than ₹50 crore have been destroyed during the last seven days in various districts of Odisha

**CLASSIFIED** 

By virtue of an affidavit

before the Notary Public,

(Ganjam). I, Rama Raula,

D/o. Bhima Raula I have

on Dtd.25.04.2008. That

after my marriage the

changed from Raula to

as Rama Nahak for all

purpose. Rama Nahak.

Nahak. I shall be known

surname has been

married one Ashok Nahak

**AFFIDAVIT** 

Purushottampur

## BMC gears up to tackle sleeping in open spaces as temp drops

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: With temperatures falling down every day and the city witnessing longer and colder nights, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has geared up to tackle sleeping in public areas and footpaths with an aim to rehabilitate the homeless.

As per the order of the commissioner, no person is allowed to sleep on roadsides or any open spaces. However, many are seen spending nights on the footpath, railway station, bus stand, under flyovers and market yards.

'We are motivating people not to sleep outside. They are also requested to stay in SUH (Shelter for Urban Homeless) of BMC. Mobilisation has been started and two service providing agencies OPUS and Vikash have already shifted six people to SUH. The process will continue and no person will be allowed to sleep outside," stated BMC Commissioner Prem Chandra Chaudhary

The BMC has seven SUH in the city. They are at Ghatakia, Baramunda Bus Terminal, Unit Ashok Nagar, Chandrashekarpur, Bhimpur and Kharvel Nagar. While the Ashok Nagar SUH is exclusively built for people, Chandrashekarpur SUH caters to female refugees only.



The homeless or individuals sleeping in open are reluctant to stay in an shelter for urban homeless'

However, as per sources, the homeless or individuals sleeping in open are reluctant to stay in an SUH. While many have complained poor infrastructure, shortage of basic amenities, dismal sanitation and mafia raj are reasons for not staying in the SUH. Many others have cited restrictions to drug use as primary cause for abstaining

the shelters.

"I cannot sleep until I consume some hemp. I am addicted to it and have withdrawal symptoms if I don't have it regularly. Moreover, the other drug addicts and sometimes criminals stay in those places because of which we fear for our safety Sometimes it becomes overcrowded and there is always lack of ameni-

ties," complained a homeless man. However, refuting all claims, a senior BMC official said all centres are properly managed and the management always keeps a check on needs of the inmates. Furthermore, the official also mentioned that the Bhimpur SUH has been exclusively made as a de-addiction centre.

## Gaping holes in Aadhaar-less pension payments in state

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: The department of social security and empowerment of persons with disabilities (SSEPD) has found discrepancies in disbursement of pensions in Kendrapara and Khurda After the government rolled back

the decision to use Aadhaar for pension disbursement, the department found that disbursement of pension in favour of non-Aadhaar beneficiaries was made in excess of the reported total number of non-Aadhaar beneficiaries in these two districts.

In a latest communication to the District Social Security Officers (DSSOs) of the two districts, the department has asked them to inquire into the matter. "You are therefore instructed to make an inquiry and weed out undeserving beneficiaries. Your inquiry report should reach the office within seven days of the receipt of the letter," the letter to DSSOs said.

Earlier this year, the SSEPD department had issued a notification that those pensioners who have not seeded their Aadhaar with their pension accounts or do not hold Aadhaar cards would not be allowed pensions. However, after uproar the department had to roll back its order and allowed pensions without Aadhaar to receive their pension.

It was anticipated that if non-



The pensions given by the SSEPD department includes pensions for disabled, sick, elderly transgender and others

Aadhaar pensioners are deprived of pensions it could lead to discontinuation of pensions to around 11 lakh pensioners. However, later the department saw most of the non-Aadhaar pensioners not turning up for pensions despite their eligibility to get pensions.

The department over last few months noticed that many non-Aadhaar pensioners have received pensions whose details were not present in the computer generated lists of pensions. The pensions given by the SSEPD department included pensions for disabled, sick, elderly transgender and others

### Job offers for 460 Berhampur **ITI students**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Dec 5: The government Industrial Training Institute (ITI) here has received job offers for its students despite Covid restrictions in places

The matter came to the fore after 460 students of the institute were selected by Suzuki Motors at a one-day offline campus recruitment drive on its premises, Saturday. The offline campus recruitment

was held for the first time in the ITI since imposition of restrictions in the state following

outbreak of Covid-19. The Gujarat-based Suzuki Motors handed over appointment letters to the students hired at a

monthly salary of ₹19,400. Professor KV Achari of Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Gobind Chandra Chakrapani, vice-chancellor of Berhampur University, Ranjan Kumar Swain of Parala Maharaja Engineering College. RM Kilani, deputy director, employment and Rajat Kumar Panigrahi, principal of Berhampur ITI attended the campus recruit-

ment programme.

## NGT retains ban on illegal sand mining in Balasore

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has declined to entertain the plea of a tainted sand miner in Balasore district who wanted to continue operations after serious allegations on environmental law violations were leveled against them.

The tribunal termed the charges as serious and batted for continuation of the ban on the illegal sand mining operations near Jaleswar in Balasore district. In its written order, the NGT said, "Considering the prima facie violations by the respondents, we are  $not\,inclined\,to\,allow\,this\,prayer.\,The$ most glaring of the illegality is to grant consent to operate for 20,000 cum against 5,000 cum as per the Environmental Clearance granted for the sand mining,

It also added, "There is also violation in respect of excavation of sand outside the demarcated area, mining close to the embankment of the river and portions of embankments of both sides of the river having been cut out for construction

The NGT said the order of halting of sand mining operations is subiect to final consideration of the affidavits and documents filed by the parties and the final hearing. The tribunal however allowed the State Pollution Control Board time to file an additional affidavit on the issue.

Earlier, the tribunal had sought constitution of a committee to inspect the site. The Joint Inspection Committee after their visit to the site had given an adverse report to the NGT admitting serious violations on green rules during the process



district had been affected by the rampant and illegal sand mining in the areas

he petitioners in the case had alleged that villagers of Panchughanta in the

of sand mining near Panchaguta vil- Jaleswar. "Having regard to the adverse finding of the Joint Inspection

operations is subject to final consideration of the affidavits and documents filed by the parties and the

The NGT said the order of halting of sand mining

he Joint Inspection Committee had given an adverse report to the NGT admitting serious violations on green rules during the process of sand mining near Panchughanta village along Subarnarekha river near Jaleswar

Committee contained in the report, we direct that there shall be no min-

ing of sand until further orders," the earlier order of the NGT said and halted its operations.

Citing the earlier order of the inspection panel, the NGT had said the report of the committee hinted at gross infractions by the miner.

The petitioners in the case had alleged that villagers of Panchughanta in the district had been affected by the rampant and illegal sand mining in the areas. It was alleged that against the prescribed rules excessive mining was done by the miners.

The aggrieved villagers in their complaint to the NGT had said that going against the mining norms, the miner had been using excavators and other heavy machines and also leading to more pollution due to regular movement of several truckloads of sands

#### lage along Subarnarekha river near OR CLASSIFIED OUR BOOKING STA ADV ENTS CONTACT

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookieman-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373

# 6 mega drinking water projects await nod

RWSS IS YET TO FIND SUITABLE SPOTS FOR INTAKE WELLS IN RIPARIAN AREAS OF JAJPUR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Dec 5: The state government has planned eight mega drinking water projects in Jajpur district to ensure safe drinking water to people, but approval has been given to only two projects while six are awaiting approval, a report said.

According to a report, these projects envisage lifting of water from Brahmani, Genguti, Baitarani and Kharasrota rivers.

A joint inspection report on lifting river water for drinking purpose has been submitted by RWSS to its chief engineer November 11, 2020.

The water resources department has given its stamp of approval to two projects only while six other projects are pending approval.

One of the two projects which has got approval is aimed at providing water to 43 villages under Barchana block and 45 villages under Dharmashala block. This project entails lifting 9.32 cusecs of water from Genguti.

The other project is going to be set up in Dasharathpur block to **TARDY PACE** 

A report said, The water resources department has these projects lifting of water from Brahmani, Genguti. Baitarani and

given its stamp of approval to two projects only while six other projects are pending approval

Aother project is going to be set up in Dasharathpur block to provide 7.75 cusecs of safe drinking water to 33 villages

provide 7.75 cusecs of safe drinking water to 33 villages.

The water resources divisions of Jajpur and the RWSS have jointly identified spots for intake wells to lift water from riverbeds June 12, 2020.

Meanwhile, two drinking water projects meant for Barchana, Dasrathpur and Dharmahala have been brought under RIDF scheme from Basudha scheme.

The other drinking water projects had been proposed three years ago for Danagadi, Rasulpur, Binjharpur, Sukinda and Jajpur blocks.

Two mega drinking water projects are going to be set up in Sukinda block. Fund to the tune of ₹79.104 crore has been sanctioned under the Odisha Mineral Bearing Area Development Corporation (OM-

The RWSS has submitted its report in which it was stated that spots for three intake wells at Chuali near Brahmani river have not been decided. Their approval is pending.

Besides, the spots for the intake wells at Badabant, Bankipal and Sribantpur for the drinking water project near the Kharashrota river have not been identified. It was stated that their approval is being

The chief engineer of the RWSS has directed the executive engineer of the Jajpur RWSS division to take necessary steps in this regard within a week.



A woman bargaining with a roadside vendor for purchase of crockery and other items in Angul town

7 injured in Jajpur

Jajpur, Dec 5: As many as seven

persons sustained injuries in a

group clash over road construction

work in Balungabandi village

under Jajpur Road police limits

here Saturday. Out of the seven per-

sons, three were critically injured

and they have been sent to SCB

Medical College and Hospital for

The other four are undergo-

ing treatment at District

Headquarters Hospital, Jajpur.

According to sources, a road was

Balungabandi village under the

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak

the materials used by the con-

Some villagers alleged that

constructed in

group clash

POST NEWS NETWORK

treatment.

being

Yojana.

### Bhadrak man held for duping job aspirants in Delhi

Bhadrak: Delhi Police Saturday arrested a man from his in-law's house at Naraharipur village under Dhusuri police limits in Bhadrak district for duping people by promising them jobs at Delhi airport. He had duped the victims of over ₹1 crore, police said. The arrested man has been identified as Rajendra Mallick, a resident of Bari in Jajpur district. According to sources, Mallick owned a travel agency. He used to make train and flight tickets using fake IDs. He was also in the illegal business of duping job aspirants. On the pretext of getting them jobs at Delhi Airport, he used to collect money from gullible youths. He has duped youths of over ₹1 crore. However, one among them lodged a complaint against Mallick with Delhi Police. On the basis of the complaint, Delhi Police launched an investigation. Tracing him to Bhadrak, a team of Delhi Police reached there and arrested him. A

#### 3 poachers held for electrocuting tusker

detailed investigation is

underway.

Sambalpur: In a major crackdown here, the Sambalpur forest division arrested three poachers Friday evening in connection with the alleged killing of a tusker by electrocution in the district. According to forest department sources, the three arrested were identified as Dilip Bhoi, Baikuntha Lal Mirdha and Nandlal Bhoi. The poachers are natives of Jaduloisingh village under Dhama police limits in Sambalpur district. The wrongdoers had laid a trap of high tension live wire inside the dense forest. They had intended to hunt wild boar and other wild animals under this forest division. However, an elephant fell into the trap and got electrocuted. The heinous crime was committed November 30. The three arrested were forwarded to local court and were later remanded to judicial custody following rejection of their bail plea. Assistant Conservator Forest (ACF) ML Sharma has been designated as the inquiry officer. The officials have registered a case and launched a detailed probe, Sambalpur divisional forest officer (DFO) said.

## Dead child exhumed 4 days after death in Jharsuguda

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jharsuguda, Dec 5: That superstitions still prevails in today's modern society was once again confirmed when a woman exhumed the body of her four-month-old son who was buried four days ago.

She did so believing a black magic practitioner from Bihar and following his instructions over her mobile phone. Such a bizarre and heart rend-

ing incident was reported from Chandmari area in Jharsuguda

A couple staying at Chandmari area had their son fall sick five days ago. They got him admitted to the district headquarters hospital. While undergoing treatment the child died December 1, following which the family members buried the body at a cremation

Four days later, a sorcerer from Bihar told them that their son was alive. This telephonic message was enough to make the couple run madly towards the cremation ground. There the body was not

A sorcerer from Bihar told a couple that their son was alive. The telephonic message was enough to make the couple run madly to the cremation ground

only exhumed but also the woman tried to breastfeed her dead son. As the news spread, people gathered at the spot.

On being informed, police and members of Child Line reached the spot and sent the body to the DHH for confirmation.

that the child had been dead for Yet, the woman was not in a po-

sitting at the DHH, carrying the motionless body in her lap. It took four hours for the offi-

sition to believe the doctors and

There the doctors confirmed

cials to make the woman realise that her son was dead and would never

## Fall in cotton farming in Ganjam

Ginning mill to function at Digapahandi RMC from Jan 26

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, Dec 5: Cotton farming in Ganjam district has been declining due to lack of government support, marketing and absence of a processing unit in the district, a report said here Saturday.

Farmers cultivating cotton make good earnings from it. Cotton has a high demand in the market due to a boom in handloom and textile in-

It is said that the government should create scope and facilities for farmers to carry on with cotton farming in the district.

According to reports, scores of farmers had cultivated cotton in 858 hectares in Sanakhemundi, Digapahandi, Chikiti, Patrapur, Shergad, Sorada, Dharakote, Jagannathprasad and Bhanjanagar areas in 2019-20.

In the current year, the target was to raise cotton farming to 1,000 hectares. Sadly, cotton farming has drastically declined as it has come down to 557 hectares. It is expected that 8,466 quintals of cotton will be produced, which is much less



has come down to 557 ha in nine major areas of Ganjam district

In the current year,

raise cotton farming

the target was to

to 1,000 ha, but it

to get much return from cotton every year, resulting in lower cotton acreage. The district level cotton promotion committee headed by Collector

It was alleged that farmers fail

Vijay Amruta Kulanga expressed concern over the fall in cotton farming. He held a meeting in this regard Friday and underscored the need for procuring cotton at right price from farmers

He also laid stress on taking measures to promote cotton farming among farmers. The Collector wanted registration of cotton farmers, steps to encourage farmers for

duce at right price. Significantly, a ginning and processing mill is being set up on the premises of Digapahandi regional marketing regulatory committee.

It was learnt that the ginning mill will be made functional January 26, 2021. It was decided that cotton will be processed and seeds separated. Bales of cotton fibre will be sent to textile companies. In the current year, cotton will be

procured for ₹5,515 per quintal. He directed the official to set up a similar mill on Hinjilicut RMC premises. He directed the officials to start cotton procurement from

# to be turned into museum

The two groups have lodged complaints at the Danagadi police outpost. Police have started an investigation into the incident.

## Efforts on to save wildlife from Boudh: Old collectorate electrocution in Dhenkanal dist

Dhenkanal, Dec 5: Incidents of elephants and other wild animals dying due to electrocution in Dhenkanal district are a huge cause of concern for the forest department. Officials of the department, however, have blamed it on the power department. Referring to the electrocution of an

elephant and two wild boars at Benipathar village under Hindol range some days ago, divisional forest officer (DFO) Prakash Chand Gogineni said they had the information about the presence of a herd in the locality a day before the incident. They had also passed the information

to the junior engineer of the power department asking him to snap supply to the area where the pachyderms were moving around.

"The junior engineer did not pay heed to our request. Had he followed the

#### Farmer trampled to death, **angry locals block road**

**Dhenkanal:** Tension prevailed in Barapada area in the district here Saturday morning following the death of an elderly farmer who was allegedly trampled by elephant Friday night. The deceased has been identified as Rabinarayan Biswal. According to reports, enraged villagers blocked the Dhenkanal-Bhuban stretch of the road near Barapada demanding compensation and alleging callous attitude of the forest department in curbing elephant menace. The reports said Biswal encountered the jumbo menace near his native village Mugupada under Sadangi Forest Range limits Friday night when he was returning

instruction, the elephant and the wild boars could have been saved," Gogineni informed. Gogineni also said that they had a meeting with the officials of Tata Power at the divisional forest office Thursday. They discussed in detail the method to be implemented to save wild animals from electrocution.

"From now on, if the engineers of the power department do not heed to our requests we will inform the central control room in Bhubaneswar. Then they

will ask the engineers to follow the orders," said Gogineni.

There will be a review meeting every week between the DFO and executive engineer of the power department regarding the power trip feeder so that steps can be taken accordingly, said Gogineni. "If there is coordination between departments concerned, then there will be a substantial decrease in the electrocution of wild animals,"

#### The old collectorate building which was built in 1921 is going to complete 100 years in January

tion Friday.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Boudh, Dec 5: The old col-

lectorate building in Boudh

is to get a facelift and will

be turned into a museum,

the process of which has

already begun. This was in-

formed by the administra-

The museum will showcase ancient artifacts, heritages, art and culture of Boudh through different objects of historical importance. Visitors and tourists will also gain knowledge on the glorious past of the district.

Boudh administration has appealed to local denizens to contribute obiects of olden times if they possess any.

The district occupies a special place in the history of ancient Odisha as a Gadjat area. The old collectorate building which was built in 1921 is going to complete 100 years in January.

The district has Gandharadi-Charisambhu temple built by the erstwhile Bhanja rulers which dates back to the seventh century AD. It also has the famous Rameswar temple built by rulers of the Som dynasty during ninth century AD.

Boudh got its independent status as a district in January 1, 1994.

tractor for the road construction were substandard. But some villagers of the same village had supported the contractor as well. Saturday morning some villagers protested awarding the tender of the road construction to another contractor. This led to a dispute between the protesters and the villagers in favour of the contractor.

Later, the situation escalated\_ with arguments and clashes between the two groups.

Name of the Work: OPERATION OF ISOLATORS ON ALL LOADING SPURS OF SOUTH BALANDA (SB) SIDING AND DEULABEDA (DB) SIDING OF MAHANAD COALFIELDS (MCL) AT TALCHER (TLHR STATION FOR TWO YEARS THROUGH OUTSIDE AGENCY.

Approximate Value : ₹ 36,22,997.30, EMD ₹72,500/-, <u>Cost of tender document:</u> ₹3,540/-. of 23.12.2020.

Manual offers are not allowed against this shall be ignored

Complete details & tender documents will be available at website www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD) PR-392/L/20-21

#### LOST

, Ambuja Charan Sahu, Age- 45 years, S/o. Satyabadi Sahu of Lanjipalli Chanakya Nagar, Berhampur, P.S.: Baidyanathpur, on Date: 18.10.2020 at 8.30 P.M. while I came from Lanjipalli to Kamapalli somewhere on the road I had lost C.B.S.E 10th Board Marks Statement cum Certificate which stands in the name of my son Sambitosh Sahu. If anyone recieved above document kindly contact in following

Mobile No.: 9777924204, 9437262227 DETAILS OF THE MARKS STATEMENT CUM CERTIFICATE

Name of the School

Army Public School K.Kamaraj Road, Bangalore

Year of passed 2019

4066263 C.B.S.E

#### Uttam Mallick is an inspiration for many POST NEWS NETWORK Uttam started a furniture shop with Bhuban, Dec 5: Physically-

challenged Uttam Mallick of Bhuban block in Dhenkanal district does not let his misery affect him. In fact, he has become an inspiration for many for beating the odds stacked against him.

Uttam is a resident of Chandipal village. He got affected by polio when he was just one year old leading to crippling of his left leg. The movement of his right leg was also hampered. So he became fully dependent on crutches.

"I was good in studies. When I was a student of Class IX at Navodaya Vidyalay in Sarang, I had a chance to go to a reputed school in Bihar, However, I couldn't as the responsibility of the entire family was on



me after my father's death. So it was my duty to look after my mother and four sisters," stated

It was desperate times for Uttam. However, Chintamani Behera, a carpenter, came to his aid. He offered a job to Uttam. "I was good at painting.

It helped me learn carpentry and various designs. Fifteen days after joining I started using the chisel and hammer

myself," Uttam said. The days of hardship seem like a bad dream now. Uttam today owns a furniture shop. "I invested ₹10,000 to start the

only ₹10,000. Now, his shop has furniture worth lakhs of rupees. His products are being sold at Dhenkanal, Jajpur, **Kendrapara and Angul** 

shop. Today my shop has furniture worth lakhs of rupees. My products are being sold at Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Kendrapara and Angul," Uttam said.

"I have employed seven persons also. They see to it that deliveries are made on time. Today I make a profit of approximately `30,000 a month after all expenses," added Uttam. In the past Uttam spent sleepless nights thinking about the future of himself and his sisters. He has managed to get all his four sisters married off.

He also has got married and

has a son and a daughter. With his mother, they are a happy family. Uttam had applied for a loan of ₹25 lakh under PMEGP

scheme with the aim of open-

ing a big furniture showroom. He was selected and underwent the required training. However, after that the bank rejected his application. "If banks provide some financial assistance, there are many physically-challenged persons who can benefit. Like me, they also deserve respect and not pity,"

Uttam asserted.

#### NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement Tel. No.06752222092, e-mail id-eerwpuri@gmail.com

No:- 7869 (Online- 08) /Date. 27.11.2020 No.O-645:- The Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Puri on behalf of Government of Odisha invites percentage rate tenders through e-procurement for 4 Nos. of work for the year 2020-21 in the district of Puri. 1.Total No. of works: 4 Nos. 2 .Tender cost of packages: Amount varies from Rs.59.78 lakhs to 88.55 lakhs. 3. Class of contractor: As per DTCN, 4.Period of completion: 2 (Two) calendar months. 5. Period of availability of tenders on-line/ Date & time of bidding on-line/ last date of seeking clarification/ Date or

Procurement Officer	Bid idendification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding		Last date & time of seeking tender	Date, time & venue of opening of tender	
		From	То	clarification	Technical bid	Financial bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Puri.	Online- 08	08.12.2020 at 11.00 A.M.	22.12.2020 upto 3.00 P.M	21.12.2020 upto 1.00 P.M	11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated to qualified bidders through the website later.

6. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents, which is available in website "https://

Sd./- Executive Engineer, R.W. Division, Puri OIPR-25065/11/0008/2021



The Divine Truth is greater than any religion or creed or scripture or idea or philosophy.

**ISSaPOST** 

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 6 | 2020 | BHUBANESWAR

**SRI AUROBINDO** 



Aakar Patel

ignore the

numbers of

Indians till it

a national crisis

becomes

Once again, this

government has

shown that it will

concerns of large

## SAME OLD STORY

nce again this government has shown that it will ignore the concerns of large numbers of Indians till it becomes a national crisis. Exactly a year ago, after a series of threats from the home minister to India's minorities, India passed legislation that Amit Shah said would be the first step of his chronology on citizenship. We know what happened after that: protests by those the laws were victimising, no support for them from India's internal democratic structure, international condemnation of India's actions. and then violence instigated and encouraged by the ruling party.

Earlier this year, the government passed, by ordinance during a pandemic, a set of laws that would change the way that agriculture would be done especially in the north-west. Nobody had asked for these laws, no farmers' groups had been consulted and there was no explanation for why these had been passed through ordinance. Of course this government follows the adage of 'never apologise, never explain'. It has never apologised and it has

For the media, which is urban and middle class, the farm bills made no sense. Google will throw up dozens of reports, often from the same publication, the headline 'farm bills explained'. Few of us have seen a mandi, know what APMC stands for or does and what the issue of MSP means to the average Punjabi. For this reason, the issue was off the headlines soon. Predictably the farmers began a protest that was a mass movement but appeared small because it was ignored by the national media and localised in a couple of states. The government in Delhi also ignored it and in fact escalated its confronta-

tion by disallowing railways from operating trains to Puniab even after the protesters said they would not disrupt traffic. No railway prop erty was damaged in the peaceful protest, but for two months no train went through even after the protesters left the railway tracks.

It was clear that the government was not going to back off its legislation unless it was forced to. At this point, the farmers began their march to besiege the capital. The BJP made a few attempts to hold them back in Haryana, a state it controls, but was unable to because of the resolve of the farmers. We are now seeing the consequences of arrogance and hardheadedness. The government has no option but to negotiate with the farmers. It is about to rewrite the laws that it should have written up after consulting them in the first place. The prime minister will say that he means well and wants to double farmers' incomes, but will not concede that he needs to consult them before coming up with his genius idea that will help them do this.

Notice the similarities between the farmers' movement and the protest against the citizenship amendment laws. First, the laws were passed without anyone having asked for them. Second, the minorities they affected went on protest immediately because they sensed the danger to them that the rest of the population did not and went on protest. Third, the rest of us did not care about the laws and had little or no

empathy for those affected. It was the Muslims in the lead in the protest against being sent to concentration camps, and it was Sikhs in the lead on the issue of the farm bills. Fourth, the government recklessly and deliberately demonised the protesters, calling them terrorists and separatists and Khalistanis.

Fifth, the rest of the world was alarmed by what the government was doing and intervened. India does not like to be lectured by other nations but if you do something dumb then you have to face the consequences. The European Union's members of parliament wrote up a very strong motion against India's citizenship laws, and India was able to only delay the tabling of the motion with difficulty. Canada, which has a large and influential Sikh population, told India that it was concerned. India objected to this interference but could do little because we have no leverage. If thousands of Canadians were migrating to India monthly instead of the other way around we might have had some say.

The sixth thing that will likely be common to both these issues is that they will end in the same way. Modi made Amit Shah eat his brave words on his chronology and said that the issue of NRC had not been discussed. That lay the matter to rest. On the issue of the farm bills, something similar will come. The government has used all the tricks it has on the farmers. But they are still standing there blockading Delhi, prepared to be there for months. Their demands will be met of course and this government will move on to the next great idea, without an apology or an explanation.

#### WISDOM CORNER

The ignorant mind, with its infinite afflictions, passions, and evils, is oted in the three poisons. Greed, anger, and delusion.

To know what you know and what you do not know, that is true

Travel in all the four quarters of the earth, yet you will find nothing

#### WORDS**WORTH**

#### Volitation

Volitation – meaning flying or flight – is now a rare word, though it does turn up occasionally in elevated prose, as in James Gould Cozzons' By Love Possessed (1957): "Flight from physical self ... was futile. Volitations of that kind were, for the expedition's rank and file at least, neither afforded nor countenanced." To find its origin we have to go back to the Latin volare, "to fly". This word is also the source of our volatile, originally a winged creature, such as a butterfly or bird, and only later taking on the figurative senses of something that evaporates quickly, or changeable, fickle. Also from the same source is volley, which is, etymologically speaking, a flight of something, such as missiles, and volant, mainly used these days as a specialist zoological term for "able to fly".

#### Voluntourism

he term combines volunteering with tourism, far from a new concept, but one its proponents claim is rapidly becoming the next big thing in travel. It began to appear in the press early in 2005, joining responsible tourism, ecotourism and similar terms that also imply giving something back to the communities one visits. It might be something as easy-going as giving time to local libraries and schools, as straightforward as taking a day out to clear paths in a national park, or as hard work as constructing new homes or digging latrines.



#### Must help the wife

Smith goes to see his supervisor in the front office. "Boss," he says, "we're doing some heavy housecleaning at home tomorrow, and my wife needs me to help with the attic



"We're short-handed, Smith" the boss replies. "I can't give you the day off." "Thanks, boss," says Smith "I knew I could count on you!"

#### FOCUS BIODIVERSITY

## LIMITS OF NATURAL CAPITAL

stand investing in assets that deliver outsize returns. But when it comes to biodiversity and the broader category of natural capital, most investors still behave as if these assets were unlimited, even as they are being depleted or destroyed. They continue to assume that the services these assets provide are free, even as the COVID-19 pandemic shows the almost limitless cost of ignoring human encroachment on the natural world. Human-induced decline in the

natural environment is a fact, and it is happening fast. The World Wildlife Fund's recent Living Planet report showed an average decrease of 68 per cent in wildlife population sizes between 1970 and 2016. Inevitably, where populations crash, extinction follows. According Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, around one million species – or about a quarter of all assessed animal and plant groups - are threatened with

extinction within decades, unless

action is taken to mitigate the

drivers of biodiversity loss. Aware of such wildlife popula tion declines and projections of extinction, politicians often call for action but stop short of implementing the necessary measures. And vet, as is clear from the response to climate change, if citizens engage and apply pressure on their leaders, inaction becomes too politically costly. European policymakers decided to embrace bold action on climate change – through measures ranging from binding renewable-energy targets to carbon pricing - because they knew that it was their responsibility to avoid the massive disruption that awaited a world which

Fortunately, the future of biodiversity will soon benefit from similar decisions - and the opportunities they imply. Politics and science are now rapidly converging on loss of biodiversity

had heated up by several degrees.



Biodiversity can be made more important in financial decisions only by adopting systemic changes that recognise the interconnectedness of our society, economy, and planet. Only such changes can reduce pressure on biodiversity and reveal the financial opportunities to be gained from preserving our natural resources

and natural capital broadly. Both the existence and the causes of the problem are now recognised in politics. Given dramatically weakened budgets, however, governments will not be able to pay for the next stage, in which the issue is actually addressed.

Regulators are prodding financial institutions toward the reporting and disclosure standards that will make green investments more transparent and attract much-needed private capital. Markets see and are responding to this change: total assets under management in funds emphasising environmental, social, and governance factors rose to \$1.1 trillion in the second quarter of this year.

Civil society is also making its voice heard and calling for faster change. Last month. Portfolio Earth released its Bankrolling Extinction report, in which it calculated the exposure of 50 of the world's biggest banks to particular 'biodiversity impact' sectors, including agriculture, forestry, mining, fisheries, infrastructure, and transport. The exposure of the top three banks - Bank of America, Citigroup, and JPMorgan alone exceeded \$550 billion in

2019, and loans and underwriting

in these sectors by all 50 surpassed \$2.6 trillion.

Very few of the banks assessed had introduced reporting systems to measure the impact of their loans and underwriting on biodiversity, a first step towards reducing adverse effects. And, aside from a few leading European banks, very few blocked the financing of companies causing the most harm.

The Bankrolling Extinction report highlights the financial system's weaknesses, and suggests that banks' balance sheets are at risk. That risk reflects both biodiversity damage, which threatens to reduce output (for example, food output, owing to shrinking fisheries) and the prospect of new regulations, which could devalue commercial investments such as forestry and mining concessions. As the report shows, financial institutions' reputations are also at risk.

At Finance for Biodiversity, we believe that radical systemic change is needed to reform rules. rights, and norms. Last month, we made several recommendations that we hope can guide leaders in the field.

Financial institutions might implement many of these changes themselves, which could create an early-mover advantage, or do so

once regulators make them manda tory. These include measuring and disclosing their activities' impact on biodiversity and stress-testing expected risks. By making such risk data available, lenders can help companies, citizens, regulators, and governments join the dots between biodiversity loss and the real economy, thereby identifying risks and opportunities and heading off a biodiversity-related financial crisis.

We recommend that policymakers step up in three ways. First, they should assess the impact of their own actions on bio diversity, for example, through corporate bond purchases via socalled quantitative easing by central banks. Second, financial regulators should sharpen their prudential role in scrutinising do mestically domiciled institutions biodiversity exposure and impacts. And, third, policymakers can use the conditions and rules for licensing financial firms to change industry norms.

Governments should reform legal systems to remove financial companies' liability for biodiversity loss to their bankers and other creditors. Holding financial institutions legally responsible for damage caused by the use of their capital is hardly unprecedented. Authorities investigating crime and human-rights offenses routinely impose financial sanctions when local or international laws are unfit for purpose.

Biodiversity can be made more important in financial decisions only by adopting systemic changes that recognise the interconnectedness of our society, economy, and planet. Only such changes can reduce pressure on biodiversity and reveal the financial opportunities to be gained from preserving our natural resources.

The writer, Director and Co-Founder of Vivid Economics, is a Leadership Group member of the Finance for Biodiversity Initiative.



Robin Smale

**AS IS CLEAR** 

**RESPONSE TO** 

FROM THE

**CLIMATE** 

**CITIZENS** 

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COSTLY

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**ENGAGE AND** 

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**BECOMES TOO** 

**POLITICALLY** 

THEIR LEADERS,

## Business of sports in empty stadiums



Bhaskar Basu

IN TIME WE MAY **COME TO LOOK UPON THE PANDEMIC AS AN INFLECTION POINT** IN THE HISTORY OF **WORLD SPORTS** 

just our lives, life patterns, and socio-economic culture but also on different sports leagues followed across the world - from EPL in football to IPL in cricket. The deafening silence during these league matches has been a testament to the 'new normal' and has undoubtedly transformed spectators' viewing experiences immensely.

For many brands, a physical space, such as a stadium exists as a core brand association. These physical spaces can also showcase a brand by positioning it in a specific way in order to create meaning and benefits for consumers. However, in view of the pandemic, sport facilities all over the world have been forced to close their gates to fans for the foreseeable future. limiting the ways in which a sport organisation can interact with its consumers to provide exceptional experiences, and foster a sense of community

The reality of things today is simple: the leagues need play in order to gain some revenue, primarily from their TV contract. In time, however, we may come to look upon the pandemic as an inflection point in the history of world sports. These are times to explore and experiment, to make

he unpredictable and unsports even more appealing. Virtual cities in India. precedented nature of the spectators using CGI, cut-outs, augcoronavirus pandemic has mented reality and pre-recorded needed a diversion from the negahad a significant impact on not applause are filling in for real fans tivity surrounding the pandemic in empty stadia that witness sporting action.

There are three primary income streams for sports leagues: broadcasting (sales of media rights), commercial (sponsorship and advertising partnerships) and match day revenue (ticketing and hospitality). If sporting events are cancelled, this will result in a huge decline in revenue and even loss of jobs. Similarly, event sponsors, on-ground sponsors, and onground vendors may choose to terminate their contracts or consider renegotiating them just like BCCI experienced with the exit of VIVO as the IPL title sponsor for 2020. Thankfully, BCCI managed to attract other bidders for this spectacle and Dream 11 bagged the rights for ₹222 crore. However, VIVO's exit meant a reduction of each team's revenue by ₹13-14 crore. Furthermore, the gate revenues in the range of ₹15-25 crore per season become redundant as the matches were played in empty stadiums. While the hospitality costs for participating franchisee teams were higher as they had to stay longer in hotels, the travel costs were significantly lower as the matches were based in and around Dubai, unlike multiple

Sports starved fans of India

with the Olympics a non-starter and very little top-notch sports events across the world in the last six months or more. So, the announcement of IPL 2020, albeit held outside India, was welcomed by all stakeholders. The cancellation of IPL would have cost the BCCI, the tournament's broadcasters, and the franchises at least ₹3,000 crore. More than 200 brands rode on brand IPL in its 13th season either as on-air advertisers with broadcaster Star India. BCCI Central Sponsorships IPL Team Sponsorships, or as advertisers on IPL Live Streaming

feed on Disney + Hotstar. In terms of viewership, IPL 13 has done well as compared to the previous year, clocking a growth of over 20 per cent. As per data provided by TAM on IPL 13 for the first 52 matches, the count of advertisers and brands grew by 12 per cent and 2 per cent respectively when compared to the previous season. Star Sports' inventory was sold at 20 per cent higher rates than last year, standing at ₹12-12.5 lakh for every 10 seconds. The 13th edition of the IPL was estimated to have crossed revenues of ₹2,600 crore for the official broadcaster Disney-Star India. According to industry estimates, the broadcaster has clocked around

₹2.300 to ₹2.400 crore of advertising revenue from TV and ₹250 crore from Hotstar.

Thankfully, IPL cessful in whetting the appetite of cricket starved fans worldwide as well as enabling players to be back on the field showcasing their skills which could have gradually rusted in absence of competitive sports. It enabled franchisees and BCCI to garner revenues even without paying spectators and on-ground vendors. In short, it was a win-win for stakeholders and the experience should augur well for the T20 World Cup to be held in late 2021 in India.

It is safe to assume that the sports we have all grown to love and recognise has undoubtedly changed, maybe forever, as is the case with cricket. Sports franchisees, sports federations, players, coaching/support staff and the government have to brainstorm and plan sports events meticulously to achieve success like IPL while ensuring safety and security of sportsmen. Going forward, we hope to see the return of spectators into stadiums. albeit in a phased manner, learning from our experiences in mitigating risks associated with the prevailing pandemic.

> The writer is a professor at Xavier Institute of Management Bhubaneswar. Views are personal.

TO THE EDITOR Readers of Orissa POST

etters

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

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

#### Rising crimes against women

Sir, Women are not secure today in our society today. Notwithstanding a slew of women empowerment measures taken by the governments, today the pages of newspapers are full of reports on the harassment of women, rapes, kidnappings, and murders. From Puri to Pipili, from Nayagarh to Delhi, and from Itishree to Pari women are ill-treated in this society. In such a scenario all citizens, especially parents should remain alert. Moral education should be made the primary education in all families. The criminals need to be severely punished so that the punishments act as a deterrent

Chittaranjan Barik, JAGATSINGHPUR

#### Loss of TRS is gain of BJP

Sir, The Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) suffered a severe setback to its hegemony in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) polls. The TRS failed to get to the magic figure. The saffron surge has stunned the TRS with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) rising from four seats in 2016 to 48 seats in 2020. Loss of 44 seats to the TRS is the gain of the BJP. The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) and the Congress have neither gained nor sustained loss in terms of seats. Now the TRS has to choose either the 'communal BJP' or the 'communal MIM'. The BJP's proposal to rename Hyderabad as 'Bhagyanagar' has however not been received unkindly by the people of the city.

KV Seetharamaiah. HASSAN (KARNATAKA)

#### Farmers intensify stir

tentious farm sector reform laws took a turn for the worse, with farmers' unions intensifying their agitation by announcing a Bharat Bandh on Tuesday. The Samyukt Kisan Morcha rejected the Centre's proposal to amend the agriculture laws and reiterated their demand for a total repeal of the three Central laws. They also decided to burn the effigies of the Modi government and corporate houses on December 5. Political support for the protest snowballed with West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav throwing their weight behind the farmers.

Sir, The agitation against the three con-

NJ Ravi Chander. BANGALORE





## TWO STATES





RAJASTHAN CM ALLEGES THAT UNION HOME MINISTER AMIT SHAH MET REBEL MLAS AND TOLD THEM THAT HE HAD TOPPLED FIVE GOVERNMENTS AND WILL SOON TOPPLE THE SIXTH GOVERNMENT AS WELL

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, Dec 5: Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot Saturday surprised one and all by claiming that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is once again playing the game of trying to topple the state government and accused union home minister Amit Shah of meeting rebel MLAs during the political crisis in the state earlier this year.

Gehlot alleged that Union Home Minister Shah met rebel MLAs and told them that he had toppled five governments and will soon topple the sixth government as well.

Gehlot made these explosive claims while inaugurating a Congress office in Sirohi.

The Rajasthan CM further said that efforts were made to topple the Rajasthan government during the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic as well. "When our MLAs went to meet Amit Shah, he was accompanied by petroleum minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Rajya Sabha MP Syed Zafar Islam. This meeting continued for an hour," he added further.

"These MLAs told me that they

were embarrassed to see people like Shah are occupying the position of home minister once held by Sardar Patel.

"Overall, a scene was created that they were experienced in toppling governments of four states and they will topple the government in the fifth state too. Veteran leaders like Ajay Maken, Randeep Surjewala, KC Venugopal and Avinash Pandey came here and their decisions to suspend our own party MLAs helped save our government," he said. Gehlot also an-

nounced that Congress offices will be made in different districts and new offices will not be collected by funds coming from Delhi as was the case in

Meanwhile, leader of opposition Gulab Chand Kataria said that Congress leaders' parade to Delhi

started right from the time Congress government was formed. Deputy CM Sachin Pilot was ignored since the government was formed due to which this situation of political crisis emerged.

Taking names of veteran leaders such as Amit Shah and Dharmendra Pradhan without any proof is beyond the dignity of politics, said state BJP president Satish

"BJP is a party of workers and has taken the responsibility of building a office on its own. For 50 years the Congress

**MLAs told me that** 

**Sardar Patel** 

ASHOK GEHLOT I CM

party built their homes instead of building offices they were embarrassed and today they to see people like Shah are are question-ing us," he occupying the position of

home minister once held by added. It may be recalled that a political crisis was reported in Rajasthan in July

when rebel MLAs under former deputy CM Sachin Pilot went to Delhi demanding a change in leadership in the desert state.

## BJP trying to topple our govt: Gehlot Former sportspersons to return awards in support of farmers today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Dec 5: Several former sportspersons from Punjab including Padma Shri and Arjuna awardees left for Delhi Saturday to return their awards in support of the farmers' protest against the Centre's three agriculture reform laws.

They will join the farmers camping at the national capital's Singhu border before returning their awards to the president the next day.

Farmers from Punjab and Haryana have been camping at five Delhi gateways for the past nine days to press their demand for a repeal of the recently enacted farm laws. "We have left for Delhi today and will join the farmers' protest, said former wrestler Kartar Singh, who is a Padma Shri and Arjuna awardee. "Many former players like Sajjan Singh Cheema who could not join us because of health or other issues have given their sports awards to us," he said. The sportspersons said they have sought time from President Ram Nath Kovind to return the awards.

"If we are not allotted a time to meet the president, we will place our awards outside the Rashtrapati Bhavan Sunday," said former hockey

player Rajbir Kaur.

Other former sportspersons who are headed to the national capital are Dhyan Chand awardee hockey Olympian Gurmail Singh, Arjuna awardee Kabaddi player Hardeep Singh, and Arjuna awardee weightlifter Tara Singh.

Friday, former national boxing coach Gurbax Singh Sandhu, during whose tenure India won its maiden Olympic medal in the sport, Padma Shri boxer Kaur Singh and Arjuna awardee boxer Jaipal Singh had announced that they would return their awards.

Enacted in September, the three

farm laws are anticipated to bring "reforms" in the agriculture sector by removing middlemen and allowing farmers to sell their produce anywhere in the country.

Farmers worry these laws will eliminate the safety net of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and do away with mandis that ensure earning. But the government says the MSP system will continue and the new laws will give farmers more options to sell their crop.

The government is holding talks with farmers, who have called for a 'Bharat Bandh' December 8 and threatened to occupy toll plazas.

## RED ALERT SOUNDED IN RAJ **RESERVES & SANCTUARIES**

The order comes against the backdrop of a camera trap footage showing a Ranthambore tiger, T-108, with a wire snare around its neck

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Dec 5: The forest department of the Rajasthan government Saturday sounded a 'Red Alert' at all reserves, sanctuaries and parks in the state as incidents of hunting, poaching and animal traps have come to the fore

The order comes against the backdrop of a camera trap footage showing a Ranthambore tiger, T-108, with a wire snare around its neck.

Under the 'Red Alert', all forest officials have been directed to intensify search operations and seek



Picture used for representation

local police assistance to nab hunters and criminals. The department has cancelled leaves of all field officers, and directions have been issued for effective patrolling against illegal activities in protected areas.

The order said reports had earlier been received from Ranthambore Tiger Reserve about animals such as cows and buffaloes getting caught in traps laid by hunters. "Recently, five hunters were arrested in Mount Abu for hunting a sambar deer, looking to which red alert is announced till February 2021," it stated.

The sub-adult Ranthambore tiger T-108 was spotted twice on camera traps – 12.50 am Thursday and 6 am Saturday - with a wire around his neck which looks like a trap.

The department sought a permission to tranquillise the big cat from the NTCA Friday. The tiger was tranquillised at 11 am Saturday and released in the wild at 11.45 am after removing the wire, officials said



Rajasthan policemen ride on elephants during the 'No Mask, No Entry' campaign against Covid-19 at Badi Chaupar in Jaipur, Saturday.

### At 33 degree C, Churu has highest **Dec temperature**



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Jaipur, Dec 5:** At a time when North India is witnessing an early setting of a severe winter registering some of the coldest days in October and November in decades, Rajasthan's Churu and Barmer town saw a sudden surge in the mercury, surpassing maximum temperatures in last decade and more.

Friday, Churu registered a temperature of 33.6 degrees Celsius which was the highest in last 17 years in December. In 2003, the temperature registered on the same day was 33.5 degree, confirmed met officials

Barmer also registered a temperature of 34.4 degree Celsius which was again the highest in the last 12 years

The state is witnessing a sharp increase in temperature.

Many districts in the state have registered a maximum temperature of over 30 degrees Celsius on Friday. Ajmer (32.1), Jaipur had 30.9 degrees Celsius, Jaisalmer 33, Chittorgarh 32.6 and Bhilwara 32.4 degrees Celsius.

## THE SINGING FIELDS OF PUNJAB

#### **FARMERS' AGITATION GIVES BIRTH TO VIRAL TUNES OF PROTEST**

this is for farmers

for them

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh/New Delhi, Dec 5: The fields are alive with the sound of music, not wedding ditties or soulful melodies but songs of resistance born in the farmers' protest against the new farm laws and echoing all the way from Punjab to

As thousands of farmers, mostly from Punjab and Haryana, braved water cannons and teargas to camp at the national capital's borders to demand a rollback of the laws and their representatives held talks with the government, the songs flowed, speaking of pride of the land, strength in unity and the rights of the people fighting a mighty establishment.

Shared on YouTube, WhatsApp and other social media platforms, the protest music has found a wide audience. Several singers said it is also an assertion of their Punjabi identity that they say is deep rooted and comes before caste or creed.

"This is a big issue for us. We are all connected with the soil," said singer Kanwar Grewal, the voice behind the popular protest songs "Ailaan" and "Pecha" that support the farmers' agitation.

He is planning a third song "Jawani Zindabad" to highlight the participation of youth in the

"Pecha", which has been written by Harf Cheema and sung by both Cheema and Grewal, has got more than 30 lakh views on YouTube. While the song speaks of the rift between Punjab and Delhi, farmers' suicides, the Centre's "kaliya niti karde laagu (bad policies) and rouses people to wake up, the accompanying video has long shots of convovs of trucks and tractors blocking highways and men and

women, young and old, shouting slo-

gans and holding flags. The song is about common people fighting against the government for their rights. It is a democratic country. Everyone has the right to express

their views Farmers are protesting and we are using music a tool,' Cheema told PTI.

He said the protest has become a mass movement with not just farmers but traders and small shopkeepers from 18 states also join-

ing the protests. Cheema estimates that 70-80 protest songs have been composed and circulated in the last two to three months since the farmers have been protesting - before gathers from Punjab had been staging numerous protests, including 'rail

roko' agitations. "All this is for farmers who feed us day and night. This is all we can do for them," said

Cheema, who has also penned and voiced the who feed us day and songs night. This is all we can do "Sarkare" and "Punjab" spot-

HARF CHEEMA | WRITER lighting the current stir. Take away agriculture from Punjab and there is not much left, said Grewal, adding that 75 per cent of

the population is connected to

farming in one way or another. Noted Punjabi singer and actor Harbhajan Mann, who has been supporting farmers' protests for the last several months, also came

Famous singer Jasbir Jassi, best known for his hit "Dil Le Gayee", said it is good that Punjabi artists are supporting the farmers.

Punjabi musicians Sidhu Moosewala, Babbu Maan, Jass Bajwa, Himmat Sandu, R Nait and Anmol Gagan have also come up with their own songs hailing the fighting spirit of the Punjabis in songs such as "Jatta Takda Ho Ja", "Asi Vaddange", "Delhi Aa Punjab Nal Pange Thik Nahi" and "Kisaan vs Rajneeti". Bhartiya Kisan Union (Ekta Ugrahan) general secretary Sukhdev Singh Kokrikalan thanked Punjabi artists and singers for standing in solidarity with the protesting farmers against the

ʻblack laws" "It is a historical fact that artists are very important for the success of any struggle. We hail the singers for standing with the farmers,



## NIA files charge sheet in Khalistan narco-terror case

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Dec 5: The NIA has filed a supplementary charge sheet against Dharminder Singh aka Dhana for smuggling heroin from Pakistan and selling and using the drugs money to further activities of the banned Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF) in connection with a narco-terror probe case.

An NIA spokesperson Saturday said that the agency filed a supplementary charge sheet in the NIA Special Court in Punjab's Mohali under several sections of IPC and Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, against narco-terrorist Dhana, a resident of Moga.

The official said that Dhana used to receive heroin smuggled from Pakistan from accused Jajbir Singh Samra and further distribute or sell it to local traffickers.

"The proceeds so generated used to be deposited with Samra for further strengthening the activities of KLF," the official said.

The NIA filed first charge sheet May 29 against 10 accused per-

sons namely -- Samra, Harpreet Singh aka Happy, Varinder Singh Chahal, Nirmal Singh aka Neeldhari, Satpal Singh, Hiralal, Harjit Singh aka Bagga, Jasmeet Singh Hakimzada, Harmeet Singh aka Ph.D. and Jasbir Singh aka

The NIA case was registered in January after the Punjab Police registered a case over the seizure of 500gm of heroin and drugs money worth Rs 1.20 lakh from Samra and two others in December last

Role of Pakistan-based KLF chief Harmeet Singh aka Ph.D., who is believed to be dead and Hakimzada, a Dubai-based international drugs smuggler and money launderer, has prominently emerged in running a Narco-terror network to strengthen the ter-

rorist activities of KLF. The investigation has revealed that a network of persons consisting of narco-traffickers, militant elements and hawala operatives based in Punjab, Delhi and Dubai was operating at the behest of Harmeet Singh and Hakimzada.

# national



We have managed to put a stop to the BJP emerging as the largest party. The rest of the country can learn from the TRS. Hyderabad has shown the way to stop the BJP K KAVITHA TRS LEADER

#### **FACEBOOK'S OVERSIGHT BOARD** TAKES UP HATE CONTENT CASE

An independent board set up by Facebook to look into hate and other undesirable content on the platform has taken up a case from India





have already brought in the bills. We are also in against 'love jihad' and to impose a ban on cow

DR CN ASHWATH NARAYAN KARNATAKA DY CM

The Prime Minister has misled the country on how abolishing the APMC Act would harm the country. If you do not want the entire country's farmer community to suffer, then support them RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

The Centre's current proposal to privatise power distribution in Pondicherry is not acceptable. We will move the court to prevent the Centre from going ahead with its move

V NARAYANASAMY | PONDICHERRY CHIEF MINISTER

#### **SHORT TAKES**

#### IAS officer dies on election duty

Lucknow: An IAS officer on election duty for the Uttar **Pradesh Legislative Council** polls in Varanasi died after suffering a heart attack, an official said Saturday. District Magistrate of Varanasi Kaushal Raj Sharma said that Ajay Kumar Singh (50) was deployed as an observer. Singh suffered a heart attack at around 9.30 am Friday while on his way to the counting centre and was taken to a hospital where he died on Saturday, Sharma said.

#### **Farmer kills self** in Chhattisgarh

Kondagaon: A 45-year-old farmer allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself from a tree in a village in Chhattisgarh's Kondagaon district, officials said Saturday. Family members of the deceased Dhaniram Markam said he was worried over how he would sell paddy crops cultivated on his more than six acres of land after learning that the maximum portion of the farm acreage under paddy production was written off in the government record for the procurement. Officials said Markam was found hanging from a tree near his farm in Marangpuri village under Baderajpur development block December 2.

#### **Seven held for** abducting girl

Sitapur: Seven people were arrested under Uttar Pradesh's new anticonversion law for allegedly abducting a Hindu girl from her home in Sitapur district, police said Saturday. The main accused, whose brother and brother-in-law are among those arrested, is absconding, they said. The incident took place on November 24. According to the girl's mother, Jabrael has also been missing from the village ever since, the police said. A case was registered in this regard November 27. they said.

#### Four held for assaulting girl

Kolkata: Four persons were arrested Saturday for an alleged rape incident of a teenage girl in Kolkata's adjoining New Town area. police said. The incident took place late Friday night when the girl went to New Town Ram Mandir area with one of her friends. A group of four people, from the same and dragged her to a nearby shrub.

# **5th round of govt-farmer talks inconclusive**

THE NEXT MEET IS SCHEDULED DECEMBER 9 WITH FARMERS GIVING A 'BHARAT BANDH' CALL DECEMBER 8

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Dec 5: The fifth round of parleys between the government and farmer leaders remained inconclusive Saturday with both sides adamant on their stand over the three contentious farm laws. The next meet is scheduled December 9 with farmers giving a 'Bharat Bandh' call December 8.

Heated arguments and written placards in "Yes or No" were raised in the five-hour meeting that began at 2 p.m. at Vigyan Bhawan in Central Delhi. After multiple obstacles, the talks finally ended with no conclusion as the farmers stuck to their first and major demand to repeal the three farms laws enacted in September during the Monsoon Session of Parliament.

As the government could not put up a satisfactory solution to the demands of 40 farmer union leaders, who took part in the meeting, the delegation clearly communicated that the protest will continue if the government doesn't repeal the three laws which they said are "anti-farmer".

While the government was agreeable to amendments to The Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020; The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act,



government over the Centre's new farm laws at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi,

2020; and The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act. 2020, farmers were pushing for the scrapping of these laws

Farmer leaders communicated that they will hold "Bharat Bandh" December 8 as their demands haven't been met

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of State Som Prakash and Agriculture Secretary Sanjay Agarwal are also present in the meeting, like in the previous rounds of talks on December 1 and 3 which were also remained inconclusive.

The farmers had put out a fivepoint charter of demands that include framing of a specific law on MSP, no punishment for stubbleburning, repeal of the three farm laws, settlement of objections about proposed Electricity (Amendment) Act, 2020 and written assurance on MSP.

The farmer union representatives in earlier talks had rejected the government's argument that the three farm laws were in the interest of farmers, saying the laws will

No '*tareekh pe* 

New Delhi: Even as farmer

border to leave for Vigyan

tareekh', say farmers

leaders boarded buses on Singhu

Bhavan here to hold talks with

the Centre Saturday afternoon,

they asserted that it would be the

final round of parleys and warned of intensifying their agitation if no results were forthcoming. Ahead of the meeting, the farmer leaders clearly said that no further negotiations or 'amendments" to the farm laws would be acceptable and if the final round of dialogue remained inconclusive, their agitation would gain pace and grow even bigger. Boota Singh, national president, Kisan Ekta Manch, said: "We had earlier told them (government) that these laws should be taken back and the agitation will end there and then." "We won't be happy with any amendments and are very clear on our stand that the laws should be taken back," he added.

only benefit big business and corporate houses.

Thousands of protesters have blocked Delhi borders at five points connecting it to Punjab, Haryana and

## Will beat Hindus if they visit church on X'mas, threatens VHP

AGENCIES

Guwahati, Dec 5: Hindus who visit churches to take part in Christmas celebrations will be "beaten", a leader of right-wing group Bajrang Dal declared at an event at Silchar in Assam's Cachar district earlier this week.

In a video that has been widely circulated online, Mithu Nath, the general secretary of district unit of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (the Bajrang Dal's parent body), declared himself "outraged" by the alleged shut down of the Vivekananda Centre (part of the Ramakrishna Mission) in Christianmajority Meghalaya state capital Shillong, and said Hindus would "not be allowed" to attend Christmas Day programmes and festivities.

The Hindus (who visit churches) will be beaten because I revile those Hindus who would go and have fun at a Christian function after they shut down our places of worship. No Hindu will go to church this Christmas. We will make sure of it," Mithu Nath was quoted in the video.

"If we do so (assault Hindus) I know the headlines in newspapers the next day - 'Gunda Dal' has vandalised Oriental School... but that is not our priority. We will not allow Hindus in programmes during Christmas when they are locking gates of temples in Shillong," he

Addressing a crowd of around 70 people dressed in saffron and shouting "Jai Shri Ram" repeatedly Nath also said: "We accept this", referring to claims the media twists the right-wing outfit's name.

Nath's claim that the Khasi Student Union had shut down a "temple" has been denied by a top official of the Meghalaya government, who said it was the Cultural Centre (where students are taught advanced computer courses) whose gates had been closed - not locked because of a district holiday. No temple of the Ramakrishna Mission had been shut, the official added.

Although the Christian population in the northeastern state's Cachar district is relatively small, the holiday is traditionally also celebrated (with much grandeur and reverence) by the Oriental School at Ambikapatty near Silchar. People from various religions gather here

61.1% turnout in

3rd phase of J&K

Jammu Dec 5: State Election

Commissioner (SEC) KK Sharma

Saturday informed that 61.1 per

cent and 49.25 per cent voter

turnout was recorded in the third

phase of vacant Panch and

Sarpanch by-polls 2020 held in

for Panch vacant seats were held

in 327 constituencies in the

cluding 16600 males and 15244 fe-

males), out of 52118, exercised

third phase.

The SEC informed that by-poll

A total of 31844 electors (in-

Panch by-polls

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

## SII's Adar Poonawalla named among 6 'Asians Of The Year'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 5: Adar Poonawalla, the chief executive of the world's largest vaccine manufacturer Serum Institute of India (SII), is among six people named "Asians of the Year" by Singapore's leading daily, The Straits Times for their work in fighting the Covid-19 pandemic.

Pune-based SII has collaborated with the University of Oxford and the British-Swedish pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca for making the Covid-19 vaccine, 'Covidshield', and is conducting trials in India.

The other five named in the list are Chinese researcher Zhang Yongzhen, who led the team that mapped and published online the first complete genome of Sars-CoV-2, the virus that sparked the pandemic, China's Major-General Chen Wei, Japan's Dr Ryuichi Morishita and Singapore's Professor Ooi Eng Eong, who are among those at the forefront of developing vaccines



against the virus, and South Korean businessman Seo Jungjin whose company will enable the making and dispensing of the vaccines and other Covid-19 treatments to the world.

Collectively referred to as "the virus busters", they are heroes of a kind, having devoted themselves to the pressing cause of resolving the coronavirus pandemic. each in their own capacity, the daily said.

"Sars-CoV-2, the virus that has brought death and hardship to the world's largest and most populous continent, is meeting its tamer in The Virus Busters," the award citation said. "We salute your courage, care, commitment and creativity. In this peril-filled hour, you are a symbol of hope for Asia, indeed the world.

## Modi to lay foundation stone for new Parliament building

New Delhi, Dec 5: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone for a new Parliament building on December 10, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said Saturday.

The new building will have an area of 64,500 square metres and is being built at an estimated cost of Rs 971 crore, he said. "The existing temple of democ-

racy is completing 100 years... It is a matter of pride for our countrymen that the new one will be built by our own people as a prime example of Aatmanirbhar Bharat,' Birla said here announcing details of the new proposed building.

"The new building will showase the cultural diversity of the country. Hopefully, in the 75th year of Independence, Parliament session will be held in the new building," he said.

Birla said the new building will be earthquake resistant and 2000 people will be directly involved in the construction of the new building and 9,000 indirectly. He said as many as 1.224 MPs can sit together



A model of the proposed new Parliament building in New Delhi, Saturday

in the building, while a new office complex for all MPs of both the houses would be built at the site of the existing Shram Shakti Bhawan.

The existing Parliament building will be conserved as it is an archaeological asset of the country. Birla said. He said the invitation will be extended to all political parties. While some would attend physically and others would attend virtually, Birla said, while adding that the ceremony would follow Covidrelated guidelines.

A formal invitation to Modi was extended by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla Saturday. As per rules, the speaker of the lower house of parliament is also the custodian of the parliament building.

Sufficient steps have been taken to control air and noise pollution during the construction work for the new parliament building, which will have separate offices for all MPs and those will be equipped with the latest digital interfaces as a step towards creating 'paperless offices'.

The new building will also have a grand Constitution Hall to showcase India's democratic heritage, a lounge for members of Parliament. a library, multiple committee rooms and dining areas.

#### their right to franchise in the 3rd phase of Panch By-Elections which began at 7 am and ended at 2pm.

division recorded 79.47 per cent and Kashmir division recorded 59.63 per cent voter turnout during the 3rd phase of Panch by elections.

Regarding vacant Sarpanch constituencies, 49.25 per cent polling was registered during the 3rd phase in 66 constituencies in which a total of 39852 electors (including 21307 males and 18545 females), out of 80913, voted to choose their representatives.

Besides, 74.74 per cent polling was registered in Jammu division where as 42.57 per cent voting was recorded in Kashmir division. In Jammu division, Kishtwar district recorded the highest voter turnout of 89.55 per cent for Panch by-elections followed by Rajouri with 88.29 per cent and Ramban with 86.10 per cent.

Similarly, Kulgam district topped the voter turnout in Kashmir division with 77.11 per cent followed by Budgam with 74.21 per cent and Bandipora with

## TRS may need support to win GHMC Mayoral election

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Dec 5: The ruling TRS in Telangana has emerged as the single largest party in the GHMC polls, but it may need the support of others to retain the Mayor's post, notwithstanding its strength of ex-officio members.

who can participate in voting. The results of 149 wards out of the total 150 were declared (counting was stopped in one ward Friday

owing to a legal issue) and TRS is the single largest party after winning 55 seats. The Lok Sabha MPs and MLAs of the city area are exofficio members of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), official sources said.

Besides this, the MLCs and Rajya Sabha members, who have their vote in the city, have to give an option choosing the GHMC to be able to vote in the Mayoral poll, they said.

The sources put the number of ex-officio members as Saturday at 49 though clarity on the matter may emerge when notification for the Mayoral election is issued.

Out of the 49, the strength of TRS is 31. The party-wise number of ex-officio members is AIMIM-10, Congress-1 and BJP-3. the sources claimed

However, the ex-officio members should not have voted during the last six months in the same capacity (in a local body).

Some of the ex-officio members of GHMC had voted in suburban municipalities earlier and they are not eligible to vote

The Municipal Administration Department would send the details on the status of such ex-officio members to the GHMC, the sources said.

According to some analysts. TRS may fall short of about 10 members and it may need the sup-

This is an option for the TRS to win the Mayor's post. However, the TRS may not be too keen on ioining hands with the AIMIM, as the BJP, during the GHMC poll campaign had accused the ruling party of having an unholy alliance with the Asaduddin Owaisi-led

The AIMIM staying away from the Mayoral election would also help the cause of TRS.

## Will Rajinikanth's 'spiritual' politics mantra catapult him?

ACCORDING TO THE ACTOR, SPIRITUAL POLITICS IS HONESTY, TRANSPARENCY AND GRAFT FREE POLITICS TRANSCENDING THE BARRIERS OF CASTE AND RELIGION TO PROVIDE GOOD GOVERNANCE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Dec 5: If his political package of 'spiritual politics' plus 'change everything' clicks, Rajinikanth would be the third star from the celluloid world to taste political success in Tamil Nadu after AIADMK founder MG Ramachandran and his protégé J Jayalalithaa.

Whether or not his charisma and fan following would catapult him to political primacy could also be gauged, to an extent, from how he was going to explain his spiritual politics and the mantra of change to the people besides a host of other

Assembly elections are due in

Tamil Nadu during April-May 2021. According to the actor, spiritual politics is honesty, transparency and graft free politics transcending the barriers of caste and religion to provide good governance.

The 'change everything' slogan in addition to the 'now or never' is about a complete overhaul of the 'system' in governance and at the level of party structure as well to facilitate a real change for the benefit of the people.

The star, who had described himself in the past as a fanatic fan of late MGR, had invoked his legacy to assure a good administration for the benefit of poor and common man.



Before he founded the AIADMK in 1972, MGR was with the DMK and

had been also been active in politics. Virtually challenging Dravidian ideology, he had asked if honesty, belief in God and overcoming the bar-

riers of caste and religion was alien to the Dravidian land.

On the poll prospects for the actor, political analyst Sumanth Raman said it was too early to predict since there were many questions to be answered by the actor.

Raman wondered, "What is the meaning of change everything? What is his policy and programmes?" He said the actor should explain how he would usher in the change that he has promised.

Many things – like if his party would contest all the 234 seats, if it is so, who would be the candidates or whether there is a possibility of stitching an electoral alliance are not known, he said. Rajinikanth

would also need a large team of credible faces to be fielded as candidates, he pointed out.

To a question on the actor saying in March that he would prefer to name a vouth as Chief Minister and stay out of governance,Raman wondered if that view was still

"Rajinikanth will make an impact. But for the impact to be really huge; there should be answers for such questions. I can see that both AIADMK and DMK are rattled by

his political innings." he said. On spiritual politics, he said the DMK may try to give a spin to it, but he did not see 'negativity' about it.

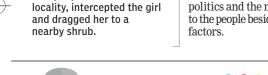
Dravidian ideologue VMS

Subagunarajan, however, did not He said the actor could not get a

political foothold in Tamil Nadu since neither spirituality nor nationalistic politics have ever been successful in the state.

Despite rooted in Periyar's ideology, the state has some space for film stars but only for those who have either acknowledged or endorsed the Dravidian ideology like actors Vijayakanth (founder of DMDK) and Kamal Haasan (chief of Makkal Needhi Maiam), he said.

"Rajinikanth's brand of spirituality is no doubt Hindu spirituality. His claim that he embraces all faiths is only hollow," he said.













# national



himself says he was in a consensual relationship (with one of his juniors, who accused him of rape) which was hampering his family life. Is this the conduct of the man with a sterling reputation?

#### **INDIAN JEWELLER'S 12,638-DIAMOND** RING SETS WORLD RECORD

An elaborate floral-shaped ring sporting 12,638 tiny diamonds called "The Marigold -The Ring of Prosperity" has earned a place in the Guinness World Records - but its Indian creator has no plans to sell his priceless design just yet





Minister held will decide the price, how can it be? In Bihar, they have given the assurance that vaccination will be free. We demand vaccine should be given to each Indian free of cost

NAWAB MALIK NCP LEADER

Followers of Nathuram Godse arrived in Patna and compassionate CM Nitish Kumar Kumar held the statue of Mahatma Gandhi inside Gandhi Maidan captive to please them so that followers of Gandhi ideology would not take oath to support

TEJASHWI YADAV RID LEADER

When Congress opposed the anti-farmers Bills, accused us of undermining the interest of farmers, and even suspended our members in Parliament when division was sought before clearance of the legislations

ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY CONGRESS LEADER

#### SHORT TAKES

#### **DGGI sleuths arrest** two for GST fraud

Nagpur: The Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) has arrested two proprietors of trading firms from Aurangabad in Maharashtra in connection with alleged fraudulent transactions of over ₹170.35 crore, as per an official release. Prima facie, input tax credit of ₹18.66 crore was availed on fake invoices and such invoices of ₹14.10 crore were issued.

#### 4 held for gangrape of minor girl

Kolkata: Four persons have been arrested for allegedly Kolkata's adjoining New Town area, a police officer said Saturday. The girl, along with a friend, was taking a stroll Friday night, when the four accused allegedly attacked the duo, took the girl to an isolated place by force, and raped her, he said. Her friend fled the scene, the officer said.

#### Pak Rangers open fire on forward posts

Jammu: Pakistani Rangers opened fire on forward posts and villages along the International Border in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district. officials said Saturday, Firing from across the border started around 9.50 pm Friday in the Hiranagar sector's Pansar Border Outpost area, drawing a strong and an effective retaliation by the Border Security Force (BSF).

#### **Minor dies after** falling into pit

Ballia (UP): A three-year-old boy died after he fell into a water-filled pit in Uttar Pradesh's Ballia district, police said Saturday. The incident took place at Bahadurpur village Friday evening, when Advai fell into the pit while playing outside his house. The child was taken to the district hospital where doctors declared him

#### Delhi's air quality 'severe'

brought dead, police said.

.....

New Delhi: Delhi's air quality turned "severe" Saturday with slow wind speed allowing the accumulation of "locally generated" pollutants, according to India Meteorological Department (IMD) officials.

# India biggest buyer of Covid-19 vaccine



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 5: India is the largest buyer of Covid-19 vaccines in the world with 1.6 billion doses, according to a global analysis, a number some scientists say could cover 800 million people, or 60 per cent of its population, and will be enough to develop 'herd immunity'.

India has purchased 500 million doses of the Oxford University-AstraZeneca vaccine candidate. one billion from the US company Novavax and 100 million doses of the Sputnik V candidate from Russia's Gamaleya Research Institute, according to the US-based Duke University Global Health Innovation

'Launch and Scale Speedometer' analysis, which is updated every two weeks, shows India has confirmed 1.6 billion doses of three vaccines as of November 30 while the US and the EU have purchased doses of six

According to the analysis, India is the top Covid-19 vaccine buyer followed by the European Union which has confirmed 1.58 billion doses and the US, the worst affected country so far, that has managed to purchase just over a billion doses.

wed by the European ion doses and the US has man aged to purchase just over a bil-

Since all the vaccine candidates that are being discussed as purchased have two-dose vaccine nens, the current number for regimens, the current number for India would vaccinate, at best, 80

As countries strategise to secure more shots to protect their populations against the novel coronavirus infection, Duke University has released a new global assessment of purchasing agreements for Covid-19 vaccines, even before any candidates are in the market.

'Countries with manufacturing capacity, such as India and Brazil, have been successful in negotiating large advance market commitments with leading vaccine candidates as part of the manufacturing agreements," the Duke researchers noted in their analysis.

"The data is based on what is in the public domain and after speaking to government officials, especially in India," explained noted

In November, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said 400-500 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines were estimated to be made available for 250 to 300 million (25 crore to 30 crore) people in India by July-August 2021.

Jameel told this news agency that all the vaccines 'pre-booked' by India are manufactured by Indian companies – Oxford-AstraZeneca and Novavax by Serum Institute of India (SII) in Pune and Sputnik V by Dr Reddy's Lab in Hyderabad.

India's domestic vaccine candidate by Bharat Biotech also entered Phase 3 clinical trials this week. "Bharat Biotech and Zydus-Cadila would also add about 400 million doses annually. In brief, the numbers appear reasonable over 2021 and 2022," said Jameel, director of the Trivedi School of

Biosciences, Ashoka University. 'We can expect the first 250 million to be vaccinated in 2021; the remaining in the following years. The problem will not be vaccine doses, but the ability to deliver them," Jameel explained.

He noted that 1.6 billion doses would cover 800 million people or 60 per cent of India's population. This, the virologist said, should be enough to develop herd immunity. a form of indirect protection from infectious disease that occurs when a sufficient percentage of a population has become immune to an in-

"Since all the vaccine candidates that are being discussed as purchased have two-dose vaccine regimens, the current number for India would vaccinate, at best, 80 crore (800 million) people. This, of course, does not account for logistical losses, which can be substantial," Rath, from the National Institute of Immunology (NII) in New Delhi, told this news agency.



A giraffe calf with her mother at Alipore Zoological Garden in Kolkata, Saturday

## Gurugram serial killer wanted to show what he could do

Gurugram, Dec 5: A 22-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly murdering three people on three con-Gurugram. The accused has been identified as Mohammad Raji, a resident of Bihar.

Police said the accused, Razi, during questioning admitted that he committed three murders November 23, 24 and 25. The accused revealed that he killed strangers as he enjoyed committing the crimes and he wanted to show world what he can do, police said. According to police, the accused



drinking alcohol and would then stab them to death.

On November 23, the accused had allegedly stabbed a man to death in Gurugram's Leisure Valley

The next day, November 24, the accused went on to commit another murder - stabbed a security guard to death in Gurugram's Sector 40. The accused, who allegedly committed the third murder November 25, had beheaded his third victim identified as 26-year-old Rakesh Kumar. The decapitated body of Rakesh Kumar was found in Gurugram's Sector 47. Police said his head was recovered only after Razi's arrest

During questioning, Razi said, "I did not understand anything since childhood. Everyone used to say that you are so weak and what would you be able to do. I just thought that I want to show the world what I can do.'

Police said the accused may have been involved in at least 10 murders in Delhi, Gurugram and Bihar and further probe is underway.

Woman hacked

to death for

### **CANADA COVID CONFERENCE**

## MEA to skip meet after diplomatic row

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Dec 5: External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar will skip Canada-led meetings to formulate strategies on the coronavirus pandemic amid the fresh row between the two nations over remarks made by Canadian PM Justin Trudeau on the ongoing farmers' protest in India.

New Delhi has informed Ottawa that Jaishankar will not attend the meeting that is to take place December 7 due to "scheduling issues".

The government sources said the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) told the Canadian government that Jaishankar is not available to attend the December 7 meeting organised by Canadian Foreign Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne because of "scheduling" issues.

Jaishankar had participated in



a virtual meet last month of the Ministerial Coordination Group of Covid-19 (MCGC), led by Canadian foreign minister Francois-Phillippe Champagne.

The minister has tweeted, "Pleased to participate in the Group of Foreign Ministers Meeting to exchange experiences on Covidrelated challenges. Thank FM @FP Champagne of Canada for convening the meeting.

## BJP leader Mukul Roy named conspirator in CID chargesheet

Kolkata, Dec 5: BJP senior leader Mukul Roy has been named 'conspirator' in the second supplementary chargesheet filed by West Bengal CID Saturday in the murder of Trinamool Congress MLA Satyajit Biswas, sources in the agency said.

### **TMC LEADER'S MURDER**

The second supplementary chargesheet was filed in a court at Ranaghat in Nadia district Saturday afternoon. The BJP leader has been found to have been "very actively involved primarily as a conspirator" in the killing of Biswas in February 2019, they said. When contacted, Roy rubbished the charges and said that he had "never believed in violence

There are at least 45 cases pending against me. I do not believe in the politics of violence and never indulge in such kinds of



things, I challenge Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who is also the police minister to say it in public that I have such kind of taste. I was never involved in such things when I was with her party and not now when I am a member of another political party. I have total faith in the judiciary of our country," Roy told this news agency.

BJP's national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya termed the CID's action against Roy as a "conspiracy of Chief Minister "Mamta Banerjee's conspir-

acy continues. The false murder chargesheet against Mukul Roy shows how she is trying to suppress the opposition by her conspiracy. When Mamata Banerjee herself is a guest for (a) few days she should think what is going to happen after this, Vijayvargiya said.

The BJP's Bengal minder was referring to the state polls due in April-May 2021. The saffron party is upbeat after the 2019 Lok Sabha polls when it bagged 18 of the 42 parliamentary seats in the state.

The state investigating agency had named BJP MP Jagannath Sarkar in the first supplementary chargesheet it had filed in September in connection with the killing of the TMC leader.

Biswas was shot dead during a Saraswati Puja programme in Nadia district in February 2019.

The state agency had filed its chargesheet in connection with the murder in May that year.

#### 'witchcraft' INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE Ranchi, Dec 5: A woman was

hacked to death in Jharkhand's Gumla district on suspicion of practicing witchcraft, police said Police said the crime occurred

at Koenara village in Sadar police station area late Friday night. The body was recovered by police Saturday and sent for post-mortem.

"On Friday afternoon, my mother Karmi Oraon had gone to wash clothes at the Manager dam situated at some distance from the village. She did not return home till late night. When we went to search for her, we found her blood-stained body," her son Veer Oraon told police.

He said that on November 26, one Chaitu Oraon had died of some disease but his father Chunda and other family members accused Veer's mother of witchcraft.

'Chunda and his sons Sawan and Feku killed my mother. They were seen near the dam before her death," Veer claimed

## After 58 years, Cong snatches BJP's crown on RSS turf

DISPROVING ALL POLITICAL PREDICTIONS, CONGRESS LEADER ABHIJIT WANJARRI BAGGED THE PRESTIGIOUS NAGPUR DIVISION GRADUATES' CONSTITUENCY

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Dec 5: For the Congress, ally of the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi, it was double celebrations as the Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray-led government completed its one year in office one

Disproving all political predictions, after a gap of 58 years, the Congress' youth leader Abhijit Wanjarri, 47, bagged the prestigious Nagpur Division Graduates Constituency seat in the biennial elections, the results of which were declared Friday.

The MVA partners - Shiv Sena-Nationalist Congress Party-Congress - spared no efforts in the polls and succeeded in defeating the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Partv nominee and Nagpur Mayor Sandeep Joshi.

In the biennial polls held December 1 for 6 seats, the MVA bagged 4, the BJP one and an Independent one in the hotly contested elections.

However, the Nagpur Division victory outshines all others as the Congress grabbed the BJP's crown - bang on the home-turf of its ideological mentor, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) - after 58 long years!

An exhilarated Wanjarri gratefully acknowledged the efforts by the MVA partners, the support of the people and his own hard work that helped in completing the 'mission impossible'.



The seat was previously held by the former Jan Sangh and later the BJP with stalwarts like a close aide of the late Prime Minister Atal

Bihari Vajpayee, the late Gangadharrao Fadnavis - the father of Leader of Opposition Devendra Fadnavis - and four times (since 1989-2014) by current Union Minister Nitin Gadkari before he migrated to national politics.

There were several factors that spurred the tide against the BJP in the 2020 biennial polls - delayed by several months owing to the pandemic.

'The voters list was not updated for 42 years and did not have the pictures of the voters leading to possibility of mischief. I vigorously followed up with State Election Commission to make it up-to-date, with addition of around 70 per cent new graduates with their photos. Wanjarri said.

He also campaigned tough, vowing to raise the issues faced by graduates unlike in the past when they were largely ignored, and hence the graduate voters were disenchanted with the polls, leading to a poor turnout.

This time, the caste factor worked in favour of Wanjarri who hails from the OBC category, compared with the past MLCs who were mostly Brahmins or upper castes.

"Owing to its policies, the BJP had already received a drubbing from the OBCs in the 2019 Assembly elections and the sentiments continued even for the MLC polls," said a NCP leader from Nagpur, preferring anonymity.

RSS circles hinted that the debacle was mainly on account of

"BJP infighting among the pro-andanti Fadnavis factions" - with the alleged role of some prominent defeated former state and union ministers adding fuel to warm the Congress' fires.

Shiv Sena leader from Vidarbha Kishore Tiwari was more forthcoming saying, "it's time for the RSS to rein in the current feuding state BJP leaders, or even a heavyweight like Gadkari could bite the dust in 2024".

Thumbing the nose at BJP which lampoons the MVA as "an autorickshaw" the Sena invoked Thackeray's observation that it was a "four-wheeler 'Rath' with people's faith", and said the results clearly show where the public confidence lies.

# international



We will not transfer a corrupt **bureaucrat but will** sack him IMRAN KHAN PAKISTAN PM

#### **ON A MISSION**

A Japanese capsule is on its way to bring a precious sample from asteroid Ryugu which is expected to help in better understanding of the origin and evolution of the solar system



You (Border Guards Bangladesh) must love the country and its the better this country is economically, the better off your families will be

SHEIKH HASINA BANGLADESH PM

If we don't have anything really important to do let's not go out into



Many people



main baskets. One of course strategic: two, COVID related, as it is an immediate priority for both countries - pharma, healthcare, vaccine come under this basket: third, the ICT-digital-start up space which has the ability to transform our lives forever; where many of you are leaders: fourth, climate change, environment, and renewables especially solar; and last but not least, education

TARANJIT SINGH SANDHU INDIA'S AMBASSADOR TO THE US

#### SHORT TAKES

#### 25 Taliban militants killed

Kabul: At least 25 Taliban militants, including two commanders, were killed and eight others injured during a raid in Afghanistan's Helmand province, the Army said Saturday. "The Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) launched an operation in Naway-i-Barakzai of Helmand on Friday, leading to the above mentioned casualties,' Xinhua news agency quoted the Army's Corps 215 Maiwand as saying in a

#### 13 killed in flash floods

Bangkok: Thirteen people have been killed due to flash floods in Thailand's Nakhon Si Thammarat province, disaster management officials said Saturday. According to a report of the Department of **Disaster Prevention and** Mitigation (DDPM), the 13 villagers drowned due to flash floods and torrential waters, following heavy downpours in Nakhon Si Thammarat over the last few days, reports Xinhua news

#### **Afghan SC judge** assassinated

Kabul: A judge of the Afghan Supreme Court has been assassinated in the country's capital, a local media report said Saturday. Abdul Jamil was shot dead after Friday prayers outside a mosque in Rahman Mina neighborhood Police District 8, Xinhua news agency guoted the report as saving. No group has claimed responsibility for the killing, the latest in a string of targeted attacks in the country.

#### **Ghana heads to** polls next week

Accra (Ghana): Ghanaians head to the polls for general elections December 7 that many contend will be a close race between the current head of state and a former president who have faced off twice before in one of the continent's most politically stable countries. The vote is also seen as a test of democracy for the West African nation whose regional neighbours Guinea and Ivory Coast saw leaders hold onto power for third terms after constitutional

# TRUMP PLAN JUNKED Bahrain okays Pfizer

Washington, Dec 5: Reversing the decision of the outgoing Trump administration, a federal court has ordered full reinstatement of an Obama-era programme that protects undocumented immigrants brought to the US as minors from deportation, a ruling that will help a large number of Indian migrants.

The Trump administration tried ending the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) in 2017, but the US Supreme Court blocked its attempt in June. On Friday, US District Judge Nicholas Garaufis in the Eastern District of New York directed the Department of Homeland Security to extend the two-year renewals to DACA recipients and start accepting applications from first-time applicants beginning Monday.

This means that the first time since September 2017, new applicants who were not previously eligible may now apply for the prowhich shields undocumented immigrants who came to the US as children from deportation. "The court believes that these additional remedies are reasonable. Indeed, the government has assured the court that a public notice along the lines described is forthcoming," Judge Garaufis said in his order.

The DACA is an immigration policy that allows some individuals with unlawful presence in the US after being brought to the country as children to receive a renewable two-year period of deferred action from deportation and



tried ending the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) in 2017, but the US Supreme Court blocked its attempt in June

On Friday, US District Judge Nicholas Garaufis in the Eastern District of New York directed the Department of Homeland Security to extend the two-year renewals to DACA recipients and start accepting applications from first-time applicants beginning Monday

become eligible for a work permit in the US. DACA recipients are often referred to as Dreamers. To be eligible for the programme, recipients cannot have felonies or serious misdemeanours on their records. Approximately 640,000 immigrants are enrolled in the DACA programme.

According to a 2019 report by South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT), there are at least 630,000 Indians who are undocumented, a 72 per cent increase since 2010. There are currently at least 4,300 active South Asian DACA recipients. As of August 2018, there are approximately 2,550 active Indian DACA recipients. Only 13 per cent of the overall 20,000 DACA eligible Indians have applied and received DACA, SAALT said.

The Trump administration can now appeal to a federal appeals court or go to the Supreme Court for temporary relief from enforcement of the judge's order.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said the court has upheld the Obama-era programme initiated under the presidency of Barack Obama, which respects American values and the will of the American

"Dreamers need and deserve real, permanent action to ensure that they can continue to contribute to our nation. In the 117th Congress, our Democratic House Majority will once again pass bipartisan legislation to protect Dreamers, which will be signed into law by the Biden-Harris Administration," she said.

# COVID-19 vaccine

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dubai, Dec 5: The island kingdom of Bahrain said Friday it has become the second nation in the world to grant an emergency-use authorisation for the coronavirus vaccine made by Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech.

The state-run Bahrain News Agency made the announcement on Friday night, following an earlier announcement by the United Kingdom on Wednesday, making Britain the first in the world."The confirmation of approval by the National Health Regulatory Authority of the kingdom of Bahrain followed thorough analysis and review undertaken by the authority of all available data," the kingdom said on its state-run Bahrain News Agency.

Bahrain did not say how many vaccines it has purchased, nor when vaccinations would begin. It did not immediately respond to questions from The Associated

Pfizer later said that the details of its sales agreement with Bahrain, including the "timing of delivery and the volume of doses," was confidential and declined to comment. "We have developed detailed logistical plans and tools to support effective vaccine transport, storage and continuous temperature monitoring, Pfizer said. "Our distribution is built on a flexible just in time system which will ship the frozen



vials to the point of vaccination."

The immediate challenge for Bahrain would be the conditions in which the vaccine must be kept. They must be stored and shipped at ultra-cold temperatures of around minus 70 degrees Celsius (minus 94 degrees Fahrenheit). Bahrain is a Mideast nation that regularly sees temperatures in the summer of around 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) with high humidity.

Bahrain does have a state-owned carrier, Gulf Air, that it could use to transport the vaccines. In the nearby United Arab Emirates, the Dubai-based long-haul carrier Emirates has already said it is preparing its facilities to distribute vaccines at ultra-cold temperatures. The vaccine also requires two doses be given three weeks apart.

Bahrain had already granted emergency-use authorisation for a Chinese vaccine made by Sinopharm and has inoculated some 6,000 people with it. That vaccine, an "inactivated" shot made by growing the whole virus in a lab and then killing it, also is in use in

## 18 miners killed in China

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Dec 5: Eighteen people have been killed due to an excessive level of the poisonous carbon monoxide gas in a coal mine in China, officials said Saturday, the latest mining disaster in the world's largest coal producing

One person was rescued from the closed Diaoshuidong colliery situated in Yongchuan district in Chongqing Municipality, staterun Xinhua news agency reported.

The accident took place on Friday evening when workers were dismantling equipment in the pit, trapping 24 workers underground, it said.

Eighteen miners were confirmed dead due to the excessive level of carbon monoxide, the report said. The mine was suspended and shut down two months ago.

The cause of the accident was not immediately known. A rescue operation was underway. The Diaoshuidong coal mine, which was established in 1975 and became privately-owned in 1998, has an annual production capacity of 120,000 tonnes of coal, according to the local emergency management department.

In March 2013, hydrogen sulfide poisoning in the mine left three dead and two injured.

Though safety improvements have reduced deaths at coal mines in recent years, mining accidents are common in China, which is the world's largest coal producer.

## Chinese scientists make first quantum computer



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Dec 5: Chinese scientists first light-based quantum computer which can solve problems far faster than a classical supercomputer, an advance hailed by experts as a "major achievement" that provides a fundamentally different approach to designing such powerful machines, the official media reported Saturday.

Jiuzhang, the quantum computer, can reliably demonstrate quantum computational advantage", a milestone in computing, state-run China Daily quoted a study published in the iournal Science, Quantum computers excel at running simulations that are impossible for conventional computers, leading to breakthroughs in materials science, artificial intelligence and medicine

Jiuzhang takes its name from an ancient Chinese mathematical text. It can perform an extremely esoteric calculation, called Gaussian boson sampling, in 200 seconds. The same task would take the world's fastest classical supercomputer Fugaku around 600 million years, the report said.

It is the second such milestone after Google declared its 53-qubit quantum computer had achieved

such a breakthrough last year. Jiuzhang used a new method of manipulating 76 photons to do calculations instead of Google's which uses superconductive materials, the report said.

Experts hailed China's quantum computer as a "state-of-theart experiment" and a "major achievement" in quantum computing, as it proves the feasibility of photonic quantum computation, thus providing a fundamentally different approach to designing such powerful machines, it said.

China has been investing heavily in mastering the quantum technology in recent years. In 2017, China had launched quantum communication satellite boosting hack proof and ultrahigh security features, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) said.

The Quantum Experiments at Space Scale (QUESS) satellite is the first-ever space-ground test platform for quantum communication, Wang Jianyu, executive deputy chief engineer of the project had told the official media

Chinese officials claimed that the quantum satellite was expected to provide a full proof hack-free communications which make foreign powers to monitor or intercept China's communication systems

#### **Moscow starts mass COVID** vaccination

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Moscow, Dec 5: Thousands of doctors, teachers and others in high-risk groups have signed up for COVID-19 vaccinations in Moscow starting Saturday, a precursor to a sweeping Russia-wide

tablished scientific protocols

currently accounts for about a quarter of the country's new daily curve, opening 70 vaccination facilities on Saturday.

Doctors, teachers and municipal workers were invited to book a time to receive a jab, and Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said that about 5,000 signed up in a few

hours after the system began Friday. Russia boasted that Sputnik V was the world's "first registered COVID-19 vaccine" after the government gave it regulatory approval in early August. The move drew criticism from international experts, who pointed out that the vaccine had only been tested on sev-

immunization effort. The vaccinations come three days after President Vladimir

Putin ordered the launch of a "large-scale" COVID-19 immunization campaign even though a Russian-designed vaccine has vet to complete the advanced studies needed to ensure its effectiveness and safety in line with es-The Russian leader said

Wednesday that more than 2 million doses of the Sputnik V jab will be available in the next few days, allowing authorities to offer jabs to medical workers and teachers across the country starting late next week. Moscow, which infections, moved ahead of the

eral dozen people at the time. Putin has shrugged off doubts about it, saying in August that one of his daughters was among the early vaccine recipients. Over the past months, Sputnik V has been offered to medical workers and teachers even as it was still in the middle of advanced trials.

## SURFING SANTA



## US urges nations to make law over access to Tibet

The Act, signed into law by President Donald Trump in December 2018 calls for denying access to the US for Chinese officials known to be involved in restricting visits to Tibet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Dec 5: Slamming China for its alleged repressive regime in Tibet, a top American diplomat has urged other countries to pass their own versions of a US law that calls for denying access to the US for Chinese officials known to be involved in restricting visits to the remote Himalayan region.

Robert A Destro, Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues, Friday said that together with partners around the world, the US has and will continue to call on China to provide unhindered access to foreigners travelling in Tibetan areas, including for diplomats and journalists, just as other



countries give Chinese diplomats, journalists and citizens access to their respective countries.

"The US adopted the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act to press for greater access and transparency. Today, I call on our likeminded friends and partners to pass their own versions of the Act," he said in his remarks at a virtual event: "Religious Freedom in Tibet: The Appointment of Buddhist Leaders and the Succession of the Dalai

The Act, signed into law by President Donald Trump in December 2018 calls for denying access to the US for Chinese officials known to be involved in restricting visits to Tibet.

The Dalai Lama, Tibet's exiled spiritual leader has been demanding meaningful autonomy for Tibetans.

The 85-year-old Dalai Lama fled to India in 1959 following a crackdown on an uprising by the local population in Tibet. India granted him political asylum and the Tibetan government-in-exile is based on Dharamsala in Himachal Pradesh since then.

China views the 14th Dalai Lama as a "separatist" working to split

## Biden plans scaled-down ceremony to avoid spreading COVID

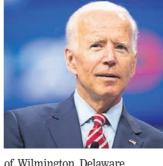
PRESS TRUST F INDIA

Washington, Dec 5: US Presidentelect Joe Biden has said the presidential inauguration on January 20 will not be a "gigantic" event, but something closer to what the Democratic convention was like, with a lot of virtual activity across America and an emphasis on safety due to the

raging coronavirus pandemic. Biden said he expected to be sworn in on January 20 on the platform already being constructed on the steps of the US Capitol, but plans to avoid the crowds that typ-

ically gather on the National Mall and along Pennsylvania Avenue to view the ceremony and parade that attracts millions of people.

"My guess is there probably will not be a gigantic inaugural parade on Pennsylvania Avenue, but my guess is you'll see a lot of virtual activity in states all across America engaging even more people than before. That's in train now and I'm not in a position to give you an example of exactly what it will look like." he said when asked about the inauguration planning at a news conference on Friday in his hometown



of Wilmington, Delaware. "But, I promise you, it'll be available either virtually or in-person for

many and my guess is, there will still be a platform ceremony, but I don't know exactly how it's all going to work out. The key is keeping peo-

ple safe," he said. Biden, 78, suggested that the festivities could end up looking like the virtual convention Democrats held in August, with online activity in the states."We are in discussion with the House leadership and the Senate leadership as to what they plan for the inauguration, particularly those 200,000 spots they control. But I think you're going to see something that's closer to what the convention was like than typical inauguration," he said.

The former vice president said that his first and foremost objective was to keep people safe but also allow them to celebrate, to celebrate and see one another celebrating."So, we're in consultation. My team is in consultation with folks who help us put on the convention, as well as with our colleagues, Republican, and Democratic colleagues, in charge of the inauguration." he said.

Asserting that he can't do a super version of the president's announcement in the Rose Garden nationwide, Biden said it will have to be more imaginative. "But, the convention we put on re-

ally opened up avenues that we never thought existed and I doubt there will be another at least the Democratic Convention, that it's straight like it always has been," he said. The swearing-in ceremony and a lunch for the new president and vice president are held at the Capitol. Recent American presidents have been sworn in at an outdoor ceremony at the US Capitol attended by their predecessor.

# business



There has been a substantial upgrade to the overall growth forecast for H2 of the current fiscal. This is encouraging but given the stress the economy had faced due to Covid-19, we anticipate the policy support, both from the RBI and the government SANGITA REDDY | PRESIDENT, FICCI

#### **MIZORAM ENTERS SOLAR MAP**

Mizoram has entered the solar map of the country with the commissioning of the first solar power plant at Tlungvel. The grid-connected 2-MW solar photovoltaic (SPV) plant was inaugurated by the state's Power Minister R Lalzirliana Friday



distinction between states in terms of job-ready engineers. The technology hub Karnataka has below-average

Of the 207 items notified as technical textiles in January 2019, there are 12 products of apparel The global market for these 12 products is estimated to be \$11bn, though India's exports

A SAKTHIVEL | CHAIRMAN, APPAREL EXPORT

The trading community should follow the compliance extended by the

government. There is a need to isolate the black sheep which are not complying with the norms but

M AJIT KUMAR | CHAIRMAN, CBIT AND

#### SHORT **TAKES**

#### 'e-Comm order volume up 56%'

New Delhi: e-Commerce industry saw a 56% growth in order volume and 50% rise in gross merchandise value this festive season over a similar period last year, a report by Unicommerce said. Unicommerce, e-commerce focused SaaS platform. analysed shopping trends for the festive month of 2019 and 2020, and the analysis is 30 days prior to Diwali with a sample size of over 44 million orders.

#### **VECV** begins ops in MP

New Delhi: VE Commercial Vehicles Saturday said it has commenced operations at its new truck manufacturing facility in Bagroda, Bhopal. The plant, which was inaugurated by Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan, is the company's eighth in the state, VECV said in a statement. VECV is one of the large investors in Madhya Pradesh with an investment of more than ₹5,000 crore in its eight plants. Apart from this, the company has attracted more than 100 ancillary and other suppliers for supplying the parts required in manufacture of trucks.

#### 'Govt needs to address issues'

Mumbai: All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC) has welcomed the move to make hallmarking mandatory in a phased manner from June next year and also urged the government to look into the industry's key concerns for a smooth implementation of the initiative. "We have always been supportive of mandatory hallmarking and it will help in making the industry organised, compliant and will improve the image in the eyes of the customer," GJC chairman Anantha Padmanaban said in a

#### **BoB launches** gold loan

Bhubaneswar: Bank of Baroda (BoB), Saturday launched, a new gold loan scheme for women through virtual platform. Bank's MD-CEO Sanjiv Chadha launched the scheme in the presence of GM and Zonal Head Nityananda Behera. Chadha said that the scheme will help in encouraging women to set up their own ventures and for their economic empowerment during the pandemic.

## 'AI, ML to play key role in fight against nCoV'

New Delhi, Dec 5: Artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) are helping analyse massive amounts of data around the human genome and drug molecules, and these new-age technologies can play an important role in the fight against Covid-19, industry experts said Saturday.

Speaking at KnowDis Machine Learning Day, Avantika Lal-Senior Scientist (Deep Learning and Genomics) at NVIDIA - said larger data sets on genome sequences (DNA arrangement) are being acquired, and this data is being studied for multiple parameters.

"As the cost of sequencing goes down, more and more people can get



their genome sequence and in fact, governments, research institutes and public health organisations around the world are trying to sequence many thousands of people in order to be building up an idea of the genomes of the populations of their countries," she said.

Lal added that massive data sets are collected that are very complicated and contain many different related kinds of information.

"...The size and richness of the data sets that we're now getting in this field makes it really essential to use machine learning and deep

The recently

merchandise

provisional data

showed that India's

exports dropped by

9.07% in November

to \$23.43bn from

\$25.77bn in the

year-ago period

released

Al models can quickly narrow down the list of the candidate drug molecules, which might possibly bind to the protein, modify its behaviour and provide therapeutic benefit

SAURABH SINGAL I KNOWDIS DATA SCIENCE

learning to analyze this data in order to answer complicated questions like, for example, how do we identify people who are more at risk of developing various diseases before they actually develop signs of those diseases," she said.

These data sets can also help understand the mechanisms by which a certain disease arises in people. or how does one identify patients

who might respond differently or be more sensitive to a particular kind of drug or treatment, she further

Saurabh Singal from KnowDis Data Science said AI models can quickly narrow down the list of the candidate drug molecules, which might possibly bind to the protein, modify its behaviour and provide therapeutic benefit.

He explained that a special type of AI called Deep Learning can help answer the question of which existing drugs can modify to the viral proteins active in the replication of the coronavirus.

He added that this can narrow down the time to develop the drug greatly, accelerating the efforts to

### Centre not doing enough to revive economy: Mitra



Kolkata, Dec 5: Criticising the Centre for "not doing enough" to address the economic problem arising out of the COVID crisis, West Bengal finance and industry minister Amit Mitra Saturday said it should have spent more to boost demand in the country.

Speaking at the Infocom IT here, Mitra said unlike economies of the US, the UK and Japan, the Centre has not felt the need to go for capital expenditure.

"When the COVID-19 pandemic hit the economy, what should have triggered in the mind of the government is the Great Depression which has happened. What should have been done is to follow the Keynesian model of government expenditure to boost demand as the private sector is unable to do that," Mitra said.

He said an increase in government expenditure will cause a multiplier effect on the economy.

The Great Depression was the worst worldwide economic downturn that lasted for 10 years from 1929, beginning in the US when the New York Stock Exchange on Wall Street crashed and wiped out millions of investors.

## RBI asks banks not to declare dividend for FY'20

**COVID IMPACT** 

New Delhi, Dec 5: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked banks to conserve capital and not make any dividend payments for financial year 2020. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said in his monetary policy statement Friday that in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the RBI has focused on resolution of stress among borrowers, and facilitating credit flow to the economy, while ensuring financial stability.

"In continuation of this effort and to help banks conserve capital, while creating room for fresh lending, it has been decided after a review that commercial and co-operative banks will retain the profits and not make any dividend payout from the profits pertaining to financial year 2019-20", Das said.

The growing significance of NBFCs and their inter-linkages with different segments in the financial system has made it imperative to enhance the resilience of the sector, Das said. Therefore,



it has been decided to put in place transparent criteria as per a matrix of parameters for declaration of dividends by different categories of NBFCs. A draft circular containing the proposed criteria and parameters will be released soon for public comments.

Further, the current regulatory regime for the NBFC sector, built on the principle of proportionality, warrants a review. It is felt that a scale-based regulatory approach linked to the systemic risk contribution of NBFCs could be the way forward. As part of the stakeholder consultation process, a discussion paper on this subject will be issued before January 15, 2021 for public comments.

## Maruti Suzuki's production rises in Nov 6%



New Delhi, Dec 5: The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India Saturday said its total production in November increased 5.91% to 1.50.221 units. The company had produced total 1,41,834 units in the same month last year, Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) said in a regulatory filing.

Passenger vehicles production stood at 1,46,577 units last month as compared with 1,39,084 units in November 2019, a growth of 5.38%.

Production of mini cars comprising Alto and S-Presso models stood marginally up at 24,336 units last month as against 24,052 units in the year-ago period.

Similarly, manufacturing of compact cars, comprising WagonR, Celerio, Ignis, Swift, Baleno, Dzire, stood at 85,118 units as against 78,133 units in November 2019, an increase of 8.93%, MSI said.

Production of utility vehicles— Gypsy, Ertiga, S-Cross, Vitara Brezza and XL6 — however declined 9.07% at 24,719 units as compared to 27,187 units in the same month last year.

# **Trade deficit might widen as Covid dents exports: Experts**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Dec 5: The overall trade deficit is likely to widen as rising coronavirus cases and subsequent lockdowns in key export markets dent India's merchandise exports, experts said. The recently released provisional

data showed that India's merchandise exports dropped by 9.07% in November to \$23.43 billion from \$25.77 billion in November 2019. "The slippage in exports growth

signifies the near term impact of fresh restrictions in trading partners. The average merchandise trade deficit is likely to reach substantially higher levels in H2FY21 as compared to Q2FY21," said Aditi Nayar, Principal Economist, ICRA.

Among commodities and products, iron ore, rice and pharmaceuticals continued to display healthy uptick in Y-o-Y shipments, whereas leather, textiles and engineering goods continued to show contraction.

EEPC India Chairman Mahesh Desai said that exporters continue to battle the Covid-19 impact on global trade, pinning hopes on start of the vaccination and abating of the pandemic.

POST NEWS NETWORK

up of manufac-

turing units for

solar equip-

ments, said TK

Nalco CMD.

Chand, former

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: With the

availability of skilled manpower in

Odisha and facilities for setting

up industry, the state can be the

preferred destination for setting

**During National Solar Energy** 

Conclave, Chand said, "Solar sec-

tor offers huge market with high

job potential. With the availabil-

ity of skilled manpower and fa-

cilities for setting up industry,

Odisha can be the preferred des-

for solar equipments'

He said several critical export sectors, including engineering, are reeling under a host of issues, in-

try-specific restrictions. Under these circumstances, Desai pointed out that some of the doable measures like easy refund of GST and ensuring availability of raw materials at reasonable prices could provide relief to the exporters.

cluding disruptions in production,

transportation and increasing coun-

According to the data, India's merchandise imports declined by 13.33% in November to \$33.39 billion from \$38.52 billion in the corresponding month of the previous year.

Segment wise, oil imports were

tination for setting up of manu-

facturing units for solar equip-

AIC-NITF organised the online

conclave which was attended by

30 speakers and large participa-

tion from startups, innovators, en-

tended.

Secretary of Revenue and Disaster

Management department

Bishnupada Sethi informed that

solar energy potential from water

bodies of Odisha itself will come to

5,000 MW which is more than our

energy requirement.

Principal

trepreneurs, project

proponents, profes-

sionals and corpo-

rate leaders at-

ments and lithium-ion battery.'

down 43.36% to \$6.27 billion from \$11.07 billion in November 2019. "The primary factor in the export

performance continues to be the sharp decline in petro product shipments, but non-petro exports have also declined by 3% presumably due to the impact of a resurgence of the Covid-19 pandemic in Europe," said Suman Chowdhury, Chief Analytical Officer, Acuite Ratings & Research.

"Imports are yet to reveal any consistent growth back to normalised levels with significantly lower oil prices, although an uptick in electronic goods and edible oil segments is clearly visible," Chowdhury said.

## 'Odisha can be a hub Vedanta launches fire safety programme

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: Vedanta, India's largest producer of aluminium rolled out fire safety awareness programme for the residents of Jharsuguda under the banner of Employee Volunteerism Program (EVP), a unique initiative through which employees of the company

use their skill sets for social good. Members of Agnivahini, Vedanta's all-women firefighting squad, are sensitising the community on various facets of fire safety, such as identifying causes and types of fire, precautions, emergency measures in case of fire, basic do's and don'ts, and so on.

This programme is aimed at increasing awareness levels of general public on the various facets of fire safety and equips them with the knowledge to foster a safety-first



culture at grassroots.

from Debadihi, Brundamal and Kurebaga villages have participated in the sessions. Over the next few months, Vedanta Agnivahini plans to reach out to as many people as possible in Jharsuguda, through the ini-

CEO of Vedanta Ltd., Jharsuguda CN Singh said, "Agnivahini is one of our dream projects and a pioneering effort in the realm of safety

kavach

in India, especially in terms of strengthening grassroots safety culture. Our women employees undergo rigorous and exacting training for months before qualifying as members of Agnivahini.

Besides their role in supplementing the safety efforts at our operations, is a matter of great pride for us that these women are equipping communities around us with the knowledge and basic skills required to be fire-safe."

## PLANNING FOR THE FIRST ROAD TRIP IN MONTHS?

ince road trips in our personal vehicles ensure more safety in terms of hygiene, let us all agree that after spending months in lockdown, we all are planning for that much needed staycation with our families and friends. With the winters setting in, we are plotting our escapes either to the hills in the north, the desert in the west, the coasts in the south, or even the mountains in the east! But while we do so, there is one more precautionary thing that we need to ensure apart from packing sanitisers and masks, and that is insuring our cars/bikes with a

policy! If you are new to this concept of financial safety for your vehicle, then here are 4 major coverage details that you need to be aware of when it comes to your car/bike insurance.

comprehensive motor insurance

**Your motor insurance:** covers for the losses your vehicle causes to others:

While you are on a road trip, you are essentially exploring an unknown territory. Hence, the probability of an accident cannot be ruled out. Now if an accident by your vehicle causes bodily injury/property damage to a third party, then your motor insurance pays up for the same. This is infact mandated by the law, that you have a third party motor insurance; in the absence of which you may end up not only paying a fine, but also spend crores as remuneration in case it turns out to be fatal. Thus, having a motor insurance is a major financial investment that you make for the collective safety of everyone out there on the road!

covers you for the losses due

The Indian subcontinent is prone to disasters and any such unforeseen calamity such as flash floods, landslides, storms, heavy rains etc. which can be detrimental to your vehicle and cause it serious damages. A comprehensive motor insurance policy will not only take care of these damages, but your insurance provider will also ensure that your vehicle gets towed, repaired and returned back to you through cashless operations based on the

to natural disasters:

covers you against manmade disasters: From accidental

coverage opted by you.

collisions to theft of your car/bike, from riots or strikes or other malicious dam-

HERE'S WHY YOU NEED CAR INSURANCE any such damages. Infact, these ages to even terrorist attacks days most of the leading motor your cominsurance companies have their own apps - and hence intimating prehensive a claim and getting it serviced is motor insurance is the just a click away. Moreover, the inultimate prosurers have network garages spread across the country, which means that you get premium service even if you are not in the city against of your residence.

#### offers you personal accident coverage

A personal accident (PA) insurance cover is essential to protect your family's financial health that can go off track suddenly due to an unfortunate accident. A PA cover will pay for the compensation in case of bodily injuries, death or any permanent disability resulting due to an accident to the owner/driver of the car.

The limit of the coverage is defined as ₹15 lakhs by IRDAI and you may also cover your family members in this policy by intimating their names to your

If there is one thing that the coronavirus phase has unanimously taught us, it is that - "precaution is better than cure". Having a motor insurance policy for your car/bike is hence of paramount importance when it comes to taking proper precautions for your next road trip. This investment shall not only give you peace of mind, but also ensure dignity of living in the wake of an accident. Stay safe, stay

> (The writer is Head, Motor Business & NTU, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance)

# INDIA EYE SERIES India prepare for Tests



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sydney, Dec 5: The chatter around the concussion substitute will remain as a resurgent India, unlikely to be alarmed by all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja's absence, seek a series win in the second T20I against Australia here Sunday.

A series win will be an ideal confidence booster for India before the visitors hit Test match mode. Some of the Indian team players are treating the white-ball leg as a six-match composite series instead of two separate formats.

Having won two white-ball games in Canberra, the Indians under Virat Kohli will hope that the next two matches at the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) pan out bet-

Following their victory on the back of India's first concussion substitute Yuzvendra Chahal's terrific bowling display, India will enter the second game with a lot more confidence even though

Jadeja's batting lower down the order will be missed.

It can't be denied that his unbeaten 44 off 23 balls made the difference between a winning score and a sub-par one.

However for Kohli, he would expect that he wouldn't need contributions from lower-middle order and the top five batsmen would be good enough to put up a good total on board or may be chase down a tricky target.

It will only help India that rival captain Aaron Finch, who has been in fantastic form, may not be fully fit. And with David Warner already absent due to a groin tear, the momentum that Australia had during the ODI series may not be there. D'Arcy Short looked out of place during the first T20I and Chahal rightly exposed his chinks, bowling wide of off-stump because he had a limited range of strokes on the off-side.

Steve Smith, for all his greatness, isn't exactly the best T20

player around and is more at ease playing the second fiddle to an en-

Glenn Maxwell has limitations which both Jasprit Bumrah and Thangarasu Natarajan had exposed in the last ODI and first T20 respectively

What India would aspire is a better effort from the top-order, especially senior opener Shikhar Dhawan, who has gone off the boil after the half century in the first

Skipper Kohli has been decent without being extraordinary and that has affected the team. A solid knock from Kohli can go a long way in solving half of India's wor-

It will be interesting to see if Manish Pandey gets a second game. Ideally, he should get one more game but his discomfort against Adam Zampa was quite visible and the Indian innings lost the moment when he started wasting

Between Pandey and Shreyas Iyer, there isn't much of a difference as they are same type of players, who need some time before they counter-attack.

For Sanju Samson and the inform Hardik Pandya, the job will be to utilise the last six overs even though Samson's temperament in the few international matches that he has played hasn't been impressive.

For Australia, one interesting asoect is veteran Test specialist Nathan Lyon being drafted into the T20 squad and it remains to be seen if he replaces Mitchell Swepson in the playing XI.

Although he got lucky with Kohli's wicket, Swepson mostly bowled short in his two overs and on a flat Sydney deck, he could increase Australia's worries. Lyon, on the other hand, could

be used in Powerplay just like India successfully used young offspinner Washington Sundar in

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sydney, Dec 5: India will look to figure out their playing XI as the Test squad gets into the groove by taking on Australia 'A' in a three-day warm-up game at Drummoyne Oval from Sunday.

With India and Australia playing the second T20I on the same day, the visiting Test squad has been named India 'A' for the first of the two practice games scheduled ahead of the much-anticipated four-Test series.

The tour games will be a chance to sort out India's combinations both in the batting and bowling departments ahead of opening Day-Night Test scheduled at Adelaide from December 17.

In batting, Mayank Agarwal is set to open the innings but there is a question mark over his partner with the choice being between Prithvi Shaw and Shubman Gill.

While Shaw was preferred in the New Zealand series, he struggled for consistency in the IPL. Gill, on the other hand, have scored 440 runs for Kolkata Knight Riders and also looked in good touch in the third

has been in rampaging form and also formed a formidable pair with Mayank for the Kings XI Punjab, but the last time he had played a Test was in September 2019.

In the wicketkeeper's slot, it will be Wriddhiman Saha versus Rishabh Pant. For Saha, who had injured both his hamstrings during the IPL, it will be a test to show his fitness after getting back at the nets recently.

Pant has been India's number one choice in overseas Tests but he was dropped from the limited over series and will have to deliver the goods to seal the keeper's slot.

With skipper Virat Kohli going on paternity leave after the opening Test and the injured Rohit Sharma too uncertain, the onus will be on Ajinkya Rahane, Cheteshwar Pujara and Hanuma Vihari to show the way.

Rahane, the man likely to lead India in the absence of Kohli, will look for a good outing. Pujara and Vihari too will be itching to go out in the middle having last played a competitive game in the pre-COVID-

In the bowling department, Jasprit Bumrah, who was rested for the opening T20I, is expected to play the practice match as he looks

to get into Test mode. While Bumrah and Mohammed Shami will share the new ball in the Tests, the third pacer's spot will be

up for grabs and Mohammed Siraj,

who looked good in the IPL, will be

keen to seal it. Umesh Yadav, with an experience of 46 Tests, is also an option but he was erratic in the two games

that he had played in the IPL. Ravindra Jadeja has been ruled out of the next two T20I matches after suffering concussion and it remains to be seen if he is fit for the

Ravichandran Ashwin's form will be key if Jadeja is unavailable and it will also open the door for Kuldeep Yadav, who was once proclaimed as India's number one overseas spinner by coach Ravi Shashri, following his exploits in Sydney last year. While the first three-day game will be a red-ball affair; the second tour match, scheduled to begin from December 11, will be played with a pink ball.



## Blackwood, Joseph Odisha FC seek first win as they face MCFC delay Kiwis' victory



Alzarri Joseph raises his bat after completing his maiden Test fifty as Jermaine Blackwood looks on

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hamilton, Dec 5: New Zealand's push for an innings victory over the West Indies in the first cricket test was stalled on the third day Saturday by a bold, counter-attacking partnership for the tourists' seventh wicket between Jermaine Blackwood and Alzarri Joseph.

New Zealand seemed to be coasting to a win within three days when captain Kane Williamson enforced the follow-on with a 381-run lead after dismissing the West Indies for 138 in reply to its first innings of 519/7 declared

When the West Indies were reduced to 30/4 at tea, then 89/6 in their second innings it seemed they were fated to become only the fifth team in Test history to be dismissed twice in one day.

Their position was more dire because wicketkeeper Shane

Dowrich could not bat in either innings because of a broken finger and they have only nine wickets. But Blackwood and Joseph com-

bined in an unbroken partnership

was 59 not out.

up from only 111 balls. **BRIEF SCORES** New Zealand 519/7d; West Indies 138 (Tim Southee 4/35) & 196/6 (Jermaine Blackwood 80 batting, Alzarri Joseph 59 batting; Neil

Wagner 2/62). Match to continue.

which broke the dominance of the New Zealand bowlers and was

While New Zealand still lead by

185 runs, the seventh-wicket pair

brought respectability to an oth-

erwise bedraggled West Indies per-

recognized batsman, led the stub-

born resistance and was 80 not out

at stumps, having hit nine fours

himself as an allrounder, achieved

his maiden Test half century and

and managed to hit the New Zealand

bowlers off the lengths which had

been so successful throughout the

day. Their 100 partnership came

Joseph, attempting to establish

The pair played aggressively

Blackwood, the West Indies' last

worth 107 runs at stumps.

Bambolim, Dec 5: With a welloiled unit at their disposal, inform Mumbai City FC will be eyeing their third successive win when they take on Odisha FC in an Indian Super League (ISL) game here Sunday.

Mumbai first registered a 1-0 win against FC Goa and then routed SC East Bengal 3-0 in their last game. Much will again depend on how strikers Adam Le Fonde and Bartholomew Ogbeche

Le Fondre scored a brace in the game against East Bengal and would be raring to go one more time. The team have utility midfielders like Ahmed Jahouh, Cy

Odisha FC players go through their training drills ahead of their matchday Goddard and their role as feeders will be important in the larger

The head coach Sergio Lobera has multiple options to choose in mid-fielders Farukh Choudhary,

context of the game.

Hugo Boumous, Hernan Santana, Raynier Fernandes, Rowllin Borges and Pranjal Bhumij among others. Santana is also in prime form having netted in the game against East Bengal.

Mumbai's defence have not conceded any goals in the last two matches and they have Mandar Rao Dessai, Sarthak Golui, Mohamad Rakip and Mourtada Fall to choose from at the back.

Bhubaneswar lost their previous game, they had a lot of positives to take from that match, including creating more scoring opportunities than their opponents.

On paper, Mumbai certainly have the upper hand, but Odisha can spring a surprise.

are still winless in the tourna-

ment. They have drawn one and lost

two of the three games they have

would be hoping that his team put

up an improved show. OFC have history on their side against

Mumbai City FC as they had beaten them in both the games

Although the team from

Odisha coach Stuart Buxar

played this season.

last season.

## FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

### **Real beat Sevilla**

Seville: Zinedine Zidane could breathe a sigh of relief as an own goal from Yassine Bounou gave Real Madrid a 1-0 win at Sevilla. The Real manager, known as Zizou, has come under mounting pressure after an unsteady start to the season in La Liga and in the Champions League. In the 55th minute, Ferland Mendy's low cross looked sure to be turned home by Vinicius Junior, but he made only the slightest of connections and the ball deflected in off Bounou.

#### **Man City victorious**

Manchester: Pep Guardiola celebrated victory in his 250th game in charge of Manchester City as goals from Raheem Sterling and Kevin De Bruyne gave them a 2-0 win over Fulham in the Premier League. Sterling opened the scoring for City Saturday with a clinical finish as he ended a run of six games without a goal. De Bruyne added a second from the penalty spot after Sterling had been clumsily brought down by Fulham's Joachim Andersen.

## ISL: NEUFC move up to 2nd spot

second half stoppage time. NEUFC

now have eight points from four

games, with a couple of wins and two

draws, while bottom-placed East

East Bengal were in control of the

game right from the off and were

looking hungry to pick up an early

goal. They could have won a penalty

in the 20th minute when Ashutosh

Mehta nudged Jacques Maghoma

inside the box with his knee but the

Bengal yet to open their account.



Rochharzela wheels away in celebration after scoring NEUFC's second goal as East Bengal custodian looks dejected, Saturday

Goa, Dec 5: NorthEast United FC (NEUFC) moved up to second position in the 11-team standings of the Indian Super League 2020-21 season as they defeated East Bengal 2-0 in their match, Saturday.

An own goal by Surchandra Singh gave NEUFC the lead before the halftime break and Rochharzela completed the scoring with a goal in the kick to the Red and Golds. The Kolkata giants conceded the

referee chose not to award the spot-

first goal in the 33rd minute in comical fashion. Idrissa Sylla flicked the ball in the air with his head towards Kwesi Appiah on the right flank who beat Mohammed Irshad and crossed into the box. Scott Neville failed to clear the ball and it ricocheted off Surchandra's knees and went in.

East Bengal showed more intent than NEUFC in the first half and created more chances but were not lethal in the attacking third.

The Highlanders looked more positive in their approach compared to the first half and created quite a few chances to increase their lead. East Bengal too raided the NEUFC goal time and again but Belgian defender Benjamin Lambot stood firm on his ground and dealt with every single cross that came in.

NEUFC sealed the fate of the match in the stoppage time from a counter-attack. Suhair ran down the right flank and squared the ball for Roccharzela inside the box and the winger converted a simple tap in confirm three points for his side.

### Neeraj, others begin training in Bhubaneswar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: The Indian team of elite javelin throwers including Neeraj Chopra, Shivpal Singh and Annu Rani led by coaches Uwe Hohn and Dr. Klaus began their one-month long training camp at the Kalinga Stadium here from Friday. The team has shifted base from NIS Patiala. The other two athletes in the group are Rohit Yadav and Rajinder Singh.

Fondly remembering his experience in the city during the Asian Athletics Championships 2017, where he won gold, star javelin thrower Neeraj said, "We are here for the training for Olympics 2021. In 2017, I won gold here and have fond memories of the city. With our best efforts we are hoping to do well at the Olympics.'

Safety of squad being priority, detailed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been prepared for the team training, which lays down numerous COVID-19 protocols and guidelines.

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