



## DEFINING FASHION

Actor Katrina Kaif says fashion is a mode of communication to the world which defines one's personality

LEISURE P2



## SUU KYI CHARGED

Police leveled their first formal charge against Myanmar's ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi, members of her party said

INTERNATIONAL P10



## SAINTS ANNIHILATED

Manchester United overpower 9-man Southampton 9-0 to tie the biggest margin of victory in a PL match

SPORTS P12

### IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Farmers are like my brothers. Don't ever use a bad word against them. Just cut their internet, water, power, road...

# Global spotlight on farm stir

With prominent foreign voices taking the farmers' protest to the world stage with tweets, the Centre puts out an unprecedented response

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Feb 3: India Wednesday hit out at tweets by global celebrities such as singer Rihanna and climate activist Greta Thunberg in support of the farmers' protests, the focus of a sharply polarised international debate that saw many Bollywood stars and top ministers rally around the government in its pushback.

The "temptation of sensationalist social media hashtags and comments" is neither accurate nor responsible, the Ministry of External Affairs said as the international spotlight swivelled to the two-month protest.

Facts must be ascertained before the rush to comment, the ministry added, using the hashtags #IndiaTogether and #IndiaAgainstPropaganda to make its point.

Rihanna, among the biggest pop stars of the day with 101 million followers on Twitter, started the global chorus of support for India's farmers. "Why aren't we talking about this? #FarmersProtest," she tweeted.

Drawing more international attention to the issue, Thunberg followed soon after. "We stand in solidarity with the #FarmersProtest in India," she tweeted.

Adding to their voices were American actor Amanda Cerni, US Vice President Kamala Harris' niece Meena Harris, "Serendipity" star Cusack, who retweeted a post by Ugandan climate



Bharatiya Kisan Union spokesperson Rakesh Tikait addresses people during Kisan Mahapanchayat against the new farm laws, in Jind district, Wednesday

### Twitter risks penal action

Government has directed Twitter to comply with its order to remove content accounts related to farmer genocide hashtags, and warned that the microblogging platform may face penal action for non-compliance of its order, according to sources. Government sources said that Twitter had unilaterally unblocked accounts and tweets despite specific order for blocking. Twitter is an 'intermediary' and is obliged to obey direction of government, sources said, adding that the platform may face penal action.

### No further Internet cut

There has been no further extension of the Internet suspension at Delhi's borders which was till the night of February 2, a Union Home Ministry official said on Wednesday. The ministry had announced suspension of Internet at the three Delhi border points of Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur where farmers protests are underway from 11 pm on January 29 effective till January 31. Later it had extended the suspension till 11 pm on February 2, with a ministry official saying the decision was taken to "maintain public safety".



### TWITTER ERUPTS

Why aren't we talking about this #FarmersProtest  
**RIHANNA | POP STAR**  
 We stand in solidarity with the #FarmersProtest in India  
**GRETA THUNBERG | CLIMATE ACTIVIST**  
 External forces can be spectators but not participants  
**SACHIN TENDULKAR | EX-CRICKETER**

activist Vanessa Nakate reading, "Let us talk about what is happening in India right now #FarmersProtest".

The lines were clearly drawn, pitting global celebs from various fields against domestic stars and politicians.

The pushback happened with the hashtags #IndiaTogether and #IndiaAgainstPropaganda being used in the MEA statement and several Bollywood stars who joined top ministers to criticise the "half truths" of international forces.

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## Prefeasibility study for Puri airport soon

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 3: The Airport Authority of India (AAI) was directed to conduct a prefeasibility study for establishment of an international airport at Puri. Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri made the announcement in Rajya Sabha Wednesday.

In a reply to a question by RS member Sujeet Kumar, the Union minister said a meeting was taken up by Civil Aviation secretary last January 12 with the officials of state government, Airports Authority of India and Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

During the meeting, AAI was asked to carry out a prefeasibility study of the site based on the data provided by the state government.

January 1, Chief



Minister Naveen Patnaik had requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to establishing an international airport at Puri for which the state government has identified land close to Puri town.

The state government would extend all possible assistance for establishing the airport in record time, he had said. He had also proposed that the international airport be named Sri Jagannath International Airport. The holy city of Puri, also known to be the abode of Lord Jagannath, is one among the Char Dhams.

### SHORT TAKES

#### PM's brother sits on dharna

**Lucknow:** Prahlad Modi, the younger brother of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, sat on dharna at the Lucknow airport Wednesday evening, demanding the release of his supporters who have been arrested. Sitting at the Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport, Prahlad Modi, who is the Vice President of All India Fair Price Shop Dealers' Federation (AIFPSDF), questioned the functioning of Lucknow police and even threatened to go on an indefinite hunger strike if his supporters were not released. He said that he had come to Lucknow from where he was scheduled to visit Prayagraj, Sultanpur and other districts.

#### ₹42 lakh looted from two ATMs

**Kendrapara:** Unidentified persons have looted ₹42 lakh from two ATMs in Odisha's Kendrapara district, police said on Wednesday. The incidents took place in Patrapur and Nialhaat villages in Aul police station area on Tuesday night, a police officer said. The criminals broke open the ATM chests using gas cutters and destroyed the CCTV cameras, he said, adding that an investigation is underway. "It is the handiwork of professional criminals with technical expertise in ATM operation."

#### Govt waives off ITI hostel fees

**Bhubaneswar:** Odisha government Wednesday announced the waiver of hostel fees of students of state-run ITIs for nine months between April to December 2020 during the pandemic period, an official said. The decision was taken as per the direction of CM Naveen Patnaik. Around 30,000 ITI (Industrial Training Institute) students of the state will be benefitted by the move, the official said. The hostel fee for a student of a government-run ITI per month is ₹125. Each student will get a waiver of ₹1,125 as they were not staying at the hostels during the pandemic, the official said.

## AP changes names of 3 Kotia villages

The neighbouring state is also making preparations for gram panchayat elections in these villages

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Pottangi, Feb 3:** The ongoing border dispute between Odisha and Andhra Pradesh has taken a dramatic turn with the neighbouring state allegedly changing the names of three villages in Kotia panchayat under this block in Koraput district and making preparations for gram panchayat elections, a report said.

The report further said the Andhra government has changed the names of villages from Ganjeipadar to Ganjeibhadra, Phatu Sineri to Patu Chenuru and Fagun Sineri to Fatgu Chenuru respectively in the disputed Kotia region. The elections will be held in two phases from February 13 and February 17 in these villages that have been included in the Salur block of Andhra Pradesh.

M Nageswar Rao, returning officer of Kurukutti (Andhra Pradesh) confirmed the development. He said the filing of nominations for the elections will be carried out from February 2 to February 4 while the nominations will be ver-



ified from February 5 to 7.

The Andhra government has taken the unauthorized step despite the border dispute being sub-judice in the Supreme Court. It is claimed that the Koraput district administration is reportedly unaware of the high-handedness of Andhra government.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is scheduled to inaugurate some developmental projects worth Rs 150 crore in Kotia region February 5 through a virtual mode.

Attempt to contact Lalita Kanhar, Koraput sub-collector and nodal officer of Kotia panchayat to get her opinion on the development failed as she did not pick up the phone.

### JHARAPHULA DEATH

## CRIME SCENE RECREATED

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 3:** A special team of Kuakhia police probing the mysterious death of Rama Devi Women's University student Jharaphula Nayak Wednesday brought accused Rakesh Swain to Bhubaneswar for further investigation into the case.

Along with Jajpur sub-divisional police officer (SDPO), the team took the accused to a guesthouse in Dharma Vihar area of Bhubaneswar where he had stayed along with Jharaphula January 26. According to sources, the police team recreated the crime scene in room No. 201 of the guesthouse to get a clear picture of sequence of events on the fateful day.

Though the accused, suspected to be the boyfriend of the deceased, has been nabbed, the police are yet to establish the exact motive of the crime.

Meanwhile, the deceased's father Ramakanta Nayak and elder brother, residents of Jashipur in Mayurbhanj district, were summoned to Kuakhia police station. They were interrogated till the evening.

The police have taken the mobile phone used by Jharaphula's



elder brother into their custody. As of now, the police are trying to retrieve information from the mobile phone to know how many times the family members spoke with the deceased, what were the topics, when and how many messages were received from Jharaphula's mobile phone.

The police are also trying to find out whether the messages that were sent from Jharaphula's mobile phone were sent by Jharaphula herself or had she died by that time and the messages were sent by Rakesh from her mobile phone.

"We have taken the deceased's mobile phone into our custody only to know whether the deceased was alive then or Rakesh was sending

messages from her phone," said an official.

At the same time, two employees of the Bhubaneswar-based guest house were also summoned by Kuakhia police for interrogation. On the other hand, the deceased's father alleged that Ramesh has kept information to himself and not divulged it before the police.

Meanwhile, the police are yet to share information regarding arrest of Rakesh's associate and seizure of the scooter used in the crime. When contacted, investigating officer Chinmay Kumar Nayak said that they will crack the case soon.

Notably, the body of Jharaphula was found by the roadside at Mulapal Chowk under Kuakhia police limits January 27 morning.

The police team is also expected to take the accused to a restaurant in Lingaraj police station limits where he had taken food with Jharaphula before proceeding to the guesthouse.

This is the second day of the three-day remand of the accused. Yesterday, the police had recreated the crime scene to ascertain how the body of Jharaphula was dumped on the roadside near Mulapala in Jajpur district.

## ORISSA HC NO TO VIG PROBE AGAINST MLA

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, Feb 3:** Orissa High Court Wednesday quashed the Lokayukta's order of a Vigilance probe against arrested Gopalpur MLA Pradeep Panigrahi, informed his lawyer Pitambar Acharya.

In its ruling, the court said that a complainant cannot be the investigator in a quasi-judicial proceeding, said Acharya.

Panigrahi had moved the High Court challenging the order of the Lokayukta which had December 11, last year directed the state Vigilance Directorate to investigate the corruption allegation levelled against him.

The Lokayukta had asked the Vigilance to submit a report within two months after the preliminary investigation. This was the first case of corruption allegation that has been referred to Odisha Lokayukta by the state government after its formation.

Odisha Crime Branch had arrested the MLA December 3, last year in connection with a case registered with the Cyber police station. He was arrested under Sections 419, 420, 467, 468, 469, 471, 120-B of the IPC and Section 66C66D of IT Act.

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	50255.75 ↑ 458.03
NIFTY	14790.00 ↑ 142.10
DOLLAR	73.42 ↓ ₹0.08
EURO	87.59 ↓ ₹0.18
GOLD	₹47,730 ↓ ₹21
SILVER	₹68,600 ↑ ₹1059

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
MAX	31.0°C	31.2°C
MIN	13.3°C	12.0°C
Humidity	93%	81%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Mainly clear sky	

# Jeff Bezos's resignation ends an epic Amazon run

AGENCIES

**New York, Feb 3:** Billionaire Jeff Bezos, who founded Amazon as an online bookseller nearly three decades ago, will step down as the CEO of the USD 1.7 trillion global retail giant in the third quarter of 2021 with Andy Jassy being named his successor.

Amazon, which announced Wednesday that 2020 net sales increased 38 per cent to USD 386.1 billion, compared with USD 280.5 billion in 2019, said Bezos, 57. He will transition to the role of Executive Chair in the third quarter of this year and Jassy, 53, CEO of the company's cloud business, Amazon Web Services, will become Chief Executive Officer at that time.

"Amazon is what it is because of

invention. We do crazy things together and then make them normal," Bezos said, adding that the company pioneered customer reviews, 1-Click, personalised recommendations, Prime's insanely-fast shipping, Just Walk Out shopping, the Climate Pledge, Kindle, Alexa, marketplace, infrastructure cloud computing, Career Choice, and much more.

"If you do it right, a few years after a surprising invention, the new thing has become normal. People yawn. That yawn is the greatest compliment an inventor can receive. When you look at our financial results, what you're actually seeing are the long-run cumulative results of invention. Right now I see Amazon at its most inventive ever, making it an optimal time for this



Amazon is what it is because of invention. We do crazy things together and then make them normal  
**JEFF BEZOS | CEO, AMAZON**

transition," he said in a statement. In a letter to Amazonians, Bezos said he will transition to Executive Chair of the Amazon Board, a role in which he said he intends to focus

his energies and attention on new products and early initiatives.

Jassy, who is "well known" inside the company and has been at Amazon almost as long as Bezos has, "will be an outstanding leader, and he has my full confidence."

Bezos said while being the CEO of Amazon is a "deep responsibility", it's consuming and with that responsibility, it is "hard" to give attention on anything else.

As Executive Chair, Bezos said he will stay engaged in important Amazon initiatives but also have the time and energy he needs to focus on initiatives such as the Bezos Earth Fund, Blue Origin, The Washington Post, and his other passions.

"In both cases, we staked out leadership positions and then asked

### TIMELY TRANSITION

- As Executive Chair, Bezos will have the time and energy for Bezos Earth Fund, The Washington Post, and other initiatives
- Andy Jassy is "well known" inside the company and has been at Amazon almost as long as Bezos has

others to come along with us. In both cases, it's working. Other large companies are coming our way. I hope you're proud of that as well." Bezos noted that the company serves individuals and enterprises, and has pioneered two complete industries and a whole new class of devices.





## HAILEY HAD TO UNDERGO THERAPY TO COPE WITH NEGATIVE ATTENTION

Model Hailey Bieber has shared that she has had to undergo therapy to cope with online trolling. Hailey, wife of pop star Justin Bieber, added that she thinks "being able to share it with Justin has been so helpful".

## CAREY MULLIGAN USED TO DO LOADS OF HOME WORK TO JUSTIFY HER CASTING

Actress Carey Mulligan has revealed that she used to spend months preparing for roles because she felt the need to justify her casting, as she had never gone to acting school. "I had to do loads of home work so that I was allowed to be here," she said.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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#### ARIES

All eyes may be on you today – for your looks, skills, or even your funky bag! Make hay while the sun shines, and charge your batteries with all that attention. You can get some decent work done with that energy, says Ganesh.

#### TAURUS

This day you will be inclined to act tough and pick up a fight with every-one whom you are likely to encounter, warns Ganesh. Those who know you well will be at a loss to make anything out of your belligerent attitude and may not be able to keep up with you for too long.

#### GEMINI

You will be in the mood to pursue your heart's many desires today. You will want to spend more time with your family and your children. You need to translate desires into action by better balancing your schedule, says Ganesh.

#### CANCER

You will have enthusiasm for swift action. Variety adds spice to life. So you may change job or trade. Ties with superiors will be good. Ganesh says this is the time for challenges.

#### LEO

It is a good day to renew old acquaintances and make new relationships. Your friends and relatives will probably visit you today. A jovial feeling will pervade your home. You may throw a grand party for your guests, says Ganesh.

#### VIRGO

A medley of good and bad awaits you today. Emotional people will find you immature and inconsistent. But your bag o' jokes is never empty, and you remain the jester as always. Ganesh advises you to meditate and engage in spiritually rich activities to channel and focus all your talents.

#### LIBRA

There is no end to work, so buckle up, as it is highly probable that work pressure will take up most of your time today. This leaves precious little for your family, but as always, they fully understand. Ganesh expects you to be both hard-working and conscientious today.

#### SCORPIO

Relationships are the crux of life. It's very important how you make your near and dear ones feel when you are around. Make someone feel special today. Try to sort out misunderstandings if any. Don't dominate your friends or family members, says Ganesh.

#### SAGITTARIUS

Pack your bags today for a long business trip, which will bear rich fruits. Be ready to pick up important business pointers and learn your way into your trade. Ganesh predicts pleasant surprises in store later in the day.

#### CAPRICORN

Everything you do today will be driven by the desire to meet the expectations of your family members, says Ganesh. For those of you pursuing studies, pending projects will finally get completed, and you will look forward to taking up new assignments.

#### AQUARIUS

God helps those who help themselves. You have experienced this plenty of times as your efforts have been paid off. While your colleagues at work may pass negative comments at your work, your boss will not have any complaints with you. For investments purposes, real estate and construction seem to be a wise option, suggests Ganesh.

#### PISCES

You will be able to come up triumphs against the competition today. You should be wary of hidden enemies, for they might be involved in slandering you. It is best to reach out to others and make friends before they take it upon themselves to hinder your progress.

# Katrina reveals her fashion mantra



New Delhi: Actress Katrina Kaif has said that fashion is a mode of communication to the world and defines one's personality. "Fashion to me is a way to express myself. It's a mode of communication to the world and defines your individuality. My idea of sustainable fashion is to use products that are organic and sustainable in nature," adds the *Dhoom 3* actor while sharing how she adopts sustainable fashion.

On her criterion to select a brand before endorsing, she says, "I endorse brands that are relevant to me and can be a part of my daily life. This is one of the most important criteria for me."

Asked about her definition of fashion, the *Bharat* actress explains, "Fashion is all about comfort, you need not blindly follow the latest trends to look stylish. Your confidence is your most special accessory. Don't be afraid to play around with colours and garments, and remember, you have the power to make anything cool if you're comfortable and confident." IANS

## Shreya teams with brother Soumyadeep for new single

Mumbai: Singer Shreya Ghoshal has released a single titled *Angana Morey*, for which she has joined hands with her brother, musician Soumyadeep Ghoshal. Talking about working with her brother, Shreya said: "Working on a song with Soumyadeep proved to be a lot of fun. We've experienced every single moment together in the process and the best part is the understanding that we have between us." "Amidst the work hassle, we made sure to have a hearty laugh and a chat to ease up. Needless to say, working in the pandemic proved to be a challenge initially, but we've all got used to it and are availing the benefits of the digital world," she added. "Angana Morey brought me closer to my roots and that was a riding factor for its creation," shared the singer. The song is a virtually created and classically rooted electro-pop ode to lost love, an energetic electro bandish track. IANS



## Nick wants to have 'many' kids with Priyanka

Los Angeles: American pop star Nick Jonas said he plans to have a big family with his wife, actress Priyanka Chopra.

"It's going to be a beautiful journey, and I hope for many, or whatever that is," Nick said, while discussing children, in an interaction with *eonline.com*.

The singer, who married Priyanka in a Christian wedding and then a Hindu ceremony in 2018, still seems completely smitten by his wife.

"She is the most important piece of the puzzle, and it's obviously something we hope happens, and god willing, it comes together. You know, whatever is right. We're blessed to have each other and have a full heart for the future, I say, and things are out of your control. And the foundation of a couple is strong, and you're excited about the possibility of that," he said. IANS

# Top B-town stars trek southwards for wider reach



Hindi film actors now get good money and banners which was not the case earlier. So it works for them, says Chennai-based trade analyst Sreedhar Pillai.

Hindi film industry's romance with big commercial cinema in the South continues in the coming months. While the trend is not new, a new crop of top Hindi stars get going with the trend in the near future.

The new roster of Mumbai imports down South follows recent forays by Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Deepika Padukone, and Sonakshi Sinha among numerous others, who have worked in southern productions for a wider audience reach.

"Solo hero Hindi films didn't get a great response in the South earlier. Plus, the actors now get good money and good banners which was not the case in the past, so it works for them," says Chennai-based trade analyst Sreedhar Pillai, about the trend of signing big Hindi film stars that top southern producers are discovering all over again.

Here is a look at current under-productions that feature some of the biggest names of Hindi film industry along with Southern superstars.

**RRR**  
The SS Rajamouli directorial has been creating buzz ever since it was

announced. The film has Telugu superstars Ram Charan and Jr NTR, along with Ajay Devgn and Alia Bhatt. The unit recently finished shooting the film's climax scene and the film is expected to release in October this year. Unconfirmed rumours have stated the film rides a budget of over Rs 450 crore.

**KGF Chapter 2**  
The sequel to the 2018 blockbuster *KGF: Chapter 1* brings back Kannada superstar Yash as 'Rocky' the gangster. Added attraction in the sequel is the presence of Sanjay Dutt and Raveena Tandon in the cast. While Raveena plays 'Ramika Sen', described just as a powerful figure in the story as of now, Dutt is cast as the antagonist 'Adheera'. The film is set to release in July this year.

**Untitled Prabhas film with Big B**  
The yet-untitled film promises to be a mega affair, uniting Telugu superstar Prabhas with legend Amitabh Bachchan and superstar actress Deepika Padukone. The film will be directed by Nag Ashwin and is slated to release in 2022.

**Acharya**  
The much-awaited Chiranjeevi starrer has the Telugu superstar's son Ram Charan as one of the producers. The film will have actor Sonu Sood, who was a called a messiah for the migrants during the lockdown, play a pivotal role. Being shot in Hyderabad, the film is expected to release in May this year. AGENCIES

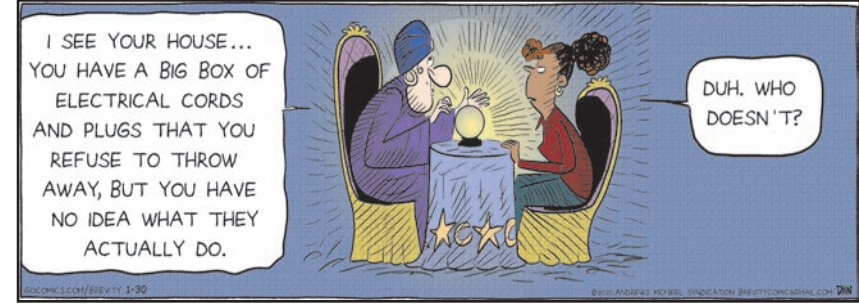
### PEANUTS



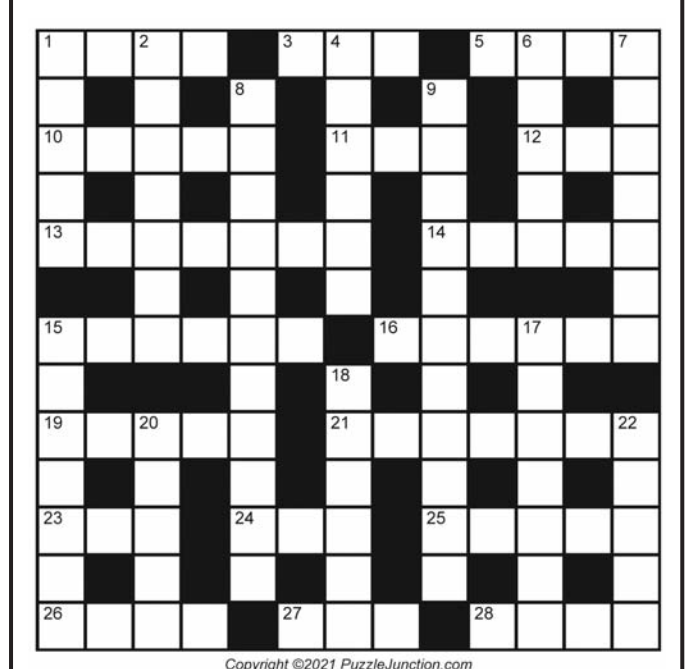
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



### FUN post CROSSWORD



- Copyright ©2021 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 It ebbs and flows
  - 3 Make a scene?
  - 5 Ship's front
  - 10 Also-ran
  - 11 Journey segment
  - 12 Bar stock
  - 13 Carnivorous freshwater fish
  - 14 Utopian
  - 15 Word form
  - 16 Tracked down
  - 19 Fetch
  - 21 Curved sword
  - 23 Peruvian coin
  - 24 Scoundrel
  - 25 Coral formations
  - 26 Himalayan legend
  - 27 Chinese tea
  - 28 Debate side
- Down**
- 1 Garden bulb
  - 2 Demolish
  - 4 After wine or root
  - 6 Worker's demand
  - 7 Type of vehicle
  - 8 Hardware stores
  - 9 Farming
  - 15 Diplomatic building
  - 17 Exchange, as a car (5-2)
  - 18 Rob Roy ingredient
  - 20 Coastal feature
  - 22 Raw fish dish

### SUDOKU

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

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

### SOLUTIONS

**CROSSWORD**

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

**SUDOKU**

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

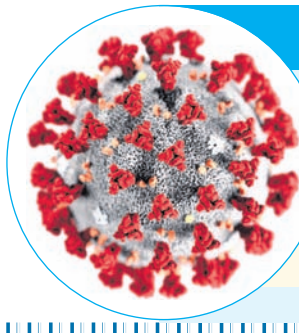
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW





## OPPOSING EVICTION

Members of Jana Jagaran Manch hold a demonstration in front of the Cuttack collectorate, Wednesday, to oppose eviction of locals for a proposed flyover project in Jobra area



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	10,45,64,951	7,62,76,087	22,67,855
India	1,07,77,284	1,04,62,631	1,54,596
Odisha	3,35,282	3,32,499	1,906

# GIVE LEGAL ASSURANCE ON MSP: ACHARYA

**POST NEWS NETWORK**  
**New Delhi, Feb 3:** Expressing concern over the January 26 violence and ongoing farmers' protest against the three farm laws in Delhi, Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP Prasanna Acharya Wednesday suggested that the government should give written assurance to farmers on minimum support price (MSP) by amending the act.



**Why can't the government put two lines in the act itself and give legal assurance to farmers on MSP?**

PRASANNA ACHARYA | BJD MP

The senior BJD MP while speaking on the Motions of Thanks on the President's Address, said that one of the main demands of farmers is MSP and to address that the government is giving oral assurance to them. The government should make amendment in the law and add provisions giving assurance on the MSP regime, he added.

"Why can't the government put two lines in the act itself and give

legal assurance to farmers on MSP?" said Acharya in the Rajya Sabha.

He also sought to know from the Union government regarding the rise in farmers' income from 2014-15 to 2021.

Terming the January 26 violence as most unfortunate, Acharya said that no Indian can appreciate that but putting whole blame on farmers is not appropriate. The BJD MP demanded that a committee headed by a sitting Supreme Court judge should be constituted to hold an impartial enquiry in the January 26 violence at Red Fort and other places in the national capital.

The BJD MP also suggested for the incorporation of the theory of Ahimsa in the Preamble. "We have to create a mindset for Ahimsa in the country to prevent violence. We have been appealing to all political parties to incorporate the theory of Ahimsa in the Preamble to create an atmosphere of non-violence," he said.

Acharya also put forth BJD's demand to pass women reservation bill which seeks to grant 33 per cent reservation to women in the Lok Sabha and legislative assemblies. He said that women representation in the Lok Sabha is only 14 per cent,

# Sasmit seeks passage of women quota Bill

**NEW DELHI:** The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP Sasmit Patra, Wednesday raised the demand for passage of the Women's Reservation Bill, which seeks to provide 33 per cent reservation to women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.

While speaking during the Zero Hour in the Rajya Sabha, the BJD MP reiterated the demand raised by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for the passage of the Women's Reservation Bill in Parliament. Speaking in Odia, Patra said women empowerment is extremely important in India and especially in the context of economic, social and political empowerment.

On the issue of social and economic empowerment, Patra stated that the Union government should study the model of Mission Shakti programme of Odisha which has empowered more than 80 lakh women through Women Self Help



**The Union government should study the model of Mission Shakti programme of Odisha which has empowered more than 80 lakh women through Women Self Help Groups**

SASMIT PATRA | BJD MP

more women representation than India," said Acharya while urging the government to pass the bill in the Lower House, where the BJP has absolute majority.

The senior BJD MP informed the Upper House that Odisha had suffered 190 natural calamities dur-

ing the last century and urged the government to grant at least a special package to the state.

Acharya also requested the government to set up an international airport in Puri. He said that Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has requested the Centre in this regard.

As per sources, the state's largest urban local body earns about Rs. 16-18 crore yearly through advertising fee, which constitutes about 15% of the BMC's revenue. However, with the COVID-induced lockdown,

# Fee dispute pushes civic body's losses

AVIRAL MISHRA, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 3:** With the 2020 financial year nearing an end, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) is set to lose around Rs. 4 crore through hoarding fees due to the dispute between the civic authorities and defaulters.

As per an audit report of the BMC's revenue department, the civic authorities have failed to collect Rs. 4.76 crore from private hoarding/advertising agencies since 2017. As per the report, there are 77 defaulters with individual arrear amount up to Rs.40 lakhs.

It may be mentioned here that the civic authorities collect a lion's share of their annual revenue from advertisement licence fees. They own around 600 properties out of 760 hoardings in the state capital.

The report had also mentioned that the BMC has been able to collect only ₹50 lakhs from the defaulters. Responding to this, BMC Deputy Commissioner of Revenue, Sriramanta Mishra said, "A dispute between the defaulters and the BMC regarding the amounts and fees is still ongoing in the court. We are waiting for a verdict and thus we haven't been able to retrieve the amount. As soon as a decision is produced, we will act accordingly."

Although sources mentioned that the civic body had earlier auctioned ₹19 crore advertisement rights to two parties in February last year, it will still lag in earning profits from advertisements owing to the pandemic.



**The civic authorities have failed to collect ₹4.76 cr from private hoarding/advertising agencies since 2017**

the civic authority is further suffering a loss of Rs. 10 crore as agencies have expressed their inability to pay rents.

"Across Odisha only 100 outdoor advertising properties out of the total 16,500 were booked during the lockdown. Most corporate houses and small business organisations had slashed funds for the advertising campaigns. As a result, there was almost a 95 pc drop in hoarding displays across the state. We have thus asked BMC to consider rebate for this year's advertisement taxes," Sujit Sahoo, President of Outdoor Advertising Agencies Association of Odisha had earlier said talking to **Orissa POST**.

Although sources mentioned that the civic body had earlier auctioned ₹19 crore advertisement rights to two parties in February last year, it will still lag in earning profits from advertisements owing to the pandemic.

# CM flags off lighting project



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurates the lighting project, Wednesday. Ministers Pratap Jena and Ashok Panda are also seen in the frame

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 3:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday inaugurated an LED streetlight project on Cuttack-Puri bypass road in Bhubaneswar. The lighting system has been started over a 12 km stretch from Palasuni Chowk to Lingipur Chowk on the bypass road.

"This project will reduce the cost of electricity and make the public, especially drivers and pedestrians, feel safer. Better lighting will reduce road accidents, crime and theft in the area," Naveen said while inaugurating the project here at a function.

The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has installed 774 LED lights of 120 watts on 387 poles. 3 high-mast lights have also been installed at Lingipur, Keshura and Pandra junctions on the road. The state tourism department has spent



An illuminated Cuttack-Puri bypass

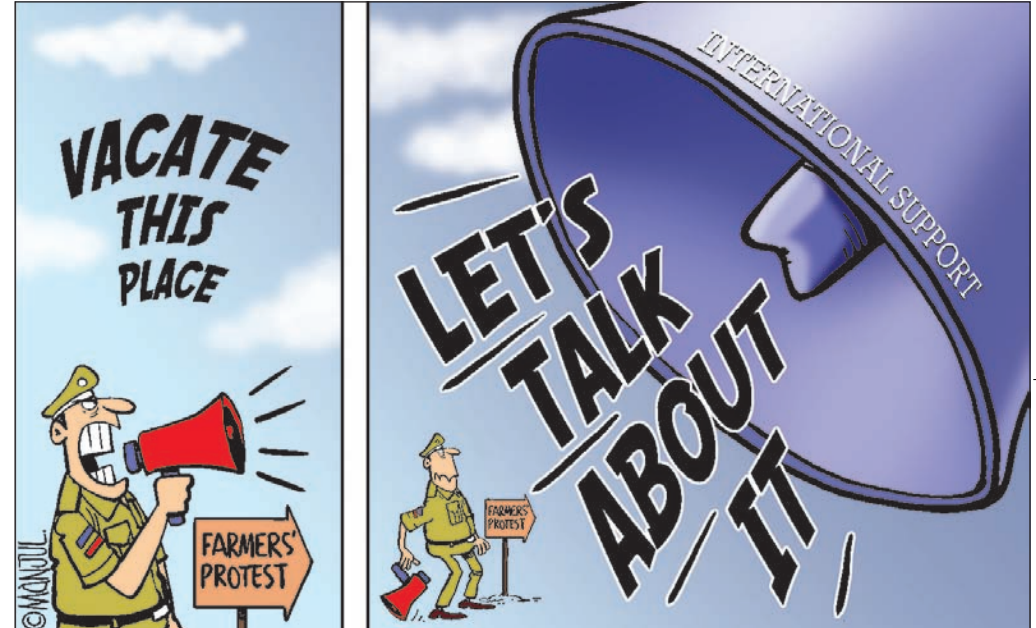
₹2.85 crore for this project. BMC continues to install street lights in the corporation area to provide lighting to the commuters. More than 40,000 lights have already been installed so far in various parts of the city. An additional amount of ₹6.7 crore will be utilised in near future for illumination of roads. Among others, Housing and Urban

Development Minister Pratap Jena, Science & Technology Minister Ashok Panda, Bhubaneswar MLAs—Anant Narayan Jena and Susant Kumar Rout, Urban Development secretary G Mathivathanan, Municipal Administration director Sangramjit Nayak and BMC commissioner Prem Chandra Chaudhary attended the event.

# Women to collect water cess in Jeypore

**JEYPORE:** Water cess worth crores of rupees is pending for collection in Jeypore town. The public health department has sought the help of the municipality authorities for collection of the same. The public health department will engage seven women to collect the cess. The municipality formed a committee which is recruiting women eligible for Jalasathi. One of the eligibility criteria for a candidate is she should be either a member of an SHG or an SHG federation. Jeypore town is supplied piped water for four hours every day. Over ₹1.5 crore is being spent for water supply to the people annually. Crores of rupees are being spent annually, but collection of water cess is discouraging. Only a meagre amount of ₹2 to 3 lakh is being collected annually.

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



# Illegal mineral transportation under scanner

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Joda, Feb 3:** Amid allegations of illegal mineral transportation, police have intensified investigation into a recent seizure of iron ore fines loaded in two trucks behind a petrol pump under Joda mining circle of Keonjhar. The iron fines were being transported from a lump ore crushing unit.

Mines officials of Joda mining circle and police zeroed in on the

crushing unit where they seized 300 tonnes of iron fines.

According to the report, Indulgot crusher was permitted to transport an old stock of 1500 tonnes of lump ores stocked on its yard to Jaymata Ambe Enterprises in Sundargarh. The crushing unit was transporting fines instead of lump ore.

The fines which was seized by the mines department has 60 ferrous content.

It may be noted here that the mines department had seized huge quantities of illegally transported iron ore at Banspani rail siding and different other places in 2009-10. The seized ore was stocked on the premises and under custody of Indu Ingot crushing unit.

For over 10 years, various ore crushing units in the area have been closed for some legal reasons.

As a rule, the mines department usually sells off the seized ores

through auction.

After seizure of fines at the crushing unit, many questions have cropped up — if the fines which was being transported from the crusher was part of the stocked ore or fines was being transported from outside.

When asked about it, joint director of the Joda mining circle Salil Kumar Behera said preliminary investigation points to mineral transportation from other areas to the crusher unit.

## PREP FOR HSC EXAM

# Parent-teacher meeting to be held Feb 13

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 3:** The state government Wednesday decided to conduct parent teacher meetings (PTMs) across Odisha February 13 for the upcoming annual HSC examination-2021, scheduled to be held during the month of May.

Project Director of Odisha School Education Programme Authority, Bhupendra Singh Poonia, has directed the DEOs and BEOs to instruct Headmasters (HMs) of all the educational institutions of the state to conduct the PTMs February 13.

The maximum duration of the meeting shall be two hours only. Flexibility is also given to the HMs to decide the timing of the meetings in the scheduled date without hampering the instructional hours of the school. The HMs should intimate the parents about the PTMs, the timing and agenda, at least seven days in advance.



In the meeting, the teachers and the parents will discuss the 100-day academic session, safety measures on Covid 19 as per the standard operating procedures (SOP) on school reopening, socio-economic well being of the students and other issues related to teaching and development.

"Holistic efforts have been made to improve the educational envi-

ronment in schools as well as in the community. The meeting is a step to bring the parents to the school fold and make them aware of the safety measures taken up in the school, educational achievement for their children and classroom practice followed in the school to prepare the child for the annual HSC exam," Poonia said.

Earlier, the school and mass education department allowed the schools to reopen for Class X and XII students January 8 giving special importance to 100-day academic plan.

Meanwhile, the last date for filling up of forms for matriculation examinations has been extended by the Board of Secondary Education (BSE), Odisha. The BSE said the last date for filling up and submitting of forms has been extended to February 10. Earlier, the BSE had announced February 2 as the last date for filling up of forms.

Notably, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had directed the Board of Secondary Education (BSE) January 12 to waive the fees of matriculation students.

The decision would benefit more than six lakh students in the state while the government would have to bear ₹27 crore as expenditure in this regard.

## AT LORD'S ABODE



Members of the Odisha Assembly Ethics Committee visit Srimandir in Puri, Wednesday

OP PHOTO



# Career counselling cells in govt colleges to be discontinued

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 3: The Higher Education (HE) department Wednesday directed 52 government degree colleges to discontinue the functioning of career counselling cells (CCCs) as the ambitious initiative 'failed' to yield the desired output.

In a letter to the colleges, HE additional secretary Rajashree Mohanty also directed the principals to refund the unspent amount lying with the institutions under 'CCCs' along with the interest accounted on it till February 28, 2021.

The institutions include BJB (Autonomous) College and Rajdhani College in Bhubaneswar; Shailabala Women's College and Jatiya Kabi Bira Kishore Government College in Cuttack, Samanta Chandra Sekhar Autonomous College and Govt Women's College in Puri.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had in 2018 launched the CCCs at 52 government colleges and 10 universities across the state with an aim to enhance the employability skills of the students. The state government had sanctioned ₹3 lakh to each college to set up CCC.

The cells were required to arrange one-to-one as well as group career counselling sessions for students in order to make them aware of their strengths and weaknesses, identify the skill gaps and take up new learning to achieve career goals.

## END OF PERSONALISED CARE



The cells were required to arrange one-to-one as well as group career counselling sessions for students in order to make them aware of their strengths and weaknesses, identify the skill gaps and take up new learning to achieve career goals.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had in 2018 launched the career counselling cells (CCCs) at 52 government colleges and 10 universities.

The state government had sanctioned Rs 3 lakh to each college to set up CCC.

CCCs were expected to bridge the employability gap as well as establish a link with the job market to facilitate placements for students.

one-to-one as well as group career counselling sessions for students in order to make them aware of their strengths and weaknesses, identify the skill gaps and take up new learning to achieve career goals.

The cells were also expected to arrange employability assessment tests for the students and subsequently share a comprehensive report with the students for corrective action. The initiative, however, failed to yield the desired output,

sources said.

The HE department had earlier asked eight universities to return the unutilised funds released for setting up of civil service coaching centres on their premises. The varsities were Utkal University, Berhampur University, Sambalpur University, Rama Devi Women's University, Ravenshaw University, Gangadhar Meher University, Fakir Mohan University and North Odisha University, they added.

# NIT ROURKELA TO HELP UPLIFT KBK

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Feb 3: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) in Rourkela has signed a pact with its distinguished alumni Venkata Narasimhan Peri for the upliftment of backward regions of Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi in Odisha.

Peri is the sponsor of its Poverty Alleviation Research Centre (PARC). Through this research project, NIT Rourkela aims to make a significant contribution in reducing poverty in that region. The pact was signed during the diamond jubilee celebrations of the institute.

"Institutes like NIT Rourkela play a significant role in India's call for 'Vocal for Local' and 'Local for Global'. I appeal to the students to aim to create jobs rather than seeking jobs. I believe this institution is doing wonders with the help of Foundation for Technology & Business Incubation," Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' said at the virtual event.

# Senior rly official under CBI scanner

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 3: A senior East Coast Railway (ECOR) official has come under the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) scanner for allegedly amassing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income, sources said Wednesday.

According to sources, the central agency carried out simultaneous raids at various places related with Rabi Narayan Rath, posted as Senior Travelling Inspector (Accounts) at ECOR headquarters here, including his house in Kolathia area and his



office in the Capital city.

Following the searches, the central agency has claimed to have stumbled upon over ₹1.19 crore disproportionate assets belonging to Rath, a press statement issued by CBI read.

# AGAINST NEW WAGE CODE



People under the banner of AITUC and a few other trade unions take out a rally from Master Canteen Square to PMG in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday, condemning the new wage code

# After 8 months, state's active Covid caseload dips below 1K

Odisha's coronavirus death toll remained unchanged at 1,906 for the last nine days

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Feb 3: After eight months, state's active Covid-19 caseload dipped to below 1,000 Wednesday even as 71 fresh infections pushed Odisha's tally to 3,35,282, a senior Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department official said.

The state now has 946 active cases. It had recorded less than 1,000 active cases June 2 last year. "Happy to share that after a spirited fight of 8 months, Odisha's active cases have fallen below 1,000 for the first time since 2nd June 2020. We salute the continuing efforts of our valiant COVID warriors (sic)," the H&FW department tweeted.

Forty-two new cases were reported in quarantine centres, while 29 infections were detected during contact tracing, the official said. Sundargarh district registered the highest number of new cases at 11. Odisha's coronavirus death toll remained unchanged at 1,906 for the last nine days.

As many as 53 coronavirus patients have died due to comorbidities so far. As many as 3,32,377 people have recovered from the disease to date. The state has so far tested over 77.74 lakh samples for Covid-19, including 22,987 Tuesday, said the official.

The H&FW department said that 1,92,437 health workers and frontline personnel have been registered for receiving Covid vaccines in the second phase of the drive scheduled to begin February 6. Odisha has received 1,46,590 additional doses before commencement of the drive. The state has vaccinated 2,10,205 health workers

so far. Meanwhile, H&FW Director Bijay Panigrahy said that frontline warriors will be vaccinated at their respective office during the second spell of first phase Covid-19 vaccination drive that will begin February 6.

"We have prepared a micro-plan to vaccinate the frontline workers at their respective offices. We will hire alternate vaccinators and train them accordingly for the purpose. The identification and training of the vaccinators will be completed within two days. Session sites will be set up in respective office premises. The vaccination will commence from February 6", Panigrahy said.

As many as 1,92,000 frontline warriors have been enrolled so far and more will be included in the database as the registration process is still in progress, he added.

# CHEQUE CLONING

# EOW arrests another from Ranchi

The agency had already arrested four persons in connection with the ₹2.87 crore fraud

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 3: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) has arrested another accused in the ₹2.87 crore cheque clone case from Ranchi, an official said Wednesday.

The agency had already arrested four persons — B Murty Pillai, Amit Kumar Gupta, Sunil Kumar Mohanta and Arun Kumar Barik — in connection with the case.

The accused, Harsh Singh, was produced before the Judicial Magistrate in Ranchi before being brought in transit for production before the sub-divisional judicial magistrate (SDJM) at Panposh in Rourkela, the official added.

# CESU PRIVATISATION OPPOSED



People under the aegis of 'Employees/workers and engineers Ekata Mancha' demonstrate at PMG Square in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday, opposing the privatisation of CESU

# Cold wave conditions in eight districts: IMD

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 3: As parts of the state experienced severe cold wave conditions, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Wednesday issued a fresh warning on continuance of chilly weather in eight other districts in next 24 hours, official sources said.

The districts which have been identified to experience the cold wave conditions are Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Deogarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Kandhamal, Kalahandi and Nabarangpur.

Phulbani in Kandhamal district was the coldest place in the state at 5 degree Celsius, followed by Daringbadi (7), Kerei (8), Nabarangpur (8.3), Koraput and Keonjhar (9 each), Deogarh, Jharsuguda and Bhawanipatna

(9.2 each), Bolangir (9.4), Nuapada (9.9) and Sundargarh (10), the weatherman said. The twin cities of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar recorded minimum temperature at 12 and 13.3 degree Celsius respectively, it said.

Jharsuguda, Keonjhar, Bhawanipatna and Phulbani experienced cold waves and severe cold wave conditions, while Malkangiri witnessed heavy fog. Meanwhile, the IMD has suggested infants and elderly to avoid prolonged exposure to cold during night or early in the morning. It said that there will be no large change in minimum night temperature and it will be below normal by 3 to 5 degree Celsius at many places over the districts during next 24 hours. The temperature will rise subsequently in the next 2 days by 3 to 4 degrees.



About the case details, the EOW said that they received a complaint from the chief manager of Bank of India's (BoI) Rourkela branch that B Murty Pillai, a customer of the branch, has managed to avail Rs. 2.87 crore from the branch by using a cloned cheque. "He was arrested January 8, 2021. Later, Gupta, Mohanta and Barik were also taken into custody in connection with the forgery. During investigation, it was found that Singh is the mastermind," the agency said in a press statement.

"Singh, Pillai and their other accomplices hatched a conspiracy. Singh is the mastermind in procuring the cloned cheque purportedly issued from the account of 'M/s Karnataka State Co-Operative Marketing Federation Limited'. He had handed over the cheque to Pillai for encashment. Pillai after entering the amount of ₹2.87 crore on the cheque, managed to get it cleared at BOI's Rourkela branch," the agency further said.

Pillai got the amount deposited to his cash credit account maintained in the branch. "Soon after clearing of the fake cheque and deposit of ₹2.87 crore to his account, Pillai transferred the amount to different accounts maintained by him, his relatives and accomplices. Singh also received a substantial amount from it. Photos of many cloned cheques were seized from Mohanta which were sent to him by Singh," it pointed out.

# 'Excavation work done without informing ASI'

According to ASI superintending engineer Arun Malick, the state agencies engaged in the beautification drive should share the master plan with the ASI before starting work in the heritage zone

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Feb 3: The Archaeological Survey of India Wednesday said that the state government has not sought prior permission from the National Mission on Monument and

Antiquities before undertaking excavation activities under the Ekamra Kshetra beautification drive in the state Capital.

This was stated by ASI Joint Director General, NMMA, Sanjay Kumar Manjul, who visited the excavation site near Suka-Sari temple in the state Capital to inspect the site after some workers engaged in Ekamra Kshetra beautification drive discovered an ancient stone structure, suspected to be part of an ancient temple buried under the earth, last month.

"Excavation of the site near Suka-Sari temple was done without informing the Archaeological Survey of India," Manjul said, adding that one has to see the prima facie after looking at the pictures of the previous and the present situation.

He was here to verify if any dam-

# EKAMRA KSHETRA BEAUTIFICATION



age was caused to the heritage site during the recent excavation work. Manjul's visit came after Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan urged the Centre to rush a team of experts to oversee whether the newly found stone structure was part of an ancient temple.

The stone, which has inscription

of arts, came to the light while the Odisha Bridge and Construction Corporation Limited and Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) started excavation as part of the Ekamra Kshetra beautification work.

According to the rules, the 100-metre area from the protected mon-

ument like Lord Lingaraj Temple is a protected area while no activities can be carried out within 300-metre from the main monument. However, the rules are not followed while undertaking the excavation near Suka-Sari temple, which is also close to Lord Lingaraj Temple.

ASI is the custodian of the Suka-Sari temples (10th-11th Somavamshi period), and these shrines are protected under the Ancient Monuments and Remains Act (AMASR Act).

ASI superintending engineer Arun Malick said that the state agencies engaged in the Ekamra Kshetra beautification drive should share the master plan with the ASI which should be studied by the experts at the ASI headquarters before starting work in the heritage zone.

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# Balasore: Special drive to return deposits to ponzi victims begins

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Balasore, Feb 3:** Hopes of chit fund victims have rekindled as the district administration has launched a special drive to collect details of the small depositors in Balasore, a report said.

Following a directive from Collector K Sudarshan Chakraborty, officials have started visiting door to door, collecting details of the ponzi victims.

As per the report (3 and 4) of the Chit Fund Commission, 4161 depositors have not received their deposits from the chit fund companies yet.

On the first day (February 1), officials have visited houses of 454 depositors in different blocks and collected indemnity bonds and other supporting documents from them.

Besides, they have identified 1618 victims in the first day of the survey. According to the 5th report of the chit fund commission, there are 9982 chit fund depositors in different blocks. Of them, officials had visited houses of 761 while 765 victims were identified. Moreover, data about 46 depositors defrauded by Rose Valley were collected. It is said that chit fund victims have been asked to furnish details about indemnity bonds and bank account details at the offices of the

## HOPES REKINDLE FOR SMALL DEPOSITORS



**As per the report (3 and 4) of the Chit Fund Commission, 4161 depositors have not received their deposits from the chit fund companies yet**

All revenue inspectors have been instructed to be present in their office from 10 am to 3 pm to receive required information from ponzi victims. Significantly, the administration has laid stress on an awareness drive for the people. All Anganwadi workers, CDPOs, panchayat extension officers and GRSS were asked to create awareness by visiting houses and to receive forms from them.

# Coal Bearing Tribunal to come up in Jharsuguda

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jharsuguda, Feb 3:** The Centre Wednesday announced plans to set up a Coal Bearing Tribunal (CBT) at Jharsuguda district soon.

The CBT will supposedly deal with prolonged land disputes pertaining to payment of compensation and rehabilitation of oustees. The announcement has brought a sigh of relief for land oustees of several coal mines in Sambalpur, Jharsuguda and Sundargarh districts. Union Ministry of Coal has issued a circular to Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) in this regard. The tribunal will function part-time till September 30, 2022, the Ministry's official circular mentioned.

The CBT is to be set up with immediate effect under Section 14 (2) of CBA (A&D) Act, 1957. The District and Sessions Judge Jharsuguda will work as ex-officio chief of the tribunal, the circular stated. The CBT chief will be entitled to an honorarium as applicable to other part-time tribunals constituted under the provisions of Section 14 (2) of CBA (A&D) Act. All supporting staff will be engaged by the MCL. The presiding officer of the tribunal including other supporting staff will be covered under the payroll of MCL. The office expenses will also be borne by the subsidiary of Coal India Ltd, the circular read.

# 'Mo School' remains non-starter in industry-rich Angul district

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Angul, Feb 3:** Due to administrative inertia and lack of will power, the state government's ambitious programme, 'Mo School' has hit a roadblock in Angul district. The district has 1,660 schools. Of them, 248 are high schools, 848 are primary and the rest 564 are upper primary institutions.

The district is home to a number of big companies like Nalco, NTPC and MCL. Many of the top officers of these companies are alumni of schools in the district. Similarly, one of the present Union Ministers is from Angul district while it is the Parliament constituency of an MP and Assembly constituencies for five MLAs. There are administrative officials at various levels who could have easily implemented the 'Mo School' programme.

However, except for District Collector Siddharth Shankar Swain, none of the people who matter have taken any initiative to implement the 'Mo School' programme.

The advantages of the programme are that if someone adopts a school, he will have to be personally involved with it and ensure its development in the quality of education, students' facilities and other infrastructure. The improvement will have to be at level



In spite of repeated requests from the state government, no one has come forward to adopt any of the state-run schools in this district

with those found in private educational institutions. Government officials feel that if the bar is raised more and more parents would want to enroll their wards in government-run schools.

However, in spite of repeated requests from the Odisha government, no one has come forward to adopt any of the state-run schools in this district. Chhendipada MLA Susant Kumar Behera, however, said that he plans to adopt a school. "I have decided to adopt the school where I studied," Behera said. "The Assembly session begins February 18. Then all the MLAs of Angul district will meet and decide on how to take the 'Mo School' programme forward," he added.

District Collector Swain informed that he has decided to adopt a school

# Padma Shri awardee Kamala Pujari hospitalised

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jeypore, Feb 3:** Padma Shri awardee Kamala Pujari has been admitted to Saheed Laxman Nayak (SLN) Medical College and Hospital in Koraput district after she fell ill a few days back. She is suffering from multiple old-age related complications.

Informing about her health condition, Koraput chief district medical officer (CDMO) Dr Makarananda Behura said, "She was first admitted to the District Headquarters Hospital (DHH). While undergoing treatment there, her condition deteriorated as she developed kidney related problems. She was then shifted to SLN Medical College and Hospital."

Credited with the feat of preserving hundreds of varieties of paddy seeds, Pujari has been ailing for last couple of days. As she suffers from multiple health complications, she was bedridden in her house earlier and had given up



taking diet, a source said. A tribal woman, Pujari was conferred Padma Shri for being a pioneer in preserving hundreds of local varieties of paddy seeds and for promoting organic farming. She has preserved more than a hundred varieties of locally grown paddy. Pujari is also a crusader against usage of chemical fertiliser. She is also the recipient of 'Equator of Initiative Award' in 2002 and the 'Best Woman Farmer' in the state in 2004. A hostel of the OUAT was named after her.

# High level panel visits Nrusinghanath, Harishankar temples



High-level team at the Lower Suktel project site in Bolangir

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar/Bolangir, Feb 3:** On the direction of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, a high level committee comprising Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, 5T Secretary VK Pandian and Western Odisha Development Council (WODC) chairman Asit Kumar Tripathy Wednesday visited Nrusinghanath and Harishankar temples and discussed the beautification of the temples and their peripheral development.

These temples are important tourist destinations of Odisha and there is a tremendous potential to develop it as part of a major tourist circuit. This historic site is closely associated with the social, cultural and spiritual life of the region. Pilgrims and tourists from the state and beyond visit this place in large numbers, especially during important festivals.

In view of the importance and popularity of the temples, the Chief Minister wants a project to be taken up for the development and heritage conservation.

This transformational project will include beautification, pilgrim amenities, approach roads, tourist facilities, trekking routes, feasibility of ropeway, facilities for marriage halls and water conserva-

tion features, among others. Reputed professional teams will be assigned to prepare the master plan for the two temple areas.

The committee along with Water Resources Secretary Anu Garg and private secretary to Chief Minister R Vineel Krishna and other senior officials visited the Lower Suktel irrigation project at Magurbeda, Bolangir and reviewed its status.

# Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, 5T Secretary VK Pandian and WODC chairman Asit Kumar Tripathy also reviewed the progress of Lower Suktel project

Apart from engineering and proposed enhanced irrigational aspects, the committee also discussed about the land acquisition compensation, rehabilitation and resettlement issues of the affected people. The panel directed that all issues should be resolved and the project execution expedited. District Collector Chanchal Rana, SP Kusalkar Nitin Dagudu and other senior officials accompanied the high level team during their visit.

# OUSTEES AWAIT R&R DUES

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Balasore, Feb 3:** People who lost their land for construction of a firing point at Integrated Test Range of Chandipur in Balasore are still deprived rehabilitation and compensation. They have taken up the issue with the district administration, a report said.

According to the report, in 1998, the administration had acquired over three and a half acres from 13 people at Jaydebaksaba mouza. The government had sanctioned funds for their

rehabilitation and resettlement. Although 23 years have passed since then, the fund has not been provided to the effected, it was alleged.

The land was handed over to ITR authorities August 8, 2004 while then Collector had sanctioned fund for the R&R of the land losers. The R&R authorities had been served a notice over delay in clearing the aid.

Sushant Kumar Pradhan, a clerk of the R&R department, said as some have failed to furnish necessary documents, there has been a delay in providing their compensation.

**SURYO FOODS & INDUSTRIES LIMITED**  
 CIN: L05004OR1989PLC002264  
 Regd. Office: Dinalipi Bhawan, Plot No. A-54/1 & A-55/1, Nayapalli, Baramunda, Bhubaneswar-751003, Odisha  
 Email: suryofoods.industries@gmail.com  
 website: www.suryofoods.com

**NOTICE**  
 Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements), Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that Meeting of Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on **Thursday, 11th February, 2021 at 11:00 A.M.** at Regd. Office: Dinalipi Bhawan, Plot No. A-54/1 & A-55/1, Nayapalli, Baramunda, Bhubaneswar-751003, Odisha, inter-alia to consider and approve the Unaudited Financial results of the Company for the quarter ended 30th December, 2020.

For Suryo Foods & Industries Limited  
 Sd./- Manisha Satapathy  
 Company Secretary and Compliance Officer

Date: 03.02.2021  
 Place: Bhubaneswar

**OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL GOPALPUR, GANJAM, ODISHA, PIN-761002**  
 No.191/ NAC Date 2.2.2021

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**  
 The Executive Officer, N.A.C., Gopalpur on behalf of N.A.C., Gopalpur invites "Expression of Interest" from Comptroller & Auditor General Empanelled Audit firms for auditing of annual accounts for the year 2013-14 to 2019-20 of NAC, Gopalpur, Dist.- Ganjam. The Expression of Interest should indicate the audit fees, taxes, T.A., D.A. and accommodation charges, if any, separately with detail boidata of the firm and it should reach in the above mentioned address in sealed envelopes through registered/ speed post on or before 11 February 2021 by 12 Noon. The minimum fee of audit and criterion for selection is given hereunder. The EOI will be opened in the same day at 3.30 P.M. The interested party or their authorized representative may attend the same.

The authority reserves all the right to accept / reject any or all the "EOI" without assigning any reason thereof.

**TECHNICAL CRITERIA FOR SELECTION**

CRITERIA	MARKS
Nos. of CA in the firm	Upto 10 Nos.-10 marks 11 to 20 Nos.-20 marks
Nos. of years of establishment of firm	Upto 15 years - 10 marks 15-25 years-15 marks 25-35 years - 20 marks Above 35 years -25 marks
Turnover per annum	Upto 20 lakhs- 10 marks 21 to 40 lakhs-15 marks Above 40 lakhs-20 marks
Audit experience (Maximum 30 marks)	Govt. Audit each organization - 5 marks PSU, Audit each organization- 5 marks

**SCOPE OF WORKS**  
 Preparation of financial statements i.e. income & expenditure account, balance sheet, all schedules to income and expenditure and balance sheet, receipt payment account and trial balance etc. and Bank reconciliation statement audited from 2013-14 to 2019-20 (Year wise).

**Terms & conditions**  
 1. Necessary documents such as GSTN/PAN/Registration of firm/CAG empanelled certificate or documents should be attached.  
 2. All documents should be attached as indicate in the criteria for selection.

Sd./- Executive Officer  
 N.A.C., Gopalpur

**Govt. OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE**  
 Bid Identification No. E.E. PKL (R&B)-32/2020-21  
 E-mail address- eepwd.pkl@rediffmail.com

No. B-704:-

1. Name of the work:	- Building Work
2. Number of work	- 2 Nos. Building Works & 3 Nos. Road work
3. Estimated cost:	- Rs. 33.14 lakh to Rs. 59.00 lakh
4. Period of Completion	- 4 (Four) calendar months
5. Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	- From 11.00 A.M. of dt.05.02.2021 to 05.00 P.M. of dt.17.02.2021
6. Last Date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal	- 05.00 P.M. of dt.17.02.2021
7. Date of opening of Bid	- 11.30 A.M. of dt.18.02.2021
8. Name and address of the officer inviting Bid	- Executive Engineer, Panikoli (R&B) Division, Panikoli.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>  
 Sd./- Executive Engineer, Panikoli (R&B) Division  
 OIPR-34067/11/0023/2021

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, KHARIAR**  
 Dist:-NUAPADA, Pin:-766107  
 E-mail:-eemidivision\_khariar@rediffmail.com

Letter No.:- 229/MID/Khariar the dated:- 28/01/2021

**INVITATION FOR TENDER CALL NOTICE**  
 No.10/EEMIDKHR/2020-21

No. A-536:- Office of the Executive Engineer M.I. Division, Khariar invites sealed Item-Rate Contract (Tender) for "Resources Support Agency for FIG, FPO & Capacity Building activities under NAFCC Project at Nuapada". The Tender Document containing the details of qualification criteria, submission requirement, brief objective & scope of work and evaluation criteria etc. can be downloaded from the website [www.nuapada.nic.in](http://www.nuapada.nic.in).

Further details, if any, may be obtained from Executive Engineer M.I. Division, Khariar, Dist- Nuapada.

Last date for submission of Tender (offline) is 15th Feb.' 2021 up to 5.00PM. Sealed envelope marked to the captioned address, containing BID Documents and non-refundable fee of Rs 10000.00 in shape of Demand Draft in favour of "Executive Engineer M.I. Division, Khariar" payable at Khariar. Application can be submitted in two different envelopes (sealed) - Technical Bid & Financial bid. These envelopes need to be put in another envelope super scribing "Resources Support Agency for FIG, FPO & Capacity Building activities under NAFCC Project at Nuapada" on the top cover, through Speed Post/Registered post only addressed to the Office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Khariar, Nuapada (Odisha) 766107. Authority in no way will be responsible for postal delay.

Applicants meeting the qualification criteria may be invited for presentation/ proposal before the selection committee of DLSC. Bid Document will be subsequently issued to the short listed applicants only.

**Note:** DLSC or Executive Engineer, M.I. Division, Khariar reserves the right to cancel this Tender and / or invite afresh with or without amendments, without liability or any obligation for such Tender and without assigning any reason. Information provided at this stage is indicative and DLSC reserves the right to amend/add further details in the Bid documents.

Sd./- Executive Engineer, M.I. Division, Khariar  
 OIPR-32090/11/0006/2021



FOCUS UNION BUDGET

# FOR GROWTH RESTORATION



The heartening features are improved quality of spending, greater transparency and reduction, if not elimination of off-budget funding

The government proposes to raise a significant size of resources through monetisation of assets-PSU, gas pipelines, power transmission lines, land etc., including through new approaches like infra-invest REITs and strategic disinvestments. The government is proposing to contract its role in business and focus on governance by stepping out of areas other than a few specified strategic sectors like defence, aerospace, energy, banking and insurance. The idea is to replace existing assets with new assets creation without straining the fiscal space. Eventually, it will enhance the productivity of capital.

The heartening features are improved quality of spending, greater transparency and reduction, if not elimination of off-budget funding. Government has refrained from raising either direct or indirect taxes so as to ensure that neither the sentiment nor available resources with private sector entities or individuals are impacted adversely. On the face of it, fiscal prudence has been sacrificed, but the option of either not spending or raising taxes was going to be more damaging.

The Finance Minister has ticked all the boxes except splurging direct cash and tax reductions. The direct cash transfers do have the potential of boosting consumption in the immediate future. But with limited fiscal space, she had to make a choice between now or making an environment of high job creation and growth. In fact, the proposed allocation is also going to boost consumption but with a lag. There are some expectations, which have not been met.

In addition to the interest rate risk, inflation and a temporary blip in consumption, the greater risk is of execution. The FM has accepted in her speech that some of the last year's announcements were yet to fructify. The bureaucratic blocks will have to be substantially strengthened, if the boons of the budget are to be reaped in full measure.

The writer is a former Chairman of SEBI & LIC.

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Designing, drafting and delivering an appreciable national budget is a challenging task in a noisy democracy with competing claims, competitive populism and an inter-dependent world where the flow of external resources significantly depends on perceptions often built around presumptive standards. This year the formidability of the Union Finance Minister's challenges was compounded by the impact of Covid-19, never before (expected) GDP de-growth of over -7% and limited fiscal space. The first set of opinions on the quality and content of the budget have been splashed all over the media. The verdict of the capital market right up to the time of writing this column was positive and reverberating.

Referring to the budget and broader national priorities, first and foremost, there is the restoration of the growth trajectory. Secondly, employment generation. Third, enhancing total factor productivity. Fourth, equity. Fifth cleaner environment, ecology and sustainability. And finally, fiscal prudence.

Every spectacular economic growth story around the world in modern history from the US, post-world war Europe to very recently China has been scripted on the plinth of infrastructure. Budget 21-22 accords unprecedented focus on building an entire gamut of physical and social infrastructure-roads, railways, ports, airports, power and health, housing, education, water supply and sanitation. The allocation of a higher amount of resources has been accompanied by a better policy response, improving institutional framework and concessions. The approach seems to be to facilitate execution, minimise political risk and ease the raising of financial resources from the market. Lack of financial closure has been the graveyard of many good projects.

Building vibrancy in the debt market, setting up of a distressed assets institution, consolidation of security market laws and sharpening of the exit policy are all going to address the lending ca-

capacity inadequacy, enhancing of investor confidence and infrastructure building challenges. Further, infrastructure building revives and enhances the growth of a host of other sectors and businesses. It is understood that the building of roads influences more than 150 industries, so is the case with other infrastructure projects.

The manufacturing sector in India has been a laggard. Even 'Make in India' launched by Modi government did not contribute significantly to revival. The policy framework including the Productivity Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme announced a few months earlier has been complemented in this budget with the setting up of seven new textile parks and a few other measures like the scrapping policy. In addition, there is a coordinated approach to bring down logistics costs. This should revive manufacturing.

The housing and construction sector has been in limbo for some time. There is some improvement after the settling down of the impact of RERA, economic recovery, a sharp decline in borrowing rates and added focus on public housing. Several steps including the one-person company will give a boost to the ecosystem in small towns leading to a large number of small units and start-ups sprouting.

Infrastructure building, invigoration of manufacturing, boost to start-ups and a pick-up in housing and construction all put together are likely to weave the story

of a long-term higher growth trajectory. The biggest employers in India after agriculture are construction, health, housing, textiles and infrastructure building. Once these sectors shape up, employment opportunities will unfold and absorb a number of job seekers entering the job market every year. Looking forward, research and development will be supported with the setting up of the Research and Development Fund that has a corpus of ₹50,000 crore to be funded in the next five years.

The focus on horticulture, animal husbandry, dairies and fisheries are going to supplement incomes in rural areas. These along with better employment opportunities for the rural and urban unemployed will address albeit marginally the growing inequality. But much more needs to be done and urgently.

Improved quality of education, skill development, health, housing and sanitation will not only enhance the quality of life but also productivity of labour. All these along with attention to clean energy will also enhance wellbeing and sustainability. The envisaged policy frame of improving the ease of doing business aims at promoting entrepreneurship, competitiveness and trust. This will strengthen the enthusiasm of not only Indian but global entrepreneurs and enhance the eligibility to join the global value chain. And with a large consumption market India could become a preferred destination for diversification.



GN Bajpai

**THE FINANCE MINISTER HAS TICKED ALL THE BOXES EXCEPT SPLURGING DIRECT CASH AND TAX REDUCTIONS**

## Honey sans bees

In 2013, India started using Neonicotinoid pesticides in order to protect a crop that Monsanto had promised the Indian farmer he would not have to use pesticides on. These are the worst pesticides in the world and they have been indicted for having killed billions of bees. I called a meeting of ICAR in 2014 to ask for a ban of these pesticides. ICAR refused, even though they admitted that the bee population has gone down sharply. They said cotton was more important than fruit, grain and flowers which are dependent on bee pollination!

If bees have gone down in number drastically, how has honey production tripled? Till 2013 the yearly growth rate was only 0.4.8 per cent. From 2013-14 the growth rate rocketed from 5.3 to 11.1 per cent! This could not have happened naturally. How have hundreds of honey companies come into the market? This question has always troubled me. I don't eat honey.

Last month the environment magazine, Down to Earth, answered this question in a detailed investigation that they took months over. You should read it. We do not take food adulteration seriously and yet it is the highest form of corruption, and should have death penalty on it.

I will attempt to encapsulate what they have discovered, but again, I repeat, go onto their website and read the expose.

Let's start with the basics: Honey is eaten because it is known to be an antioxidant and has anti-microbial properties. It is expensive to create, because thousands of bees have to be maintained and fed a steady diet of flowers. Sugar has no nutrient value and is known to add weight and cause chronic disease. It is cheap. The FSSAI is the government organisation in charge of food standards. In 2017, the FSSAI ordered that honey should be tested for adulteration with corn, sugarcane, rice and beetroot syrups. The test was called C3 and C4. The tests were isotope tests, SMR, TMR, foreign oligosaccharides tests and pollen counts. In 2019, FSSAI mysteriously issued a directive revising, and downgrading, the parameters and allowing the adulteration to go undetected. The Director of the National Bee Board told Down to Earth that he had written to the government saying that by reducing pollen count FSSAI has legalised the practice of adulterating and selling rice syrup and corn syrup as honey. The cheating of the consumer, by honey processors, has been legalised.

By now companies selling honey have increased massively and become very powerful. But strangely enough, honey farmers were all going bankrupt because these companies had stopped buying their honey.

So, we have a huge honey industry which uses no honey? So what do the "honey" bottles contain? Sugar syrup import into India from China has increased steadily. Fructose and glucose syrup was being imported from China to India in bulk amounts. In 2014, 10,000 MT came in. By 2017 it was more than 4,300 MT. These syrups are imported under the names of "Fructose syrup (F55/F42)", "Honey blend syrup", "Tapioca fructose syrup", "Golden fructose glucose syrup", even "Fructose Rice Syrup for Honey". Anyone from India can look up portals like Alibaba, Okchem and Tradewheel, and order from a host of Chinese companies.

The FSSAI issued directives to sugar importers saying they had evidence that this Chinese import was being used to adulterate honey. The FSSAI announced in 2020 that the Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy (NMR) was now mandatory for any company exporting honey.

Did the fructose syrup import stop? No. It simply changed its name. The Chinese were not hiding their product. On all large Chinese portals they were advertising a sugar syrup called the All Pass Syrup. The advertisements claim that the chemical mixture, called syrup, can pass the honey adulteration tests - C3, C4, TMR, SMT, Oligosaccharides and even NMR! Companies in India are importing this chemical mixture, which was being sent to India in some cases as "industrial raw material", and even "paint mixture", from China. The FSSAI chooses to look the other way.

Down to Earth ordered samples online from two Chinese suppliers called Wuhu Foods and CNN Foods. In their order they specifically stated they wanted this syrup to pass all government tests. Both companies wrote that their product could pass any Indian tests, even if adulteration was upto 80%, and added that their Indian clients used this percentage in their so-called honey bottles. The samples that Fedex brought in simply said "syrup" and "paint pigment emulsion."

Down to Earth took pure raw honey and mixed it themselves with the Chinese and Indian adulterants (from a company in Jaspur) in different proportions - from 25% to 75% - and sent these to the Gujarat-based Centre for Analysis and Learning in Livestock and Food (CALF) of the National Dairy Development Board. The samples passed all tests upto 75% adulteration!

In August 2020, Down to Earth bought honey marketed by 13 companies and sent them to CALF. All large companies passed the tests except for one. Three of the smaller brands failed and even the C3 test showed they had more than 20-27% cane sugar. All these three are labelled as Raw Unprocessed Natural Honey!

But Down to Earth did not stop there. They sent all brands for gold standard test - the NMR. There is only one testing point in India - the Export Inspection Council in Mumbai. They refused to do the tests. So, Down to Earth contacted a well known German Lab, which specialises only in honey adulteration tests including NMR, and sent the samples - from the same batch that had passed the tests in Gujarat.

They sent 17 samples from 13 companies. Only THREE passed the tests. All the others, including some major ones, FAILED.

This means ONLY THREE companies are selling us pure honey. The rest are all massively adulterated with chemical sugar syrup.

In any other country these people would be in jail and the company would be shut down. FSSAI has ignored this meticulous expose. Obviously FSSAI is implicated in the scandal - after all, they agreed to previous attempts at adulteration by deliberately lowering the standards for large honey companies. These companies have even failed the lowered standards of adulteration.

During the lockdown, people went all out to improve their health. Honey sales from March 2020 went up by 35%. But instead of making their bodies healthier, people were actually starting the day with shots of sugar syrup, which is just poison. Sugar increases inflammation in the body, suppresses immunity and makes the body vulnerable to disease, including diabetes, and corona.

If you are angry, this is what you should do: Send emails/tweets etc. to the Prime Minister at @narendramodi asking for - 1) Banning of ALL sugar syrup imports from China, and closing down the factories importing it; 2) Every honey company MUST be able to trace the origins of the product - which beekeepers they buy it from. Each beekeeper should be licensed. This is mandatory for many food products in Europe. When eggs were discovered with pesticide in them, the labelling immediately showed 21 poultry in the Netherlands and they were shut down; 3) Testing requirements, that FSSAI lowered, should be brought back and NMR should be made compulsory; 4) FSSAI has no data at all on honey producers, syrup producers. The Beekeeping Development Committee, which is directly under the PM's Economic Council, has no data on honey production, sale or beekeepers; 5) These 10 companies should be prosecuted and shut down. It is anti-national to poison the people of India.

To join the animal welfare movement contact gandhim@nic.in, www.peopleforanimalsindia.org



Be fearless and resolute, all obstacles will melt away before you.

THE MOTHER



Maneka Gandhi

If bees have gone down in number drastically, how has honey production tripled?

SPECTRUM BIG TECH

## Why is China cracking down on Alibaba?



Angela Huyue Zhang

**JUST AS AMERICANS ARE WORRIED ABOUT AMAZON'S DOMINANCE IN E-RETAIL, CHINESE CONSUMERS HAVE EQUALLY GOOD REASONS TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT ALIBABA**

Since the Chinese authorities suddenly halted fintech conglomerate Ant Group's planned IPO in autumn 2020, its parent company, e-commerce king Alibaba, has been facing harsh regulatory scrutiny. On Christmas Eve, China's antitrust authority announced that it was investigating the firm's exclusive business practices. And Alibaba's founder, Jack Ma, recently eased concerns regarding his fate by appearing in public for the first time since last October, when he delivered a speech criticizing financial regulation in China.

The mere announcement of the investigation into Alibaba wiped more than \$100 billion off the firm's market value overnight. Given the Chinese government's huge regulatory power, investors are rightly anxious about Alibaba's prospects. But the government's sudden and aggressive move against the firm also reveals much about the regulatory regime's weaknesses.

The Chinese government has legitimate reasons to be vigilant toward the country's highly concentrated internet sector. By targeting superstar firms like Alibaba, China is following a global regulatory trend, with US and EU policymakers similarly vowing to impose tougher sanctions against monopolistic internet giants.

Just as Americans are worried about Amazon's dominance in e-retail, Chinese consumers have equally good reasons to be concerned about Alibaba. In 2020, Amazon's share of the US e-commerce market was slightly less than 40%, whereas Alibaba's Tmall and Taobao held over 50% of China's e-retail market.

The current investigation into Alibaba is not the first time that the firm's business practices have been subject to antitrust scrutiny. JD.com, China's second largest e-retailer, lodged a complaint about Alibaba with China's antitrust authority back in 2015. Dissatisfied with the authority's perceived failure to act, JD.com filed a suit against Alibaba in a Chinese court (the case is still pending).

In fact, Alibaba used to be far more dominant in e-commerce. At its peak, when it was first listed in 2014, the firm accounted for more than 80% of China's online retail market. Since then, its share has been gradually eroded by JD.com and other rivals such as Pinduoduo.

So, why did China's antitrust authority wait so long before investigating Alibaba? Many have linked the current antitrust campaign to Ma's October speech and his seemingly recalcitrant attitude toward regulation. Although Ma's

remarks may have been the trigger, the fundamental reason relates to regulatory inertia, a phenomenon deeply ingrained in Chinese bureaucratic politics.

When disgruntled competitors complained about Chinese tech giants' abusive business practices, the authority preferred to deploy relatively lenient regulatory tools such as the Anti-Unfair Competition Law and the E-Commerce Law. These laws lack teeth, because the largest fines that can be imposed under them are relatively small. And instead of launching investigations, the antitrust regulator conducted administrative interviews with each of the major online platforms on the eve of Singles' Day, China's largest e-commerce sales promotion event, in an effort to persuade them not to impose restrictive trading conditions on merchants.

Similarly, the regulator also refrained from intervening in merger transactions involving a "variable interest entity," a structure many Chinese tech firms have used to circumvent government restrictions on foreign investment in the internet sector. Until early last year, hundreds of acquisitions by Alibaba and Tencent had completely escaped antitrust scrutiny. As a result, the firms have become two of the largest investors in

China's digital economy, together owning a large proportion of the tech sector's unicorns.

This regulatory inertia continued until Ant Group's IPO debacle, when the antitrust regulator received a clear signal from China's top leadership to rein in the tech giants. But the authority's previous lax regulation in this area has contributed to today's intractable dilemma: once a monopoly emerges, it is hard to reverse it using antitrust law. As EU and US antitrust regulators have recently discovered, such legislation is too blunt a tool for tackling Big Tech.

Above all, the sudden recent regulatory crackdown against Alibaba gives the impression that Chinese law enforcement is arbitrary. Of course, no law is implemented in a vacuum. But it appears that the Chinese authorities treat the same business practice in drastically different ways when policy priorities shift, even when the relevant laws remain unchanged. This risk certainly will not bolster investor confidence in China's thriving internet firms.

The writer is Director of the Centre for Chinese Law and Associate Professor at the University of Hong Kong.

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## Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Aero India

Sir, The Aero India 2021 which opened on Wednesday in Bangalore in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh heralds a new era in Indian aviation. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) and Bharat Electronics Limited - to name a few - will showcase products and systems developed as part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative. Manufacturing of the Light Combat Aircraft Tejas by HAL, considered a notch above its foreign equivalents, will lead to better surveillance along borders. The three-day show will feature participation by 601 exhibitors, of which 457 are Indian.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

Praise paperwork

Sir, There has been wide talk of the first-ever paperless budget in the Indian media circle. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has gone paperless to present the latest Budget. According to media sources, Sitharaman had used a tablet for the Budget session. Even though there have been various factors like the pandemic quoted as reasons for the digital budget, the underlying need for the deep-rooted paperwork cannot be denied anymore. True to form, the salient features like letters, scripts, paperwork, et cetera in general add to the beauty of any language spoken in the world. I was fortunate enough to get to the rudiments of the languages like Tamil and English as I had been greatly attracted to the letters and the grammar of these languages all through my schooldays in my native areas like Tuticorin, Tiruchendur, Korkai and Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu in the early 1990s. Going digital is not a wrong precedent but should not spell doom to the written and printed forms of any language out there. In fact we human species have the natural tendency to sense everything right from breathing to eating all for our wellbeing. So to speak, there have been strong historic backgrounds behind all the languages spoken around the world. In my opinion, there have been interesting endless epics and stories in languages like English and Tamil for example. All things considered, countries and the powers that be should adhere to paperwork as norms though technologically improved in order to make the work free of all the glitches. As a recap, the ballot papers have been considered to be genuinely tamper-proof across the world up till now.

P. Senthil Saravana Durai, MUMBAI

WISDOM CORNER

- The flower that smells the sweetest is shy and lowly. WILLIAM WORDSWORTH
- Nothing ever becomes real till it is experienced. JOHN KEATS
- You cannot find peace by avoiding life. VIRGINIA WOOLF



# Violence returns to haunt Nandigram

CLASHES BETWEEN ACTIVISTS OF TMC AND BJP HAVE BECOME FREQUENT IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Nandigram, Feb 3:** Memories of the dark days of the anti-land acquisition movement, when they hunkered down in paddy fields as marauding hordes roamed about terrorising people, have returned to haunt Nandigram.

Staccato sounds of gunfire are once again breaking the fragile peace of this small town in West Bengal's East Midnapore district where violent clashes between ruling TMC supporters and those of the BJP have become commonplace in the run up to the assembly elections to be held in a few months from now.

"For the last three days, we have been spending sleepless nights," says 62-year-old Shyamal Manna as gunshots frequently ring out near his mud house.

Manna, who lost his sister-in-law during the bloody anti-land acquisition movement in Nandigram in 2007-2008, and scores of others like him are a disquieted lot ever since former TMC heavyweight Suvendu Adhikari switched over to the BJP, setting the stage for an electoral showdown that has left the locals fidgety and on edge.

"For the last two weeks, every day, skirmishes have broken out. Earlier, we witnessed only political violence, but now it has turned communal, too. Sounds of explosions and gunshots have snatched away our sleep. All this is so reminiscent of the bloody Nandigram movement," Manna told PTI.

A blood-soaked Nandigram, a little known semi-urban landscape that shot to national limelight in 2007, had jolted the mighty Left Front government and laid the foundation of the TMC dispensation in West Bengal, with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, then an opposition leader, leading the anti-land acquisition stir from the front.



Women look on from the window of their house at Nandigram in East Medinipur district. PTI FILE PHOTO

Several women were gangraped and many people killed, including 14 in police firing, during the 10-month-long political violence, at some point of which residents turned the area into a no-man's land, digging up roads and making villages inaccessible.

In present-day Nandigram, the battle lines seem to have been redrawn after Banerjee announced her candidature from the seat, the home turf of Adhikari, who has asserted he will defeat his former boss by "at least 50,000 votes" if fielded from the constituency.

Kavita Mal of Gokulpur village, whose house was set on fire in 2007, feels dark days await Nandigram. "I had received five bullet injuries back then. Somehow, I survived by God's grace. After TMC came to power in 2011, we thought the place will be peaceful. But now, it seems that violence has come back to haunt us," she said.

Soma Pradhan (name changed), 45, who was gangraped 14 years ago amid the massive protests against land acquisition by the erstwhile Left Front government for creation of a special economic zone, said she and her family don't leave home after dusk.

**For the last two weeks, every day, skirmishes have broken out. Earlier, we witnessed only political violence, but now it has turned communal, too. Sounds of explosions and gunshots have snatched away our sleep. All this is so reminiscent of the bloody Nandigram movement**

SHYAMAL MANNA

"The situation is not good. Our neighbours have seen masked men roaming around in the villages at night," Pradhan said.

According to police sources, clashes between activists of the two parties have become frequent in the last few weeks, with TMC and BJP offices being vandalised and set on fire.

"For the last few years, there were hardly any instances of violence. But, circumstances have changed drastically in the last few months. Every day there are sporadic incidents. Some don't even get reported," said a police officer.

Sources in the both the parties admit that things took a dramatic turn after Adhikari and his brother moved over to the BJP.

"Over the last 10 years,

Nandigram and its surrounding villages were considered TMC bastions with virtually no opposition. However, now it is the TMC versus turncoats of the TMC," local Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist) leader Bhabani Prasad Das, who was part of the Bhumi Uchhed Pratirodh Committee (BUPC), told PTI.

The BUPC had launched an aggressive resistance against forcible land acquisition.

Following the Nandigram movement, the entire East Midnapore district turned into an impregnable fortress of the TMC, but after Adhikari's move, several villages overnight switched sides and rival camps took control of party offices, the sources said.

Even as Gokulpur, Gokulnagar, Gopimohanpur, Adhikaripara and Heria have turned into strongholds of the BJP, Sonachura, Haripur, Khejuri, Brindaban Chak, Daudpur, and Tekhali remain faithful to the ruling party, they said.

Radha Rani Ari (name changed), who was also gangraped during the brutal stir, said except for Adhikari, no other leader of any party inquired about the condition of the hapless victims all these years.

"During the CPI(M) regime, we were used as pawns, and now during the TMC rule, too, violence and rape are used as political tools to settle scores and dominate the area. It is the locals like us who suffer," she said.

"Menfolk from the villages have formed groups to keep vigil at night. A few days back, some of the thatched roof houses were set on fire, and food grains and poultry looted," said Joydeb Mondal of Adhikaripara.

The TMC had pocketed all the 16 seats in East Midnapore district in the last assembly polls, the next edition of which is due in April-May

# It's 'royalty' vs 'grassroots loyalty' in Rajasthan BJP

A clear-cut fight is on between former CM Vasundhara Raje and state BJP chief Satish Poonia, who is a known loyalist of Modi and Shah

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Jaipur, Feb 3:** The fighting in the Rajasthan unit of BJP is out in open as a clear-cut fight is on between former CM Vasundhara Raje, who represents erstwhile royalty, and state BJP chief Satish Poonia, who represents the grassroots and is a known loyalist of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Amit Shah. Raje has been camping in Delhi for the last one week, meeting all top central BJP leaders while Poonia has been meeting the grassroots workers in Rajasthan and chalking out strategies to win the Assembly polls in 2023.

Raje is anguished with the central and state leadership for denial of decent positions at any level to her camp followers while Poonia and his team are engaged in forming maximum number of boards after springing a surprise on the ruling Congress by winning 25 of the 90 boards and leaving the Congress with mere 19.

If sources are to be believed, Raje has been allotted a well-defined room with her name plate in the new BJP office in Delhi. However, she has not visited this office even once.

She is quite active on Twitter these days, offering comments on state politics. Also, her followers recently floated a parallel platform called 'Team Vasundhara Raje 2023' wherein they are portraying her as the next CM face. However, Raje



is all silence, neither accepting this group nor offering any denial.

Meanwhile, the central leadership, as per BJP officials, is aware of all these developments, but is giving Raje respect by putting her on the BJP's high-powered core committee for the state unit, which accommodates both central and state unit teams.

BJP national general secretary Arun Singh had instructed that the core group meetings must be held once a month. However, Raje was absent in the first meeting held January 24. While Raje is a topic of discussion for her absence in Rajasthan BJP office, her meetings with senior central leaders in Delhi is another talked-about subject.

Raje had an hour-long meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah late Monday evening which did lead to another round of political buzz in the desert state.

In last one week, she has met BJP chief JP Nadda, Union Ministers Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari, Dharmendra Pradhan, and Rajasthan in-charge Arun Singh.

Meanwhile, a BJP spokesperson told IANS. "She is a respected leader of our party and we want her to attend meetings and events and be a regular part of the state unit."

However, in her absence, the work has not seen full stops. Rather, the party is busy strengthening its grassroots leadership and chalked a strategy to reach each household ahead of the Assembly polls.

"We shall reach out to each person mentioned in the voters lists and will strengthen the personal bond with each voter. His challenges and his problems will be resolved by our leaders who will be assigned the task to look after each voter mentioned in the lists."

This way, we shall strengthen our grassroots leadership and make strong bonds with our people, said Poonia.

Meanwhile, an MLA from the Raje camp said: "She needs to do aggressive politics to ensure smooth sailing in this battle of one-upmanship. She basically follows an aristocratic style of politics and it is quite weak when it competes with grassroots politics."

# Raj clears proposal to allow sandstone mining in sanctuary

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jaipur, Feb 3:** A standing committee of the Rajasthan Wildlife Board has cleared a proposal to allow the mining of a special sandstone, much sought after by builders including those constructing the Ram temple in Ayodhya, from Bharatpur's Bandh Baretha sanctuary.

The proposal to denotify the sanctuary for the mining of the pink sandstone from there will now be put up before the Rajasthan Wildlife Board, headed by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Chief Wildlife Warden Mohan Meena told PTI Wednesday. "The standing committee has given the approval and the matter will be now taken up by the state wildlife board for consideration after which it will be sent for the approval by the National Wildlife Board," he said.

Thousands of tonnes of the pink sandstone mined in Bharatpur's Bansi Paharpur have been sourced for the temple over the years, but much more is needed, he added.

There were concerns in Ayodhya



that supplies of this stone with a unique pink hue would dry up.

Since blocks of this sandstone had already been carved - ready to be put in place as the temple comes up - switching over to a lesser grade of stone would have caused problems. The Dholpur variant is said to be no match to the Bansi Paharpur stone.

Authorities in Congress-run Rajasthan, however, denied that the move to denotify the Bansi Paharpur block in Bharatpur's Bandh Baretha wildlife sanctuary has anything specific to do with the Ram temple. A senior district administration official said the stone is in high demand across the

country and the process for the denotification was not started only because the particular sandstone is required for the Ram Temple.

"There is rampant illegal mining in the area. There is no forest left there and if it is delinked from the sanctuary, the state government will get the revenue from any mining there," he said.

Mining was banned after 2016 and the Bansi Paharpur (pink stone) sandstone remained available in the grey market. Supply of the stone took a hit after the Bharatpur administration seized 25 trucks loaded with illegally mined pink sandstone last September.

# NSUI raising funds for Ram temple

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jaipur, Feb 3:** The Congress party's students wing National Students' Union of India Tuesday launched a campaign to collect money from students for the construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya, claiming that the BJP and ABVP have been "looting" people in the name of raising fund for the temple.

The drive named "Rs 1 Ram Ke Naam" was launched by NSUI state president Abhishek Chaudhary at Commerce College at Jawaharal Nehru Road in Jaipur.

Congress national treasurer Pawan Bansal, however, claimed he was not aware of any such move by the NSUI. He said some people had approached him as well for the fund but he had refused to make any contribution.

About the fund-raising campaign for the Ram Temple, NSUI spokesperson Ramesh Bhati said, "The ABVP and BJP have been looting people in the name of contribution for the Ram Mandir."

"We will oppose this with our initiative because Ram temple is a matter of faith for all and taking lakhs and crores of rupees from people is wrong," Bhati added.



**The ABVP and BJP have been looting people in the name of contribution for the Ram Mandir**

RAMESH BHATI | NSUI SPOKESPERSON

Around 100 members of the student wing of the Congress party collected contributions from students in the college in three sealed boxes on the first day.

"All colleges in the state will be covered under this 15-day campaign and the NSUI will hand over the amount collected during the initiative to the Ram temple authorities in Ayodhya," Bhati said.

Asked about the NSUI's fundraising campaign, Congress national treasurer Bansal in the PCC office said he was not aware of it.

He alleged the way, the BJP has conducted itself after the foundation stone laying for the temple, it

appears it wanted to usurp all the credit for the temple construction.

"That is why when people approached me for contribution to the Ram temple construction, I gave nothing," he said.

"The Congress is a secular party. We are religious and religion is the matter of personal faith. I am a Hindu as far as personal faith is concerned, but in the public matter, we act as per the mandate of Constitution," he said.

# BJP won't implement CAA anytime soon, says TMC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, Feb 3:** The TMC Wednesday claimed that the BJP was trying to fox the Matua sect - a community of migrants from Bangladesh - with the promise of implementing the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) sometime soon, as the deadline for framing its rules has been extended till July.

State minister Bratya Basu, during a press meet here, said the safe party is planning to garner support by organising 'rath yatra' ahead of assembly polls, but its 'fake and divisive' politics for individual gains stand exposed.

"The BJP is practising divisive politics in Assam and Bengal over CAA implementation, notwithstanding the fact that it has adversely affected the Hindu populace among others in the neighbouring state.

"The Home Ministry's statement on CAA in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday has brought to light the saf-

from camp's fake politics to woo the Matua community in the state," the TMC leader said at the party headquarters here.

Basu said that the deadline for framing the CAA rules has been extended, and the law wouldn't be implemented anytime before the assembly polls.

Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said in a written reply in Parliament on Tuesday that the "rules under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 are under preparation. The Committees on Subordinate Legislation, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha have granted extension of time up to April 9 and July 9 respectively to frame these rules under the CAA".

The TMC leader claimed that Home Minister Amit Shah probably cancelled his public meeting in Matua stronghold in North 24 Parganas last week, as the promise made to them on CAA implementation might not be fulfilled.

## VAX DRIVE



A medic shows a vial containing doses of Covaxin during a COVID-19 vaccination drive at a government hospital in Kolkata, Wednesday. PTI PHOTO

# Colleges, varsities not to reopen immediately

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, Feb 3:** Colleges and universities in West Bengal, closed since mid-March due to the COVID-19 outbreak, will not reopen campuses immediately, Education Minister Partha Chatterjee said Wednesday.

The vice chancellors urged the state government to allow institutions to conduct classes and exams of odd-semester on online mode till March, Chatterjee told reporters after a meeting with the VCs.

"The VCs said, since a month's time is left (for completion of exams) for odd-semester (like 1, 3, 5, 7) let us continue with the online mode. The government agreed to their proposal. "The varsities also communicated to the government about their inability to reopen hostels immediately due to the pandemic situation," the minister said.

About the request by guardians

and other stakeholders to take a quick decision about the modalities of 'even semester' academic activities, he said, "The possibility of elections being held in April and the poll schedule clashing with semester classes and exams also figured in the discussion with the VCs. "They said a decision based on mutual discussion, considering all aspects, will be taken up by them. The government left the decision to them, saying students should not be inconvenienced," he said.

With online classes in vogue, students and faculty in all higher educational institutions are gradually getting used to it and some varsities have also helped students so that they can participate in the classes without any difficulty, Chatterjee said.

It was also decided that laboratories will be kept ready for use by PhD researchers on case-by-case basis, the minister said.





India and Iran remain engaged on the modalities of implementation of Chabahar-Zahedan railway project, and other development projects in Iran

### PRAVEEN SINHA NEW ACTING CBI CHIEF

CBI Additional Director Praveen Sinha, a 1988-batch Gujarat cadre IPS, has been appointed acting chief of the agency till a decision on a new director is taken to succeed Rishi Kumar Shukla who retired on Wednesday after a two-year fixed stint



### of the day quote

No propaganda can deter India's unity! No propaganda can stop India to attain new heights! Propaganda can not decide India's fate only 'Progress' can. India stands united and together to achieve progress



AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

Continuous efforts are being made to increase irrigation potential and to ensure that lives of people are not lost in floods



YOGI ADITYANATH | UTTAR PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER

The Centre is not holding any informal talk with protesting farmers



NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR | AGRICULTURE MINISTER

### SHORT TAKES

#### 38 hurt in Maha plant mishap

Wardha: Thirty eight workers were injured while working on emptying a blast furnace in the Uttam Galva Metallics steel plant near Wardha Wednesday, officials said. A sudden outflow of hot air from the furnace injured teams working in that area as they were unexpectedly exposed to hot air and ash, the company said.

#### PM to visit Assam Sunday

Guwahati: Prime Minister Narendra Modi would visit poll-bound Assam Sunday -- his second visit to the northeastern state in a fortnight -- and address public gatherings at Dhekiajuli in Sonitpur district, state Health and Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said Wednesday.

#### Blast damages Assam school

Hailakandi (Assam): A school building was damaged in a powerful bomb explosion in Hailakandi district of Assam near the state's border with Mizoram Wednesday, police said. The blast took place at Kachurthala area of the district damaging the Muliwala Lower Primary School. No one was injured in the explosion which occurred in the early hours of Wednesday.

#### 7,365 people get vaccine in Delhi

New Delhi: A total of 7,365 people -- around 40 per cent of targeted beneficiaries -- were administered vaccine against coronavirus in Delhi Wednesday, officials said. Seventeen cases of adverse events following immunisation (AEFI) were reported during the day, they said. Vaccines were administered at 183 centres. Each centre has a target of 100 vaccinations per day, a Delhi government official said.

#### 49 students test positive for nCoV

Mangalore: Forty nine nursing students from neighbouring Kerala have tested positive for COVID-19, prompting authorities to seal their college here as a precautionary measure Wednesday, official sources said. The direction to seal the Aaliyah Institute of Nursing at Ullal in coastal Dakshina Kannada district in Karnataka, bordering Kerala, was given by the city municipality.

## Have given appropriate response to China: MEA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 3: The Chinese military attempted to transgress the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in several areas since May last but these efforts were invariably met with an appropriate response from the Indian side, the government said in Lok Sabha Wednesday.

To address the issues arising out of such attempts, Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan said, the two sides have held nine rounds of senior commander-level talks and six meetings of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC).

"From April-May last year, there had been an enhanced deployment of troops and armaments by the Chinese side in the border areas and along the LAC in the Western Sector," he said. The minister was replying to questions on the border row including whether the talks have helped in reaching any logical conclusions. "Since mid-May the Chinese side attempted to transgress the LAC in several areas of the Western Sector of the India-China border area. These attempts were



invariably met with an appropriate response from us," Muraleedharan said. The minister also mentioned the dates when military and diplomatic talks took place since the border row began.

On Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's meeting with his Chinese counterpart Gen Wei Fenghe on September 4 in Moscow, Muraleedharan said it was conveyed to the Chinese minister that the two sides should resolve the ongoing situation and outstanding issues peacefully through dialogue.

Referring to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on September 10 in Moscow, he said both sides had a frank and constructive discussion on the de-

velopments in the India-China border areas and reached a five-point agreement to address the ongoing issues. Close to 100,000 Indian and Chinese troops are currently deployed in eastern Ladakh as both sides have been holding on to their ground and showing readiness for a long-haul, amid continuing diplomatic and military talks to find an amicable solution.

The face-off began in early May last year following a clash between soldiers of the two sides near Pangong lake. In the ninth round of military talks last month, both sides agreed to push for an early disengagement of troops and resolved to continue "effective efforts" to stabilise and control the situation in eastern Ladakh.

### Delhi Police file 4 cases against social media accounts

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Feb 3: The Delhi Police have registered four cases against different social media accounts and sent requests for the removal of offensive and unlawful posts regarding the farmers' protest.

The police have said that they have observed that several social media accounts are being used to push certain false narratives without any account bio-data, a behaviour generally observed in Bot accounts. "In many of the posts, the attached media reports also seem to be edited and manipulated and the same is being pushed in the guise of news reports along with inciteful and alarming hashtags," said Chimmoy Biswal, PRO, Delhi Police. The police said that the malicious social media propaganda undertaken by the vested interest groups is primarily aimed at regaining support after the public backlash caused due to the unprovoked violence perpetrated by the tractor rally protesters in the national capital January 26. After arresting one person from Rajasthan on charges of posting fake news of Delhi police personnel's mass resignation, another one has been arrested from Bharatpur.

## 'India to spend \$130 bn on military modernisation'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Feb 3: India is vigilant in the face of attempts to change status quo at its border and prepared to defeat any misadventures to defend its territorial integrity, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Wednesday, amid the continued military standoff with China.

"We have long witnessed unfortunate attempts to employ force to change the status quo at our unresolved borders", he said at the inaugural ceremony of Aero India-2021, the country's premier Defence and aerospace show, at Yelahanka Air Force Station here.

"India is vigilant and prepared to counter and defeat any misadventures to defend our people and territorial integrity at all costs," the Minister asserted.

China and India are locked in a military standoff in eastern Ladakh since May 5 last. The two countries have held several rounds of military and diplomatic talks to resolve the face-off, but no significant headway has been made so far.

Dubbed as Asia's largest military aviation exhibition, the three-day Aero India event commenced amid the COVID-19 pandemic with buzz around "Aatma-Nirbhar Bharat" (self-reliant India) and "Make in India" push. With a combination of both physical and virtual exhibition, the 13th edition of the biennial international event is said to be the world's first hybrid aerospace show.

Singh also said India plans to spend USD 130 billion on Defence modernisation in the next 7-8 years with the focus on domestic manu-



facturing of bigger and complex platforms.

The government has since 2014 brought in many reforms in the defence sector to create a conducive ecosystem for exports, Foreign Direct Investment and offset discharge, he noted.

To achieve the twin goals of self-reliance and exports, the government has set a target to achieve a turnover of Rs 1,75,000 crore in the field of Defence manufacturing, including export of Rs 35,000 crore in Aerospace and Defence goods and services, by 2024, Singh said. "We plan to spend USD 130 billion on Defence modernisation in the next seven to eight years", he added.

Like many of its friendly countries, India also faces threats and challenges emanating from multiple fronts, the Defence Minister said, adding, the country was a "victim of state-sponsored and state-inflicted terrorism which is now a global threat".

The government has taken several steps to strengthen the country's security apparatus recently.

### Mehbooba Mufti alleges torture of Waheed Para

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu/Srinagar, Feb 3: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti Wednesday claimed her party's youth wing president Waheed Para, arrested by the Jammu and Kashmir Police last month, was being kept under "inhuman conditions and tortured" to compel him to admit to false indictment, a charge denied by the police as "unfortunate".

The 61-year-old former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir took to Twitter Wednesday morning alleging that the Criminal Investigation Department of the police had been torturing Para and that he was also being kept under inhuman condition.

"JK CID has joined the list of central agencies that work to terrorise Kashmiris and falsely implicate them. After failing to substantiate charges against PDP's @parawahid, CID replaced the SIT head because he refused to be an accomplice in framing invented charges," she claimed.

She claimed that "Waheed is being persecuted and tortured to admit the false allegations. Since an admission didn't happen he is being kept under inhuman conditions. This investigation has been fraudulent and politically motivated from day one."

"Shameful and appalling that these actions discredit and bring disrepute to the institutions meant to uphold law and order".

Later in the day, the Jammu and Kashmir Police without naming the former Chief Minister termed the comments "unfortunate" and said "the CID is answerable to the courts on all aspects including whether amenities and rights available to a person under custodial investigation and his legal obligations to cooperate in the investigation are being complied."



Women walk during light snowfall in Srinagar

PTI PHOTO

### 50-yr-old woman bags 3rd rank in Law exam

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, Feb 3: A 50-year-old homemaker from Kuttichal, Kerala, has secured third rank in her final year LLB degree course. Jayasree, the wife of a carpenter, had been studying law at the Thiruvananthapuram Law academy as an evening class student.

Jayasree, who had acquired a post-graduate degree in Economics from University College, Thiruvananthapuram, two and half decades ago, decided to resume her education and study law after her son Gokul joined the Kuttichal Lourde Matha College to study hotel

management and daughter Gopika joined BSc in Physics at University College, Thiruvananthapuram.

After the children joined college, Jayasree expressed her desire to study law to her husband Gopakumar.

Despite facing tough financial conditions, Gopakumar supported his wife to join a three-year law degree at the prestigious Law Academy Law college, Thiruvananthapuram.

Jayasree had to travel more than 35 kilometres one-way to reach her college from her village in Kuttichal, on the outskirts of Thiruvananthapuram, but even this failed to deter her.

## 93K cybercrime cases of sexual exploitation in 3 yrs

Over 93,000 cybercrimes related to fraud, sexual exploitation and spreading of hate have been registered in the country between 2017 and 2019, the Rajya Sabha was informed Wednesday

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Feb 3: An increase in the use of internet across the country has led to rise in instances of cybercrime, the Ministry of Home Affairs informed the Parliament on Wednesday, adding that most of these cases were of sexual exploitation and spread of hatred.

Over 93,000 cases of cybercrime related to these offences and fraud were registered throughout the country between 2017 and 2019, shows crime data that was presented in the Rajya



Representative image

Sabha. Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy said the enhanced use of the internet, the number of cybercrimes was also increasing. As per data maintained and published by the National Crime Records Bureau,

21,796 cybercrimes were registered in 2017, 27,248 in 2018 and 44,546 in 2019. "The motives behind cybercrime in the country include personal revenge, fraud, sexual exploitation, inciting hate, piracy, stealing information etc," Minister of State (Home Affairs) GK Reddy said in a written statement. According to data from the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), 21,796 cases of cybercrime were registered in 2017. This number rose to 27,248 in 2018 and shot steeply in 2019 when 44,546 cybercrime cases were lodged.

## After penguins, Mumbai Zoo to welcome giraffes, zebras, jaguars

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Feb 3: Five years after a colony of eight Humboldt penguins settled in the specially-created icy environs within the 160-year-old Veermata Jijabai Bhonsale Udyan & Zoo, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) plans to introduce more exotic fauna from around the world.

The BMC hopes to gradually bring giraffes, zebras, white lions, jaguars and other wild species as part of the efforts to make the VJBUZ - set up in 1861 and one of the oldest in the country - into a world-class zoo.

These animals will be kept at the new 10-acres extension facility, adjacent to the existing zoo, and

Request for Proposals for the project have been invited.

The VJBUZ is located at Byculla in a 50-acres Grade 2(B) Heritage lush-green oasis in south Mumbai, barely five km from the BSE, which symbolises the city's pre-eminent status as the country's commercial capital.

Accorded the category of a 'Medium Zoo' till September 2022, by the Central Zoo Authority (CZA), BMC Municipal Commissioner I.S. Chahal announced a major phase-wise expansion plan of the VJBUZ to welcome the new exotic animals in the near future.

Tabling the BMC Budget 2021-2022 this morning, Chahal said that a provision of Rs 49.67 crore for the zoo development project has been made, compared with Rs



IMAGE CREDIT: WOODLAND PARK ZOO

48.38 crore last year. The BMC has already constructed 10 enclosures

where animals like tigers, leopards, sloth bears, hyenas, jackals,

sambar, spotted deer, swamp deer, and Madras Pond Turtle are on display.

Besides, an additional enclosure for Otters, the Indian wolf, barking deer, Nilgai, four-horned antelopes, and a project to augment the existing aviary shall be completed by next month.

In the past couple of years, under an exchange programme, the VJBUZ acquired these animals, besides two leopards and two tigers from the Mangaluru Zoo, Mysuru Zoo and Aurangabad Zoo.

Adding to the attractions, in January 2020, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray inaugurated the new aviary that houses over 100 species of birds -- and is the biggest and tallest in the country -- at the zoo. Along with the city

zoo's prime charm, the Humboldt penguins, now at the Aviary, tigers, leopards and hyenas have proved to be major crowd-pullers at the zoo.

Chahal said that a new facility comprising models of various iconic locations like Gateway of India, Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Mumbai's famed beaches and mangroves and other sites shall come up on the first floor of the Interpretation Building at the zoo where visitors can take virtual wall or 3D film tours. Incidentally, both CM Thackeray and his son, Tourism Minister Aditya Thackeray, are wildlife enthusiasts, and the Penguin project was successfully implemented with Thackeray Jr. throwing his full weight behind it.



## of the day quote

We stand together. We stand United against all attempts to malign India through propaganda and fake narratives



J P NADDA | BJP PRESIDENT

In these critical times, the youth should assist by providing the right information about the vaccination drive and other related policy actions of the government regarding COVID-19



HARSH VARDHAN | UNION HEALTH MINISTER

National Recruitment Agency will conduct only preliminary screening of candidates. The final recruitment will be done through domain specific examinations/tests to be conducted by respective agencies viz. SSC, RRBs and IBPS. Based on the score obtained in CET conducted by NRA, candidates may appear in domain specific exam/tests to be conducted by respective recruitment agencies



JITENDRA SINGH | UNION MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### Portal on Gobardhan scheme launched

**New Delhi:** The Jal Shakti Ministry on Wednesday launched a unified portal on the 'Gobardhan' scheme, an initiative aimed at managing cattle and biodegradable waste and also help enhance farmers' income. The Gobardhan scheme is being pursued as a priority programme under the Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen-Phase 2. The scheme aims to support villages in effectively manage their cattle and biodegradable waste.

### Fresh snowfall in parts of Kashmir

**Srinagar:** Most parts of Kashmir received fresh snowfall Wednesday, resulting in significant improvement in the minimum temperature across the valley and providing huge relief to residents, officials said. The snowfall began during the night and continued at many places when last reports came in, the officials said. The snowfall affected the flight operations at Srinagar airport in the morning, causing some flight delays.

### Elderly man hacked to death

**Kaushambi (UP):** An elderly man was hacked to death at Akbarabad Guhauli village in Sarai Akil area here, police said Wednesday. Bhagwan (70) was murdered with a sharp-edged weapon while he was sleeping in his hut on Tuesday night, Sarai Akil SHO Vijay Vikram said.



My constant request to the PM is do your job. Your job is to protect the farmers who are standing outside (Delhi). Go hold their hand, give them a hug and tell them what is it that I can do for you

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

## ILLEGAL ROHINGYAS LIVING IN 12 STATES, UTS

Illegal Rohingya immigrants are staying in 12 states and Union territories, including Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, the Rajya Sabha was informed Wednesday



# Farm laws issue rocks LS



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Feb 3:** Lok Sabha proceedings were adjourned repeatedly Wednesday as the protesting opposition members demanded a separate discussion on the farm laws issue.

As soon as the House met at 4 PM, Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury tried to raise the issue of farmers' agitation against the agri laws, saying the matter is maligning the image of the country. "We are concerned," he said.

Several opposition members trooped into the Well, protesting against the farm laws.

Urging the members to return to their seats, Speaker Om Birla said they should maintain the dignity of the House or else he will have to take disciplinary action. He said the Question Hour is important and it should go on. But the opposition members refused to relent, forcing him to adjourn the proceedings till 4.30 PM.

When the House reassembled, Chowdhury demanded that there be a separate discussion on the Presidential address and the farmers' issue. The Speaker said the members should return to their seats and assured them of sufficient time and opportunity to express their views.

Birla urged AAP leader Bhagwan Mann to go to his seat if he wants a discussion and warned him of action. But the opposition mem-

bers refused to relent, forcing him to adjourn the proceedings again till 5 PM. Similar scenes were seen when the proceedings resumed, with many opposition members trooping into the Well again and shouting slogans against the farm laws. After various documents were tabled, the Speaker requested the agitating members to go back to their seats as he wanted to start the Zero Hour, saying it is important to talk about the problems faced by the people in the members' constituencies.

However, the sloganeering continued. Shiromani Akali Dal leader and former union minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal was also in the Well, holding a poster against the farm laws. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said he had discussions with the leaders of Opposition parties but was not taking their names and that they had agreed to start a discussion on the motion thanking the President for his address.

"Now, they have made a U-turn and that is also like an insult to the President," Joshi said. There were more than 20 members, including from the Congress, DMK, AAP and the SAD, protesting in the Well. Amid the din, Birla adjourned the House till 7 PM. Several farmer unions have been staging protests at various border points of Delhi since late November demanding the repeal of the farm laws. **JIND MAHAPANCHAYAT DEMANDS**

**REPEAL OF FARM LAWS:** A "mahapanchayat" attended by Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait on Wednesday renewed the call to repeal the new farm laws, an event marred by the collapse of the stage on which the speakers had assembled. According to initial reports, nobody was hurt when the dais constructed at Kandela village in Jind district collapsed under the weight of the people gathered on it. Tikait has been mostly camping at the Delhi-Uttar Pradesh border since the protests over the central laws intensified, with farmers massing just outside the national capital two months ago. The large gathering at Jind's Kandela village was attended by several khap leaders.

**SC REFUSES TO ENTERTAIN PLEAS:** The Supreme Court Wednesday referred to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement that law will take its own course on the Republic Day violence here and refused to entertain pleas for time-bound probe by an apex court-appointed panel, saying it doesn't want to "interfere at this stage".

One of the pleas filed by an advocate had sought setting up of a three-member inquiry commission under the chairmanship of a former apex court judge and comprising of two retired high court judges for collecting and recording evidence and submit a report on the violence during tractor rally in Delhi January 26.

# IMA REFUTES CENTRE'S DATA ON DOC DEATHS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Feb 3:** The Indian Medical Association (IMA), a national voluntary organisation of doctors, Wednesday expressed shock over the underreporting of data by the Centre on the total number of doctors who have succumbed to the coronavirus infection.

On Tuesday, Minister of State for Health Ashwini Kumar Choubey had said that coronavirus has so far claimed the lives of 162 doctors, 107 nurses and 44 ASHA workers in the country. In a letter to Choubey, IMA President J.A. Jayalal wrote that the Centre's data is contrary to the one released by the association which contained the names of 744 doctors.

He further stated that even though doctors suffer a higher viral load and a higher Case Fatality Ratio as a community, they still chose to serve the nation in the best traditions of the medical profession. Besides condemning the apathy of the gov-



Minister of State for Health Ashwini Kumar Choubey had said Tuesday that coronavirus has so far claimed the lives of 162 doctors, 107 nurses and 44 ASHA workers in the country

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ernment of India in verifying the data, the issue of delay in disbursing the solatium for the Covid-19 victims' families was also raised. IMA has made some requests to the government, first is to expedite the process of giving solatium to families at the earliest possible time.

Secondly, constitution of a high-powered committee for a thorough study on the entire data of deceased doctors and for all those who had succumbed to be honoured.

# Man sips sanitizer instead of water

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Mumbai, Feb 3:** In a bizarre incident, a top officer of the BrihanMumbai Municipal Commissioner mistakenly sipped a mouthful of hand sanitizer instead of water, here on Wednesday.

The incident happened just before Joint Municipal Commissioner Ramesh Pawar prepared himself to read and table the civic body's annual education budget 2021-2022. In a video of the incident which has gone viral, Pawar apparently picked up a bottle of a clear liquid lying before him, opened it and took a swig, but sud-



denly appeared to choke on it. As his colleagues wondered and enquired what was wrong, and an aide rushed to his help, Pawar jumped up from his chair, rushed

to a nearby washroom to clear his mouth and returned after some time. It later transpired that instead of a bottle of water, he had taken a mouthful of hand sanitizer, but fortunately realized the error before gulping it down.

Later, he was handed a bottle of water from which he took a gulp before presenting the budget in the BMC House. It may be recalled that last Sunday (January 31), in a serious lapse, 12 minor kids were administered oral drops of hand sanitizer instead of the polio vaccine dose in a government primary health centre in Yavatmal district.

## INTER-FAITH MARRIAGE LAWS

# SC says essential to have views of HCs

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Feb 3:** The Supreme Court Wednesday said the pleas challenging the legislations against inter-faith marriage are very important, therefore it is essential to have benefits of the views of the High Courts concerned on these laws.

Senior advocate Sanjay Parikh, appearing for NGO People's Union for Civil Liberties, contended before a bench headed by Chief Justice S. A. Bobde that innocent people are being targeted due to these draconian laws.

The Chief Justice replied that it is not examining the merit of the laws at all now, but instead is examining the jurisdiction.

Parikh insisted that he has circulated a note giving details of the incidents establishing the serious impact of The Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion Of Religion Ordinance, 2020 and the Uttarakhand Freedom Of Religion Act, 2018. He submitted that a similar act is in the pipeline for Madhya Pradesh too. The petitioners have moved the top court seeking stay on these

laws aimed at stopping 'love jihad'. The bench, also comprising Justices A.S. Bopanna and V. Ramasubramanian, replied: "The High Court is already seized of the matter. We would like to have the benefit of the High Court's view on this."

Parikh noted that the top court had already issued notice in the matter on January 6, but the bench said it has only issued notice and not passed any order in the matter.

As Parikh insisted that it is a very important matter, the Chief Justice said: "We are not denying it; we know it is important. Therefore, we like to have the benefit of views of the High Court before hearing the matter."

The bench reiterated that it is very essential to have the views of the High Court on these local laws, before the top court examines it.

On January 6, the top court had agreed to examine the validity of the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion Of Religion Ordinance, 2020 and the Uttarakhand Freedom Of Religion Act, 2018, and issued notice to the two state governments.

# UP TRIES TO SET 50K RECORD BY SINGING 'VANDE MATARAM'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Lucknow, Feb 3:** The Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh is all set to attempt creating a world record during the Chauri Chaura centenary celebrations, when around 50,000 children from all districts will recite 'Vande Mataram' from 10 a.m. February 3 to 12 noon February 4.

The state government plans to make it to the Guinness Book of World Records with this feat. Vinay Kumar Pandey, director, secondary education, said that at present, this record is held by a gathering of 20,000 who sang it together.

As part of the preparations, thousands of students are making their videos by reciting the first stanza of 'Vande Mataram' while standing in the salute pose.

They are required to send these clips to their respective schools, after which these videos will be uploaded on a link that will be made available by the Guinness Book of World Records. Jagdish Gandhi, founder of the City Montessori chain of schools, said that a large number of students



Representative image

from all school campuses will recite 'Vande Mataram' in a bid to enter the record books on Chauri Chaura Diwas February 4. The Guinness world record team will share a link at 10 a.m on February 3 for the schools to upload all videos by February 4 till 12 noon. They will assess the videos, and after verification, issue a certificate. The district inspector of schools (DiOS), Mukesh Kumar Singh, has held meetings with principals in this regard.

# BMC schools to be designated as 'Mumbai Public Schools'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Mumbai, Feb 3:** Hoping to improve the public perception towards the schools run by the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), the country's richest civic body has decided to redesignate all its schools as 'Mumbai Public Schools', while giving a mega-push to infrastructure development of the country's commercial capital, BMC Commissioner I.S. Chahal said here Wednesday.

Presenting the BMC's ₹39,038.83 crore budget - an increase of 16.74 per cent over last year's ₹33,441.02 crore - Chahal said the revenue estimates for the current fiscal was ₹28,448.30 crore, which has been reduced by ₹5,876.17 crore and revised to ₹22,572.13 crore, largely owing to the fall in income because of the coronavirus pandemic and the lockdowns.

Similarly, he said that the budget estimates for the next financial year (2021-22) for revenue income is proposed to be ₹27,811.57 crore which is ₹636.73 crore less than the budget estimates of the previous year.

The BMC's incomes have declined on several counts, including property tax, development plan department, Octroi collections, pending dues from the state government, interest on its investments owing to consistent drop in the repo rates, besides owing to various relaxations granted due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

On the schools front, he said the civic body will also upgrade its 963 upper primary and 224 secondary schools to bring them on par with the ICSE/CBSE boards. The BMC will also start 10 new CBSE schools this year besides developing 20 out of 63 playgrounds in phases to improve school infrastructure, Chahal said.

Earlier, Joint Municipal Commissioner Ramesh Pawar presented a ₹2,945.78 crore education budget - higher by a meager ₹1.19 crore compared to the previous year - with provisions for virtual classrooms, digital classrooms, science buildings, etc.

# 39% people in HP suffer from obesity, 11.5% diabetic: Study

THE SURVEY COVERED NEARLY 4,000 PEOPLE IN THE STATE AND IT WAS CONDUCTED FROM SEPTEMBER 2019 TO MARCH 2020

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Shimla, Feb 3:** Thirty-nine per cent people in Himachal Pradesh suffer from obesity while 11.5 per cent are diabetic, according to a study by the Indian Council of Medical Research-India Diabetes (ICMR-INDIAB).

The nationwide study, under which findings for the state were released Tuesday, also stated that around 77 per cent people in Himachal Pradesh suffer from dyslipidemia - abnormal levels of one or more kinds of lipids in the blood that leads to increased risk of heart diseases. The survey covered nearly 4,000 people in the state and it was conducted from September 2019 to March 2020, the study's principal in-

vestigator Dr J K Mokta, who is a professor at the Indira Gandhi Medical College and Hospital's medicine department here, said.

"Himachal Pradesh ranks seventh in the country in terms of prevalence of type-two diabetes, and has a higher prevalence than the national average as well as its neighbouring states of Punjab, Haryana and Uttarakhand," he said

The prevalence is same among males and females, but is higher in urban areas as compared to rural areas, Mokta added. He said that according to the study, around half of those suffering from diabetes have not been diagnosed with the disease and are unaware about the problem. "Moreover, around 18 per cent



people here are prediabetic, which means they have a 50 per cent chance of developing diabetes in the next 10 years," Mokta said, adding that

Himachal Pradesh is the fourth worst-hit state in terms of abdominal obesity, with 55 per cent people having a larger than normal

waist circumference. The study also showed that around 31 per cent people in the state suffer from hypertension. The fifth National Family Health Survey released in December had come out with similar results for the state against the popular belief that residents of the hill-state are healthier on account of more physical activity in the mountainous terrain, it said.

Sixty-one per cent of the respondents, in fact, were found to be physically inactive, and only five per cent were highly active, the study found. "Unhealthy food habits and an increasingly sedentary lifestyle seem to be responsible for all these disorders. The average cereal consumption in Himachal

Pradesh is 78 per cent wheat and 21 per cent rice. But people are largely consuming refined carbohydrates and not whole grains," Mokta said.

The milling process removes the dietary fibre and nutrients from the whole grain. They are also snacking on unhealthy foods in between meals, such as samosas, without indulging in additional physical activity, he said citing the study.

"Legumes, complex carbohydrates, fruits and vegetables are not adequately present in our diets. Our ancestors also took carbohydrate-rich diets but indulged in extensive physical work which is missing now on account of motor vehicles, machines and sedentary jobs," Mokta said.





My friends on the other side don't have to agree with Mr Mayorkas on the finer points of every policy, but surely we can all agree that he knows the department, understands the threats to our nation's security and has what it takes to lead DHS  
**CHUCK SCHUMER** | US SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

## ISRAEL SHARES VACCINE SUPPLY WITH PALESTINE

The Palestinian Authority administered its first known coronavirus vaccinations Tuesday after receiving thousands of doses from Israel



### of the day quote

I'm directing the immediate suspension of all advisory committee operations until the review is completed unless otherwise directed by myself or the deputy secretary of defense  
**LOYD AUSTIN** | US DEFENSE SECRETARY

The desecration of a statue of Gandhi, who championed peace and non-violence and who continues to influence countless non-violent struggles for justice including in America, serves as a sad reminder of how important his teachings remain  
**RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY** | US CONGRESSMAN

Officials will strengthen sanitisation and install more thermal cameras at train stations, bus terminals and airports. Travellers will be required to be masked at all times and prohibited from eating food at highway rest areas  
**YOON TAEHO** | SENIOR HEALTH MINISTRY OFFICIAL, SOUTH KOREA

### SHORT TAKES

#### Biden, Yellen: GoP virus aid too small

**Washington:** President Joe Biden panned a Republican alternative to his \$1.9 trillion COVID rescue plan as insufficient as Senate Democrats pushed ahead, voting to launch a process that could approve his sweeping rescue package on their own, if Republicans refuse to support it. Biden and Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen joined the Democratic senators for a private virtual meeting Tuesday, both declaring the Republicans' \$618 billion offer was too small.

#### Moscow rejects Western criticism

**Moscow:** Russian authorities Wednesday shrugged off the massive rallies against the jailing of top Kremlin foe Alexei Navalny and rejected Western criticism as "hysterics" as activists reported more than 1,400 new arrests in the crackdown on protesters. A Moscow court Tuesday ordered Navalny to prison for two years and eight months, finding that he violated the terms of his probation while recuperating in Germany from a nerve-agent poisoning.

#### Insufficient climate action by France

**Paris:** A court Wednesday ruled that the French state failed to take sufficient action to fight climate change in a case brought by four non-governmental organisations. The NGOs cheered the decision as "historic" for their country and a boon to those elsewhere using the law to push their governments in the fight against global warming. The four organisations are Greenpeace France, Oxfam France, the Nicolas Hulot Foundation and Notre Affaire à Tous (Our Shared Responsibility).

#### Oklahoma man kills 5 kids, brother

**Muskogee:** A 25-year-old Oklahoma man remained in custody Wednesday on first-degree murder complaints for the killings of his brother and five young children, police said. Police in Muskogee said they did not yet know why Jarron Deajon Pridgeon fatally shot Javarion Lee, 24, or the children, the oldest of whom was 9.

# Myanmar charges Suu Kyi

THE CHARGES INCLUDE BREACHING IMPORT AND EXPORT LAWS, AND POSSESSION OF UNLAWFUL COMMUNICATION DEVICES, THE BBC REPORTS

AGENCIES

**Yangon, Feb 3:** Police leveled their first formal charge against Myanmar's ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi, members of her party said Wednesday, giving military authorities who staged a coup a legal reason to detain her at least through the middle of the month. The charge — that Suu Kyi was in possession of illegally imported walkie talkies — came to light two days after she was placed under house arrest and appeared to be an effort to lend a legal veneer to her detention, though the generals have previously kept her and others locked up for years.

The military announced Monday that it would take power for one year — accusing Suu Kyi's government of not investigating allegations of voter fraud in recent elections. Suu Kyi's party swept that vote, and the military-backed party did poorly.

National League for Democracy spokesman Kyi Toe confirmed the charge against Suu Kyi that carries a maximum sentence of three years in prison. He also said the country's ousted president, Win Myint, was charged with violating the natural disaster management



law. A leaked charge sheet dated Feb. 1 indicates they can be held until Feb. 15. "It was clear that the military were going to look for some legal cases against the leaders of the National League for Democracy and especially Aung San Suu Kyi to actually legitimize what they've tried to do," said Larry Jagan, an independent analyst of Myanmar affairs. "And that is really a power grab."

Police and court officials in the capital Naypyitaw could not immediately be contacted. At the same time that authorities were working to keep Suu Kyi in detention, hundreds of lawmakers who had been forced to stay at government housing after the coup

were told Wednesday to leave the capital city within 24 hours and go home, said a member of Parliament from Suu Kyi's party who is among the group. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he feared drawing the attention of the military.

The coup was a dramatic backslide for Myanmar, which had been making progress toward democracy, and highlighted the extent to which the generals have ultimately maintained control in the Southeast Asian country.

In response to the coup, Suu Kyi's party has called for nonviolent resistance, and scores of people in Yangon, Myanmar's largest city, honked car horns and banged on pots and pans on Tuesday night in

Suu Kyi was in possession of illegally imported walkie talkies, says the country's police

National League for Democracy spokesman Kyi Toe confirmed the charge against Suu Kyi that carries a maximum sentence of three years in prison

He also said the country's ousted President, Win Myint, was charged with violating the natural disaster management law

# Protests against coup by healthcare workers



AGENCIES

**Jakarta, Feb 3:** Medical workers across Myanmar began a civil disobedience protest against Monday's coup, wearing red ribbons and declaring they will not work for the new military government.

The army takeover that ousted the civilian government of Aung San Suu Kyi over allegations of fraud in November's elections could not have come at a worse time for a country battling a steady rise in COVID-19 cases with a dangerously inadequate health system.

"We want to show the world we are totally against military dictatorship and we want our elected government and leader back," said Dr. Zun Ei Phyu, who lives in Yangon, the biggest city and

commercial capital. "We want to show them we will follow only our elected government. Not the military."

Health workers in government hospitals and facilities issued a statement Wednesday opposing the coup. Photos were shared on social media showing workers with red ribbons pinned to their clothes or holding printed photos of red ribbons. Others used a three-finger salute that has become a symbol of pro-democracy protests in neighboring Thailand, where the military staged a coup six years ago and remains influential.

Some medical staff went on strike while others who continued work in government-run clinics made public their opposition to the new military rulers.

## 'Pak & India should resolve K-dispute in dignified manner'

AGENCIES

**Rawalpindi, Feb 3:** Pakistan Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa said Pakistan is a peace loving country that had rendered great sacrifices for regional and global peace. He also emphasised that Pakistan and India should resolve the Jammu and Kashmir issue in a dignified manner.

Gen Bajwa said this while congratulating the graduating cadets at PAF Academy Tuesday, the Geo TV reported. The graduation ceremony of 144th GD (P), 90th Engineering Course and 100th AD



courses was held at Pakistan Air Force (PAF) academy Asghar Khan and Bajwa was the chief guest on the occasion, said the Director General Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) in a press release.

Chief of Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan was also present at the ceremony. While addressing the graduating cadets, Gen Bajwa said that Pakistan stands firmly committed to the ideals of mutual respect and peaceful co-existence. "It is time to extend a hand of peace in all directions," he remarked.

"However, we will not allow anybody or any entity to misinterpret our desire for peace as a sign of weakness," he added.

## With tears & flowers, Britain mourns Captain Tom Moore



Moore, who raised tens of millions of pounds for the National Health Service by walking up and down his garden, leaning on a frame, died Tuesday in Bedford Hospital after suffering pneumonia and COVID-19

AGENCIES

**London, Feb 3:** With flowers and lights, Britain paid tribute Wednesday to Captain Tom Moore, 100, who touched the hearts of millions by offering a simple message of hope and self-sacrifice during the COVID-19 lockdown.

Moore, who raised tens of millions of pounds for the National Health Service by walking up and down his garden, leaning on a frame, died Tuesday in Bedford Hospital after suffering pneumonia and COVID-19. He had been fighting cancer for 5 years.

After Parliament held a minute of silence, Prime Minister Boris Johnson urged Britons later Wednesday to clap for Moore and the health workers he raised funds for to "show our appreciation of him and all that he stood for and be-

lieved in". Outside his home in Marston Moretaine, 80 km north of London, children laid flowers. One message read: "Rest in Peace Captain Tom. We love you. X."

"You will always be our hero," read another message. "Thank you for your warmth and your wonderful smile. Rest in Peace."

His picture was shown on Piccadilly Circus in central London while the London Eye, Wembley Stadium and the Blackpool Tower shone lights of honour.

Condolences poured in from Queen Elizabeth II, Johnson and even the White House while soccer players, school children and his family shed tears for a man who millions consider a lockdown hero.

Amid the death and gloom of the COVID-19 pandemic, war veteran Moore's wit and inspiration struck a chord with millions.

"For all those people who are finding it difficult at the moment: the sun will shine on you again and the clouds will go away," said Moore, dressed in a blazer and tie and displaying his war medals, after completing his walk in April.

Raised in Yorkshire, northern England, Moore served in India, Burma and Sumatra during World War Two. Always polite and dapper in public, Moore had a mischievous humour.

When asked about speculation he would be knighted by the queen, he quipped that he would find it funny to be known as "Sir Thomas Moore" - a reference to the beheaded Tudor statesman.

He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth at a ceremony at Windsor Castle.

## GROUNDHOG DAY



Punxsutawney Phil's handler AJ Dereume holds the famous groundhog after Phil saw his shadow at Gobblers Knob in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania

## Democracy took a hit in COVID year of 2020

AGENCIES

**Dhaka, Feb 3:** A large majority of countries on the index recorded a decline in their total score compared with 2019 amid the coronavirus pandemic, with the average global score falling from 5.44 in 2019 to 5.37 to hit an all-time low.

The 2020 result represents a significant deterioration mostly brought about by government-imposed restrictions on individual freedoms and civil liberties that occurred across the globe in response to the pandemic, the report said. Bangladesh made a 'marginal' improvement in terms of upholding democratic norms which pushed its overall score up to 5.99 to rank 76th on Democracy Index 2020, from



80th place with a score of 5.88 a year ago, the bdnnews24 reported.

The South Asian nation, however, is still classified as a hybrid regime and lags behind neighbouring India, which slipped two places to 53 with an overall score of 6.61 as a result of democratic backsliding under the leadership of Narendra Modi, according to the EIU.

The increasing influence of religion under the Modi premiership, whose policies have fomented anti-

Muslim feeling and religious strife, has damaged the political fabric of the country while the enactment of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2019 continued to fuel riots in 2020, the report said.

However, one of the biggest country downgrades involved Myanmar which fell down the global rankings by 13 spots to 135 as a result of 'mass voter suppression', particularly in the volatile Rakhine state, during the November 2020 elections.

In 2020, the regional score deteriorated to its lowest level since 2013 as official measures taken to combat the coronavirus pandemic led to some of the most severe constraints on individual freedoms and civil liberties in the world.

# Is it Burma or Myanmar, and what's the difference

THE TERMS DIFFER BECAUSE OF LINGUISTICS AND COLONIALISM, AND THEY MATTER BECAUSE OF POLITICS

AGENCIES

**Yangon, Feb 3:** Many scratch their heads over the two names attributed to the most trending country — is it Burma or Myanmar?

First, what's the difference between 'Burma' and 'Myanmar'? One might be surprised that these are basically the same word, borrowed into English twice from two different registers of the Burmese language. A 'register' describes the level of formality of a language.

Burma comes from 'Bama' and Myanmar comes from 'Myanma'. 'Bama' (pronounced buh-mah) is a colloquial version of 'Myanma', which incidentally has two syllables (myuh-ma), not three.

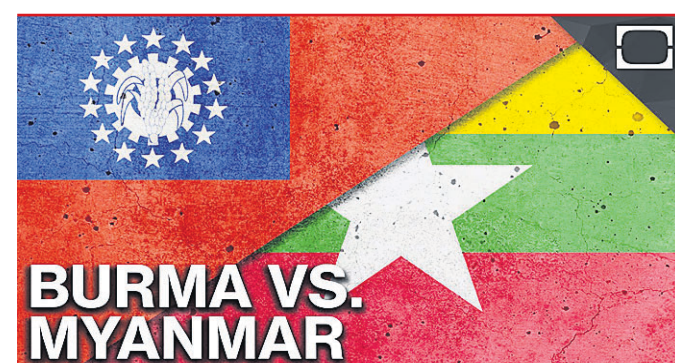
But how does one get 'b' from 'my'? Well, make a 'b' sound and notice where your lips are. Then do the same with an 'm' sound. Both of

these are voiced bilabial consonants, and such sound changes are pretty common.

For a rough analogue of Myanma/Bama, say the name of the country that is the six counties in the northern part of Ireland. Is it called 'Northern Ireland'? Or is it 'Norn Iron'?

The colloquial 'Bama' is the root of our word Burma. It was borrowed into English during colonial times, if not before. It is also the name of the majority ethnic group, the Bama, which are properly called 'Burman' in English.

And here is where politics comes in. Burma is a multiethnic state with a number of non-Burman ethnic group namely — Shan, Karen, Mon, and dozens of others. What should the word for the country that encompasses all of these peoples be? One idea is to use 'Myanma'.



And recall this is also the way to say 'Bama' in the high-prestige register of the Burmese language. So it feels both more formal and more separate from the Bama people. What about that 'r' at the end of Myanmar? Well that is not a sound when using Latin orthography to write the Burmese language. That 'r' actually marks a tone, so, you do not say it. Say 'myuh-n-ma' instead. The 'uh' is a schwa, written ' ' , like the second syllable in 'pencil.'

Some people have noted that the US State Department used 'Burma' and not 'Myanmar' in its most recent press release about the ongoing coup

But this is not new; the US has always used the name 'Burma' officially

is associated with the military junta that ruled the country in one form or another from 1990 until the liberalisation in the 2010s. Analogously, Cambodia was termed Kampuchea under the Khmer Rouge. Same story etymologically.

For a long time, many people used the word Burma instead of Myanmar when speaking in English as a way to signal opposition to the junta-led government.

Since the return of Aung San

Suu Kyi to formal politics, this convention has eroded. Using Myanmar instead of Burma became rather less politically loaded.

Of course, even if one is to use Myanmar exclusively, h/she still has to use 'Burmese' as the adjectival form. There is no 'Myanmarese'. And if you want to talk about the country's plurality ethnic group, one needs to say 'Burman'. So, the ambiguity is not going away.

Some people have noted that the US State Department used 'Burma' and not Myanmar in its most recent press release about the ongoing coup. But this is not new. The US has always used the name Burma officially. Be it Burma or Myanmar or Bama or Myanma or Burmese or Burman. The terms differ because of linguistics and colonialism, and they matter because of politics.





**“The main reasons for higher acceptance of subscription are that there exists a segment of consumers who want to be safe in these times as well as drive the car without the hassles of ownership like managing insurance and maintenance”**

SUVAJIT KARMAKAR |  
ALD AUTOMOTIVE INDIA CEO & WHOLE-TIME DIRECTOR

## ‘AI STAFF’S INTEREST WILL BE PROTECTED’

The interest of Air India employees will be safeguarded in accordance with the guidance of the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said Wednesday



## of the day quote

Our constant endeavour is to ensure that a taxpayer feels motivated to voluntarily comply with tax laws and honest taxpayer gets all facility to which he is entitled to



PC MODY |  
CHAIRMAN, CENTRAL BOARD OF DIRECT TAXES

Today's announ cement shows that governments and businesses are thinking differently about how goods and services move round the world, and we are delighted to welcome India, Indonesia and South Africa to the club



MIKE BHASKARAN |  
CEO, WORLD LOGISTICS PASSPORT

Goa's mining industry and the livelihood of lakhs of mining dependent population has been neglected in the last three years



PUTI GAONKAR | PRESIDENT, GMPF

# Centre releases ₹6K cr to states

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Feb 3: Finance Ministry released the 14th weekly instalment of ₹6,000 crore to the states Wednesday to meet the GST compensation shortfall.

Out of this, an amount of ₹5,516.60 crore has been released to 23 states and an amount of ₹483.40 crore has been released to the three union territories (UT) with Legislative Assembly (Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir, & Puducherry) who are members of the GST Council. The remaining five states - Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim - do not have a gap in revenue on account of GST implementation.

Till now, 76 per cent of the total estimated GST compensation shortfall has been released to the states and UTs with the Legislative Assembly. Out of this, an amount of ₹76,616.16 crore has been released to the states and an amount of ₹7,383.84 crore has been released



to the three UTs with the Legislative Assembly.

The government had set up a special borrowing window in October, 2020 to meet the estimated shortfall of ₹1.10 lakh crore in revenue arising on account of implementation of GST. The borrowings

are being done through this window by the Government of India on behalf of the states and UTs. A total of 14 rounds of borrowings have been completed so far starting from October 23, 2020.

The amount released this week was the 14th instalment of such

funds provided to the states. The amount has been borrowed this week at an interest rate of 4.6144 per cent.

So far, an amount of ₹84,000 crore has been borrowed by the Central Government through the special borrowing window at an average interest rate of 4.7395%.

In addition to providing funds through the special borrowing window to meet the shortfall in revenue on account of GST implementation, the Centre has also granted additional borrowing permission equivalent to 0.50 per cent of Gross States Domestic Product (GSDP) to the states choosing Option-1 to meet GST compensation shortfall to help them in mobilising additional financial resources. All the states have given their preference for Option-1. Permission for borrowing the entire additional amount of ₹1,06,830 crore (0.50 per cent of GSDP) has been granted to 28 states under this provision.

# PNB CEO HAILS UNION BUDGET

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 3: Welcoming the measures announced by Finance Minister in Union Budget 2021-22, MD and CEO of PNB, CH SS Mallikarjuna Rao, said, "The budget rightly strikes a reasonable bal-

ance between addressing the key pillars of health and well-being, inclusive development, human capital, innovation and R&D, apart from laying the path for a robust economy by providing a major infrastructure boost." The array of measures announced are in line with people as well as market expectations and will go a long way to bring the nation back on track by boosting spending on infrastructure and rural development while fighting the pandemic through health focused measures, he added. As far as the financial sector is

concerned, further recapitalisation of ₹20,000 crore for PSBs in the FY 2021-22 is a welcome step, he observed.

Various measures have been announced on the infrastructure front, which are expected to take the economy into a new trajectory of growth, he said. "Setting up of a professionally managed Development Financial Institution will catalyse infrastructure funding." Creation of an ARC and Asset Management Company that will take over the stressed assets and sell to Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), is also welcome as it will help improve the health of the banking sector through impact on price discovery and improving competition in the market, he added. "The NCLT system will be strengthened and e-Courts will be adopted."

# RBI releases circular on RBIA for NBFCs & UCBs

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Feb 3: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Wednesday released a circular on risk-based internal audit (RBIA) for non-banking finance companies (NBFC) and urban co-operative banks (UCB).

The circular covers all deposit taking and non-deposit taking NBFCs, including Core Investment Companies, with asset size of ₹5,000 crore and above, and all Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks (UCBs) with asset size of ₹500 crore and above.

It intends to provide the essential requirements for a robust internal audit function, which include sufficient authority, stature, independence, resources and professional competence, so as to align these requirements in larger NBFCs, UCBs with those stipulated for scheduled commercial banks, said an RBI statement.

"It is expected that the adoption of RBIA by such entities would help to enhance the quality and effectiveness of their internal audit system," it said. An effective Risk-Based Internal Audit (RBIA) is an audit methodology that links an organisation's overall risk management framework and provides an assur-



## RISK-BASED INTERNAL AUDIT

The circular covers all deposit taking and non-deposit taking NBFCs, including Core Investment Companies, with asset size of ₹5,000 crore and above, and all Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks with asset size of ₹500 crore and above

As per the RBI guidelines, the Board of Directors or Audit Committee of Board of NBFCs and the Board of UCBs are primarily responsible for overseeing the internal audit function in the organisation

ance to the Board of Directors and the Senior Management on the quality and effectiveness of the organisation's internal controls, risk management and governance related systems and processes.

The Board of Directors or Audit Committee of Board of NBFCs and the Board of UCBs are primarily responsible for overseeing the internal audit function in the organisation.

# Max Bupa eyes ₹15cr in gross written premiums

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 3: Max Bupa, one of India's leading standalone health insurance players, Wednesday said that it has targeted to clock ₹15 crore gross written premiums in Bhubaneswar in next five years. Also, the company stated that it will increase 20 times in policy purchase in same period of time in the city.

The company has now started its operations in Bhubaneswar and aims to provide health coverage to over 20,500 people in the next five years.

Moreover, the company will also bring business opportunities for people in Bhubaneswar as it plans to on-board around 1,700 agents by 2024-25. The company will provide adequate training programmes and encourage women and housewives living in the city to become insurance agents, thereby helping them to become financially independent. Max Bupa's customers can avail cashless hospitalisation in 21 network hospitals in the city and 6,000+ hospitals across the country. The company now has presence in three markets in Odisha



A programme of the insurance company underway at a City hotel, Wednesday

including Bhubaneswar, Sambalpur, and Berhampur.

Ankur Kharbanda, Director, Retail Sales at Max Bupa Health Insurance, said, "Max Bupa is betting big on the emerging Tier II and III markets for its expansion journey. As we expand to newer markets in Odisha, our plan is to increase penetration of health insurance and significantly, raise awareness about its benefits. Max Bupa is opening offices across 45

additional cities this year and we plan to take the total count to over 200 offices across India in the next two years."

Bhabatosh Mishra, Director, Underwriting, Products & Claims at Max Bupa Health Insurance, said, "Through the expansion plan in newer markets, Max Bupa's goal is to create further awareness, enable people to be adequately prepared to face any such emergency in future."

## SHORT TAKES

### Brookfield India REIT IPO opens

New Delhi: The initial public offer of Brookfield India Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) was subscribed 15 per cent on the first day of subscription Wednesday. It received bids for 1,15,12,600 units against 7,62,78,200 units on offer, according to data available with the NSE. Institutional investors category was subscribed 3 per cent and other investors portion was 30 per cent. Brookfield India hit the capital market with its REIT public issue Wednesday to raise up to ₹3,800 crore.

### SIS net profit up by 27 pc

New Delhi: Security and Intelligence Services (India) Ltd (SIS) Wednesday reported a 26.5 per cent rise in net profit to ₹99 crore for the third quarter ended December 2020. The company, which is also into cash logistics, had posted a net profit of ₹78.3 crore in the corresponding quarter of 2019-20. Its revenue increased 8.2 per cent to ₹2,357.5 crore as compared to ₹2,178.2 crore in the corresponding period a year ago, SIS said in a statement.

### Airtel approves fund raising plans

New Delhi: The board of Bharti Airtel Wednesday approved fundraising plans of up to ₹7,500 crore via debt instruments such as debentures and bonds, in one or more tranches. The move comes at a time when the telecom sector is gearing up for spectrum auctions and roll-out of new-age technologies. This will take place in one or more tranches from time to time, and subject to all applicable regulatory/ statutory approvals, the filing added.

### Sebi bans Biyani

New Delhi: Sebi Wednesday barred Kishore Biyani and certain other promoters of Future Retail Ltd from the securities market for one year for indulging in insider trading in the shares of the company. Apart from Kishore Biyani, who was the CMD and promoter of Future Retail Ltd (FRL), others facing ban are Future Corporate Resources Pvt Ltd, Anil Biyani and FRL Employee Welfare Trust. In addition, the regulator has imposed a fine of ₹1 crore each on Kishore Biyani, Anil Biyani and Future Corporate Resources. Besides, they have been asked to disgorge ₹17.78 crore for the wrongful gains made by them.

# JSW Steel bags mining safety awards

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 3: JSW Steel Limited bagged mining safety awards in the recently held 58th annual safety week celebration - 2020 (metalliferous mines) in Chaibasaregion at Rajgangpur.

In the group A-1 category, Jajang iron ore mines received best innovation award, in group A-2, Nuagaon iron ore mines received best workshop facility, in the group A-2 category, best general working & scientific study went to Narayanposhi iron and manganese ore mines and in the group A-4 category Gonua iron ore mines received best mine illu-



mination and overall second prize.

COO Ranjan Nayak said, "JSW's safety practices ensure the highest measure of safety at the workplace. It is an integral part of company's 'Zero Harm' policy. We believe

safety is the foremost pillar and our operations are aligned with our core sustainable aspects, fostered by a culture of care for all our stakeholders. Our safety standards have been maximised by introducing

and implementing several robust tools and modern initiatives."

Under the theme of 'Enhanced Safety and Health Performance by use of Advanced Technology', JSW Steel Odisha had observed the week-long awareness sessions in Jajang, Nuagaon, Narayanposhi and Gonua mines in Odisha. Prabhat Kumar (director general of mines safety, Dhanbad), Altaf Hussain Ansari (director of mines safety, Chaibasa region and chairman 58th anniversary 2020 Mahendra Singhi, Ujjwal Bhatia, Saroj Kumar Rout along with Ranjan Nayak - COO, JSW Steel Limited (Odisha operations) were present at the award ceremony.

## MCL's CSR touch transforms school

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Feb 3: Under its CSR initiative, Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) has spent ₹23 lakh towards transforming the infrastructure of Government Primary School, Mirdhapara, into a model school.

The school on the outskirts of Sambalpur is now waiting for students to resume regular classes, which were suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The school in Burla NAC now boasts of new classrooms and a kitchen for mid-day meal



in the new building. While the old infrastructure of the school has also been renovated with new desks and benches, MCL has also developed an approach road. It may be mentioned here that education is one of the major sectors in MCL's list of priorities to supplement the government initiatives for growth and progress of the nation.

# 3 in 4 Indian professionals to look for new job in 2021

THE SURVEY BY PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING PLATFORM LINKEDIN IS BASED ON 1,016 SURVEY RESPONSES

**“The list shows that audience builders and content creators are key to brands, HR continues to be at the heart of all operations, user and customer experience are critical in the new online world of service, and emerging tech, especially ed-tech, continues to boom”**

RUCHEE ANAND |  
DIRECTOR, TALENT & LEARNING SOLUTIONS, INDIA, LINKEDIN

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Feb 3: More than three in four professionals in India will consider changing jobs or ac-



tively look for a new role in the next 12 months, said a new survey by professional networking platform LinkedIn Wednesday.

But the new 'Job Seeker' research also revealed a sense of professional uncertainty and worry among Indian professionals as the job market continues to get more competitive in 2021.

More than one-third of job seekers in India are worried about too many recruitment stages and extensively long application documents, while three in four professionals say they have reservations about networking.

Despite this uncertainty, India remains resilient towards career growth as two in

three professionals say they are confident about their future progression while two in five think attending networking events, and investing in online learning will be critical to landing a job in 2021.

The findings are based on 1,016 survey responses.

As job seekers continue to navigate the uncertainties of the job market today, LinkedIn launched the 2021 'Jobs on the Rise' India list to empower professionals with critical insights about the dynamic jobs landscape, especially those who may have lost their jobs during the pandemic.

The top career opportunities as per the Jobs on the Rise 2021 India list include freelance content creators, social media and digital mar-

keting roles, marketing roles, business development and sales roles, and specialised engineering roles, among others.

Other top opportunities include finance roles, education roles, artificial intelligence roles, e-commerce roles, cybersecurity roles, data science roles, healthcare roles, human resources roles, user experience designer roles, and customer service roles.

"This year's 'Jobs on the Rise India' list is a reflection of how the work ecosystem and the jobs market rapidly changed in 2020. Digital transformation has continued to drive all industries, and both, tech and non-tech roles have shifted to meet the needs of a new collaborative, remote work culture."

"The list shows that audience builders and content creators are key to brands, HR continues to be at the heart of all operations, user and customer experience are critical in the new online world of service, and emerging tech, especially ed-tech, continues to boom," Ruchee Anand, Director, Talent & Learning Solutions, India at LinkedIn, said in a statement.

Top job trends based on the list include brands and individuals engaging audiences online, cybersecurity becoming critical to a digital-first future, Covid-19 accelerating emerging tech solutions, customer experience becoming key, and lifelong learning emerging as key to keeping talent ahead of the curve.



# DEVILS ANNIHILATE SAINTS

# CR7 goals help Juve beat Inter

AGENCIES

**Manchester, Feb 3:** Manchester United overpowered nine-man Southampton 9-0 to tie the biggest margin of victory in a Premier League match. It came 15 months after Southampton lost by the same score line at home to Leicester, for the heaviest-ever home defeat.

Southampton had 19-year-old midfielder Alexandre Jankewitz sent off after 82 seconds and was trailing 0-6 when Jan Bednarek also received a red card for a foul on Anthony Martial in the penalty area in the 86th.

United scored three more late goals and matched their biggest-ever win in the Premier League, having also beaten Ipswich 9-0 in 1995.

Aaron Wan-Bissaka opened the scoring with his first goal at Old Trafford. Marcus Rashford and Edinson Cavani also found the net either side of a Jan Bednarek own goal before the break.

After a fairly drab start to the second half, United cut loose, scoring five times in the final 21 minutes. Anthony Martial ended an eight-match goal drought before Scott McTominay drove home from the edge of the area.

Then, after Bednarek became the second Saints player to be sent off – bringing down Martial to allow Bruno Fernandes the chance to score from the penalty spot on 87 minutes – the French forward netted his second, before Dan James wrapped up the scoring in stoppage time.

It was a stunning ending as United almost matched their club record 10-0 victory over Anderlecht in 1956. By the final whistle, it had been forgotten that United had come into Tuesday's game on the back of indifferent form – just one win in their last four matches.

The massive impact on their goal difference means it is now bettered only by league leaders Manchester City. Martial should be particularly pleased with his contribution, even



Edinson Cavani (No.7) celebrates his goal against Southampton

though it did not match manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's four-goal salvo as a United substitute in an 8-1 win at Nottingham Forest in 1999.

At one point, it looked as though that seven-goal margin of victory was the one United would emulate. But Martial's 90th-minute second – the first time he has scored two in a game all season – took the home side beyond that, and James completed the rout in the third minute of injury time.

Rashford and McTominay both produced noteworthy strikes for a United side that also had a penalty award overturned just before halftime.

For debutant Jankewitz, it was a catastrophic experience. His sec-

ond-minute foul on McTominay was committed right in front of Saints boss Ralph Hassenhutt, who did not require the replays which made the challenge look worse with every viewing.

Hassenhutt could only throw his arms up in the air in disbelief, knowing referee Mike Dean had no alternative other than to show the 19-year-old Swiss midfielder a straight red card.

The incident came less than a week after Jankewitz's agent had started murmuring about a transfer and this sorry episode is unlikely to convince anyone the player has a future at St Mary's.

After that, it was just a question

of how long the visitors could survive, which turned out to be not very long, as Wan-Bissaka turned in Luke Shaw's cross at the far post from a position Jankewitz should have been defending.

With Bednarek among the scorers after turning Rashford's cross into his own net for the third, and one of those marginal video assistant referee offside decisions that took away the goal Che Adams thought he had scored at the start of the second half, it really was one of those nights best erased from the memory completely.

Unfortunately, that was not the end of the misery. While Hassenhutt can rightly point to

Jankewitz's dismissal as the key move, there can be no excusing the way the team – though badly affected by injuries – had so totally collapsed by the end.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Milan, Feb 3:** Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice to help Juventus fight back to win 2-1 at Inter Milan in the first leg of their Italian Cup semifinal.

Ronaldo netted a penalty and took advantage of a horrendous defensive error Tuesday to give his side the advantage ahead of the second leg. Lautaro Martinez had given Inter an early lead. Napoli hosts Atalanta in the other semifinal Wednesday, with the return legs scheduled for next week. The final is May 19.

Inter were without key forward Romelu Lukaku for the first leg. He was suspended for accumulated cards following his spat with Zlatan Ibrahimovic in last week's quarterfinal win over AC Milan.

Inter had beaten Juventus 2-0 two weeks ago in Serie A and coach Antonio Conte was looking to maintain supremacy over his former club.

That seemed to be going to plan when Martinez slotted Nicolò Barella's cross under Gianluigi Buffon in the ninth minute. But Juventus were awarded a penalty when Ashley Young appeared to haul back Juan Cuadrado, and Ronaldo struck the spot-kick into the roof of the net to level in the 28th.

Juventus completed the comeback nine minutes later. Inter de-

fender Alessandro Bastoni and Samir Handanovic got into a mixup after the goalkeeper had rushed off his line, and Ronaldo pounced to race behind them and deposit into an empty net, off the base of the far post.



## GUNNERS FALL SHORT OF BULLETS AGAINST WOLVES

**WOLVERHAMPTON:** Arsenal had defender David Luiz and goalkeeper Bernd Leno sent off either side of a stunning 30-meter strike by Joao Moutinho that sealed a 2-1 win for Wolverhampton in an action-packed Premier League game. Leading 1-0 thanks to Nicolas Pepe's 32nd-minute goal Tuesday, Arsenal started their implosion when Luiz was given a straight red card for pulling back Willian Jose as the Wolves striker burst into the penalty area. Ruben Neves converted into the top corner from the spot in the fifth minute of first-half stoppage time. Another Portugal center midfielder, Moutinho, gave Wolves the lead when he collected the ball in a central position, took a touch, and smashed a rising drive in off the post in the 49th. And Arsenal's evening got worse in the 72nd as Leno came out of his area to clear the ball away, but misjudged its flight and ended up bundling it into touch with his right arm. The German goalkeeper got a red card for denying a goal-scoring opportunity, with Adama Traore having been attempting to latch onto the ball.

## Rahane prefers helping Virat



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chennai, Feb 3:** As captain, he was at the forefront of India's epic triumph in Australia, but Ajinkya Rahane would prefer to take a back seat while lending a helping hand to the returning Virat Kohli in the high-octane Test series against England.

Rahane, who led India to their

greatest overseas Test series victory in Australia recently, also said that there is no room for complacency against a quality side like England in the series, starting here Friday.

The upcoming matches will decide New Zealand's opposition in the World Test Championship final at Lord's in June.

"My job is to take a back seat and

help Virat. My job is really easy now. When Virat asks me about anything, I will tell him. Virat was the captain and he came back for family reasons. So I was the captain in Australia," Rahane said during a virtual media conference Wednesday.

The senior batsman also said that the Australian series win for him is a thing of the past. "Australia is past. We are in present. We respect the England side which has won a Test series in Sri Lanka. We want to play good brand of cricket and we are not taking anything for granted," said Rahane.

He didn't want to dwell on India being favourites to reach the final of WTC. "The WTC final is three-four (five) months from now. The focus should be on present series. New Zealand played really well and deserved to be in the final. For us, it will be about taking one game at a time."

While he didn't spell out anything about team combination, the vice-captain did drop a hint that Chepauk will be a spinner-friendly surface.

AGENCIES

**Goa, Feb 3:** Mumbai City FC (MCFC) scripted a turnaround as they came from behind to eke out a 2-1 win over Kerala Blasters in the Indian Super League (ISL) encounter, Wednesday.

KBFC entered the second half with a goal's lead but it was wiped out by Bipin Singh right at the start of the second half. It was KBFC who were looking more threatening after the equaliser but MCFC were awarded a penalty which was won and scored by Adam Le Fondre.

MCFC missed out on two wonderful scoring chances. In the 11th, Le Fondre got a long pass just outside the box. He ran in, beat a couple of defenders and shot but the ball missed the post by a whisker.

The four minutes later, Hugo Boumous received the ball in the midfield and then ran ahead. He passed the ball to Le Fondre, who was making a run for it inside the box. Le Fondre again took the shot but but



Adam Le Fondre takes the shot from penalty spot, Wednesday. The ball just missed the post. These two missed opportunities cost them dearly when Blasters broke the deadlock in the 27th from

a corner. Sahal Abdul Samad took the corner and crossed it towards Vincente Gomez in front of goal. Gomez headed it inside the net.

MCFC custodian Amrinder Singh denied Blasters a second two minutes later. Jordan Murray was set free on the right as he smashed it across the goal. It looked like the ball was heading into the goal but Amrinder dived to his right, got a hand to it and it ended up hitting the post.

However, the momentum shifted towards MCFC after the break. Bipin restored parity soon after the restart. AN MCFC player struck from the right side of the box. It took a few deflections and then went towards the far post. Bipin rushed in and smashed it in for the equaliser.

Le Fondre finally got something to cheer for in the 65th when referee pointed to the spot inside the Blasters box. Costa Nhamoinesu brought down an MCFC player inside the box. Le Fondre smashed the ball into the bottom right corner and the Blasters keeper did not even move.

## Peyton named OFC's interim head coach

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 3:** Odisha FC (OFC) has announced assistant coach Gerald Peyton as the interim head coach till the end of the ongoing seventh edition of the Indian Super League (ISL).

Speaking on the recent development, Peyton said, "I have agreed to become the Odisha FC interim head coach for the rest of the games, we have six games left. I am going to go with a lot of hardwork that's been done already by myself and Stuart (Baxter)."

"I am going to carry on and try and win as many games as possible with the young players, with the team that we have and the way we have been playing."

"My job is to make sure that we show fight, resolve and pride every time we step onto that pitch. Hopefully, we can give the fans a lot of good things to be proud of as we have been grateful for their support so far," he further added.

Former head coach Stuart Baxter was sacked by the club Tuesday for making an unsavoury comment on rape to criticise a refereeing decision after the team's loss to Jamshedpur FC, Monday.



"You need decisions to go your way, and they didn't. I don't know when we are going to get our penalty. One of my players will have to rape someone or get raped himself if he was going to get a penalty," Baxter said in the post-match interview. The club later issued a statement apologising for Baxter's comments, stressing that the 67-year-old's views do not reflect its values.

## So many events, so many champs, so much tennis

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Melbourne, Feb 3:** Erima Nishimura sure picked a decent day to bring her 9-year-old son, Yoshiharu, to Melbourne Park for the first time to see some tennis.

So much tennis: There were 89 matches on the schedule Wednesday, featuring Serena Williams, Naomi Osaka, Stan Wawrinka and eight other Grand Slam singles champions.

It's all part of a six-tournament setup meant to help players prepare in short order amid a pandemic for the Australian Open – yes, a half-dozen tournaments, and all held at one site, the venue where the year's first Grand Slam event begins Monday.

"I feel like things are coming back to somewhat normal," said Sofia Kenin, the defending Australian Open champion, who won a three-setter Wednesday that was part of the Yarra Valley Classic. "It's obviously nice to see a lot of matches."

Nishimura, who is from Tokyo and moved to Melbourne 18 months ago, and Yoshiharu even got to see Osaka, who collected one of her three Grand Slam trophies at Melbourne in 2019, beat Katie Boulter 3-6, 6-3, 6-1 on Margaret Court Arena.

"This Australia Open is very happy for all people living in Melbourne, I think," said Nishimura, who bought tickets es-



Serena Williams plays a forehand during her 6-1, 6-4 win over Tsvetana Pironkova in the Yarra Valley Classic tennis event, Tuesday

pecially to see Osaka play and then waited in a small group of fans above the player exit to collect a special memento. "This is the first time I've seen her play – have only seen her on television. Now we've got her autograph."

Even Osaka herself said she planned to head out to the courts to

sit in the stands and watch others play. "I just feel like this whole situation is a bit unusual," Osaka said, "because we're at the Australian Open – like, where it's being held, but we're not playing it quite yet."

As well as three WTA tournaments, there's the 12-team ATP Cup, featuring top-ranked Novak Djokovic,

No.2 Rafael Nadal and most of the top 10 players, and two other ATP events going on this week.

That's a lot of tennis players and their entourage to transport, feed and to ensure adequate social distancing. For some, the glut of tennis at Melbourne Park has the vibe of majors in times gone by – before a Grand Slam stadium had a retractable roof – when rain washed out play and those matches had to be crammed onto different days.

For others, like British player Dan Evans, it felt like going back to junior tournaments, when it was the norm for multiple competitions to run concurrently.

"They have obviously done a great job to get so many playing opportunities out there. The beauty of this is, if you lose ... You can just go straight back out and prepare – you've not going to travel anywhere," he said. "Obviously practice courts are not ideal right now, but there's plenty off-site."

And there're fans – something fresh to the mix for players who've become used to playing to empty stands in the COVID-19 pandemic.

Capacity is capped at 25 per cent this week, allowing some extra space for the players to play and practice, something they've sorely missed while spending 14 days in hotel quarantine. It will rise to 50 per cent for the Australian Open.

Melbourne hasn't had any locally transmitted COVID-19 cases for weeks, and the state of Victoria has opened its domestic borders, something almost unimaginable at a time last year when the city was in lockdown and curfews were enforced during a coronavirus outbreak.

Usually, the lead-up tournaments for the Australian Open are held in other state capitals and the top players tend to have the week off before the first major of the season. Not this time. The ATP Cup, which was played in Perth, Brisbane and Sydney last year, is now confined to two show courts at Melbourne Park.

Djokovic's team won the inaugural title last year, and was followed from one venue to the next by a large group of Serbian fans.

They were back again for Serbia's opening match against Canada, waving flags and chanting, but that kind of revelry was missing Wednesday when the Canadians lost to Germany in the morning group match.

The crowd numbers on some courts were only in the hundreds or sometimes dozens in the middle of a week when local children have just returned to school. The Australian Open is usually held in the southern summer holidays, but is being held three weeks late. Still, organizers are expecting about 30,000 fans in Melbourne Park each day next week.